14th Assembly of the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MISSION STUDIES August 11–17, 2016 Seoul, South Korea

Conversions and Transformations: Missiological Approaches to Religious Change

Migration, Gender and Reproductive Health: The role of mission to Women migrants in South Africa

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Abstract

Migration and transnationalism has become one of the major world concern seeking for not only social political answered but serious theological responses to the problem. Amidst mobility trend are women and children who are the worse victims in most of the cases. In the South African context for example, the majority of the people that were affected with the xenophobic attacks of 2014 were women and children who needed services such as clinics and sites to sell their products when the foreigners found themselves locked up in shelters of safety. In most African countries migrants are without any proper legal papers therefore visiting places like hospitals where they access health care services becomes a challenge. This paper presents case studies of migrant women's experiences in accessing health care services such as family planning and antenatal services. The paper draws its theories from the historical mission of the missionary women who worked in Africa as nurses and health workers and challenges the church to revisit the role of mission in this era of transnationalism and migration. The paper argues that women's reproductive health has not been on the agenda of missions and yet the mission of the church is to serve life. To what extent then is the church responding to the mission of serving life if migrant women's reproductive health rights are ignored.

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