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

Witchcraft Ministry: Deliverance to Dialogue
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Abstract

Witchcraft accusations are frequent today in many parts of the world, often resulting in brutal torture and murder. Often, such accusations arise in the context of illness and death. Christian believers vary in their attitudes as to the “reality” of witchcraft. Their response includes those who see the power of witchcraft coming from Satan and evil spirits, and those who believe that any power of witchcraft comes from the ability to manipulate people’s fear and ignorance. Taking a religious perspective some consider it their duty to identify and cast out evil spirits while others, approaching the issue from a sociological viewpoint consider witchcraft accusations as exploitative rumours used to maintain power over others. Some believers, basing their response on modern science, try to convince people that witchcraft beliefs are a delusion. They hold that people’s involvement with diviners is seen as capitulating to heathen practices. However, there are people in some churches who take seriously the reality of evil spirits, basing this on Scripture and the Biblical worldview. Some promote “spiritual warfare” and deliverance from evil spirits. Utilizing examples from religious change in Papua New Guinea, this paper seeks to formulate guidelines for dialogue so that those holding opposing views of witchcraft can work together to providing a sound Christian response to witchcraft issue today.

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