

## Summary of Thesis

This thesis seeks to explore the relationship between identity and mission. It takes on a thematic, historical and sociological study of the identity and mission of Christians in the Diaspora in 1 Peter. In first century A.D. the church operated in house groups of small bands of believers meeting and praying together. It was not an established structured-organisation, hence the very conduct, ethical outlook and response of these small groups of 'house-churches' would influence the direction and mission of the believers (church), persevering in the faith and spreading the gospel. We will examine 1 Peter's teaching with regards to the conduct of believers in relation to the challenges and pressures of the environment they were in. Their conduct, ethical outlook and response would help us to understand the development and growth of the early church in Asia Minor, and how these early Christians eventually found a voice in their self-definition and expression, and the purpose of their existence and their relationship to society and the world.

It is my hope that the study of the identity and mission of Christians in the Diaspora as a minority people-group struggling in a pluralistic society would help us to appreciate and understand our own identity and mission as Christians living as a minority people-group in a pluralistic environment, which at times could be hostile towards Christians. I hope this thesis would serve as a basis to pave the way for further studies in the future for me.