

"Jesus is a presence distinct from the religion that represents him. We are drawn to him (or not) for reasons that defy easy explanation. But being drawn to Jesus doesn't necessarily mean buying the package of faith as defined by those with the biggest bullhorns. It may be the most subtle of inclinations. Something in us leans in his direction. Are we being pulled? That's for each of us to decide. What's important is the **movement**- the leaning toward as if to listen, to object, to surrender, to question, to help. That's the quivering nerve of what makes Jesus a **movement** maker: he **moves** people. Maybe it's time to adjust some of the conventional assumptions about Christian faith. Maybe the starting point is as basic as people in **motion**, **moving** toward Jesus."

As artistic director, my hope is that in experiencing Xclaim's movement either in performance or outreach, people are drawn in, to listen, to object, to surrender, to question, and to experience the over-arching message of helping hands, of beautiful feet, of hope; and that through our movement, Xclaim, find that they themselves are leaning.

Sincerely,
Mariah Layne French

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