

REACH THE WORLD NEXT DOOR

Cross-Cultural Ministry Training Workbook





By Scott Griswold

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This booklet is part of the Reach the World Next Door cross-cultural ministry training program, created in partnership with the Adventist Learning Community, ASAP Ministries, the North American Division Evangelism Institute, and the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. To access the free online version of the training, visit adventistlearningcommunity.com/courses/rwnd. To order a hard copy, contact ASAP Ministries at asapministries.org or 269-471-3026.

For more information on cross-cultural training visit reachtheworldnextdoor.com

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Introduction

THE OPPORTUNITY

Imagine not knowing a loving God when you feel the need to pray. Picture your life, never having a Bible as your guide. Think of your darkest moment and how it would have been without the mercy and uplifting power of Jesus. That is the reality for at least 4,000 unreached people groups consisting of more than 3 billion precious individuals.

Doesn't it make you long to do something? Perhaps you have always wanted to be a missionary but could not go overseas because of family responsibilities, financial challenges, or other barriers? The mission field has moved next door! More than 300 of those unreached people groups have migrated to North America in large numbers. They have also poured into cities throughout the world. We can readily be part of finishing the Great Commission and seeing Jesus return.

Do you feel unprepared to do this? This course, *Reach the World Next Door*, will help you become more effective as you learn from Jesus and depend on the Holy Spirit. You will be able to make friends with people of other cultures, to care meaningfully for a refugee, immigrant, or international student, and to share your faith with a Buddhist, a Muslim, or others.

THE METHOD

Reach the World Next Door has developed a 13-lesson training program that prepares Christians to befriend and witness to their unreached neighbors. The focus is on immigrants, refugees, and international students; however, the outreach skills that you will learn can be used to witness to anyone who needs to hear the Good News. The program consists of video segments, small group discussions about biblical mission principles, and field activities that take you out to meet, serve, and share with people from non-Christian backgrounds.

The method is based on Jesus' method. He was the best of teachers and called His students together to learn as a small group of disciples. They spent time with Him and then He sent them out to witness two-by-two.

Since we can't physically walk with Jesus, the video segments will give you examples and instruction from individuals who are serving cross-culturally. *My Favorite Missionary*, a Bible study booklet, will focus your attention on Jesus in the specific stories where He reached out cross-culturally. The small group focus will give you the community that can encourage you and hold you accountable. The *Praying for the World Next Door* booklet will help you depend on God through prayer at every step. Finally, each lesson has a cross-cultural activity that will take you out into the field to learn by doing.

BY YOURSELF OR IN A GROUP?

If you complete the full program here using a physical copy and want to receive certification, you can send your completed workbook to ASAP Ministries, PO Box 84, Berrien Springs, MI 49103, or email a digital copy to info@reachtheworldnextdoor.com. Look at the *Mission Checklist* in the back of this workbook to have a clear picture of the assignments. You might find it easier to do the course online at adventistlearningcommunity.com/courses/rwnd.

However, you will likely find this training more effective and more fun if you invite at least one other person to join you. The encouragement and accountability increase the chances for your success in this mission. If no one nearby can partner with you, consider recruiting a friend from elsewhere to join you in the training. You can meet with another person or an entire group online through a conference call.

You can do the *Reach the World Next Door* training in person with youth groups, Sabbath school classes, and families. It can also be an effective activity for club ministries and Friday or Saturday evening programs. You can meet at church, in homes, in a park, or at a restaurant.

If you want to do this as a group in person, you can obtain hard copies of the Reach the World Next Door Workbook, *Praying for the World Next Door*, *My Favorite Missionary*, and MyLanguageMyLife.com cards for a donation at asapministries.org or by calling (269) 471-3026, depending on availability.

If you want to meet as a group online, the *Reach the World Next Door* team will coach you on how to do this when you write to info@reachtheworldnextdoor.com. Adventist Learning Community will set up a cohort so one of you can be the facilitator. All cohort members will register, and their assignments will come to the designated facilitator, who will be able to encourage their involvement in mission outreach.

