

**Paper Proposal (revised) for the 14th Assembly of
The International Association for Mission Studies
(August 11–17, 2016) Seoul, South Korea**

By Shivraj K. Mahendra
PhD student in Intercultural Studies
Asbury Theological Seminary

Proposed Title:

Re-Imaging Conversion: Exploring E. Stanley Jones' Theology of Conversion and its Implications for Public Missiology Today

Abstract:

Conversion to Christ and Christianity has been a persistent theme of critical reflection in the journey of missiology and mission studies. Connecting with this journey, this paper undertakes a fresh reading of the views of a global evangelist Dr. E. Stanley Jones on the issue of conversion. Based on the principal writings of Jones and select secondary sources this paper attempts to: (1) explore the shades of meaning and definition of conversion in the thoughts of E. Stanley Jones, (2) evaluate his theology of conversion for theologizing in context with special reference to the task of evangelism and interreligious dialogue, and (3) engage with select dialogues on the theme of religious conversion between Jones and Gandhi and its implication for public missiology today. In the process, the issues of identity politics and conversion, motives and challenges of conversion, conversion and interreligious dialogue, etc., are revisited. The entire study is carried out from the perspectives of a north Indian Hindu convert to Christ. The significance of the paper may be seen in its commitment to initiate a new round table of missiological reflection on the issue of conversion within an intercultural framework of public theologizing and missiologizing.