

What Can the Evangelicals Learn from Muslim Migrants? The Intersectionality between Migration, Inter-Faith, and Religious Extremism

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We live in a world that is fallen, broken and bleeding from war and violence. At the end of this last decade the world has witnessed death, destruction and mass displacement of people coming especially from violent religious extremism in Eastern and Northern Africa, as well as Middle East. Majority of victims constitute Muslim communities; men, women and children. Victims have been forcefully displaced and sought refuge in predominantly Christian nations. As migrant communities resettle in new lands, they are already vulnerable and on the lower of end of the power dynamics.

The church as the host has provided holistic ministry of reaching out to Muslim migrant communities with the gospel and hospitality. However, the methodologies adopted by evangelical church have been from a point of privilege, power, and rigidity of doctrine, hence assuming another 'radical' position. This is counterproductive as far as missions' impact on migrant communities is concerned.

This paper proposes that mission's productivity in an inter-faith environment should come from a point of vulnerability and learning from the Muslim migrant communities. A radical religion has already shuttered their lives and caused enormous pain. Therefore, the evangelical message must be reframed and 'deradicalized' of its theological and cultural bias. This involves the ability of the church to see their pain, understand their religion, and seek for relational approaches that overturn power dynamics. The evangelical church must consider a robust mission theology fitting for a vulnerable interreligious space.