THE LEADERSHIP

If you want to do this course as a small group, read on for specific details to help the training flow smoothly. Here's the simple summary first:

1. Pray and recruit a team to do the training with you.
2. Set a time and place for the meetings.
3. Review the lesson in advance.
4. Print, order, or email the materials to team members. Remember, if you want to hold your small group online, email info@reachtheworldnextdoor.com for information on how to register your entire group as a cohort with Adventist Learning Community.
5. Go through each lesson together.
 - Team Care and Accountability (ask questions, encourage, fill out the *Mission Checklist* according to what team members accomplished, and pray).
 - Presentation (show the video).
 - Discovery and Discussion (ask questions, include everybody).
 - Team Prayer (pray together claiming promises).
 - Assignments (review together and discuss plans).
6. Start a Discovery Bible Group for team members and non-Christians.

Each Reach the World Next Door group needs a leader who will commit time, prayer, and love to see the team succeed. The instructions for when to play the video segments and what questions to ask and assignments to give are all built right into the workbook.

Is that leader you? You may not feel qualified, but everything you need to know is there and the Holy Spirit is fully adequate to help you facilitate the learning and provide the caring support. You can also email info@reachtheworldnextdoor.com to request additional coaching. If you do not feel you should lead, seek a friend to do it for you and your group, but you will grow more if you offer to assist.

If you do not have a group yet, use the *Reach the World Next Door* promotional materials (available at reachtheworldnextdoor.com/training/online) to help make family and friends aware of the needs of unreached internationals living nearby. Ask your church leadership for permission to share information about this training at church and invite members to join. Ask those who are interested to fill out a commitment card and meet you after the church service.

Talk with your group of interested friends and family to establish a meeting place and time. Plan to meet weekly, setting aside 1½ hours for your time together. Decide if you will meet at church, in a home, or somewhere else. Determine whether a meal/refreshments will help or hinder your time together. Choose an assistant to help you lead. Give him or her some part to do in the meeting each week. Pray together. Jesus sent the disciples out two-by-two, and you will be stronger together.

Prepare the materials in advance. Make sure everyone has this workbook and the booklets as mentioned above. The other option is to enroll at adventistlearningcommunity.com/courses/rwnd and then print the resources from the online course and organize them into folders or binders.

Each week, review the lesson in advance and become familiar with the content. Arrange seating to allow group members to easily see and interact with each other. Lead your team so everyone has a chance to talk and no one monopolizes the conversations. Affirm what members say when you can, but bring them back to the lesson if they get sidetracked. Monitor the time, referring to the suggested times allotted for each section so that you can cover everything included in the lesson.

As a leader, you are key in holding the team accountable to put the teaching into action. Use the *Mission Checklist* to keep track of attendance and completed field reports. If you are doing this course on your own, you can use this list to help ensure you learn as much as possible.

If team members miss a meeting, have them listen to the video segments and write answers to the small group questions as well as doing all the assignments. If members miss a field activity, encourage them until they can show you that it is completed. If several are getting too far behind, postpone your weekly meeting in order to make sure everyone continues to do the actual mission work. If one person cannot keep up, encourage him or her to wait for another cycle of training. Good learning will not take place without applying what is learned in the activities.

Does this sound busy? It is a real commitment that should be entered with serious thought and prayer. Each group meeting lasts about 1½ hours, the field assignments average an hour and the reading and video homework are about an hour. If you and your group want to accomplish that each week, you will have to pray about your schedule to see where God will help you scale back on other activities to make room for this important work among the unreached. Especially consider involving your family in this program so that your time together with them increases rather than decreases. An alternative is to take longer than 13 weeks to complete the training.

Serving others, both church members and those who are not Christians, takes the sacrifice of time and energy. When we reach out cross-culturally there will be frustrations and challenges. Sometimes our efforts will be rejected and our tears will flow. Will it be worth it?

Jesus thinks so. When Jesus was considering the necessity of the cross, He said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:24-25). As we throw ourselves into the needs of the world, it will take time to see the fruit. Let's remember the value of just one. Jesus died for that one, and that one will bring Him joy for eternity. Additionally, one person reached may in turn reach many of his or her own people. Let's claim the promise in Isaiah 60:22, "A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time."

Befriending the Unreached Next Door



MISSION OBJECTIVES

- A. I will identify who unreached people groups are and discover who are the unreached nearby.
- B. I will make one or more initial friendly contacts with people of other cultures and exchange contact information to enable follow-up.
- C. I will explore the website mylanguagemylife.com sufficiently in order to share its resources with others, including people who speak languages other than English.



