



**North American Association of Christians in Social Work**  
*A Vital Christian Presence in Social Work*

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**EMERGING TRENDS AND ROLES OF RELIGION AND FAITH-BASED  
INSTITUTIONS IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT**

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# **Emerging Trends and Roles of Religion and Faith-Based Institutions in Global Development**

**Christson A. Adedoyin, MSW, PhD.  
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# Presentation Outline

- Study Abstract
- Learning Objectives
- Research Questions
- Major Findings and Trends
- Implications for Social work education, international field education, international practice and research, NACSW.
- Closing: Summary, Q& A .

# Study Abstract

- This presentation spotlights emerging international trends in the burgeoning roles of faith-based institutions in global development initiatives. The presentation will attempt to juxtapose the global development roles of faith-based institutions in the USA relative to their counterparts abroad. Implications for Christian social work practitioners and researchers are also highlighted.

# Learning Objectives

1. Understand the emerging roles of faith-based institutions in global development initiatives in comparison to the USA
2. Recognize the nexus of religion and development from a non-USA perspective.
3. Explore professional, academic, research and field-based practicum that Christian social workers, researchers, practitioners and students can benefit from existing development oriented faith-based institutions and organizations.
4. Articulate leading roles that the NACSW and its members can play in shifting the paradigm and casting a vision for a new partnership between faith-based institutions and representative governments in the USA.

# Research Questions

1. Why is religion one of the most discussed concept in International Development? Is religion still a taboo?
2. How is religion perceived, conceptualized, and operationalized in post-secular & post-modern era ?
3. How are other parts of the world handling the role of religion in politics, economics, international development e.t.c?
4. Why are Multilateral organizations (like WHO, UNICEF) and international development organizations (like USAID, DFID) recognizing and working with religious organizations?
5. What are the roles of Faith-based Organizations (FBOs) and/or Faith-Inspired Organizations (FIOs) in international development e.t.c ?
6. What opportunities exist for (Christian) social workers in North America in these emerging trend?

## Major Findings and Trends

- Religion is no longer a taboo in international development discourse and planning (Deneulin & Rakodi, 2011; VerBeek, 2000)
- Multilateral and international organizations (IMF, World Bank, DFI, USAID) are increasingly collaborating with faith-based institutions in the ideation and implementation of development initiatives worldwide (Clarke, 2011).
- Interdependence and collaboration is the new lexicon in the relationship between governments and religious organizations (Hollenbach, 2003; Marshall & Keough 2005). No more dichotomy of government and religion
- Role of faith and religion in socio-economic development is receiving considerable attention in the academia and development literature abroad (Clarke, 2011; Marshall & Keough 2004; Rakodi, 2012; ) Special Issue of Development in Practice, 22, Issues 5-6 (2012) exclusively devoted to this.

# Major Findings and Trends

- Developments in China and India have elements of Maoist secular utopianism and Gandhian religious utopianism (Veer, 2012)
- Religion and religious network are viewed as instrumental components in the African Renaissance transformation agenda ( Uzodike & Whetho, 2008)
- Mattis et al (2012) identified religion as a strategy to improve and increase the international volunteerism and services of African Americans
- Religion through FBOs are vital structures of peaceful governance (Mani 2012)



# Major Findings and Trends

- Transnational religious organizations' involvement in international developmental activities (Harneys, 2001; Kiney, 2012; Thornton et al, 2012; Wuthnow & Offutt, 2008)

( Anglican/Episcopal Church and the Sudanese Dioceses, Roman Catholic Church, Assemblies of God Church, Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists, Mennonites RCGC, etc)

- Policy consultation, and development in Tanzania and Nigeria ( Taylor 2012; Marshall & Keough, 2004)
- Service delivery, welfare and developmental activities in Indonesia ( Thornton, Sakai, & Hassall, 2012)
- Religious education providers in India (Rew & Bhatewara, 2012)
- New scholarship and evidence are merging on the nexus of faith and global development in addressing international social problems as poverty, diseases, wars, conflicts, maternal and child mortality, and even environmental degradation (Clarke, 2011; Deneulin & Bano, 2009; Hollenbach, 2003; Marshall & Keough, 2005; Ter Harr, 2011).
- As a result, spiritual (or faith-based) capital is one of the “newest currencies” that has emerged as strategy to fast-track human and global development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

# Implications for Social Work

- **CSWE/EPAS Competency-based education**  
(Section 2.1.5 Advance human rights and social and economic justice) i.e. Recognize global interconnections....p.5
- **International Social work field practice**  
(Willis 2012; highlighted disorientation for students from the global North who go abroad )
- **International Social work research**
- **International Social welfare policy and Social Development**
- **NACSW expansionary influence and capacity building**

# Closing

- **Summary and Conclusion**
  - Thanks for listening
- Questions and Comments

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