



Resource partners for the work with migrants

- a help to meet sisters and brothers of faith from multiple, colourful origins

The intension of this paper is to help Danish Baptist churches make a local effort in the encounter with those migrants who arrive to their local areas (parishes). Families and churches alike can show hospitality. There is also the possibility of becoming a contact church for groups of Christian migrants who join up with 'BiD' (Baptistkirken i Danmark = The Danish Baptist Church). And finally, there is the challenge of starting a diaconal (= social help) effort, e.g. by establishing meeting places or homework cafés. The leadership of BiD wishes to support such integrating efforts. BiD's Integration Committee (Integrationsudvalget, IU) has done quite a work throughout several years. With this paper, we wish to support this effort for the purpose of furthering the Kingdom of God among us, who are old Danes; among new migrants; and among our sisters and brothers of faith from multiple, colourful origins.

The leadership of BiD has looked into the possibility of a part time employed integration consultant. We realize that we cannot employ *one* integration consultant with the qualifications needed. Neither have we been able to find the economic resources for this. We, therefore, refer to a number of partners who are willing to help the Integration Committee (IU) in its work. IU and these partners now wish to assist the local churches with the task of integration. Here, we describe, which help these partners can offer; and then mention the name of the partner.

1. Danish Contact Churches.

BiD's Chin congregations are attached to a Danish contact church. Likewise, other migrant churches cooperate with Danish congregations. Such contacts and mentor churches are encouraged to arrange local 'theme days' (days for discussing specific issues) with their migrant congregations. This will make it possible to discuss pressing local issues. We recommend that contact and migrant churches meet at least once a year.

Contact: The Integration Committee (IU).

2. Danish friendship families

There is a natural need for migrants to get help with practical things in their everyday lives. For this, friendship families are very useful. Many in the local BiD-church or in the contact congregation can help here. This is also one of the key efforts of 'Kirkernes Integrations Tjeneste' (= The Churches' Integration Service, KIT). KIT has established a cooperation agreement with 'Folkekirkens Mellemkirkelige Råd' (= the State Church's Council for Church Interrelations) on a churchly (ecclesial) friendship family arrangement, which can be spread out (for support) to all communities ('kommuner'). Upon this background, it will be natural to establish a local ecumenical, integration effort.

Contact: The Integration Committee (IU).

3. Children's Church and Sunday school.

There is a need to convey the Biblical message to the children; a need to get materials; and to get able teachers, who can teach the migrant children in Danish. 'Baptisternes Børne- og Ungdomsforbund' (= The Baptist Association for Children's and Youth Work, BBU), who has a listing of easily accessible materials offered in Danish, is willing to help. KIT has also employed a resource person who works with the Christian teaching of children and youth.

Contact: Baptisternes Børne- og Ungdomsforbund (BBU).

4. Children's and Youth work.

In connection with the formation of youth fellowships and scout groups, help is needed, especially, if it is done with public financial support. There is a need for help with the formulation of bylaws, budgets, accounting, and applications to the Community ('kommunen'), e.g. for the usage of classrooms and sports facilities. BBU invites migrant youths to join camps and leadership training – which also includes training in song and music. When bylaws are established for a BBU fellowship ('forening'), there has to be two independent organisations, each with its own CVR-number (public registration nr.), congregation and youth fellowship or scout group.

Contact: Baptisternes Børne- og Ungdomsforbund (BBU).

5. The Scout Work.

There has not been any interest shown from the migrants for scout work, but 'Spejderkorpset' (= The Danish Baptist Scouts, DBS) will willingly help migrant churches that might be interested in local scout work. There is a possibility for applying for financial support for scouts and for children of families who receive 'kontanthjælp' (the basic welfare support) or who receive other public support (e.g. who are asylum seekers), who participate in a scout camp. The decisive factor for public support is that they are socially needy. This requires an evaluation in each case. KIT (see above) has the expertise in the laws about this.

Contact: Spejderkorpset (DBS).

6. Meeting places and welcoming cafés.

Just now, as migrants in great numbers arrive here, many meeting places and welcoming cafés are established. KIT willingly helps with this. If a local 'forening' (= club/association) is established to run the meeting place, there is a possibility for applying for funds by way of communal resource-pools ('kommunale puljer') or private funds. KIT lends the expertise for this and helps with the applications etc.

Contact: Kirkernes Integrations Tjeneste (KIT).

7. Constitutions (bylaws) and buildings.

Many migrant churches seek help with church constitutions / bylaws. BiD's Integration Committee (IU) provides availability of BiD's standard constitution in Danish and English. Advice and counselling in connection with adoption into BiD is taken care of by the IU and the General Secretary. When property / buildings are bought, IU can assist with advice along with a lawyer and a public accountant. IU makes the initial preparatory work, which then is reviewed by the experts mentioned. Agreement on eventual fees for this help must be made in advance.

Contact: BiD's Integrationsudvalg (IU).

8. Financial advice.

If advice is needed concerning the economics of migrant churches or concerning tax deductions etc. the person responsible for BiD's economy can be approached about this. Likewise, BiD's public accountant can, after pre-arrangement, be drawn upon. Agreement on eventual fees for this help must always be made in advance.

