

## **Screening Transformation: McDonagh's *Calvary* and Zvyagintsev's *Leviathan* in a Missiological Perspective**

Although missiology has been in intensive and constructive dialog with culture since its early beginnings as a discipline, so far not much attention has been given to missiological engagement with and interpretation of film. This trend seems rather unfortunate as films often represent an abundant resource for missiological reflection. Being concentrated on the Assembly's theme of transformation, the present paper seeks to analyze two recent films, John Michael McDonagh's *Calvary* (2014) and Andrey Zvyagintsev's *Leviathan* (2014), respectively. Pursuing a close reading of the films with a particular focus on their characters as potential agents of transformation, the paper will explore how transformation in both the life of individuals and society, understood here broadly as a change in accordance with biblical values and implying ramifications in spiritual, social, cultural, political and other dimensions, can be either buttressed or inhibited through the actions of people and institutions. A special regard will be paid to the role of the church and its representatives in this process. In the paper the films will not be necessarily interpreted as factually exact contextual analyses of life and mission in a post-Christian Ireland and post-communist Russia, respectively. Rather, it will be argued that such imaginative renderings can provide fresh and inspiring insights for theological and, particularly, missiological reflection as well as mission practice.

Pavol Bargár

[bargarp@yahoo.com](mailto:bargarp@yahoo.com)