

Religiously Motivated Social Change Viewed through Gender Lenses

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Abstract

All mission activities are ultimately geared toward effecting one form of change or the other. The resultant change may be personal, interpersonal or communal/societal/structural/institutional. The change can also cut across all these levels. The nature of the change may be in the social and cultural, religious and spiritual, or economic and political facets of life. The notion or phenomenon of change is open-ended as change can occur in any direction toward a better or a worse situation. Again change may be temporary or permanent. When change becomes permanent, it can be said to be a transformation. The notion of transformation implies the attainment of a more desirable situation than that which previously obtained. In this connection, this paper is going to explore religiously motivated social change as a fruit of prophetic mission. It will unravel theories of change and conversion as well as theories of mission in the interface of gender, religion and culture in specific contexts using scripture and the church's social teachings. The intention of this paper therefore is to highlight the integral link between prophetic witness and social justice as well as underline the centrality of the practice of social justice to the proclamation of the gospel.