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**Paper proposal for Study Group: Interreligious Studies and Mission
*Toward to an Interreligious Theology of Mission in relation to
Christian-Buddhist Dialogue***

This paper, informed and shaped by Christian-Buddhist encounter and dialogue in the United States at the beginning of the twenty-first century, seeks to contribute to a reconstruction of the theology and practice of Christian mission in a multi-faith world. Drawing on qualitative data from in-depth interviews with ten Christian-Buddhist practitioners and spiritual seekers, this paper first attempts to advance current theological debate while seeking to move beyond the standard threefold typology used by theologians to construct a theology of religions and inter-religious engagement: exclusivism, inclusivism, and pluralism. Secondly this paper will articulate how Christian-Buddhist engagement revises and contextualizes the theology, aims, and practice of Christian witness. By describing and analysing this specific Christian-Buddhist dialogue in terms of the lived experiences of ordinary people, this paper intends to identify and address missiological issues that emerge from it. Thirdly, this paper will argue that Christian dialogue with Buddhism can support the development of a Christian theology of mission in which Christian witness becomes the healing and transformative praxis so necessary in a world of woundedness and brokenness. In conclusion, the paper will recommend an interreligious theology of mission in correlation with Christian-Buddhist dialogue; engagement in interreligious dialogue as a virtuous Christian practice; recovery and renewal of contemplative spirituality as a source of mission; proclaiming the Gospel as *Kong-an* and transformation of evangelism as contemplative spiritual guidance.

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