EDU REKHA INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ARTS, LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Journal Homepage: https://edurekhapublisher.com/erijalss/

Volume- 2 Issue – 6 (November-December) 2026

ISSN: 3107-5169 (Online)

Frequency: Bimonthly

PAGES: 33-39

ARTICLE TITLE:

MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN EXPANSION IN AFRICA: WITH FOCUS ON NIGERIA

JONATHAN ONYEBUCHI DIMOBIKA Ph.D

Department of Religion and Peace Studies, Imo State University, Owerri



ARTICLE HISTORY

RECEIVED
24-10-2026

ACCEPTED
27-10-2026

PUBLISHED
15-11-2026

Corresponding author:

JONATHAN ONYEBUCHI DIMOBIKA Ph.D

Department of Religion and Peace Studies, Imo State University, Owerri

Abstract

It is a truism that modern technology has to a great extent, aided the expansion of Christianity in various parts of Africa and even the world over to the present day. From the time of the invention of the printing press by Gutenberg onwards, the spread of the Christian message has been greatly enhanced. When Jesus gave the command to his disciples to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, a lot of things were implicated in that command. From the world of the first century Christianity with limited technology available, to the period of the Industrial Revolution, it could be said that modest progress was made in the propagation of the gospel. But from that period of the Industrial Revolution onwards, there was then, as it were, an explosion in the movement for the propagation of the gospel. The invention of the printing press resulted to the mass production of the bible and other gospel-related materials used in spreading Christianity to the wider world. Presently, the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT), the internet and various mass media channels – the radio, television, print media and state-of-the art public address systems have all helped in the expansion of Christianity to various parts of Africa. This paper employs the historical and phenomenological methodologies to investigate how modern technology have helped to enhance the expansion of Christianity in Africa, especially in Nigeria. Part of the findings show that among other modern technological tools, the Mass Media with the Information Communication technology (ICT) have played transformative roles in driving Christian expansion, evangelism and Church growth across Nigeria, and Africa in general. Part of the recommendations is that, in view of the great impact of modern technology in the expansion of Christianity in the contemporary day and age, the Church must therefore endeavour to exploit the use of the Mass Media and other products of modern technology in order to remain relevant in the global market place of ideas.

Keywords: Modern technology, Christian expansion, Africa, Focus, Nigeria.

Introduction

Christianity began in the first century AD with the conclusion of the ministry of Jesus Christ on earth and the issuing of the "Great Commission" to his immediate disciples. The commission was for them to go into the world and preach the gospel and make disciples of all nations as stated in the gospel books. The Apostles and disciples who received the charge went out and made great impacts in the world around them though without the aid of much technological gadgets as technology was almost non-existent during the period. What mostly aided the disciples in their evangelical and missionary endeavours and advancement from the very beginning was the gift and power of the Holy Spirit which the Lord Jesus Christ promised to send to them before his departure from among them. The Holy Spirit enabled them to perform miracles, signs and wonders, which attracted people's attention to them and their message and enabled them to advance outside Jewish territories to the gentile world. In the absence of technological gadgets at the period however, scholars pointed out that God had Himself made preparations for the spread and advancement of the gospel right from the beginning with certain providential provisions. For instance, Forster (1972, p. 3) noted that:

> Christians who lived at the time of Christianity's first swift advance (up to the year AD 250), and who themselves played a leading part in that advance, saw that God had prepared for it in three ways: (1). Roman peace and Roman communication; (2). Greek language and Greek thought; (3). Hebrew religion.

Thus, with limited technology available at the earliest Christian beginnings, the disciples and believers were still able to make some impacts in the advancement of the gospel, though their progress were limited within the Roman world of the period. However, these early preparations for the gospel, which were said to have been initiated by God Himself could be viewed as both theological and proto-technological preparations for the initial advancement of the gospel.

Christianity went through harrowing periods of persecution, crude periods of copying biblical texts by handwriting by the scribes and monks in the monasteries until the onset of the modern industrial era with the invention of the printing press by Guttenberg and on to the full blossoming of the modern technological era which brought a huge boast to the advancement of the gospel. These all coincided with the modern missionary era which brought Christianity into various parts of Africa. This paper intends to investigate and buttress how modern technology has enhanced the expansion of Christianity in various parts of Africa.

