

AFRICAN WOMEN AND REVIVAL: THE CASE OF THE EAST AFRICAN REVIVAL

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ABSTRACT

Fed up with conventional religion, people have pursued a revival or an awakening. This article examines the twentieth century East African revival and its impact to womenfolk. The East African revival as a movement sought to transform the spiritual situation of the missionary Church. It came about due to amongst other things, uncertainty of the times and the slothfulness of the Church. The East African revival had enormous implications on families culturally, socially and even economically. This article brings to fore characteristics of Balokole women after conversion exemplified in their dress code, cleanliness and confessional practice. It highlights significant changes to the lives of womenfolk in their cuisine, hospitality and in their rejection of versions of polygyny. It further shows that revival focused attention on the home beyond cleanliness and hospitality even as married women were frequently among the first to hear their husband's confessions of their behaviours such as drinking, abuse or adultery.

Keywords: Revival, East African revival, Balokole, Women in East Africa, The Church, Confession.

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