TEAM CARE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (20 MINUTES)

1. What would you like to learn and accomplish by being part of this Reach the World Next Door training and team?
2. What needs or challenges are you facing that we can pray for?
3. Pray for each other and the people in your community who have never had a chance to know God or receive His salvation through Jesus.



PRESENTATION (24:32 MINUTES)

WATCH: *Befriending the Unreached Next Door*



DISCOVERY AND DISCUSSION (30 MINUTES)

Finding the Unreached

1. How do you feel after watching *Befriending the Unreached Next Door* and what did you learn?

2. **Read Revelation 14:6.** Who do you think of when you hear the specific groups that get to hear the everlasting gospel before Jesus returns?

3. There are more than 4,000 unreached people groups in the world consisting of over 3 billion precious people. Unreached people groups are those with a unique ethnicity and language that have less than 2% evangelical Christians among them. Some groups have as few as zero percent. These have not had a chance to hear the Gospel. We must move them to the top of our priorities in how we spend our time and resources.

Discover new things about the unreached by looking at the 100 largest unreached people groups at joshuaproject.net/unreached/1. Click on the name of any ethnic group to read a profile of their culture, history, religion, and more. Write down some basic information about one specific group now. Then share with your team what you found.

4. **Read Acts 2:4-8.** When the Holy Spirit was poured out, what had God done in advance to make sure that people of every nation were able to hear?

5. **Read:** *We should be able to see in the multiplying opportunities to reach many foreigners in America a divinely appointed means of rapidly extending the third angel's message into all the nations of the earth. God in His providence has brought men to our very doors and thrust them, as it were, into our arms, that they might learn the truth, and be qualified to do a work we could not do in getting the light before men of other tongues* (White 1946, 570).

Read Acts 17:26-28. In what ways do you think God wants to use the movement of immigrants, refugees, and international students?

6. To find out which of these unreached people groups live near you, visit peoplegroups.info. Click on Search for Diaspora People. Then click on Metro Area. Find and select the city nearest you. Scroll down to the list of people groups and choose one to learn about. Record the details below for one or more people groups that you are especially interested in. Be sure you choose non-Christian groups. Then share with your team and add their information to your list if it is of interest to you.

People Group	Religion	Status of Christianity	Number in Local Metro Area	Additional Information

7. Do you already know someone who is in one of the unreached groups in this metro area? Think through your neighborhood, your place of work, your school, or the places you shop and visit. Write down who you know. Then share about the people on your list with your team.

Name (or description if you don't yet know his or her name)	People Group	Where I See This Person

8. If you do not know anyone from an unreached people group, where are some places that you can begin to meet them? (For more ideas look at reachtheworldnextdoor.com under "Discover the Unreached Near You").

First Contacts

9. Often church members spend time primarily with each other. The love of Jesus compels us to find unreached people and make friends with them. Let's consider some things we can say this week, as we deliberately try to meet people who have come from other countries. Circle the questions you especially like and will try to use.
- A. Do you speak any other languages besides English?
 - B. How do you say "Thank you" in that language?
 - C. Where is your family originally from?
 - D. Tell me about that country. How is it similar and different from here?
 - E. I work at _____. (I go to school at _____). What do you do?
 - F. What did you do (or your parents) in the country you came from?

List additional questions you could ask, as you first get to know someone from another culture:

10. Practice saying the questions above with each other so they will feel more natural to you when you say them to someone this week.

Important Follow-Up

11. The people you meet are highly important to God. Pray for Him to guide you to an opportunity to see them again. You might say, "I've really enjoyed talking to you. I hope we can meet again. Here's my contact information. May I have yours too?"

Put their information in a notebook or in a place on your phone where you can easily find it to pray for them and to contact them. Text a friendly note to keep in touch.

Here are some things you could say to open an opportunity to meet up again:

- A. "I would love to try Vietnamese food but I never know what to order. Could I take you out to eat sometime and have you show me?"
- B. "Would you like to get together to practice English?"
- C. "Is there anything that you are finding difficult to do in this new place that I could help you with?"
- D. "I've always wanted to see what worship at a mosque is like. Could you take me?"