Conceptual Analysis

This paper now proceeds with the analysis of the key conceptual terminologies which are of interest in this investigation. They include:

Modern Technology: The Oxford Modern English Dictionary defines technology as the study or use of the mechanical arts and applied sciences.

Peter Thiel described technology simply as any new and better way of doing things, stripping away the strict requirement for it to be purely digital (Retrieved on 19/8/2026).

Christian Expansion: This phrase is comprised of two terms 'Christian' and 'Expansion.'

"Christian" or more generally "Christianity" is the religion or faith that originated through the ministry, life and death of Jesus Christ. Christianity is a religion that is propagated through rigorous evangelism and missionary actions of the members. This evangelical and missionary actions were initiated through the direct command of Jesus Christ in the much acclaimed "Great Commission" as contained in the biblical gospel books. Christianity thus grows and expands to various parts of the world through mission and evangelism.

The Advent of Modern Technology via the Industrial Revolution

An online source retrieved on 19/8/2026 explains that Modern technology was brought about by the Industrial Revolution which was a global transition from an agrarian, hand-craft economy to one dominated by machine manufacturing, large-scale factories, and mechanized transport. Beginning in Great Britain during the mid-18th century, it fundamentally reshaped human society, economics, and the environment.

The First Industrial Revolution (1760-1840): The first wave of industrialization centred heavily on Great Britain due to its rich deposits of coal and iron ore, stable political structure, and financial systems (*Encyclopaedia Britanicca*).

The Textile Boom: Hand-spun and hand-woven home production could not keep up with demand. Inventions like the spinning jenny and power loom allowed rapid mass production of yarn and cloth (study.com).

Steam Power: Early steam engines (pioneered by Thomas Newcomen and improved by James Watt) were first used to pump water out of coal mines. Later, they powered factory machines and transport.

Transportation: Canals, turnpike roads, and eventually steam locomotives and railways reduced the cost and time needed to move heavy raw materials and finished goods.

The Second Industrial Revolution (Late 19th – Early 20th century): By the mid-to-late 19th century, industrialization spread across continental Europe, North America (especially the United States), and Japan (Encyclopaedia Britanica).

Steal Production: The Bessemer process allowed cheap, mass production of steel, replacing iron for railways, bridges, and skyscrapers.

Electrical Energy: Electric generators and motors powered assembly line and illuminated cities with incandescent bulbs.

Communication and Travel: The telegraph, telephone, and internal-combustion engine (leading to the automobile) shrank global distances (Encyclopaedia Britanica).

Social and Economic Impact

The era generated massive economic growth and built a thriving middle class, but it also created severe societal strains:

Urbanization: Millions of people migrated from rural farms to rapidly growing factory cities, leading to severe crowding and pollution.

Working Conditions: Factories often forced long hours of dangerous work on men, women, and young children for low pay.

Labour Movements: Miserable conditions sparked worker unions and demands for labour laws, public health reforms, and public education (Encyclopaedia Britanica).

Thus, the first piece of modern technology (according to Encyclopaedia Britanica) is generally considered to be the steam

engine, developed during the Industrial Revolution by James Watt and it was said to have improved the earlier Newcomen engine by adding a separate condenser, creating the first highly efficient mechanical power source. This invention marked the transition from human and animal power to machine power, launching the modern industrial age. Unlike ancient tools, the steam engine relied on applied thermodynamics and systematic scientific principles, defining the start of modern technological development.

Other milestones often cited as foundations for specific branches of modern technology include:

The Lightning Rod (1752): Benjamin Franklin's practical application of electrical science.

The Mechanical Computer (1837): Charles Babbage's analytical engine, the theoretical ancestor of digital computing.

The Telegraph (1844): The start of modern telecommunication (Retrieved on 18/9/2026 from https://www.britanica.com).

