

Missional Diaconate as Transformational development to God's glory

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Mission as participation in the *missio Dei* helps us to understand that whenever people engage with God's work they will not remain the same. Written from the context of Africa where 20% of the population is between 15-24 years of age, this paper will argue the importance of mission as transformational development of children and youth in Africa. A fair question would be why transformational development amongst African children and youth is necessary? Although the answer might seem obvious from a socio-economic point, some clarification from a spiritual and theological perspective is needed. In an attempt to provide a theological rationale for the transformational development for children and youths in Africa, this paper wants to contribute to the dialogue between development and diaconia, regime and religion and children and youths and adults from an African perspective. The first part of the paper, will attend to a description of the socio-economic and spiritual contexts of Africa's children and youth. The second part will focus on the importance of Missional Diaconate and transformational development in Africa and the relationship between them. The final section deals with the concept of transformational development as an act of grace that lead s to God's glory.