

Documentation of Oral Stories of Conversion and Transformation Experiences of Selected African Church Leaders.

By

Rev. Dr Samson Adetunji FATOKUN

Associate Professor of Church History and Pentecostal Studies,

Department of Religious Studies,

University of Ibadan, Nigeria, West Africa

Email- samsonfatokun@yahoo.com ; Samson.fatokun@ui.edu.ng

African Christianity has produced great church leaders who have contributed immensely to the advancement of Christian faith in different ways. Quite a number of these leaders have quite impressive stories of conversion and transformation experiences which are on their own capable of provoking conversion of others and enrich mission studies. While a number of these conversion and transformation stories have been variously transmitted over the years orally through local church sermons, evangelical crusades and other gatherings, deplorably, quite a number of them are yet to be properly documented for global mission attention, thus creating a gap in documentation of oral history of African Christianity.

The thrust of this paper is to comparatively document selected oral histories of conversion and transformation experiences of four (4) African church leaders with the view to enriching mission studies. Historio-biographical approach will be employed in the documentation with the view to determining how the socio-religious backgrounds of the selected personalities influenced their previous life experiences prior to conversion. Particular attention will be given to the challenges encountered in the transformation process by the selected individuals as well as the practical strategies employed to overcome them. The findings, it is believed, will serve as lessons in mission to people currently undergoing similar challenges of conversion and transformation crises. Data gathered through oral interviews will be subjected to historical analysis.