

CONTEXTUAL MISSIOLOGY AND THE GENERATIONS IN AFRICA: A GHANAIAN PENTECOSTAL PERSPECTIVE

By

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Although theologians and missiologists generally admit that mission is not limited to the gospel's encounter with geographical cultures, research in the field of missiology seems to have neglected the Church's contextual needs from intergenerational perspectives. Again, although the past five decades have witnessed a welter of studies concerning emerging generations and intergenerationality, these studies also do not approach the issue of general rift in Christian mission from a contextual perspective. Using ethnographic tools of qualitative research, the paper discusses a contextual approach to intergenerational mission in Africa, using The Church of Pentecost (CoP) in Ghana as a case study.

The paper contends that theology has to be done again for every generation, not for fashion, but because people are cultural and times continue to change. We should therefore not assume that what the older generations thought, felt and did could be repeated on a one-on-one basis for succeeding generations. Although, continuity with the past is essential, so also is discontinuity. Since the CoP occupies a significant place in African Pentecostalism, it is hoped that this approach of bringing contextualization into dialogue with intergenerationality will provide a significant contribution to African Pentecostal missiology in attending to the deep-seated cultural needs of the older generations whilst responding to the dynamics of cultural change among the youth with a responsible freedom. This, I have argued, has the potential to sustain Christian mission in Africa into the foreseeable future.