

## **Migrants and Their Living Faith. An Indonesia Experience**

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Migration is not a new phenomenon in human history. From time to time across generations, peoples never cease to migrate. Moving and being migrants are basically an enduring experience for most the world population. What are the reasons? Basically, they look for a better life, although in reality they may have to cope with unexpected bad experiences: threats from the host communities and local authorities, unequal opportunities as the natives have, etc. Even worse they might be treated as aliens or unwanted guests.

For most migrants within the country of Indonesia, the issues on migration might be heightened under the issues of religion, ethnicity, socio-cultural backgrounds and the like. People are treated according to which group they belong to - religion, ethnicity, social and political affiliations, etc. We have coined such issue as SARA (*suku, agama, ras, antargolongan* – ethnicity, religion, race, and social-affiliation) which is considered latent across the country. Generally speaking, people are consciously or unconsciously expected (even forced) to identify themselves to certain groups, legally recognized by the government, and will be treated accordingly. Meaning, identity is a crucial issue in our way of living and communicating.

The paper will try to explore theologically how the (Christian) migrants, mostly scattered in small groups throughout the archipelago, are struggling to live their faith. The issue then would be, how they make some different for the betterment of country based on their Christian faith.