

## **Empowering the Powerless: Exploring Resources for Mission in Vulnerability**

Understanding vulnerability as one of the fundamental traits of the *conditio humana*, the present paper explores how this reality is negotiated through the lenses of Christian faith, inspired by Scriptures. It seeks to argue that *missio Dei* can faithfully and relevantly be pursued in and through the “power of the powerless.” Drawing on the insights of Vaclav Havel in his famous essay and writing from a post-communist perspective, the paper employs the latter concept to contextualize the notion of “mission from the margins,” elaborated by the World Council of Churches ecumenical affirmation on mission and evangelism, *Together towards Life* (TTL), for a contemporary pluralistic society and the role of individual Christians and Christian communities within. The central question this paper strives to answer then is, What resources does our Christian heritage give us to embrace vulnerability in our pursuit of *missio Dei*? It suggests and discusses several means to possibly empower the powerless for mission in vulnerability, including the diversity of voices within Scriptures; the dynamic quadrilateral of Scriptures, reason, experience, and tradition; the appeal to be involved in prophetic critique of idols; the biblical power of hope over despair; and the recognition of the other as gift. In its conclusion, this paper wants to propose that the calling to Christian mission in the contemporary post-secular society challenges individuals and groups to renounce privileges and special treatment, accept vulnerability and marginal status, rejoice in diversity, confront powers that be, and strive for inclusivity and equality, thus witnessing to the gospel.

This paper proposal is intended for the Theology of Mission study group.

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