



## BOOK NOTE REVIEW

**Afrane-Twum, Johnson Ambrose. *Christian Mission in a Diverse British Urban Context: Crossing the Racial Barrier to Reach Communities*. Foreword by Harvey C. Kwiyani. Carlisle, Cumbria, UK: Langham Monographs, 2024. Pp. xviii +213. £21.99 (paperback).**

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*Christian Mission in a Diverse British Urban Context* is a valuable book in the African Christian Diaspora field. It explores the theme of partnership between African Immigrant Congregations (AICs) and white majority churches for “a more effective sharing of the gospel” in the multicultural UK setting (5). The book argues that the UK AICs have become a shelter for their members from migrant challenges, providing a variety of support as these adherents strive to make sense of their new environment. Yet, as the author notes, these congregations must find effective ways of engaging with the local British congregations for a more impactful Christian witness and, in fact, one that better represents God’s kingdom.

In consonance with other literature in the field, like Afeosemime U. Adogame, *The African Christian Diaspora: New Currents and Emerging Trends in World Christianity* (London: Bloomsbury, 2013) and Harvey C. Kwiyani, *Multicultural Kingdom: Ethnic Diversity, Mission and the Church* (London: SCM Press, 2020), the book reechoes the remixing of British societies due to migration. It stresses that this demographic alteration has resulted in multicultural cities and various expressions of the Church in the territory. Plus, the proliferating migrant churches are re-energising British Christianity, which, sadly, has been on a decline for many decades. However, much of the efforts of these migrant churches seem concentrated around their kind as they struggle to evangelise their hosts. Therefore, this book proposes a way out through effective partnerships with the local British congregations. The author suggests a few practical steps, including both parties accepting the activity of the Holy Spirit in mission and his residence in all Christ’s people, rethinking their leadership approaches, and remembering that God’s eternal salvation excludes no one.

By adopting the ethnographic method of participant observation to study four denominations in-depth, the author could see and interact with direct data about the research concern. Hence, the author could compare historical and

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theological investigations with empirical analysis, strengthening the book's arguments. The author's language is unambiguous or laden with theological or other jargon that could complicate readers' understanding. The chapters are not unnecessarily long, with the author always attempting to spare the reader any irrelevant information that could detract from the focus of the book. Overall, the book's argument is clear and well-pursued throughout the work.

The author's proposals are practicable. Yet, as an AIC leader, I imagine the struggle that some of my colleagues may have in implementing them. Indeed, many have already developed emotional attachments to their inherited leadership styles, ministerial philosophies, monoculturally-affirming ecclesiology and other practices that could make the author's recommendations somewhat unsettling for them. Of course, I reckon a similar experience would apply to the white Majority Church leaders, as they also struggle with racial assumptions and other cross-cultural ministry inhibitors. Notwithstanding, the author's argument remains relevant and critical for God's mission in the twenty-first century. Indeed, beyond the local British congregations and the UK AICs, the book speaks to mission practitioners and scholars, church leaders, and everyone interested in doing God's mission more effectively in this era of World Christianity. The Christian community is now more multicultural and polycentric than ever. Today, mission is happening from everywhere to all places. So, denying the need for partnership or not leveraging it will only slow down or limit the gains of the Church in its missional endeavours. To this end, *Christian Mission in a Diverse British Urban Context* is an important resource.