

**Mission to the Prodigal Continent: Faith, missionality and the decolonial turn**

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**Abstract**

The history of decolonization in Africa is a complex, intricate one that implicates on all spheres of life. The decolonization process in Africa is better understood with hindsight of ‘colonization’ and foresight of ‘independence/postcolonial/neocolonial’ processes. Colonialism was not simply a political imposition, but a cultural one which witnessed a vivid interplay of political, cultural, economic, strategic and religious variables. The religious ferment in the decolonization process plays out on various levels: the character of missionary presence in the colonial enterprise. The post- European War era was a momentous point in the story of African Christianities. It touched off the decolonization process that had a domino effect on the religious landscape. This paper historicizes the character of missionary presence in the colonial enterprise, the nature, process and consequences of decolonization. Is decolonization – a disheveled process, a creative enterprise or a passive revolution? Is there now a shift from decolonization to recolonization of some sort, in the face of religious globalization? Or is it simply a legacy of extraversion? The paper teases out the moratorium debacle and the reverse mission enterprise as more strident forms of the indigenization project, and critically assesses the social, political and missiological implications for world Christianities in the twenty first century

**Select bibliography of most recent book publications:**

1 2014: Afe Adogame (ed.) *The Public Face of African New Religious Movements in Diaspora. Imagining the Religious ‘Other’*. Ashgate Inform Series on Minority Religions and Spiritual Movements. Surrey: Ashgate. (272pp.)

2 2014: Afe Adogame and Andrew Lawrence (eds) *Africa in Scotland, Scotland in Africa: Historical Legacies and Contemporary Hybridities*. Leiden: Brill, (363pp.)

3 2014: Afe Adogame, Janice MacLean and Anderson Jeremiah (eds) *Engaging the World: Christian Communities in Contemporary Global Societies*. Regnum Edinburgh Centenary Series. Oxford: Regnum. (235pp.)

4 2013: Afe Adogame *The African Christian Diaspora: New Currents and Emerging Trends in World Christianity*. London, New Delhi, New York and Sydney: Bloomsbury Academic (259pp).

5 2013: Afe Adogame, Magnus Echtler, Oliver Freiberger (eds) *Alternative Voices: A Plurality Approach for Religious Studies*. Gottingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. (347pp).

6 2013: Afe Adogame and Shobana Shankar, (eds) *Religion on the Move! New Dynamics of Religious Expansion in a Globalizing World*. Leiden and Boston: Brill. (470pp.)

7 2013: Afe Adogame, Ezra Chitando, Bolaji Bateye (eds) *African Traditions in the Study of Religion, Diaspora, and Gendered Societies*. Surrey & Burlington: Ashgate. (192pp.)