Contract: BiD's Integrationsudvalg (IU).

9. Insurance of church buildings.

It is important that the insurance market is canvassed in the best manner (for the best deal). Consultant assistance for this is offered to the migrant churches by BiD's leadership in connection with the purchase of buildings. 'Folkekirken' (the State Church) and the free churches do not pay property tax on buildings that are solely used for church purposes. Advice on this is also included.

Contact: BiD's Integrationsudvalg (IU).

10. Summer Conferences and -camps.

We encourage as many as possible from the migrant churches to participate in the 'sommerstævne' (summer conference/camp), as this will strengthen the ties between us. In that connection we help

with ‘wildcards’ and eventually other forms of economical support. The possibility of such help is also open when it comes to local or regional summer camps – see above point 5.

Contact: BiD’s Integrationsudvalg (IU).

11. Leadership training.

The Baptist Church’s ‘Mission i Danmark’-project, which aims at training 100 younger persons between 21 and 30 years of age, is also an open offer to the migrant churches. It is an appropriate integration project, where the youth – regardless of ethnic background – can be friends and create friendship networks for life.

Contact: The ‘Mission i Danmark’-committee.

12. Mission projects.

Some migrant churches are interested in having their own mission projects in their homelands. The leadership of BiD would like to discuss the possibility of cooperation on these projects. The Chin-churches are active in BiD’s project in Myanmar. The coin collection 2016 of ‘KvindeNetværket’ (the Women’s Association) goes to a children’s home in Myanmar. BBU (= the Baptist Children- and Youth Association) may possibly also adopt a project in Myanmar.

Contact: BiD’s International Mission Secretary.

13. Missionary and visitor’s visas.

It is imperative for the Baptist Church that these visas – for foreign guest preachers etc. – are applied for with great expertise and in accordance with the law. In the contrary case, the reputation of BiD is damaged. BiD’s leadership, therefore, insists that it always is KIT (The Churches’ Integration Service) that applies for visas and the necessary insurances.

Contact: Kirkernes Integrations Tjeneste (KIT).

14. Integration into the Baptist Church.

There is a need for both written (e.g. through the Newsletter from BiD) and oral information to the migrant churches. In the longer perspective, the intention is that a representation from the migrants into the leadership (of BiD) is established, since the migrants make up a significant part of the membership within BiD. It is appropriate that this integration starts locally in the churches. BiD also wishes to bring about a greater insight into how BiD (nationally) and the churches (locally) cooperate through the national conferences (‘landskonferencen’).

Contact: Sekretariatet (BiD’s Secretariat).

15. Child rearing and violence in the family.

Many migrant parents have difficulties when their children and youth make them aware, that their Danish friends are brought up differently. It is important that information is given about the Danish law concerning e.g. punishment of children. KIT has employed three female consultants (one Filipino, one Arabic, and one African), who work with the issue of violence in the family – both between spouses and in the rearing of children. They willingly visit the migrant churches. KIT also cooperates with the institution ‘Danner’, which among other things seek to help women who are victims of violence.

Contact: KvindeNetværket (Baptist Women’s Association).

16. The role of women in the Danish society.

There is a great difference on the roles of men and women in the Danish society, compared to how it is in some of the countries from where migrants come. There is a need for information on the roles of men and women in the Danish society – this information is needed for both older and younger women. The resources of ‘KvindeNetværket’ can be asked for help – as well as the three mentioned female consultants of KIT.

Contact: KvindeNetværket.

17. Job applications.

Due to language problems and the lack of insight into the Danish labour market, a need arises at times for help with the writing of job applications. KIT is at present in dialogue with *JobVision* (which is a subsidiary of the labour union *Krifa*) concerning this. The aim of this would hopefully be local courses, which will be planned for refugees.

Contact: Kirkernes Integrations Tjeneste (KIT).

18. The Laws of integration.

Often a need arises for information on e.g. the rules for extension of the permission to stay ('opholdstilladelse'), family unification, and citizenship. KIT helps migrants with family unification cases and provides updated information to the migrant churches and their contact congregation / church.

Contact: Kirkernes Integrations Tjeneste (KIT).

Conclusion

This paper has been prepared in 2015-2016 by the Baptist Church (BiD)'s leadership and by the Integration Committee (IU). It is based on IU's rapport of Sept. 26, 2015, followed by deliberations with BBU (The Children and Youth Association), DBS (The Scout Core), with KvindeNetværket (The Women's Association), and with KIT (The Churches' Integration Service). The resources here listed can be sought through their homepages in 'Håndbogen' (The Danish Baptist's Hand-book).

Kirkernes Integrations Tjeneste (KIT):

www.kit-danmark.dk

Børne- og Ungdomsforbundet (BBU):

www.bbunews.dk

Danske Baptisters Spejderkorps (DBS):

www.dbs.dk

Danske Baptisters KvindeNetværk:

www.baptistkvinder.dk

Others:

www.baptistkirken.dk

*The leadership of the Danish Baptist Church,
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