

# Jaffray perspectives



...fresh ways  
of looking at  
God's global  
mission

## Intercultural Church

Over the past two years, the Jaffray Centre has focused our attention on assisting the community of faith to move beyond hospitality, and understand what welcoming the stranger and the migrant means for us today. As more cultural expressions of the Christian church emerge across Canada, new and old Canadians alike need to explore innovative ways to move beyond our historic cultural and linguistic silos to greater collaboration and deeper covenantal unity (John 17:20-25).

This year we have begun to investigate what it means to be an intercultural church; a church that welcomes people of different ethnic and racial backgrounds. The bible offers us a promise and a possibility that the church can function as a true community of faith. Based on our earlier research<sup>1</sup>, we see this vision of the church most acutely reflected in congregations that not only preach reconciliation to the world but also live it out.

Is it possible to develop intentional intercultural churches? Can local expressions of the community of faith integrate different diverse cultural expressions of faith and worship which move beyond the present models of assimilation and segregation?

The Jaffray Centre invites you to join us on a journey this year to investigate a more robust biblical vision for the church that has perhaps been stunted by decades of defaulting to more monocultural expressions of the church. Along the way we want to examine a variety of theological and strategic issues associated with creating, sustaining, and replicating intercultural churches. Foremost in our study will be a number of challenging concerns such as:

- How does the intercultural church challenge existing models of ministry that tend to be monocultural and ethno-centred?
- What kinds of shifts do the historic euro-Canadian churches need to make in the face of declining church attendance?
- What does accepting and understanding each other look like in the church given the kaleidoscope that makes up the Canadian mosaic?
- Who are some of the people and churches that are developing uniquely Canadian expressions of the intercultural church?
- What does sharing church leadership entail in an intercultural church?

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**Perspectives is published  
twice a year for the Jaffray  
Centre for Global Initiatives  
at Ambrose University**

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## Intercultural Church

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- What relevance does the intercultural church have for a society that is fractured and segregated?
- How can the church help bridge the gap between the kind of ethnocentrism that breeds fear and hatred for the “other”?
- How do we live in community with a diversity of people made in the image of God?

We live at the cross-roads of significant change in the church. We invite you to join us as we explore what intentional intercultural churches might look like in the milieu of multicultural Canada. In this edition of *Perspectives*, you can read Errol Rempel and Julian Erb’s reflections on Cultural Fluency as they’ve joined us on this journey. ♦

### Dr. Charles Cook

<sup>1</sup> Cook, Charles A., Lauren Goldbeck, and Lorajoy Tira-Dimangondayao, editors. *Beyond Hospitality: Migration, Multiculturalism, and the Church*. Tyndale Academic Press, 2020.

**JAS**  
**JAFFRAYANG**  
**SYMPOSIUM**  
2021

**The second JaffrayAng Symposium will be on the topic of Beyond Multiculturalism: Intentional Intercultural Congregations in a Globalizing and Hybridizing World.**

**May 26-28, 2021**  
**Calgary, Alberta**  
**jaffray@ambrose.edu**



## 2019 Spanish Pastors Dessert Night



I thank God for Mission oriented Ministries like the Jaffray Center for Global Initiatives, in which, through its programs and events, many servants of the Lord get inspired and affirmed in their calling.

How did it start for me?

Well, God’s calling me into ministry in 1975 has been very Mosaic, yet interesting at the same time. What I mean by that, is at first I thought the calling was to serve God in a mono cultural setting, meaning one particular country (Nicaragua where I come from) and not in a multicultural setting where I am now, and have been since 1983.

It’s has been 45 years since the calling to ministry took place, and I have served as a Sunday school teacher, worship ministry team, evangelist, Senior Pastor, Bible College Professor, International Speaker and lately, in Coaching ministry. The Mosaic part of the calling includes serving in Latin America, Mexico, the Caribbean, The USA, and Canada. In the latter ministry field, namely Canada, it has been the most Mosaic part of the calling. Hence, 20 years ago I began to pray for God to help me function well in a Mosaic Ministry spectrum, and God has been answering my prayers in a unique and steady way. In 2005 I started to work for the C&MA to present and it has been an amazing Mosaic Ministry Journey. Furthermore, since then my ministry connections have excelled, and I have been able to serve with many ministry leaders and churches from all over the world who are based here in Canada.

