Inculturation of Worship: Forty Years of Progress and Tradition

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Abstract
(Excerpt)
For four years last century I had the rare privilege of taking part in a series of liturgical consultations organized by the Lutheran World Federation. I say "rare," because it is not often that a Roman Catholic becomes a member of an international study group of Lutherans and, to my gratification, declared by the group an honorary Lutheran! (By coincidence—or perhaps providence—Martin Luther and I were born on the same day.) During those memorable years I made lasting friendship with Lutheran scholars such as Gordon Lathrop and S. Anita Stauffer. Friendship means dialogue, and dialogue with them richly endowed me with liturgical knowledge. Thanks to my Lutheran connection, the World Council of Churches paired Lathrop and me in a number of conferences on Christian worship.

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Inculturation provides both the church and the indigenous culture the opportunity for open dialogue. Over the last 125 years the Presbyterian Church of Bompata has been in conversation with the local culture, therefore not only has the culture been transformed but the church itself has been altered. The first chapter of this study will examine the context and anthropological theory of my field work. The second chapter will provide historical background for the community of Bompata, Bompata Presbyterian Church, and the Reverend Twum-Barimah. The third chapter defines the theory of inculturation. In the fourth chapter, the vestiges of African Traditional Religion in Bompata Christianity will be explored. The fifth chapter will discuss the impact of Christianity on Bompata. Conclusion.

Inculturation efforts are recommended at several levels: i) at the school level where the young ones are targeted through the teachers and educators; ii) at the level of the enterprises and the administration where practicing adult entrepreneurs (or candidates for the position of entrepreneurs) are targeted as beneficiaries of retraining and preparation; iii) at the political level where systematic lobbying activities are essential, especially as regards bills passed in Parliament; iv) at the level of civil society where opinion leaders, trade unions, employers' associations and the “clubs of...