Which of these options do you like? Write what else you could do to follow up:

12. The first time you meet a Buddhist, Hindu, or Muslim is probably not the time to give them Christian literature. You should typically develop a caring relationship before sharing about spiritual matters. However, you will meet some people that you may never see again. There is a resource that you can share with them in their own languages. mylanguagemylife.com has Bible-based studies and radio programs or movies in over 180 languages.

In order to familiarize yourself with what resources are available, look up the site now and find the page that matches the language of one of the unreached people groups you read about earlier. Share with your team what you find.

Order copies of this card at asapministries.org or by calling 269-471-3026. Carry the cards and share them with at least three people this week. Show people on your phone and/or on their phones so they can easily find what's in their own language.

13. What have you learned today and how will you use it this week?



TEAM PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Pray together for yourselves, the specific unreached people groups you learned about, and the new friends of other cultures you will soon meet; ask God to lead you to the individuals and the people groups He wants you to work with; pray for others that can join you in this work or that you can train up in the future to multiply more workers for the harvest of the unreached.

Promises to Claim:

- ✔ *Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you...The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising (Isaiah 60:1, 3).*
- ✔ *Your ears will hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left (Isaiah 30:21).*
- ✔ *An angel guided Philip to the one who was seeking for light and who was ready to receive the gospel, and today angels will guide the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues and refine and ennoble their hearts (White 1911a, 109).*
- ✔ *A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it...It is our work by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing (White 1958, 121).*



ASSIGNMENTS (5 MINUTES)

1. This week make your first contacts with people of other cultures or deepen friendships you already have. Read carefully over the *Contact Log* and then use one for each individual you reach out to. This will greatly increase your effectiveness in praying for the people you are meeting and will help you carefully follow up.
2. Mobilize and Multiply. Share with a friend or family member what you learned about unreached people groups and how to make friends with them. Invite him or her to make at least one friend of another culture like you are doing. Teach him or her how to share mylanguagemylife.com and challenge him or her to share it with at least three people.
3. Complete study #1 in *My Favorite Missionary* and focus your prayers on "Immigrants" in *Praying for the World Next Door*.
4. Watch the following video clips:

Here's how to give good news in more than 180 languages; Elder Dan Serns shares further how to be a good neighbor; Ms. Anna Coridan tells her story of moving into a refugee apartment complex to start ministry; Dr. Conrad Vine further explains who the unreached are and what we can do.
5. Take *Mission Survey #1*. At the end of the training program, we will take the survey again to see how we have grown.
6. Complete the form: *Field Report #1*.

MISSION SURVEY #1: GROWING WHILE GOING

Jesus asked His followers to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). That is an overwhelming task, but He specifically promised He had all authority to make it happen and He would personally be with us. At the very start of His training of the disciples, Jesus promised, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). You are about to start a similar journey as you go through *Reach the World Next Door*. There is much to learn and so much to do. Jesus has the same commitment to train you and be with you that He gave to Peter, James, and John.

This mission survey will help you assess your interest, confidence, involvement, and ability in discipleship and cross-cultural missions. Take it now to stir your mind about where you need to grow. Take it again at the end of the training to see where you have grown.

For each question check one of the numbers that you think typically fits you: *Seldom (1), Occasionally (2), Frequently (3), Nearly Always (4)*.

Questions	S	O	F	N
1. I pray for unreached people groups and the countries they are from. I ask God to raise up laborers to finish the Gospel Commission.	1	2	3	4
2. I am aware of the ethnic groups living in the metro area nearest me and feel concern for their well-being.	1	2	3	4
3. I think about, talk about, and make plans to reach out to refugees, immigrants, and international students because I know it is strategic for finishing the Gospel Commission.	1	2	3	4
4. I am friendly to people I do not know who come from other cultures.	1	2	3	4
5. I know where to find biblical resources in other languages and I share those resources with people who speak those languages.	1	2	3	4
6. I enjoy experiencing other cultures, like tasting new food, learning about holidays, and celebrating traditions, etc.	1	2	3	4
7. I take time to learn about different countries, cultures, and religions.	1	2	3	4
8. When I am irritated by something in another person's culture, I ask questions so I can better understand and appreciate differences.	1	2	3	4

