



As part of the Evangelical Alliance's *Confidence in the Gospel* initiative we are hosting a series of five national consultations to wrestle with significant and timely issues relating to the gospel.

To ensure that as many people as possible can engage with this programme, the talks are being filmed and made available online.

Why not watch some of the videos, and use the questions provided, to explore these vital subjects with your small group or leadership team?

For more information, videos and resources visit eauk.org/confidence

Daniel Jeyaraj

is professor of world Christianity and the director of the Andrew F Walls Centre for Study of African and Asian Christianity at Liverpool Hope University.

Synopsis

Daniel Jeyaraj challenges and encourages the UK Church to learn from the global Church when it comes to the issue of contextualisation. He introduces himself as a friend of this country – a critical friend – but one who stands in solidarity with us. He outlines the need for us to redeem biblical knowledge, to remember the non-European contributions to British Christianity, and to reform and readjust existing attitudes and wills.

Redeeming biblical knowledge: In the midst of plenty, there is a serious problem of biblical illiteracy – and the problem doesn't just exist outside of our churches. When we are talking about contextualisation, without a knowledge and understanding of the biblical text, we cannot do anything. Our contemporaries have forgotten both the vocabulary and the will to know the Bible. We need to bring the vibrancy of God's word into the lives of God's people.

Remembering non-European contributions to British Christianity: Everything that we consider to be European Christianity is actually a borrowed Christianity. Just like the English language is a borrowed language – made up of many other languages. The early Christian 'centres' were not European. The contributions that non-European countries have made to Christianity are immense and we need to remember this, not just as a mental exercise, but it needs to become part of us.

Reforming and readjusting existing attitudes and wills: We need to extend our welcome to Christian immigrants. Among them there is an intellectual wealth and vibrancy, and it is all too often ignored by local congregations. We need to open our hearts and minds to learn from one another. Doing so brings richness to the gospel and we can do so much more together.

Questions

- (1) What experiences have we had of learning from the global Church? What have we learnt? How has this enriched our faith? As individuals, and as a church, have we done enough to learn from Christians around the world? If we haven't, why do we think this is?
- (2) Is the level of biblical literacy among our congregation (or even ourselves) a cause for celebration or concern? Why is biblical literacy essential to the task of contextualisation? What can we do to increase people's level of biblical knowledge and understanding?
- (3) What are the biggest influences on our expression of Christianity – as individuals and as a Church? How international/multi-cultural are these influences? What could we do to ensure that our Christianity is internationally shaped?
- (4) How could we work better with the Christians from all over the world that are right on our doorstep? How might doing so enrich our faith?