The latest answer to my prayer was being introduced to the Jaffray Center of Global Initiatives, when I completed Kairos Course at Ambrose University in 2017. Since my connection with the Jaffray Center, the calling to Mosaic ministry has been more clear than ever. In October 2019 the Jaffray Centre partnered with the Canadian Bible Society to host a dessert night bringing together pastors of the Spanish church in Calgary for the first time. Twenty people attended the event representing six different churches and denominations. Hence, the Spanish Pastors’ Dessert Night added more insight to my calling, and I thank God for it.

It is my prayer that through the Jaffray Center programs and the events they host, many current and new servants of the Lord will be able to experience the affirmation of their calling into ministry.ing. ♦

### Rev. Manuel A. Morales

Senior Pastor, El Encuentro Alliance Church  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

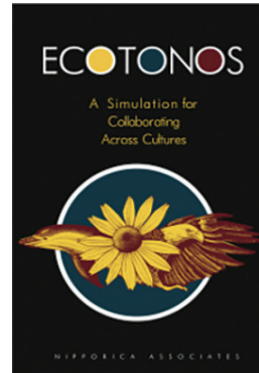
## Student Leadership Ecotonos Reflection

Cultural Fluency is a vital conversation that Student Life takes seriously. Often students, staff, and faculty who are in the majority are not equipped or ready to navigate cross-cultural contexts. This has been a significant area of personal growth in my life, and yet I still have so much to learn when it comes to cultural fluency. We desire that our student leaders—whether they work in residence halls as resident assistants or organize large events on student council—are growing in their own cultural fluency. The Ecotonos simulation was a helpful way we could cultivate growth in this critical conversation.

In January, Lauren Goldbeck who works with the Jaffray Centre facilitated the Ecotonos simulation for our Student Leaders at Ambrose. The simulation split students and staff into different cultural groups, each group sharing their own fictitious creation story, beliefs, and values. With the aid of the cards provided defined who we were as a people, we were first organized into a

monoculture group. The group I was in valued direct communication, conflict, and we would look people directly in their eyes when we disagree. We were loud and forceful in our communication. There were two other monoculture groups forming at different tables which had different stories, beliefs, and values than the group I was in. Lauren then rearranged the 3 monoculture groups into 3 new diverse groups with people from the different cultures mixed together, and we were then tasked to complete the challenge of planning an international student welcome dinner at a University. Wonderful creative chaos ensued as we entered into the experiential learning simulation.

We debriefed the experience, and it was a rich dialogue as we bridged what we learned from the Ecotonos simulation to life at Ambrose. I was encouraged to see light bulbs going off in student's minds



on how they may lead with cultural fluency at the forefront of their leadership. How should our events be changed? Do we have any current traditions that are not hospitable to students from different backgrounds? A key truth that many of us walked away with was that we should seek to understand others before seeking to be understood. There is much more that could be said about all the layers of learning that occurred as a result of the simulation. I would highly recommend leadership teams to do the Ecotonos simulation with their staff. We need to lean into the world of difference and learn where the blind spots are to serve Christ and his glorious kingdom. ♦

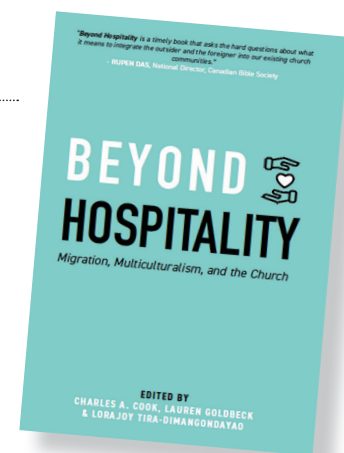
**Julian Erb**  
Director of Community Life,  
Ambrose University

## Book Recommendation

### Beyond Hospitality

**Cook, Charles A., Lauren Goldbeck, and Lorajoy Tira-Dimangondayao, editors.**  
*Beyond Hospitality: Migration, Multiculturalism, and the Church.*  
Tyndale Academic Press, 2020.

