



On Mission 2019

*The State of the Global Gospel:
Present and Future Trends*

Jeff Neely - Vision 5:9

Partnering Together with Muslim Background Believers

Hi, my name is Jeff Neely. I'm the Director of Operations for Vision 5:9 Network. Vision 5:9 is a network of organizations and churches who are committed to seeing church-planting movements multiplied among all Muslim peoples. We represent about 183 different organizations working in all regions of the world among Muslim communities. So, we have a lot of opportunity to hear about new ways church-planting teams are exploring to become more fruitful in their efforts to expand God's Kingdom. So, I want to share about some innovations we're seeing in ministry to Muslims.

In October of 2017, Vision 5:9 held a consultation for a thousand church planters from Muslim world. A quarter of those in attendance were Muslim background believers. It was an incredible blessing to see these believers from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. As they worshiped together and celebrated what Jesus is doing in their lives and in their communities. It was a special moment to hear one of the African delegates in the elevator talking to one of our event leaders sharing his joy of being with other believers. He said with tears in his eyes, "I didn't know there were so many others like me." During this consultation our brothers and sisters from a Muslim background asked if Vision 5:9 could help them come together more often.

Facilitating this fellowship and collaboration for Muslim background believers has become a vital part of the Vision 5:9 Network now. As these brothers and sisters begin to know each other better. But a particular result of their gathering is that they're causing us to examine how we work together and learn from our Muslim background partners. As the Vision 5:9 Network grows, our missiology is changing and growing because we're learning from those who are living in Muslim communities who have grown up in these cultures and understand their faith from the inside. We are experiencing a growing partnership as these brothers and sisters take their place at the table. Not as the harvest field, but as co-laborers in the Great Commission. We're putting them forward and making room for them at the table as equal participants when we strategize and build vision.

Innovation can be exciting but is also hard work. Are we, as non-Muslim background believers willing to have our missiology and at times, our theology challenged for the sake of new fruit? Are we willing to be uncomfortable as we explore new ideas and allow other cultures to

dominate? Can we participate in seeing new ideas for missionary work developed without taking the lead? Particularly for us in the American church, it is going to require humility, patience, a learning heart, and most of all, love for Muslim-background believers in the communities they come from if we're going to see them take their place in the global church and fulfill their roles in the Great Commission.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact us at Vision 5:9. Thank you.