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**Conversions and Transformations:
Missiological Approaches to Religious Change**

**Orthodox missiological reflections in light of religious change:
an assessment**

Recent missiological reflection within the context of the ecumenical movement has focused on the biblical term of “witness” (*martyria*) to denote the work and activity of the church that was previously described as mission and evangelization. The term indicates what has been often called as a “paradigm shift” in missiology and is intrinsically related to the biblical vision of justice and peace. Witness as a new term for the mission (“sending out”) of the church in the world has been particularly favoured by Orthodox churches and theologians because it was interpreted as a dynamic process which aims at reflecting the life of communion of the Triune God in the world. In this sense, the mission of the church is not about preaching doctrines unrelated to life, but concerns the inner conversion of individuals and communities, defines relationships with other communities of faith, and seeks transformation of societies and creation as a whole.

My paper will examine the recent developments within Orthodox missiological reflection vis-à-vis the 2013 statement of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) of the World Council of Churches, “Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes”, as well as the 2013 “Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*” of pope Francis. Further, the paper will consider the achievements of the Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative (LOI) in the current context of religious change.

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