

**CONVERSION AS LIBERATION: EXPLORING A POSTCOLONIAL SOTERIOLOGY
FOR AFRICA**
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Conversion and Transformational Mission goes together. African missiologist, David Bosch, in his work, *Transforming Mission* in explaining his elements of an 'emerging missionary paradigm', refers more than two decades ago, amongst others, to Mission as Mediating Salvation, but also Mission as Evangelism and Liberation. In his posthumous publication on *Mission to the West* he later described the emerging African and Black Theologies from Africa, as authentic African Missionary Theology. These theologies made a decisive break with colonial (missionary) theologies, and explored new expressions of theology which would include the quest for social transformation, liberation and intercultural awareness. However, new religious movements in Africa, often fuelled and funded from elsewhere, continue their campaigns at converting the soul of the continent. There is again a need, from Africa to revisit this tension and shifts.

This contribution, on the one hand, affirms the need for a shift, but on the other hand, argues for a deeper engagement which also challenges romanticized or generalised views of African and Black Theologies. I narrow this engagement down to the area of soteriology and propose as central to a new postcolonial engagement, a different expression of conversion beyond mere structural or modernist frameworks and also religious constraints. In dialogue with David Bosch's reflections in *Transforming Mission*, this contribution critically engage the reflections of Steve Bantu Biko and Allan Boesak, to come up with a postcolonial soteriology for Africa.

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