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Ethnicity, Peace, and Violence: The Voices of Kenyan Church Leaders [Dissertation Notice]

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DISSERTATION NOTICES

Dahlvig, J. E. (2011). *A narrative study of women leading within the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.* **Ph.D., Azusa Pacific University.**

This three-year narrative study tells the stories of five women leaders working within the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU). Women leaders are under-represented within this sector of higher education compared to other religious and/or private higher education institutions. Two of the participants hold positional leadership within academic affairs, two within student life, and one within college financial services. Ten themes emerged from the women's stories, clustered into three broader headings that resonate with existing gender and leadership research (Ayman & Korabik, 2010), authentic leadership development theory (Avolio & Luthans, 2006), and guidelines for narrative analysis (Clandinin & Connelly, 2000): (a) the landscape or cultural setting, (b) leadership identity or the internal journey of leaders, and (c) relationships with others or interpersonal dynamics. The findings urge Christian higher education institutions to consider five recommendations for enhancing the impact of female leaders.

Exantus, W. R. (2011). *Pastoral burnout and leadership styles: A mixed-methods study of Southern Baptist pastors in Central Florida.* **Ph.D., Capella University.**

This study examined the factors that contribute to stress, burnout, and turnover among Southern Baptist pastors of Central Florida. Previous research indicated that pastors' over-whelming responsibilities, lack of a support system and cooperation, and their own personal factors tend to put them under a great deal of pressure and adversity. This mixed method study focused on perceptions of 12 senior pastors who were interviewed and 32 others who were surveyed utilizing the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ) and a burnout inventory developed by this researcher. A significant relationship was found between job dissatisfaction (50%) and feelings of personal accomplishment. Pastors who are more inclined to exhibit transformational and transactional leadership styles have lower levels of burnout than those who are more inclined to practice laissez-faire leadership style.

Gathogo, N. (2011). *Ethnicity, peace, and violence: The voices of Kenyan church leaders.* **Ph.D., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.**

The study addresses the church leaders' contribution towards fostering peace, justice, and reconciliation in the multi-party political era in Kenya that has been plagued with a vicious circle of ethnic violence. The research carried out in Kenya revealed that church leaders retreated into ethnic cocoons for personal and ethnic interests, where they trampled upon Christian identity and loyalty while lifting up the banner of ethnic loyalty, which polarized their functionality and responsibility. The perceived loss of moral authority and status on a national platform relegated them to ethnic voices. The ethnic perception hampered and hindered their effort in fostering peace, justice, and reconciliation.

Church leaders recognized and acknowledged their weakness of not living according to the demands of

Christian identity and loyalty, as witnessed in their public repentance to God and to the nation after the 2007 post-election violence that shocked the foundations of Kenya. Church leaders have the potential to restore their status as the conscience of the nation and play an active role in peace building, justice, and reconciliation at both the national and grassroots levels that could help to thwart or minimize the occurrence of ethnic violence. The restoration of church leaders requires a paradigm shift of their ethnic-biased lived reality to a lived reality of Christian identity and national identity, so that their prophetic voice can be heard and respected on a national platform by society.

Handy, A. (2011). *The* specula principum *in northwestern Europe, A.D. 650-900: The evolution of a new ethical rule.* Ph.D., University of Notre Dame.

This dissertation explores the *specula principum,* or advice treatises for rulers, written in Ireland and the Carolingian world between the seventh and tenth centuries. Including collections of aphorisms, the deathbed speeches of literary figures, formal manuals on courtly behavior, and other texts in Old Irish and Latin, these advice manuals offer insight into several aspects of early medieval European culture. This work contains two major arguments. The first argues that the intense interest in this genre across northwestern Europe suggests that the concept of what made a good leader was changing, which is shown to be the result of a negotiation between an older, pre-Christian moral code and the emerging Christian concept of morality. The second demonstrates the interconnectivity of these regions by making a case for Irish influence on the Carolingian manu-

als, which most likely occurred when Irish missionaries and scholars brought ideas to the continent in the eighth and ninth centuries.

Hickman, T. F. (2010). *The integration of Jesus' Great Commandment within Christian higher education: An analysis of the leadership praxis of Dr. David S. Dockery.* Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The purpose of this study was to better understand the leadership philosophy and key strategic actions of Dr. David S. Dockery in relation to Jesus' Great Commandment. Dockery's leadership has been instrumental in shaping and defining the meaning of Christian education during his fourteen-year tenure as president of Union University. During his term as president, Dockery has overseen tremendous institutional growth in the expansion of campus facilities, financial resources, and record student enrollment. In a broader capacity, Dockery's influence has been reflected throughout the Southern Baptist Convention and the evangelical community.

This mixed method study analyzed and aligned Dockery's leadership utilizing James Kouzes and Barry Posner's perennial leadership classic, *The Leadership Challenge*.

Higgins, V. A., Jr. (2011). *Leadership style and teaching orientation of pastors of solo-pastor SBC churches.* Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The purpose of this study was to analyze the relationship between the leadership style and teaching orientation of a random sample of pastors of solo-pastor churches in the SBC. The leadership styles that were analyzed were Lewin's autocratic leadership