

Statement from Haslev Conference 1997

From	Toward
Contextualisation as a method .	Contextualisation as a way of life and learning, and a way of being more fully human.
Contextualisation as something we do to others .	Contextualisation as an expression of self-giving love .
Fear that the gospel may be lost or truncated by our efforts to be contextual.	Faith that God will protect the good news and that the Holy Spirit will lead us into a deeper understanding of the truth of the gospel.
An attitude of over-protecting our own doctrinal formulations	An attitude of risk taking based on our recognition that Jesus chose to entrust the good news of the gospel to flawed human beings.
An attitude of independence that unwittingly assumes that God is not able to preserve the fulness of the good news in a rapidly changing world in which Christianity is no longer dominant anywhere.	An attitude of dependency on God that celebrates the fact that a Mongolian shamanist today can hear the gospel story from a Korean Bible, derived from a Scottish Presbyterian English Bible of Greek and Hebrew origins and, by God's power and grace, experiences the same gospel we have received
An temptation toward cultural dominance that assumes the superiority of our faith expression.	An attitude of interdependence , believing that no culture can see its own blind spots and that every culture has something to offer to all other cultures.
Reducing contextualisation to a method of communicating the gospel as a prescription for the saving of souls.	Practicing contextualisation as a way of discovering the fullness of the gospel through a living, growing encounter between the gospel, proclaimed and lived; the Bible and the personal, social, political, economic, religious worlds in which we live.
Contextualisation as a noun : the articulation of the gospel to a one-way presentation of propositions.	Contextualising as a verb : a community of believers listening, sharing, learning and reproving one another for the sake of discovering a deeper understanding of the gospel of the Kingdom.
Seeing culture as a problem or a barrier to communicating the gospel	Celebrating culture as the God-given context of our identity and as the fertile ground for the ongoing incarnation of the gospel and the Kingdom.
Understanding the multiplicity of cultures as a problem complicating the sharing of the gospel	Celebrating the diversity of cultures as God's gift to the church and means by which the true fullness of his good news and the reality of his Kingdom may be discerned.
From contextualization as merely a strategy for cross cultural mission .	Contextualization as a necessary and conscious practise of all churches in mission within their own cultures.
An anxious concern to protect our church and mission structures at the expense of our work for Christ's kingdom	A commitment to subject our institutional concerns and policies to their effect on Christ's mission.