The 2019 JaffrayAng Symposium brought together academics and practitioners from across the country to present papers on a variety of topics relating to the theme *Beyond Hospitality: Migration, Multiculturalism, and the Church*. Dr. Charles Cook, Lauren Goldbeck, and Lorajoy Tira-Dimangondayao compiled and edited the papers from the symposium into a collected volume published by Tyndale Academic Press. The book examines the continually changing Canadian landscape, and proposes that it is time for the local church to move beyond acts of hospitality in order to engage with immigrants and welcome them into vibrant congregational communities. This requires working to understand the issues and challenges that new Canadians face in the process of re-establishing their lives and building new relationships. Drawing on interdisciplinary research and analysis, *Beyond Hospitality* seeks to help local congregations become models of service and unity for our multicultural nation. *Beyond Hospitality* will be available at <https://biblescanada.com/tyndale-academic-press> May 5, 2020.



**"Beyond Hospitality is a timely book that asks the hard questions about what it means to integrate the outsider and the foreigner into our existing church communities."**

**RUPEN DAS, National Director, Canadian Bible Society**



# Cultural Fluency: A Testimony

## Errol Rempel

My personal journey into greater cultural fluency began six years ago, and was triggered by a conversation with a minority-culture pastor. As a newly minted District Superintendent conducting meet-and-greet events throughout our district, I was approached by this pastor who greeted me warmly and we proceeded to trade some biographical and vocational information to break the ice.

Then he gently asked me a series of questions about matters of cultural and ethnic diversity in our district, majority-/minority-culture relationships and networks, and power sharing across ethnic lines in our district churches and structures. His tone was respectful, and I found the conversation very provocative (in a good way). I soon realized I was being skillfully interviewed by someone who cared and thought deeply about the issues he was raising.

Three days later in my devotional reading, and without that conversation in my purview at the moment, a passage of Scripture leapt off the page and I sensed the Spirit connect it to that recent conversation. The Lord directed me to press in on the issues raised by my conversation partner that day. It was clear to me in that moment that these issues were important to Jesus, and I had now been given direction that required obedience and action.

But what action? I began to grope my way forward. I held follow-up conversations with my new pastor-friend. I began to study in the areas of our conversations. I started to reflect more deeply on power and its intersection with denominational leadership and emerging minority-culture leaders. I conducted some 'think tank' gatherings that brought majority-culture and minority-culture pastors to the table to interact on these issues.



One particularly poignant moment sticks in my memory from those meetings. I heard a minority-culture leader (bright, gifted, and capable) ask rhetorically into the room: "Why is it that I can have a vigorous discussion about some aspect of leadership or ministry with my ethnic peers and feel confident in my participation and opinions, *but if a white pastor walks into the room I feel like a second-class citizen?*"

The Lord is now populating my journey with companions and mentors of like mind, including Charlie Cook and Lauren Goldbeck. Over coffee one day I was describing this journey to Charlie who suggested that the Jaffray Centre collaborate with the Canadian Pacific District on a Cultural Fluency project. We discussed forming a cohort of district staff members and district pastors who would meet together periodically for a shared learning and equipping experience over a two-year period.

We're now half-way through that experience. We formed a cohort of nine including my district Lead Team and myself, along with four district pastors.



We are seven males and two females, five Caucasians, two Chinese, and one Filipino. Our two Caucasian pastors minister in highly multicultural settings.

We began by completing the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) with Charlie and Lauren coaching us through its debrief and implications. Utilizing presentations, study, discussion, Q&A, role-playing and simulations (fun!), our coaches are introducing us "... to the intercultural skills needed to communicate and act in ways that are effective and appropriate with people who have a different perspective or life experience" (as expressed in our course material). We are being coached through five

components of Cultural Fluency: awareness, knowledge, values, skills, and engagement.

