

Controversies in Mission: 2015 Evangelical Missiological Society Theme

In the history of the church, Christian mission has often been met with controversy. From the council of Jerusalem (AD 49) to the efforts of Augustine of Canterbury in 6th century England to Robert Nobili in 17th century India to advocates of C5 insider movements in the present day, crossing social, cultural and religious barriers and making disciples of all nations has probably never been without some level of controversy. Given the diversity in the global body of Christ today—different theological and church traditions, varying temperaments of missionaries, and the increased cultural diversity of the global church on mission—controversy should really come as no surprise. Rather, if we follow the model of the first century Jerusalem church leaders, addressing the hot issues affords us moments of pause and needed reflection.

So what are the most controversial issues in mission today? In 2015, the Evangelical Missiological Society will engage this topic in its spring regional gatherings and in its annual meeting in Dallas, September 18-20. Professors, practitioners, and students of mission are invited to submit papers from the various disciplines of missiology (biblical and theological studies, history, cultural anthropology) while case studies and strategic reflections are also welcomed. The goal is to present careful consideration of issues causing tension and contention within current mission thought, practice and strategy and lead to serious but charitable dialog; therefore, papers should avoid polemics as an end, but rather require a “way forward.” Proposed topics include, but are not limited to:

People in Mission	Means of Mission	Methods for Mission
Homosexuality	Ethics of BAM	Holism vs. Proclamation
Gay Marriage	Funding Indigenous Workers	Insider Movements
Women (role of)	Dependency vs. Generosity	Bible Translation (emphasis on translation in Muslim contexts)
STM vs. Career Missionaries	Partnerships	Engaging Social Media/Technology
Amateurization vs. Professionalism		

Accepted papers should be about 4500-7000 words in length and use the [Harvard](#) documentation system.

If you are interested in presenting a paper in 2015, please send an e-mail to John Wang with (1) a working title, (2) a 200-300 word abstract or a couple of paragraphs describing your proposed topic or issue and the approach you will take, and (3) a brief identification of yourself. The northeast conference is set for March 28, 2015 and will be held at First Baptist Church of Flushing in Flushing, NY. You can email Dr. John Wang at fbcjohnwang@yahoo.com or call him at 646-684-7837 to further discuss the details of the conference.

Some papers read at the regional meetings will be invited to be read at the annual EMS meeting in Dallas, September 18-20, 2015, leading to the possibility of being published as a chapter in the [EMS monograph](#) for 2016.

For further questions about the annual meeting, please contact the 2015 co-chairs:

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