Modern Technology and General Christian Expansion

It could be said that the first modern technological invention that had a great impact on Christian expansion generally was the printing press invented by Johannes Gutenberg in 1450. Before this invention, book production was manually done by laborious copying by scribes and monks in the monasteries. According to Ozment (1980, pp. 199-200):

> During the Middle Ages scribes and monks had copied books on sheets of parchment, which was made from split sheepskins or calfskin (vellum), an expensive and time-consuming process; a Bible, for example required 170 calfskins or 300 sheepskins. Block-type printing had existed since the high Middle Ages, but was slow and incapable of mass production. Printing with movable metal type, which Johannes Gutenberg introduced in the city of Mainz around 1450, made it possible to reproduce multiple identical copies of a single text rapidly and economically. Accompanying this "divine art" was another technological achievement of the fifteenth century, the perfection of a process of cheap paper manufacture. Together, movable type and cheap paper released a flood of books and pamphlets upon Western Europe.

From the above, it is obvious that the invention of the printing press together with the technology of cheap paper manufacture became the earliest modern or premodern technology that greatly influenced the expansion of Christianity. It especially helped in the momentous event of the Church Reformation as it helped to spread the ideas of the reformers far and wide right from the publication of Martin Luther's 95 theses. From then on, the production of the Bible and other evangelical books and tracts were greatly enhanced. The inventions also helped to produce a growing, literate audience in Europe and latter in Africa when the missionaries reached Africa in the modern times.

Another modern (or premodern) technological tool that greatly impacted Christian expansion in Africa was the navigational and maritime exploits of the Portuguese led by Prince Henry the Navigator from the fifteenth century onwards. Kalu (2005, p. 32) pointed out that:

> Prince Henry's nautical school at Sagre experimented with sails, keels, compasses and astrolabes. The Portuguese could dare sail the Atlantic in the quest for a sea route to the source of the spices, encircle, circumvent and cut into the Arab trans-Saharan gold trade from the south. Couched in Christian idiom, they sought to reconnect with the empire of Prester John and convert the heathens. In the combined motives for gold, glory and God, the Christian motif fitted into the rhetoric of the period while the commercial drive remained privileged.

Further on this, Kpobi (2005, p. 142) noted that following the disappearance of Christianity from North Africa, only pockets of Christians remained in places like Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The Church however, did not give up trying to restore its fortunes in these places. The Crusades organized by the Church in the tenth, eleventh and twelfth centuries, had as its primary aims the recapturing of holy places and re-establishing Christian presence in North Africa. The Roman Catholic Orders, the Franciscans and the Dominicans, were the first to make such attempts at evangelizing Moslem territory. However, after three centuries of crusading, the Church had little to show for its efforts. Hope did not die completely, as the Portuguese took up the leadership in exploration and conquest, thereby awakening a new spirit in the church and in Europe generally.

Kpobi (2005, p. 142) further pointed out that it is for this reason – for opening up this part of the world, that it is impossible to overlook the Iberian connection when writing the history of Christianity in sub-Saharan Africa, noting that:

> Portugal, a strongly Catholic country eventually made the first inroads into West Africa as part of the growing navigational adventurism of the time. The Portuguese nation had been a sea faring nation for many years and in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries spearheaded the exploration of the sea routes to many parts of the world. They had previously been quite active fighting against Moslems in and around Morocco and occasionally carried off a few captives to Lisbon as slaves…. The spirit of adventurism was also fired by the notion that as a nation, Portugal had been chosen by God to hold the Moslem forces at bay, by not only preventing their advance into Europe, but also keeping them from spreading Islam in Africa.

Kpobi (2005) also pointed out that Henry the Navigator was one man who was the moving spirit behind the exploration of the Portuguese. Without his keen leadership and direction, the course of the history of West Africa and indeed Africa as a whole would have been very different.

The Mass Media and ICT as major component parts of Modern Technology that have Contributed to Christian Expansion in Africa

It is a glaring and an incontestable fact that the Mass Media with the Information Communication Technology (ICT) have played transformative roles in driving Christian expansion, evangelism, and church growth across Nigeria, and Africa in general, particularly through the rapid adoption of print, broadcast, and digital platforms (IIARD journals retrieved on 09/10/2026). Amunnadi et al (2018), citing Outreach Magazine (2012) observes that the African Church has been growing at a phenomenal rate, such that from 1900 to 2000 the Church has grown from a population of 10 million Christians to 360 million. Moreover, the cited magazine further states that it has been estimated that if the current trend of planting 1000 new churches every week in Africa continues, by 2025 the population of

the church will rise to 630 million, (now we are already in 2026 and the target projected may have been reached plus or minus depending on prevailing variables). It further posits that Nigeria shares a very high concentration of these new generation churches that are attracting thousands of worshippers on daily basis.