Our interaction is spirited, personal, filled with laughter, and at times vulnerable. Our learnings have been eye-opening. We're exploring our differing cultural perspectives and values, and learning to delay our instinct to judge as inferior what is alien to our own experience. We're learning empathy as one of the faces that love wears. We're becoming aware of unconsciously held paradigms and values that we thought were universal but aren't! We're telling one another stories of our lives that illustrate varying, but equally legitimate, values, and are actually windows into why we do what we do.

**Here are my own hopes and desired outcomes as we move through the second half of this experience together:**

- I desire to love 'the other' more openly, more wisely, more skillfully, and be less captive to my own cultural assumptions, biases, and paradigms
- I want to stimulate more movement into cultural fluency by pastors as a clear implication of the gospel. Faithful gospel work acknowledges that the fruit of Jesus' passion is one people of God who do the hard work of knowing, loving, serving, and opening hearts and doors for one another across lines of ethnicity and culture
- As many voices remind us of the missiological significance of the world coming to Canada through immigration, I believe it's critical that pastors excel at cultural fluency. There are dispositions of the heart to cultivate; there is knowledge to acquire; there are skills to learn
- I'm shooting for a very successful cohort experience that could develop traction in our district and be multiplied many times over! ♦

**Errol Rempel**

*District Superintendent, Canadian Pacific District, Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada*

## Friends of Jaffray - Katie

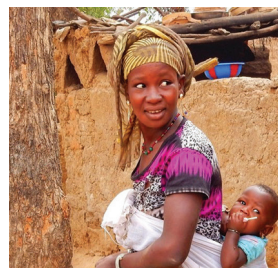
Hi, I'm Katie! I graduated with a BSc in Biology in 2012 and liked Ambrose so much that I came back for a MA in Intercultural Ministry (grad 2018). In between my Bachelors and Masters, I spent a couple years in Guinea and Niger, West Africa. I got hooked, so after finishing my MA, I moved to Senegal, West Africa.

I am blessed to be a part of a multi-organizational team that serves the Fulani people of Senegal. The Fulani are a proud, free-spirited, entrepreneurial people...and they love their cows. 99.9% of Fulani profess to follow the teachings of Islam and boast that they carried their religion across West Africa. We want them to one day say that they carried the Gospel right back across—not an introduction to a religion, but to a person, *Isa Almasiihu*—Jesus, the Messiah.

When people ask about my ministry, I tell them I have two areas that I'm passionate about: prayer and discipleship. I spend a lot of time prayer-walking, in intercession (often through music), and simply being with the Lord. I don't do these things to be super spiritual, but because I believe everything flows out of them. And I love all the God opportunities that do come about, whether it's sharing Bible stories with friends who don't yet know Jesus, or coming alongside and encouraging ones who do.

So please pray along with me for the Fulani! Pray for Madelyn, a new believer who is growing in her faith. Pray for her friend, Honour, not yet a believer, who struggles with shame and oppression. Pray for Maria, with whom I've had several spiritual conversations, but who for the past six months has been unable or unwilling to hang out.

And many many others! Praise God, because he loves them much more than I ever could.



*In each edition of Perspectives we like to feature a graduate of Ambrose Intercultural Studies program and where they are now. If you are an ICS graduate we would love to hear from you!*



## Global Sikh Consultation

October 22-25, 2019, Jaffray diaspora-Net convener Dr. Sadiri Joy Tira, along with The Lausanne Movement and Global Diaspora Network, hosted the Global Sikh Consultation in Edmonton, Alberta. This event was the first Global Consultation focused on reaching out to the sixth largest religious block: Sikhism. Sixty mission leaders and researchers from four continents gathered to pray, strategize, collaborate, and identify effective tools and resources for evangelism and discipleship to the Sikh community.

