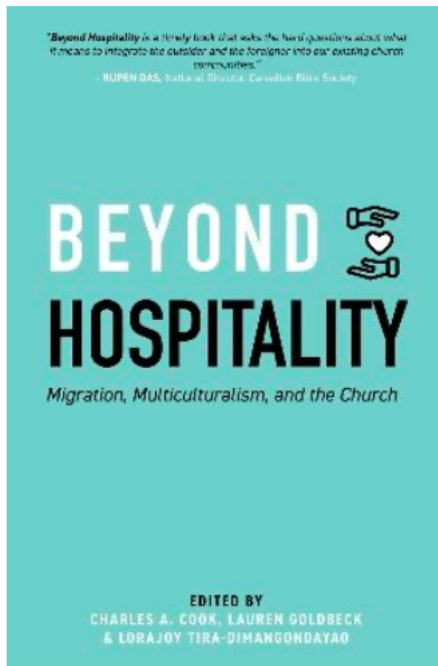


## Beyond Hospitality: Migration, Multiculturalism, and the Church

By Charles A. Cook, Lauren Goldbeck and Lorajoy Tira- Dimangundayao (eds)

Baker Academic, 2019, 240 Pages

### Summary



This edited volume sees Canada as a mosaic ("where, when intermingled, distinct individual pieces complete the whole") and challenges the Canadian church to move beyond monocultural approaches to ministry, in light of the country's migration and multicultural realities. It also seeks to inspire the church to embrace others beyond hospitality, and to bring down barriers of difference. The 18 chapters are divided into three major parts; namely: (1) foundations for moving beyond hospitality (viewing theological, demographic, and sociological challenges); and (2) forming identity beyond hospitality (discussing complexities of identity formation toward settlement and belonging); and (3) an invitation to move beyond hospitality (providing positive examples of the church engaging in deeds of mutuality and inclusiveness).

### Best Illustrations

This story illustrates how a Korean church's English-speaking congregation (made up mostly of second-generation Koreans) was encouraged by the outreach efforts of Korean-speaking believers (to incorporate Myanmar, Vietnamese, and Thai congregations in the church building) and ended up planting a Filipino congregation in a low-income housing area in downtown Toronto. The church plant has now morphed into a multi-ethnic congregation. Page 147

### Best Idea

In relation to North American indigenous identity that values land (creation) and spirituality, "sacred ceremonial life makes it possible to hold different peoples and different ideas together. For example, visible things and invisible things are both seen as part of reality, rather than existing in an opposite entity or tension. Thus, the doctrine of the two natures of the one- person Jesus as Christ seems appropriate. . . This spirituality allows for the possibility of a developing fluid and hybrid identity that does not need or force change on the other." Page 53

## Best Take Away

In light of the models of church planting in Canada's multicultural cities, the multiethnic monocultural church (MMC) planting is a bridge between the dichotomous models of the

homogeneous unit principle (HUP) and the intentionally intercultural church (IIC) planting. Page 73

## Our Recommendation

We recommend this book to mission practitioners, church leaders, and Bible students who desire to understand the role of the Canadian church in God's mission, given the country's migration and multicultural contexts. This book is replete with reflections, theology, and stories from a broad range of practitioners, theologians, and church leaders, each representing various ethnicities, denominations, and ministries across Canada.

## Best Quotes

"(Being) an 'inbetween' also means extending the gift of understanding and making space in our lives to develop friendship with the cultural Other by being attentive to their situation." Pages xiii-xiv

"Most major turning points in the history of Christianity are marked by diasporic displacements and Christianity itself has been repeatedly fashioned by people movements." Page 18

"Every culture has its share of richness to offer and its share of poverty to be alleviated. Our communal experience will be poorer if we do not know Christians from other parts of the world." Page 21

"Missiological reflection and action always involved crossing boundaries of some kind, resulting in cross-border diffusion of the gospel to others." Page 26

"Revelation 7 and 21-22 extend the picture of 'Them' becoming 'Us' by providing an eschatological vision of worshipers worshipping in the Spirit and in truth before God's throne." Page 36

"God wanted his people to remember the vulnerability of sojourners, and to regard them as special recipients of his favor, protection, and benevolent action." Page 47

"We are all my relatives." Page 56

"The Conference Board of Canada has outlined reasons why immigration is important to Canada, including the country's ageing workforce, low fertility rate, and commitment to humanitarian ideals, such as compassion and leadership." Pages 61-62

