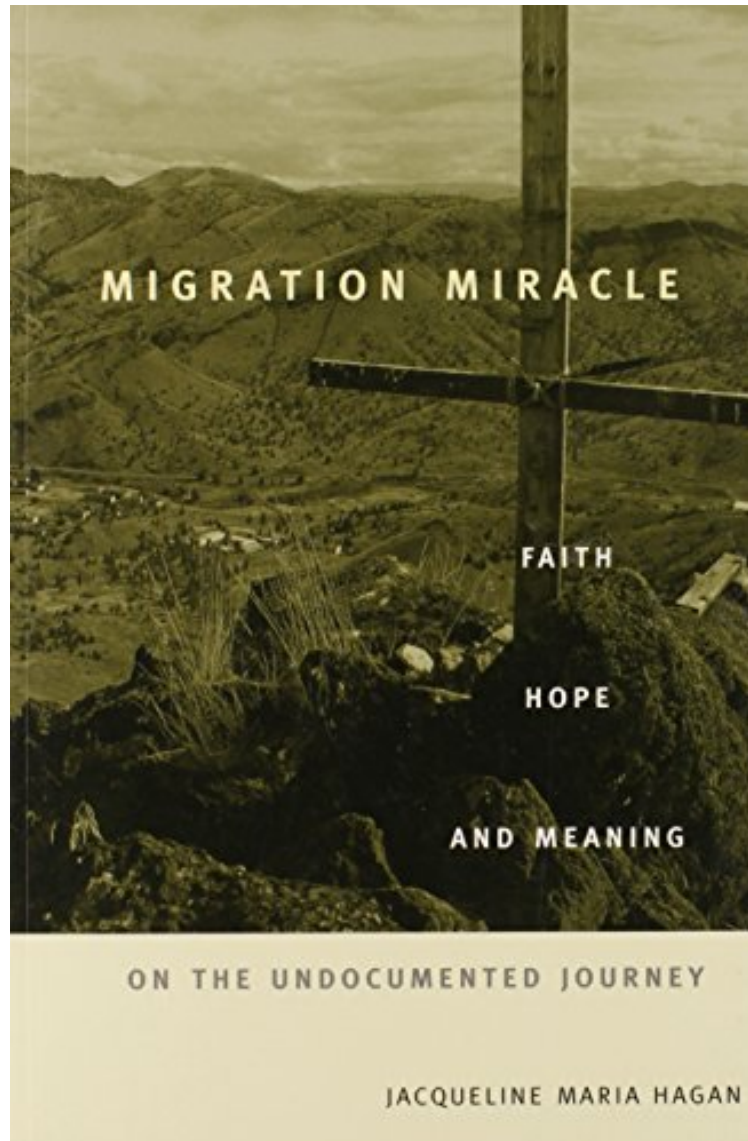


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Migration Miracle: Faith, Hope, and Meaning on the Undocumented Journey

Jacqueline Maria Hagan

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Jacqueline Maria Hagan : Migration Miracle: Faith, Hope, and Meaning on the Undocumented Journey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Migration Miracle: Faith, Hope, and Meaning on the Undocumented Journey:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Powerful and provocativeBy S. GreeneCombing the power of

individual stories with the rigor of sociological methodology, Hagan helps us understand something crucial about the world around us--especially if you happen to live (as I do) in a community experiencing a steady inflow of immigrants from Mexico and Central America. By concentrating on the spiritual underpinnings of the complete experience, from the decision to immigrate, to the journey itself, to finding a footing in a strange new country, she opens a window into the complexity of the lives and longings of this fragile population. Last December, on the night of the feast day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, a Mexican woman was killed while crossing the highway near my house; she was on her way to mass. Hagan's book, which explains in engaging detail the importance of this holy day, deepens both my grief and my understanding. Confronting us with one painful story after another of the arduous journeys these determined immigrants make, Hagan raises urgent if perplexing questions about our immigration policies, indeed about the very future of our changing United States. Beautifully written, while also concise, well organized, and supported by thorough research, *Migration Miracle* belongs in that rare category of books well suited both for a general audience and for classroom use.² of 3 people found the following review helpful. Too much of the same. I had no idea ...By Pat from Covington, VA Too much of the same. I had no idea that getting to the border was supported so much by the Catholic Church. Maybe they ought to be on the other side to take care of these folks once they cross over.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. Essential read on MigrationBy Brianna B. Mullis *Migration Miracle* is a well-crafted book that is an essential read if you are a person interested in migration or religion. Not only does the text offer the vital and dynamic role of religion on the migrant journey using original research, it is also easy to read and easy to understand. I am so glad I bought this book as it has really added a new level of understanding to my views of migration from Latin America to the U.S.

Since the arrival of the Puritans, various religious groups, including Quakers, Jews, Catholics, and Protestant sects, have migrated to the United States. The role of religion in motivating their migration and shaping their settlement experiences has been well documented. What has not been recorded is the contemporary story of how migrants from Mexico and Central America rely on religion—their clergy, faith, cultural expressions, and everyday religious practices—to endure the undocumented journey. At a time when anti-immigrant feeling is rising among the American public and when immigration is often cast in economic or deviant terms, *Migration Miracle* humanizes the controversy by exploring the harsh realities of the migrants' desperate journeys. Drawing on over 300 interviews with men, women, and children, Jacqueline Hagan focuses on an unexplored dimension of the migration: the role of religion and faith in surviving the journey. Each year hundreds of thousands of migrants risk their lives to cross the border into the United States, yet until now, few scholars have sought migrants' own accounts of their experiences.

In her magnificent book, *Migration Miracle*, Jacqueline Hagan shows that religion has not been consigned to the dustbin of history, but is a vital and dynamic feature of contemporary social life. It constitutes essential reading for people interested in immigration and religion alike. (Douglas S. Massey, Princeton University) Jackie Hagan's beautifully written book opens up new territory in the field. She not only sheds light on a neglected dimension of migration, but also describes in intimate detail how spirituality and religious practice help migrants face the dangers and uncertainties inherent in that process. Hagan's lucid writing draws on an international sample of extensive interviews and ethnographic data. (Robert Smith, Baruch College, CUNY) *Migration Miracle* is a deep and nuanced engagement with religion and faith in Latin American migration odysseys. By examining the real needs of undocumented migrants, Hagan offers new insights for those who work with migrants during these incredibly difficult journeys. This groundbreaking study should inspire similar research in Africa and elsewhere, where much work still needs to be done in understanding the role of religion in the migration process. *Migration Miracle* paves the way for a new way of thinking about migration in the twenty-first century. (Archbishop Michael A. Blume, SVD, Apostolic Nuncio in Benin and Togo; Undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, 2000-2005) It will be an essential text for scholars of religion and migration, and likely a favorite in graduate seminars. *Migration Miracle* should also be read by scholars interested in the theoretical explanations for migration, as it adds complexity to the traditional economic explanations of why people leave. But the audience most in need of this book is the policy makers who, in their narrow focus on the economic and political ramifications of undocumented migration, have forgotten that migrants are not mere economic units but human beings who face inhuman conditions in their attempts for survival and the survival of their families, beseeching God along the way. (Stephanie J. Nawyn *American Journal of Sociology* 2010-03-01) About the Author Jacqueline Maria Hagan is Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the author of *Deciding To Be Legal: A Maya Community in Houston*.