

## MISSION IN INTERCULTURAL ENCOUNTERS AND SPACES

Input By: Rev. Jacob N. A. Okine  
Parish World Evangelical Ministry e.V. (PWEM)  
Gütersloh

Focus includes the following:

### 1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23

19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

LUKE 10:2/ (MATTHEW 9:38)

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

Where we allow the Lord of the harvest to send the laborers, we record very few or no challenges and difficulties, because the right people with the right and needed skills will be sent to the right place for effective results.

### PART – 1: MAIN VIEWS

1. IT IS INEVITABLE: - In the current world situation, intercultural mission work cannot be overlooked – In our global village, believers must be ready and willing to approach new cultures in their communities.
2. Preferably well trained and skillful personnel should take leading roles. Unskilled personnel can rather create tensions.
3. Church must be open, willing, and ready to engage in this mission field and take an active leadership role - If the key leaders are not willing or ready, there will be no fruit.
4. 4. support of migrants: - Most migrants living in Europe have economic and politically caused hardships - Does the church have the tools to provide support and assistance in these areas such as residence permits/housing for refugees and asylum seekers in the field of mission.

### PART – 2: OTHER VIEWS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR GLOBAL PURPOSES

1. Cultural sensitivity - This means knowing the basic "dos" and "don'ts" of cultures.
2. People with conservative or judging attitudes should not participate in intercultural missions - It would be very detrimental to the mission goal if people with different cultural socialization were provoked by comparative discussions.
3. Where possible, an indigenous person should always be part of or in charge of the mission. This often facilitates the mission work and leads it to greater success
4. The moral values of the addressed cultural group must be carefully examined and observed. For example: smoking, alcohol consumption, romantic behavior and kissing in public. Where such things are viewed with disapproval in the cultural setting, this should be noted and respected.
5. Discussions about ethnicity should be avoided. Such discussions generate emotions and increase tensions.
6. Wherever possible, support the basic needs of the community - diaconia example: clothing, schools, etc. (international)

