

Integral Mission in Contemporary Perspective: Exploring an Appropriate Model of Mission for the Pentecostal Churches with Special Reference to Honduras

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October 2012

ABSTRACT

The issue that I explore in this piece of research is the understanding and praxis of integral mission by the Pentecostal churches in Honduras. The main question, which I seek to answer, is what Pentecostals in Honduras understand by integral mission. The study explores mission as carried out by Pentecostal churches in the local communities.

The research process makes use of the interview and case study for the collection of data. It explores social, economic and political conditions of Honduras. It also examines the spiritual strength of the Pentecostal churches while serving people.

Human transformation is dependent on the solution proposed by Pentecostals to solve the problems of poverty and marginalisation. For some, these social ills are endemic and for that reason they seem to be irreversible. But for those who believe in the transforming power of the gospel and serve in the strength and purpose of the Holy Spirit, such conditions are seen as opportunities for an integral and redemptive mission.

The structure of this study is designed from the general to the specific. It also draws information from the historical Evangelical movement, the Roman Catholic Church and Pentecostal scenarios in Latin America and Honduras in particular. It opens up a debate in the Pentecostal theology of integral mission. It promotes a constructive reflection and a mature dialogue between Pentecostals and other Christian organisations that are involved in mission. This research shows that it is possible for Pentecostals to reach mutual understanding and co-operation for mission work with other bodies in true bonds of cooperation.

This study could benefit Pentecostals as they explore new opportunities for social service, economic development, political participation and human transformation.