A result of the consultation was the formation of the new Lausanne Movement Working Group to provide leadership and coordination to implement the EDMONTON APPEAL; a call for the global church to strategically engage Sikhism, summoning the Church and ministry agencies to partner in evangelism, discipleship, and church planting among the Sikhs.

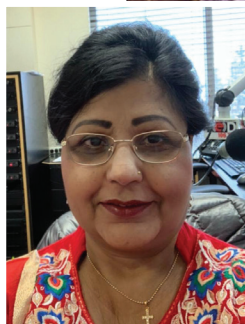
The Jaffray Centre had the opportunity to meet and interview Kamal Arshi, a participant at the Consultation and an appointee of the Sikh Working Group. Kamal works with the Women and Missions ministry at the Calgary Punjabi Church, and she was excited to share about her ministry and her participation with the consultation.

### **Q. How did you get involved in Sikh ministry?**

I was born into Sikhism in India. Raised in a Sikh family I participated in meditation and followed the requirements of the Sikh faith, but my soul was never satisfied and I never felt at peace. After moving to Canada, getting married, and having children



*Left: Kamal Arshi, Sikh Working Group; Above: Fellowship Breakfast*



I still felt an emptiness. When my children were young, I was hospitalized and had an encounter with Jesus. After this experience I was told by a friend that Jesus was the true God. But when she said this, I felt she was putting down my gurus. I was determined to prove to her that my gurus were god and that her Jesus was just another guru. I started to study my Sikh faith more closely, and came to realize that my gurus were only pointing me towards the true guru. I read the Gospel of John in the Bible, and knew that this was the guru I had been looking for. I gave my life to the Lord, and after this I immediately felt peace.

My family was very strict in their Sikhism, so I had to study more to be able to tell them about the Bible and my new faith. They put challenges in my way, so I turned to God, prayed, and fasted. One by one, each member

of my family came to Christ. There are now over one hundred people in my family who are saved. But after my whole family was saved, I asked what about my extended family and my community?

### **Q. Tell us a little about your current ministry in Calgary?**

In the early years, our family started gathering for Bible studies and we began a radio program. For three years we had a Punjabi radio program called 'Light of the World', and Pastor Pat Bhatti hosted and shared a sermon for this program. After this program ended, I hosted a radio program called 'Spice Radio' for seven years. Several people have come to know the Lord through the radio.

Now, our church is working with the Christian and Missionary Alliance, and we meet at Encompass in NE

Calgary. For the past sixteen years, we host an annual Bible Conference where guest speakers are brought in to teach. It is a good way of opening the Gospel to new people. Our ministry is to evangelize and help new believers make a strong foundation. We teach them from Genesis to the cross, so they can see that Christ has been there from the beginning and it is more than just a religion. In addition to the Sunday service, and weekly prayer times, our church hosts monthly Men's and Ladies' Breakfasts for the members of the church.

We also do outreach events to the Sikh community. We have fun picnics in the park every August with food and games, so people will know that the church is not a boring group of people but that we have fun too. Each year we invite 100-150 people to join us.

At Christmas we also do something different because it is a time when people open their hearts. In Sikh culture, there are big celebrations in the gurdwara (Sikh temple) for a guru's birthday. The gurdwara is open for the whole day and people can stop by at any time and visit, often eating food with their friends, staying for any amount of time they choose. But in Canada, unless December 25th is on a Sunday, the church building is usually closed. For the last ten years, we have kept our church open on the 25th regardless of the day of week. We celebrate Jesus in a way that people from a Sikh background will understand, so they can understand how their holy book is relevant to the Bible. We have 200-300 people come to see what Christmas and Christ is about, and each year one or two new souls come to Christ through this.

Also, we have been working with Rev. Patras Bhatti, Mr. Michael Joos, the Canadian Bible Society, and the Bible Society of India revise the Punjabi translation of the Bible. The original translation was not done well and there are so many errors so it is not a reliable translation. I have finished recording the reading the Gospel of John for the Punjabi Audio Bible, and the Gospel of Luke will be coming out soon.