Media: Drek (2001, p.121), described the media "as a process or medium through which information is passed. It can be oral, audio, visual and audio-visual. It includes printed sources of information." But in this context, it is used to mean electronic means of dissemination and transmission of information. Media evangelism is the proclamation of the Christian message and promotion of the Christian course through the medium of the electronic mass media of Television, Radio and the Net. It consists of the transmission and broadcast of Christian programmes on Radio, Television and other electronic media. This includes televised religious services, evangelistic crusades and promotional adverts (Hunter, 1992), (Retrieved on 12/10/2026).

Among the reasons responsible for the tremendous expansion of Christianity in Africa, which included economic, political, social, ethnic, and spiritual factors, Amunnadi et al (2018) specifically pointed out that the place and role of the Mass Media in the growth is very significant. Citing Kur et al (2010, p. 684), Amunnadi noted that:

> Mass media has undergone deregulation and liberalization since the 1990s that is unparalleled in the history of media industry. The result he notes is that in conjunction with the new communication technologies of satellite and cable there is an increasing global market place for the media product. From the foregoing the mass media is being harnessed to several general and specific needs of the human society. The literature is replete with various areas that the media is advancing the society positively, (Retrieved on 09/10/2026).

The mass media has been categorized into seven developmental epochs by Wikipedia (2016) namely:

> Print (books, pamphlets, newspapers, magazines, etc) from the late 15th century.
> Recordings (gramophone records, magnetic tapes, cassettes, cartridges, CD and DVDs) from the late 19th century.
> Cinema from about 1900
> Radio from about 1910
> Television from about 1950
> Internet from about 1990
> Mobile phones from about 2000.

Furthermore, it noted that while the internet and mobile phones are collectively referred to as digital platform of mass media, the radio and television are called the broadcast media.

Amunnadi et al (2018) also observed that various schools of thought have defined their views about the power of mass media in promoting the gospel. In his work, Gurganus (1976) identified the various opinions of mass media users with regards to their relevance to church growth. The first group states that the media is modern-day miracle designed by God to advance the gospel throughout the world. The second group on the other hand posits that while the church has tremendous opportunity through the mass media, it must however be wisely exploited if ti is going to yield desired results. The third school of thought however states that mass media do not produce enough conversions or prospects to justify the huge capital resources expended on them. (Retrieved on 09/10/2026).

In assessing these views, the first school of thought which says that the mass media is a modern-day miracle designed by God to advance the gospel throughout the world receives a nod because the mass media has surely helped to take the gospel to very remote, unreached and even unreachable areas of the world. Testimonies abound of even adherents of other faiths and religions who unexpectedly and instantly got converted to Christianity as a result of their having tuned to a radio or television program through which the Spirit of God touched them and they yielded to the message of the gospel. Surely the mass media has helped to take the gospel to the uttermost ends of the earth. However, the warning by the second school of thought must also be adhered to, which says that while the church has tremendous opportunity through the mass media, it must however be wisely explored if it is going to yield desired result. This is so because a lot of things come from the mass media, both the good, the bad and the ugly. A whole lot of things flood the mass media – pornographic materials, internet fraud, horror films, blue films, Satanic and occultic materials and links as well as gospel materials. So, strict discretion must be employed and applied in the use of the mass media for best and helpful results.

Another online source delineated three phases in the advent and use of the mass media for the spread and expansion of Christianity in Africa and elsewhere. The three phases as retrieved on 09/10/2026 are given as follows:

i) **Historical Foundations: Print and Early Missions**. This era and phase involved:
Literacy and Publishing: In the 19th and 20th centuries, Christian missions such as the Anglican CMS Church, the Roman Catholic Church, Sudan Interior Mission and other Protestant missions and bodies utilized print media, newspapers and literature to build literate communities and train indigenous printers who formed the backbone of early Nigerian media.
Institutional Reach: Print publications established the foundational structures for Christian education and ideological spread across different regions. (IIARD Journals).