	S	O	F	N
9. I show respect to people of any background, valuing people for their good qualities and contributions rather than their skin color, ethnicity, gender, religion, education, or economic status.	1	2	3	4
10. I take time to learn about the plight of refugees and pray for them.	1	2	3	4
11. I know what organizations are helping refugees and I give to support them.	1	2	3	4
12. I am aware of refugees living near me and I am befriending them.	1	2	3	4
13. I study and think about the biblical passages that emphasize wholistic ministry to people's various needs.	1	2	3	4
14. The way I spend my time and money reflects Jesus' concern and compassion towards those in need.	1	2	3	4
15. I tangibly help people from other countries, like immigrants, refugees, and international students.	1	2	3	4
16. I spend time with God in prayer, Bible study, and worship.	1	2	3	4
17. I am confident that I have a saving relationship with God through Jesus.	1	2	3	4
18. I live a Spirit-filled life, growing in victory, in the fruit of the Spirit.	1	2	3	4
19. I know what my spiritual gifts are and use them for God.	1	2	3	4
20. I take time to break away from work, school, media, and other distractions to grow closer to God.	1	2	3	4
21. I ask questions and listen with genuine interest to learn what people need and believe.	1	2	3	4
22. I affirm the positive things other people value, trying to become a closer friend.	1	2	3	4
23. I look for opportunities to bridge conversations from ordinary things to spiritual matters.	1	2	3	4
24. I share what God has done for me and other stories to help people around me grow in understanding and faith.	1	2	3	4
25. I invite people to try different things that will help them experience God's power, love, and the benefits of following His principles.	1	2	3	4

13 LESSON ONE

	S	O	F	N
26. I offer to pray with people no matter what their religious background.	1	2	3	4
27. I share scriptures and study the Bible with people who have never before had that opportunity.	1	2	3	4
28. I share the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection with those who have not heard.	1	2	3	4
29. I invite people to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord.	1	2	3	4
30. I learn about other religions and the various approaches that are effective in sharing truth with people who practice those religions.	1	2	3	4
31. I read the Bible to understand and follow what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and a disciple-maker.	1	2	3	4
32. I help new believers follow Jesus, trying to disciple them as Jesus did His followers.	1	2	3	4
33. I compare my culture to what the Bible teaches and seek to make changes to better follow God's ways.	1	2	3	4
34. I interact with new believers from other cultures and religions to help them examine their cultures in light of the Bible so they can keep what is good, but change or replace what is sinful.	1	2	3	4
35. I am part of a church group and seek to help it be more Spirit-filled like the early church described in the book of Acts.	1	2	3	4
36. I invite people who are not Christian or who are new believers to join a small group Bible study with me.	1	2	3	4
37. I learn principles of conflict resolution from the Bible and try to apply them in the conflicts I face.	1	2	3	4
38. When I have a conflict with someone of another culture, I take time to understand their perspective and seek to adapt to their culture's way of resolving problems.	1	2	3	4
39. I learn new methods so I can be better at witnessing and serving refugees, immigrants, and international students.	1	2	3	4
40. I promote the needs of the unreached and invite others to help me reach out.	1	2	3	4

Total Your Circled Points _____

Today's Date: _____

Called to Go

40 60

Grow While We Go

80 100 120

Multiply

140 160

Place your number on the above scale. The titles remind us that no matter how little we feel we know or can do, Jesus has **called us to go**. Secondly, we should not wait until we feel we have it all together as we will grow **while we go**. And finally, as we gain experience we are equipped to help others get involved and should seek to **multiply** by calling and training others.

Go back above and note those areas in which you especially want to grow. All of the concepts, attitudes, and abilities assessed in the mission survey are taught and encouraged in the *Reach the World Next Door* training. As you apply yourself to learning and implementing, you will definitely become more effective in your mission for Christ and your relationship with Him.

You can keep this survey handy to use it in your prayers, asking God to make you an effective disciple-maker and multiplier among the unreached. You may also want to retake this test part way through the training to see how you are improving. You and your entire group will take the survey again in *Lesson 12* to help you evaluate the effectiveness of this training and to see what areas you want to further grow in.

