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Topic: Healing the Incurable? Prayer Camps and the HIV Menace in Ghana

Abstract

One of the distinctive or remarkable features of the Pentecostal movement is healing. In Pentecostal missiology, healing is fundamental and is geared towards the transformation of the human person and the society in general. It cut across healing of physical and spiritual ailments. It also concerns the healing of unjust structures of society – inequalities, corruption, bad governance etc. Healing has attracted a lot of people to the Pentecostal movement especially in the global south where the lack of or inadequate traditional healthcare resources means a lot of people are left uncared for. In this paper, I explore how prayer camps in Ghana are helping persons living with HIV/AIDS negotiate their identity and forms of social exclusion they encounter due to stigma. Persons living with HIV/AIDS mostly becomes vulnerable and as a result, encounter different forms of inequalities and discrimination. The paper argues that in a situation where economic and state structures such as healthcare becomes weak, people identify with, and rely upon religious resources such as those produced by the prayer camps for support, meaning and security.