"Multiculturalism is defined as the reality of diverse ethnicities living within Canada's borders; the policy of government in response to that diversity; and the public tradition of pluralism with respect to culture, ethnicity, race, and religion." Page 65

"The theological premise is that culturally and ethnically diverse people are drawn together into a sacramental, missional community which is a reflection on earth of the Revelation 7:9-10 vision." Page 71

"The church-in-mission must give priority to the needs of the displaced, refugee, and immigrant peoples we find globally." (Arthur Glasser) Page 75

"Culture shock is an occupational disease of people who have been suddenly transplanted abroad. . . It has four distinct stages: the honeymoon stage, the frustration stage, the adjustment stage, and the acceptance stage." (Kalervo Oberg, 1954) Page 85

"According to the Government of Canada, over 327,000 privately sponsored refugees from more than 175 countries have settled in 160 Canadian cities." Page 90

"One's imagination of how one is seen by others is a key component of the development of the self and self-identity." Page 95

"An act is defined as racist if it takes place within a system of dominance and subordination, where the marginalized group or individual is further subordinated and acted upon by a person of dominance, consciously or unconsciously, leading to the further advantage of the dominant group, and having a negative impact on the subordinate group." Page 97

"A challenge faced in Canada is the successful integration of racialized immigrants from post- colonial countries into the fabric of society." Page 100

"Today, Canada is home to the world's fourth largest Jewish population with a total population of about 390,000." Page 103

"The Jewish people of Canada are not hidden from the Gospel—they are hiding from it." Page 106

"Jewish exile and dispersion explain why there is a desire to belong to an ideal community in an ideal place." Page 108

"Liminality. . . is the time 'in-between' when many aspects of life are likely to go through a process of change and distortion." Page 113

"Communitas. . . is an experience of oneness or unity felt by those sharing a rite-of-passage experience." Page 114

"Those who arrive in a host country in early childhood (ages 0-5) are labeled 1.75 generation. Children who arrive in middle childhood (ages 6-12) are the 'classic 1.5' generation. Finally, those who arrive in their adolescent years (ages 13-17) are labeled the 1.25 generation." Page 125

"Foreign-born children have the potential of being valuable partners in building the faith community and they should be motivated, equipped, and mobilized to be bridge-builders." Page 131

"God is not color-blind but colorful." Page 135

"This phrase 'the glory and honor of the nations' (Rev. 21:24-26) indicates that the diverse human cultures will be welcomed into God's new world: 'The old distinctions are no longer barriers between people' (Earl Palmer)." Page 134

"Cultural mediators. . . are those who are willing to make bridges with people of different cultures." (Paul Hiebert) Page 139

"Socially engaged intercultural churches give better options for a mission to super-diversity, in an increasingly urban world." Page 161

"Start with people. . . See who God brings to you and work with them, allowing the ministry to develop naturally around them." Page 177

"In 2015, the Angus Reid Institute conducted a national survey and discovered that foreign-born Canadians were more likely to regularly and faithfully attend religious services than native born Canadians. . . and identified Canadian residents most likely to attend a religious service regularly (are) foreign-born individuals between the ages of 18 and 34." Page 180

"The question is not 'how do we lead like a North American?' but rather 'how do we lead like Jesus in North America?'" Page 184

"While formal theological education will always be essential for the health of the church, we need to begin embracing non-formal approaches to leadership training as well." Page 187

"Diaspora missions is tri-directional: 'to diaspora, through diaspora, and by and beyond diaspora.'" (Enoch Wan) Page 189

"Canada is the sixth most popular destination for international students and by the end of 2017, had 494,525 foreign students at all levels of study—a 119 percent increase since 2010." Page 190

"The divorce of Trinitarian theology from discipleship, discipleship from leadership, and leadership from mission is a travesty of Missio Dei." (Yaw Perbi) Page 192

"Discipleship and Christian leadership development are inextricably linked and together make a slow and deep work." (Reese and Loane) Page 193

"It is projected that by 2050, 79 percent of missionaries will be from the global South." (Patrick Johnstone) Page 194

"Evangelism is still the heartbeat of the evangelical church." Page 199  
"Experimentation: 'We've never done it that way before' is now a good thing." Page 200

"In my doctoral research around transformational churches. . . it revealed a church great at serving 'those people' in the communities was reticent to welcome 'those people' to come in and 'disrupt' their worship service." Page 201

“No matter what your position, begin to move beyond hospitality yourself.” Page 202