

**Samir Selmanovic, author of
*It's Really All About God***

Samir Selmanovic, Ph.D, (SAH-meer Sel-MAHN-ovich) is a founder and co-leader of Faith House Manhattan (www.faithhousemanhattan.org) an interfaith “community of communities” that brings together Christians, Muslims, Jews, atheists, and others who seek to learn from the teachings, practices, sufferings and joys of people from different belief systems.

Selmanovic is also the director of a Christian community called Citylights and serves on the Interfaith Relations Commission of the National Council of Churches.

Selmanovic grew up in an intellectual urban atheist milieu in the capital of Croatia in a European Muslim family. During compulsory service in the communist army, his quest for countercultural ideas led him to join a Christian church through an underground network of believers. After his conversion he was shunned by his family and friends, and eventually expelled from his home for several years, sending him off on a long personal journey geographically, culturally, and spiritually. He worked his way back into his family and social network after much emotional, intellectual and spiritual struggle. Through these challenges he found strength in his religious convictions while learning to value the worldviews of the people who opposed it.

After coming to the United States and completing graduate degrees in theology, psychology, and education, Selmanovic pastored a multi-ethnic church in Manhattan for six years. This ministry experience provided him with an understanding of professional urban America, Western attitudes towards religion, and how monotheistic religions and their critics can work together for the good of the world.

His experience in Manhattan includes the events of 9/11 and a number of projects helping the city in its aftermath, including interfaith efforts in assisting the public in their understanding of Islam. He was honored by the organization *Muslims Against Terrorism* for his contribution to interfaith understanding and cooperation.

Selmanovic has been integral to the birth of emerging church movement, serving on the Coordinating Group for Emergent Village and cofounder of Re-church, a network of church leaders meeting for a yearly conference for theological exploration. He has been a speaker at seminars, conferences and colleges around the country and abroad.

He has published many articles on topics such as the role of religious organizations and faith in postmodernity and their relationship with culture, spirituality, diversity, and leadership. He is a contributor to book *Emergent Manifesto of Hope* and to the upcoming book *Justice Project*.

Selmanovic also helped launch and grow CrossWalk church, a creative and growing suburban church in Southern California. In the course of this work, Samir has traveled to Africa and has worked with Roman Catholic and Protestant local congregations both in the United States and in Ethiopia on ecumenical relief projects.

Selmanovic lives in New York with his wife Vesna, and their two daughters Ena and Leta.