14th Assembly of the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MISSION STUDIES August 11–17, 2016 Seoul, South Korea

Conversions and Transformations: Missiological Approaches to Religious Change

Theological Homelessness: Getting Lost to Find a New Way

Abstract

Our experience with training pioneer leaders who are developing mission projects and communities in new contexts is that the paradigm within which they have learned and understood theology does not equip them well for the task. They usually end up feeling like the rug is pulled from under their feet as they move from a world where theology is individualistic and static to a world where theology is a process and a verb that the community engages in together. This shift is challenging but opens up new horizons for the way they conceive of what theology is in practice.

We have come to think of this as a theological homelessness that needs to be gone through in order to find home in a new way. This paper will be based on observations from teaching theological reflection and overseeing training pathways for the last 5 years, and in depth interviews with students.

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