A large majority of the adherents of Islam may still be considered as folk Muslims. It is pertinent that mission approaches deal not only with book Islam but more so with street Islam. Taking into account a people’s worldview, aspirations, folkways, and perceptions may open up far-reaching pathways for the Adventist mission. This study was conducted in a Muslim community in the Philippines through the ethnographic research approach. By living and conversing with one of the ethno-linguistic groups that have embraced Islam, meaningful data were obtained that would inform mission efforts to folk Muslims in different parts of the world.

From the interviews, focus group discussions, and the researcher’s participations in the people’s daily activities, it is seen that the basic Islamic principle of submission to the will of Allah is a strong influence on the folk Muslim worldview. But they also consider human factors and unknown fate as determinants of life events. A pervading theme in their aspirations is the need for respect and empowerment based on their distinctive religio-cultural identity. While strongly claiming to be Muslims, they are influenced by the indigenous beliefs of their ancestors that perpetuate their superstitious folkways. They are ambivalent about some of their practices if they Islamic or un-Islamic. However, they are objective in their evaluations of what is a true Muslim, and fair in their perceptions about Christians.

The *Incarnational Model* in missions patterned after the example of Jesus Christ may be relevant as it leads the missionary to live among the Muslims, engage them in meaningful conversations, and participate in their ordinary lives. Such approach opens up gospel avenues through the people’s worldview, aspirations, folkways, and perceptions; and it also offers wonderful opportunities for Muslims to know about the authentic Adventist faith and lifestyle.
Abstract

An ethnography conducted in a Muslim community reveals that the incarnational example of Jesus Christ may be relevant in Muslim ministry as the missionary participates in people’s lives and engages them in meaningful conversations. Such approach opens up gospel avenues and wonderful opportunities for Muslims to know about the authentic Adventist faith and lifestyle.

References


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