ii) **Broadcast Era: Radio and Television**
Nationalization of the Gospel: Radio and television allowed prominent preachers and major denominations to transcend physical boundaries, personalizing and broadcasting religious messages to vast national audiences.
High Engagement: Studies show that a high percentage of churchgoers (over 87% in select studies actively utilized mass media for Christian programming, citing existential and solution-driven as key drivers of faith growth and conversion (ResearchGate).
Major Ministries: Prominent Pentecostal and evangelical movements including the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Living Faith Church Worldwide, Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, Christ Embassy, The Lord's Chosen Revival Ministries among others, and even some Mainline Churches like the Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion, built dedicated Satellite television networks, radio slots, and broadcast infrastructures. (European Scientific Journal retrieved on 09/10/2026).

iii) **Digital Social Media Age**
Decentralization: Unlike traditional broadcast media centred on top-down denominational heads, social media, internet streaming, and mobile platforms have placed the tools of religious broadcasting directly into the hands of

ordinary believers, youth groups, and independent ministries.

Youth Targeting: Online platforms and virtual church services (accelerated notably during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic) have become primary avenues for youth engagements, digital conversions and community connections.

Growth Metrics: Driven in part by aggressive media utilization and cultural resonance, Nigeria's Christian population expanded significantly – growing past 93 million in recent tracking – making it one of the fastest growing Christian populations globally (Global Bar Magazine, retrieved on 09/10/2026).

From their own point of view, and also further lending credence to the outstanding role that the modern mass media and the ICT have played in evangelism and Christian expansion in Africa especially Nigeria, Nwankwo and Emeahara (2024) in their online article argued that traditional ways of carrying out evangelism by the early missionaries have left much to be desired, no longer fashionable, and is neither result-oriented in the 21st century. Media evangelism has enhanced church growth and enabled the church to reach more people at a time. Media evangelism is thus one example of the benefits of modern science and technology to religion for easier communication of the gospel truth in the society. It is a phenomenon in recent missionary efforts where television, radio and internet systems were deployed for the advancement of the gospel.

Thus, in order to ensure healthy evangelism and church growth, church leaders at all levels are advised to fully maximize the use of the print, radio, television, internet and other forms of media to reach the unreached. Hesmondholgh (2000, p. 13), was cited as noting that, "it is now a well-established fact that one of the miracles of science and technology in the 21st century is the use of the Radio, Television and Internet communication system for evangelism." This statement has been earlier referred in this paper. Aklilomen (2005, p. 23) was also cited as saying that "radio and internet are thus powerful influence on public perception and opinion. Being an effective medium of mass communication and the dissemination of information, the Television and Radio are today being globally utilized by Christian missions for the purpose of spreading the gospel in response to the "Great Commission." This thus explains the major revolution of the phenomenal media evangelism in contemporary Christian enterprise. In Nigeria, for example, the Television and Radio have emerged the most convenient access for reaching out to a lot of people.

In the same vein, the various forms of mass media have been described by Sywlka (2000, p. 603ff), cited by Nwankwo and Emeahara (2024), as the providential arrangement provided by God to foster world evangelization and have played a major role in modern missions. Consequently, he submits that today most missions and national churches use literature, electronic media, gospel recordings, and film extensively for evangelism as well as education of believers. According to Bolu (2011) more and more Nigerian youths are adopting modern information technology to find personal, social and religious information a development which he notes is being exploited by churches by improving their presence on the web. Ukah (2003) corroborates the above view when he states that the Redeemed Christian Church of God now operates global broadcast of her programmes through the internet. In his own contribution Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor as cited in IEC (2011) states that the internet has proved to be one of the most efficient and reliable means of driving communication globally with little or no restriction. Consequently, he avers that for the churches to significantly influence the 21st century with great commission of our Lord Jesus she cannot afford to ignore the modern tools for influencing world opinion. This was equally the view of Bolu (2011) when he states that "the last two decades has seen the adoption of information communication technology (ICT) in contemporary church communications for growth''. The church in other words must exploit the mass media in order to remain relevant in the global market place of ideas.

Nwankwo & Emeahara (2024), citing Hunter (1992, p. 62) therefore pointed out that:

> "Christian Church grew at an increasing rate in the 18th and 19th centuries out-stepping the growth of the world population due to immense mark of evangelism." This was possible due to the impact of electronic media with particular reference to the Radio and Television; others include computers with internet services. Media evangelism which today is fast becoming a global trend is one example of the adoption and appropriation of the benefits of the advancement in the field of modern science by religion for easier reach to the unreached… (It) has been proven to be the most effective and result oriented with its wider coverage capacity.

