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ABSTRACT

MISSION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC: A HOPE-FULL WALK IN THE DESERT

Thirty years after the fall of Communism, much of the Czech population remains strongly resistant to institutional ecclesial belonging. Although there are many reasons for this, one is the way in which the churches have often acted, or been perceived to act. They have not yet found the way to be positively what Marx saw negatively, a beating heart for a heartless world. Bringing the situation of the Czech Republic into conversation with Latin American liberation theology, my paper will suggest that a commitment to being poor with the poor and seeking to work with those who feel excluded in the society (and at the moment turn often to forms of nationalism which disparage or fear the other) would be one way of engaging in mission in the country. This will mean the church becoming vulnerable along with the vulnerable, on the side of those who feel that injustice has been done to them, so that justice of God may become present in the country. Mission in this sense will be seen as walking in terms of Exodus, as the forty years in the desert, filled with hope and with regret, moving forward and falling back, the church taking people to a place where they can see the promise that lies before them.