

PRAXIS AS THE MAJOR INSTRUMENT OF RELIGIOUS CHANGE IN THE MODERN WORLD.

Conversion is a very broad term that describes changes from one state to another, especially changes involving transformation of attitudes, beliefs and behavior. It can be widely conceived to include varied forms of changes such as vocational, political, artistic and even culinary transformations. But in most cases, people talk about conversion in terms of religious change from one religion to another or from one faith expression to the other (re-affiliation). Apparently, all changes in the life of a human person, whether religious or secular, must necessarily be attitudinal, creedal and behavioral for it to be authentic. When any of these is lacking the process of conversion is incomplete. Consequently, conversion cannot be induced by doctrine alone; it must be accompanied by habitual good actions.

From the ancient times till now, people must have been more genuinely led to conversion, not so much by doctrines as by exemplary behaviors, not by one good behavior but by habitual good actions. Jesus Christ himself counted as believers, not those who profess his name by mere words of mouth, but those who DO the will of his father. This paper tends to argue that if mission or faith formation is to make a head way in today's secularized world, the major instrument of conversion should be lovely actions not mere words (faith alone); and the target of preachers should be transforming people, not just informing (indoctrinating) them.

Amuluche-Greg NNAMANI, PhD