It is thus evident that media evangelism which is one example of the adoption and appropriation of the benefits of the advancement in the field of modern science and technology by religion has helped in no small measure to enhance the advancement of Christianity and the growth of the church in Nigeria, Africa and the world at large. Summarizing the effects and scope of the use of the mass media as one of the foremost tools made available by modern technology for the advancement of Christianity in the 21st century, Nwankwo and Emeahara (2024) noted that, some churches have gone into the use of internet services for effective propagating of the gospel and some ministers of God use laptop computer to preach and teach in their church, radio and television are most commonly used now including the use of projectors during mega services. Other ways of having feedback are the use of cell phone to receive text messages or e-mail service and print media provides great blessing. In the technology that can be used for the world evangelism; computer, word processing, air travel, satellite communication are inclusive. According to Hunter (2009, p. 22), "Church growth and impact should not be limited to local Churches or Church denominations but should be seen in the wider coverage of communication for the great commission to be achieved. Radio, Television and Satellite have a wider coverage that can help in this wise." In the information technology time, it should be noted that some of the methods employed by the first century Christian are still in use. What is fully associated with the present era is the use of information technology devices or tools. This is the method by which the Gospel is proclaimed by Radio, Television, Internet through Satellites and printed pages which include Newspaper, Magazines, Christian text books and tracts. Messages on radio and television whether teaching, preaching, drama, testimonies or songs are meant to make and assist members achieve the Great Commission (Hunter, 2009 retrieved on 09/10/2026).

Findings

At the time of the issuing of the "Great Commission" by Jesus Christ to his followers in the early first century AD, there wasn't much technology available to the first recipients of the Commission, who were directed to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations. However, the recipients of the Commission used what was

available to them at the period, especially the power of the Holy Spirit to make some impacts on the world around them.

Christianity then went through harrowing periods of persecution, crude periods of copying biblical texts by handwriting by the scribes and monks in the monasteries, until the onset of the modern industrial era with the invention of the printing press by Guttenberg, which helped in the mass production and circulation of evangelical tracts and materials. Thus printing with movable metal type perfected by Johannes Guttenberg was described as the "divine art" because of the revolution it brought to the printing sector.

Accompanying this "divine art" was another technological achievement of the fifteenth century, the perfection of the process of cheap paper manufacture. Together, movable type and cheap paper released a flood of books and pamphlets upon Western Europe. This thus became the earliest modern or premodern technology that greatly influenced the expansion of Christianity.

Another modern (or premodern) technological tool that greatly impacted Christian expansion in Africa was the navigational and maritime exploits of the Portuguese led by Prince Henry the Navigator from the fifteenth century onwards. Without Prince Henry's keen leadership and direction, the course of the history of West Africa and indeed Africa as a whole would have been very different especially as regarding the spread and influence of Christianity.

Then comes the era of the Mass Media and Information Communication Technology (ICT). It is a glaring and incontestable fact that the Mass Media with the Information Communication Technology have played transformative roles in driving Christian expansion, evangelism, and church growth across Nigeria, and Africa in general. This is particularly through the rapid adoption of the print, broadcast, and digital platforms.

Media evangelism is the proclamation of the Christian message and promotion of the Christian course through the medium of the electronic mass media of television, radio and the Net.

Among the reasons responsible for the tremendous expansion of Christianity in Africa, it was found out that the place and role of the mass media is very significant. It has thus been categorically stated that the media is modern-day miracle designed by God to advance the gospel throughout the world.

There is also the dawn of the digital age in the media evangelism. It is thus noted that unlike traditional broadcast media centred on top-down denominational heads, social media, internet streaming, and mobile platforms have placed the tool of religious broadcasting directly into the hands of ordinary believers, youth groups and independent ministries, thus widening the reach and reaching the unreached.

Thus, online platforms and virtual church services accelerated notably during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic have become primary avenues for youth engagements, digital conversions and community connections.

Driven in part by aggressive media utilization and cultural resonance, Nigeria's Christian population have expanded significantly – growing past 93 million in recent tracking – making it one of the fastest growing Christian populations globally.

