

Five feared dead as hoodlums attack church

By Jude Isiguzo

THE wife of the General-Overseer of Christ Pentecostal Church (CPN), Ajao Estate, Lagos, Pastor Mrs. Mercy Ezekiel, narrowly escaped death on Sunday as some suspected bandits stormed the church during service.

Five members of the church were not lucky as they were reportedly killed.

About fifty other worshippers were also wounded during the attack which lasted more than 30 minutes.

Sources said millions of Naira was carted away during the raid.

But Lagos State Police Command spokesman Frank Mba, who confirmed the incident, noted that no life was lost and that nobody was injured.

He described the incident as a robbery.

The spokesman added that policemen were immediately deployed to the scene to dislodge the hoodlums.

Mba told *The Nation* that policemen were on the trail of the suspected armed robbers and that they would soon be brought to book.

It was gathered the bandits stormed the church during service when Mrs. Ezekiel was preaching.

The hoodlums reportedly opened fire, causing a stampede as worshipers scampered for safety.

A source said it was some associate pastors who assisted Mrs. Ezekiel to escape.

As at the time *The Nation* visited the church yesterday, there was nobody to confirm the exact state of the woman, the number of casualties and how the incident occurred.

The place was under lock and key, but two police vehicles were sighted patrolling the area.