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**Title of paper: When the wounded becomes the healer: mission in a wounded world.**

## **When the wounded becomes the healer: mission in a wounded world.**

As a white South African of French Huguenot descent, I have been part of the privileged minority dominating non-white citizens through Apartheid-rule. The desperate need for decolonisation has been echoing through the world and Africanisation is central in theological reflection on the African continent. In this paper on mission in a wounded world I look at the long-lasting effects of colonialism, its power and the the inequalities and vulnerabilities it created.

Every culture is characterised by cultural preservation and cultural fluidity. Charles Kraft<sup>1</sup> (2011:366-367) mentions different levels of cultural change. The most abrupt and unpredictable level is the *historical accident* – such as natural disasters and colonial takeovers. He (Kraft 2011:367-368) mentions four stages of rapid acculturation: (i) a negative attitude to new cultural practices; (ii) increasing acceptance thereof; (iii) rejection of the old culture and assimilation with the new; (iv) disillusionment and finally, (v) new cultural rootage.

The time has come for the colonial privileged to stand back and allow decolonisation to run its course. The colonialist mentality of superiors coming to save hapless commoners, need to make room for a shift in power, where the historically wounded becomes the restorers of their own identity. This is the kind of mission that is needed to restore the wounded world we live in.

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<sup>1</sup> KRAFT, C. H. (2011). *Anthropology for christian witness*. Maryknoll, N.Y., Orbis Books.