

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The Adventist Human-Subject Researchers Association

Proposed Topic: Adventist Spirituality in a Post-modern World: The role of tradition and innovation in the Botswana perspective

Theme: Future of Adventism, Education, Social Issues, and Spirituality

Name: Monthusi Atkinson Legodi

Nationality: Motswana

Contacts:

Phone: (+267) 71835425 / 75001194

Email Address:

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Abstract

The Adventist movement, which originated in the 19th century, has long placed a strong emphasis on the study of biblical prophecy and the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath (Lawson, 1998). As the world continues to change and evolve, Adventists are faced with the challenge of maintaining their traditional spiritual practices while also adapting to the realities of a post-modern society (Orihentare Eregare et al., 2017). This research paper aims to explore the role of tradition and innovation in Adventist spirituality in the 21st century. Specifically, the study will examine how Adventists in Botswana navigate and reconcile the tension between preserving traditional beliefs and practices and embracing new forms of expression and worship. Additionally, the research will explore how Botswana Adventist communities are adapting to the rapidly changing cultural, social, and technological landscape of the post-modern world. Through the help of the Adventist Organizational Directory, the researcher will identify congregations within the vicinity of the Botswana Union Conference and South Botswana conferences as a sample for the study to collect data through surveys, interviews, and case studies, to provide insight into the current state of Adventist spirituality and the challenges and opportunities facing the Adventist church in the 21st century. Based on the works of renowned theorists such as Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Karl Marx, this study draws from Religious Tradition and Change theory (Adair-Toteff, 2016). This concept is a broad field that has been studied by many scholars from different disciplines. It benefits from various theoretical perspectives such as sociology, anthropology, history, theology, and philosophy (Hamberg, 1991). This paper, therefore, aims to achieve the following research objectives:

1. To examine the ways in which Adventist spirituality is constructed and understood by members of Adventist communities in Botswana in the context of a post-modern world.
2. To investigate the extent to which Adventist communities in Botswana have adapted traditional practices and beliefs in response to changes in the social and cultural landscape of the post-modern world.
3. To explore the role of innovation in shaping the spiritual practices and beliefs of Adventists in Botswana in the post-modern era.
4. To assess the challenges and opportunities facing Adventist communities in Botswana in maintaining their traditional spiritual practices and beliefs in the face of rapid social, cultural, and technological changes.

References

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