

## **'Let the Wind Blow' - Spiritual Direction as a Way of Witnessing the Movement of the Spirit in Asia**

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### **Abstract**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is marked by the explosive growth of Christianity amongst the Pentecostals/Charismatics in the Global South. Spiritual Direction (SD), a ministry of accompanying someone in a sacred space through deep listening and discernment, is much needed for many 'wounded' Christian leaders on the edge of burnout as they face the challenges of fast-paced Christian growth.

This paper seeks to demonstrate how SD operates as a way of witnessing the movement of the Holy Spirit—to 'blow' where the Spirit chooses in Asia through a case study. Following some pilgrims' narratives and the director's experience during the SD encounters, the paper explores some cross-cultural factors including awareness, relationships and discernment. It is followed by some reflections on the paradox of vulnerability and power of *Imago Dei* and *missio Dei* in cross-cultural SD ministry. Drawing from the works of anthropologists, theologians and missiologists, it interacts the contemporary Asian Pentecostal/Charismatic experience with ancient Confucian texts and the Christian Scriptures. It redefines the role of a director and invites deepening responses in the follow-up. It argues that the incarnational living of a director bears witness to the 'blowing wind' and is therefore a way of mission amongst the 'wounded' in Asia. It aims to provide a resource for those who are to engage in ministry in multicultural pluralistic society in the Global North or in cross-cultural settings overseas, so that they may grow in humility, awareness, sensitivity and interpathy.