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## Biblical Eldership and Leadership [Dissertation Notice]

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**Onongha, Kelvin Okey (2014).**  
*Towards a missiological model for worldview transformation among adherents to African traditional religion in Yorubaland.*  
 Ph.D., Andrews University.

Seventh-day Adventist missions in the western region of Nigeria are a century old, yet reversion to pre-Christian practices such as divination and sorcery are reported, especially during periods of personal crisis. This qualitative study sought to understand the influence of the traditional worldview on the practices of divination and sorcery and to develop a model that would move the Yoruba Adventists from dependence on these practices to a biblically shaped faith and praxis. Using a grounded theory approach, data were collected from two focus group discussions and from face-to-face interviews with five pastors, five diviners, and three members who had once consulted diviners.

Concepts that emerged from the analyzed data revealed the need for a theory of worldview transformation. This theory entailed having better biblical explanations to counter existing worldview assumptions, the exigency of encountering the power of the Gospel in a power-oriented context, and the importance of experiential relationships with Christ to replace the role of diviners in that context.

The study culminated in a worldview transformation model that would lead Yoruba Adventists away from dependence upon pre-Christian customs to a biblically shaped worldview, and authentic faith and discipleship. Central to this worldview transformational paradigm is the Adventist doctrine of the Great Controversy.

**Park, Yoo Jin Deborah (2014).**  
*Women's effective leadership in contemporary Taiwanese churches.* Ph.D., Biola University.

The purpose of this grounded theory study was to understand and describe key factors contributing to the success of Taiwanese women leaders in the predominantly male context of contemporary churches in Taiwan. Participants included five effective female senior pastors and fourteen followers from these leaders' churches. Data were collected using in-depth, semi-structured interviews and participant observations.

Data analysis yielded six major leadership characteristics in three dimensions: (a) Interactive dimension—spiritual leadership, relational leadership, and team-building leadership; (b) Task dimension—organizational leadership and productive leadership; and (c) Change dimension—visionary leadership. There is no rigid, linear, step-by-step progressive relationship among the six characteristics; rather, the linkage is reciprocal. Further, despite individual differences, all six major leadership characteristics were present in all leader participants. Also, while all leaders clearly saw spiritual leadership as the most essential, all the qualities were deemed important.

**Rosalita, Ira Lee (2013).** *Biblical eldership and leadership.* D.Min., Asbury Theological Seminary.

Elders and leaders of the church are selected from the congregation to provide spiritual care and direction for the members; the overall spiritual oversight of the church is in the hands of committed men and women who are confirmed by the congregation. This study examines the biblical knowledge of elders and leaders of Ipil Alliance Evangelical Church using the lessons provided by the

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International Leadership Institute.

The project began with an examination of the level of biblical knowledge elders and leaders possessed prior to the study. A pre-study questionnaire was given to all elders and leaders, and an open-ended interview was also conducted before the start of the study. Eight study lessons then were presented over a period of four months.

After the lessons were given, a post-study questionnaire and an open-ended interview were conducted with all the elders and leaders to determine the result of the ministry intervention. The results indicated that consistent and proper training will increase the biblical knowledge of elders and leaders and enable them to minister to God's people effectively.

**Roth, Jared (2011). *The relationship between emotional intelligence and pastor leadership in turnaround churches*. Ed.D., Pepperdine University.**

Preparing, selecting, and training lead pastors for established churches in the United States is a growing challenge as 84% of churches are in attendance decline or are failing to keep up with population growth in their communities. Interest in how leadership qualities influence the turnaround from a declining church into a growing church served as the impetus to explore the conceptual topics of turnaround churches and emotional intelligence (EI) competencies of lead pastors. This quantitative study compared the EI of lead pastors of Foursquare churches in the United States using the 15 competencies of the Bar-On EQ-i assessment to determine whether certain competencies were significantly different based on the church attendance pattern. Two subgroups were compared—pastors whose congregations were considered

to be in decline, and those considered to have a congregation with a turnaround or growth pattern.

Statistical analyses revealed that five EI competencies (emotional self-awareness, independence, flexibility, assertiveness, and optimism) were significantly higher among pastors of turnaround churches, suggesting that pastors with higher levels of these specific EI competencies have a stronger likelihood of improving church attendance and promoting continued growth.

**Schulze, Alexander C. (2013). *Key factors of faith development: The relationship between family and church factors and faith development of adolescents and young adults in German-speaking Europe*. Ph.D., Andrews University.**

Research reveals that more than two thirds of the next generation leave their congregations during their teens and early 20s; the church is losing its children. The problem addressed in this study is the continuing challenge for church leaders, educators, and administrators to provide the best possible conditions for spiritual and organizational growth in order to retain the next generation. While observation and anecdotal evidence have suggested for a long time that the faith development of adolescents and young adults is influenced by family and church factors, no actual study had been done to investigate whether these observations can be confirmed and generalized across German-speaking Europe.

This study, based on the data gathered by Valuegenesis Europe, examines if a relationship between family and church variables and the faith development of adolescents and young adults in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland can be established. Applicable items were selected from