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IAMS Proposal—Inter-religious Studies and Mission *or* Pentecostal/Charismatic Expressions and WC *or* Theology of Mission

“What does Jesus do in the world of the spirits?”

The growth and vitality of Caribbean Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity (CPCC) are wedded to its interplay and exchange with Afro-Caribbean religions/*Espiritismo* (ACRE). CPCC and ACRE dwell in a mutually animated synergy that characterizes both the mutual dependency and the power struggle in the world of the spirits mirroring daily live experience.

Based on field work, this paper offers a methodological framework to study the interplay between CPCC and ACRE religions. Four classifications emerge from the field work illustrating the power dynamics in the cross-fertilizations between CPCC and ACRE: (a) radical conversion; (b) permanent negotiation; (c) re-conversion; and (d) rejection. These classifications provide a window to power dynamics between and within the traditions characterize by adherence to, fluidity among, or rejection of one or all religious traditions.

The vitality of CPCC and ACRE shows Jesus as a “participant in the world of the spirits,” locating Jesus’ power in a matrix of interacting spirits. Though Jesus is in the same plane of reference in the world of the spirits, he is also vulnerable to the contingency of outcomes. This participation juxtaposes orthodox understandings of Jesus with Jesus’ spirit-oriented activities. Consequently, I want to (a) explore challenges to theologies of interreligious encounters and conversion that work under assumptions of a static Christology and (b) suggest that this vulnerable participation is a step towards a *de-colonial* Caribbean Christianity by moving away from the question “Who is Jesus?” and instead asking “What does Jesus do?”