

ABSTRACT

Christian mission among the Bugis began with the Portuguese mission in the sixteenth century and continued on with *Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie* (VOC) after the Dutch took over South Sulawesi in the mid seventeenth century. In this early encounter Christian missionaries failed to engage the Bugis with the gospel, because both of these authorities were disinterested in supporting evangelization. In addition, their negative view of the local culture gained no sympathy from the Bugis who were more interested to embrace Islam which was flexible toward their culture.

Christian mission among the Bugis progressed when the Gospel was re-introduced to the Bugis by the Dutch Zending in the mid nineteenth century. By using elements of their culture such as language, religious beliefs and other norms, Dutch missionaries were able to lead a number of Bugis in embracing Christianity. This development, however, was hindered by Islamic radical movement which intended to establish an Islamic state in South Sulawesi. This intention was stronger after the era of Islamic resurgence in Indonesia as well as in South Sulawesi. In the contemporary context, Islamic values have dominantly influenced many of the government policies in South Sulawesi including religious policies.

Based on this context, this thesis attempts to study the development of missionary movements among the Bugis in the midst of Islamic resurgence with an aim to provide an authentic mission strategy in the current context. The Bugis cannot be brought to Christ effectively unless we understand their background and context. We will perhaps understand that the process of communicating the Gospel can be translated into a variety of forms that would allow us to have a fruitful engagement as Jesus wants us to. In addition, filled with love, our mission is a holistic mission that contextualizes the local setting. Holistic ministry in the Bugis setting needs to be contextualized. We can use the Bugis forms and develop a new concept based on the gospel message. In this sense, the gospel will not only be proclaimed but will also transform their daily lives.