

DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

A MISSIOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE PHENOMENON OF DUAL ALLEGIANCE IN THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH AMONG THE YORUBA PEOPLE OF NIGERIA

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Problem

Many Africans and members of other traditional societies of the world who still hold to a supernatural and spiritualistic worldview visit diviners, shamans, spiritualistic herbalists, and the traditional medicine men and women who use, for example, enchantments, divination, charms, and invocation of the spirit world. They engage in such practices for various reasons, which include the diagnosis and treatment of various ailments, both physical and psychological, which plague their clients; exhibit a quest to know the future through divination; and are familiar with the preparation of different kinds of charms and medicines. Christians, including some Yoruba Adventists, also engaged in such wisdom and divination in the missionary expeditions among the *Egba*, a subtribe in the nineteenth century.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Dual allegiance is a significant issue in the Seventh-day Adventist Church that needs a concerted effort to both detect and eliminate it from the practices of the believers. Critical contextualization is a process that may help to address the problem. A major emphasis is needed on the power of the gospel. Thus pastors and lay leaders of the church need to be trained in critical contextualization. The creation of a study center for African Traditional Religions and Worldviews will help the denomination to better understand how to contextualize mission to Africans and other people groups with similar worldviews.