

CODE Forum 2026

Introduction to the Papers and Workshops

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Slave-related Experiences of Women in the Synagogue Church of All Nations in Nigeria: A conversation with Mercy Amba Oduyoye's Liberation Theology

In January 2024, a BBC documentary titled 'Disciples: The Cult of T.B Joshua- 2024' emerged on social media, drawing the attention of many. In the documentary, several women shared their experiences in a neo-Pentecostal charismatic church in Nigeria. They told stories of violence and manipulation in the church, terming their experiences as slavery. In this paper, I seek to answer whether it is helpful for the women themselves to frame their experiences as modern slavery. To answer this question, I draw on Mercy Amba Oduyoye's theology of liberation to understand how and why women in this study frame their experiences as slavery. Women's experiences in Synagogue church, termed as slavery, when viewed through Oduyoye's lens of liberation theology, highlight the role of the church in perpetuating and maintaining systems of oppression. Their stories underscore the

complexities of their experiences, as well as contemporary debates on the role of churches in slavery and/or oppression.