Media evangelism is thus one example of the benefits of modern science and technology to religion for easier communication of the gospel truth in the society. It is a phenomenon in recent missionary efforts, where television, radio and internet systems were deployed for the advancement of the gospel.

Other areas where the impact of modern technology have been felt and utilized for the expansion of Christianity are through air travel and other means of modern transportation. These have enabled missionaries and gospel preachers to cover long distances in relatively short periods of time to attend evangelical outreach services and crusade programmes which bring the gospel message to vast audiences in different parts of Africa and the world.

Recommendations and Conclusion

In view of the great impact of modern technology in the expansion of Christianity in the contemporary day and age, the Church must therefore endeavour to exploit the use of the Mass Media and other products of modern technology in order to remain relevant in the global market place of ideas. Thus, in order to ensure healthy evangelism and church growth, church leaders at all levels are advised to fully maximise the use of the print, radio, television, internet and other forms of media services to reach the unreached.

There is a warning by a certain school of thought, which says that, though it is true that the church has tremendous opportunity through the Mass Media, it must however be wisely explored if it is going to yield the desired results. This is so, because a lot of things come from the media industry, both the good, the bad and the ugly. A whole lot of things flood the media – pornography, internet fraud, horror films, blue films, satanic and occultic materials and links, as well as the gospel materials and other helpful links. So, strict discretion must be applied and employed in the use of the mass media for best and helpful results.

Some other challenges and criticisms which have been levelled against the use of the media for evangelism include:

Commercialization: The heavy reliance on media has sometimes led to the commercialization of the gospel and the proliferation of paid spiritual products or services online. This may be in a bid to meet up with the required funding of the media services and also to take advantage of the media visibility for commercial purposes.

Urban vs. Rural Divide: Media evangelism has been criticised as remaining heavily skewed toward urban centres, leaving rural congregations and localized inter-religious dynamics under-represented. This should be addressed in the use of the media in order to cover all fronts, both the urban and the rural especially since the rural greatly make up the uttermost ends of the earth presented in the Great Commission.

In all, the great contributions of the use of modern technology for the expansion of Christianity should be continued to be put to maximum use in order to extend and advance the Christian gospel to the ends of the earth as directed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Moreover, in order to retain the attention of the youths and other contemporary persons in this contemporary age, the use of modern technology for such purposes cannot be over emphasized.

References

1. Aklilomen, D. O. (2005). "Christian Evangelism and growth of the church in Africa," in Nigeria. *Journal of Christian Studies*, Vol. 3 no. 4 Nov.
2. Amunnadi, C. A. & Udabah, C. U. (2018). 'The Influence of Mass Media on Church Growth in Nigeria: A Sociological Inquiry,' International Journal of Current Advanced Research. 07(4), pp. 11323-11327. DOI:

http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijcar.2028.11327.1957.
3. Bolu, C. A. (2011). *Adoption of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Church Communication for growth (Unpublished Survey*). Covenant University.
4. Drek, M. (2001). *Evangelism and Mission*. Abingdon Press
5. Encyclopaedia Britanicca. www.Britanicca.com.
6. Foster, J. (1972). *The First Advance: Church History 1: AD 29-500*. SPCK: Hollen Street Press.
7. Hunter, A. M. (2009). *Evangelism of the New Technology*. Holmes Press.
8. Hunter, C. (1999). *The Nature and Condition of the New Revival*. Fame Press.
9. Hunter, G. G. (1992). *How to Reach Secular People*. Abingdon Publishers
10. Kalu, O. U. (2005). African Christianity: An Overview. In Kalu (Ed.), *African Christianity: An African Story.* Oxford University Press.
11. Kpobi, D. N. A. (2005). African Chaplains in the Seventeenth Century West Africa. In Kalu (Ed.). *African Christianity: An African Story*. Oxford University Press.
12. Oxford Modern English Dictionary
13. Ozment, S. (1980). *The Age of Reform 1250-1550: An Intellectual and Religious History of late Medieval and Reformation Europe*. Yale University Press.
14. Sywlka, S. (2000). Mass Communication. In Moreau, A. S. (Ed.). *Evangelical dictionary of world mission, pp. 603-604*. Baker Books.
15. Uka, A. F. (2003). The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Nigeria. *Local identities and global processes in African Pentecostalism, (Unpublished PhD)*. Unversitat Bayreuth.