

**CHURCH, A MODEL FOR CHANGE: A TRANSFORMATION AMONG T'BOLI  
TRIBE AT DESAWO CHRIST CHURCH IN SOUTH COTABATO**

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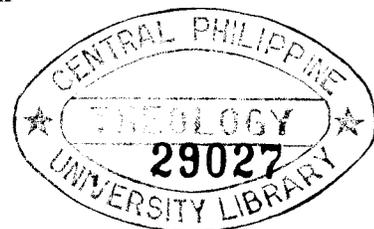
**Requirements for the Degree**

**Master of Ministry**

**By**

**Librado Javier Repolidon**

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ABSTRACT

This study attempted to interpret the development of the T'boli people under the care of the Desawo Christ Church in relation to its holistic-oriented program. Specifically, the study aimed to trace the historical development of Desawo Christ Church (DCC); describe the DCC holistic approach model; determine Christian values and behavior aspired for T'boli members; and determine problems encountered by the church ministries in the process of transformation. This study is descriptive-analysis research that used the case study and interview method. The DCC is an indigenous group who occupies the culture center of the southwest coast range of the Cotabato Cordillera. The members are living in poverty and being chased by the shadow of their animistic culture. The T'bolis, being young in Christ, are willing to undergo the process of transformation which is slow and hard but it is worth noting that the DCC is behind them in the process. The holistic approach model used by the Desawo Christ Church covered the spiritual, cultural and economic aspects of the T'boli church members. Christian values and behavior aspired for by the church among its members are sharing, willingness to help, mission mindedness, compassion and hospitality. Based on the problems encountered by the ministry at Desawo Christ Church, these values are not fully attained. Finally, problems like spiritual, cultural, and economic aspects encountered by the church are part of the gradual transformation of the T'boli tribe to become mature Christians.