**Q. You attended the Sikh Consultation in October. What was the highlight of the event?**

Although I have been working with Sikh people for a long time, it was encouraging to be surrounded by others who are also ministering to the Sikh community. I thought there were only a few people who were really burdened for my Sikh culture, but it was amazing to see the dedication of people like Pastor Joy Tira, who are passionate about looking for ways to show God's love to Sikh people. It was so touching. I have been so blessed by the knowledge that God is working behind the scenes in ways I did not even know. God's love is so amazing.

**Q. You are a member of the Lausanne Sikh Working Group which was set up after the event; tell me a little about this.**

It has been such a blessing to be part of this group. There are eight people on the committee who are working in Sikh ministry around the world. Their ministries are in India, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, the UK, and Canada. We have a group chat, and everyday get to hear the testimonies and ministry stories from around the world. It is amazing to be able to encourage each other, and share prayer requests.

We have worked to organize a prayer guide, with five prayer points guiding people in how they can pray for Sikhs. You can download a free copy of the prayer guide from <https://www.imb.org/2020/04/08/prayer-emphasis-sikhs/>.

**Q. How can the readers support you in your ministry?**

Sikh people are hard to reach, and no one comes to understand the Gospel in the same way. I know this because I am an example, and the Lord never allows me to forget how long it took me to understand the truth. I have been so blessed with patience to wait for new believers to have their blindfold taken away. So please pray with us for the Sikh people. Pray that God will provide for the harvest. ♦

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**HOW YOU CAN PRAY:**

- **Pray God will use this year's harvest to illumine his truth that all created things were made by Jesus and for Jesus.**
- **Pray for the Sikhs to know the One who came to serve and to give his life as a ransom to save them from their sins.**
- **Pray for the families of Sikh background believers whose families still do not know Jesus.**
- **Pray that God would give you an opportunity to meet a Sikh and for you to have boldness to share the testimony behind your own baptism.**

## Event Calendar

### **Canadian Evangelical Missiological Society Meeting**

Ambrose University • March 23, 2020

[www.emsweb.org/regions/canada](http://www.emsweb.org/regions/canada)

### **Kairos Course**

Ambrose University • May 4-8, 2020

[www.kairos.outreach.ca/](http://www.kairos.outreach.ca/)

### **Beyond Hospitality Book Release**

May 5, 2020

<https://biblescanada.com/tyndale-academic-press>

### **MI 613 Third Millennial Trends and Issues: Intercultural Leadership – Ambrose University**

Taught by Dr. Sam Owusu • May 21-26, 2020

### **Jaffray-Ang Symposium**

Calgary, Alberta • May 27-29, 2020

<https://jaffrayglobal.com/initiatives/symposium>

### **Spanish Seminar: La Predicación que Aviva**

Online • Lead by Dr. Ernie Klassen

June 4, 2020 at 6:30-8:30 pm

### **ReBoot 2020**

Ambrose University • July 31-August 7, 2020

<https://more.outreach.ca/reboot/Classic/Classic-ReBoot>

### **Global Missions Podcast – Bi-Weekly**

[www.globalmissionspodcast.com](http://www.globalmissionspodcast.com)

For more information on these and other Jaffray events and projects, please visit us at [www.jaffrayglobal.com](http://www.jaffrayglobal.com) or send us an email at [jaffray@ambrose.edu](mailto:jaffray@ambrose.edu).

## ABOUT



We often refer to the Jaffray Centre as a combination incubator/greenhouse where new ideas, collaborative initiatives, and fresh ways of looking at God's global mission are nurtured, developed and then launched into service in the church and in the world.

Each of the four hubs (Research Projects and Publishing; Educations, Training and Global Awareness; Global projects and partnerships; and Church in Mission Events and Services) houses the different initiatives we're working on, and we're always adding more.

The Jaffray Centre is made up of people like you and me who want to engage the world around them in new and meaningful ways. Through collaborative project development, training, and research projects, the Jaffray Centre seeks to rekindle and ignite a passion for God's unending concern for people. Interested in any of our current initiatives or have ideas for new ones? We'd love to hear from you.

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