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**Paper Proposal/Abstract**

Title: **“Jesus the Parabolic Preacher:  
Storytelling as Means of Mission in the New Media Age”**

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**Proposal Abstract**

Storytelling is said to be as old as human history. People love to tell stories and especially to hear good stories. In ancient and oral cultures, storytelling was an effective way to teach and to transmit traditions since stories are easy to remember. Furthermore, stories are powerful means to inspire transformation and change. Like a good teacher, Jesus loved to tell stories and was very good at it. Jesus’ stories however are a bit unique for they usually have unexpected twists and are often subversive. More than just telling stories, Jesus spoke often in parables using familiar images that have the potential to transcend space and time as well as culture of the original speaker and listener to speak even to us today in messages that are still pertinent and images that are still powerful. Rediscovering gospel values through storytelling is an effective way of strengthening faith and mission. This method of teaching is certainly not a new phenomenon. Many biblical writers wrote stories and taught by means of them. Jesus of Nazareth—the parabolic preacher—was known for his subversive stories. In a sophisticated and technological world, where effective communication depends upon creativity and imagination, the best way to reveal the hidden truth of the gospel message and to change the heart and soul of our listeners is through the art of storytelling.