

ABSTRACT

The Evangelical Church of Cameroon operates in a global Cameroonian context of income inequalities, with 15% of the population living on 85% of the nation's wealth. The members of the ECC come from all social categories: the luxurious rich, the academes, the huge mass of underemployed and unemployed worshipping together. In this global context of income inequality, coupled with the vulnerability of some members, some local parishes engaged in fund and food collections to ensure support of the most poorest and weak. But these punctual collections have revealed their limits especially with regards to dignity, respect and human rights, holding the recipient in a state of passivity and dependency. It is in an attempt to introduce more productive practices of diaconia that this thesis focused on the topic "Transformative diaconia: Consciousness awareness, empowerment and advocacy in response to growing economic inequalities in the Evangelical Church of Cameroon". The guiding question is "what strategies can the ECC mobilize for a transformative diaconia?"

The work falls under four chapters. The first is an introductory chapter to the context, the problem and arguments in support of a transformative diaconia. The second opens on biblical and ethical basis on diaconia and evaluates the practice of diaconia in the ECC. Chapter three elaborates on the transformatory strategy in the fields of:

- Consciousness awareness: This focused on the mind, making people aware of whom they are and whom they are called to be both in the church and in the church can greatly change their perceptions of the world and convince them to accommodate to more human practices, hence to a revolutionary diaconia.
- Empowerment: it is concerned with all the mechanisms mobilized to bestow power unto the beneficiary of diaconia. Through a well planned participatory empowerment the poor can voice a choice and be empowered by the community to later become a tool of empowerment.
- Advocacy, a process whereby the rights of the poor are claimed and their dignity restored.

Chapter four is a strategic implementation of an economic empowerment tool called Community Corporative. This Corporative, if well managed by the local community, is an undeniable economic transformatory tool for its beneficiaries.