

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

NEXT DOOR



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By Scott Griswold

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THE MASTER CONDUCTOR IS RECRUITING

The conductor of a great symphony lifts his baton. The strings glide through their part harmoniously. The French horns add their mellow tones. The time comes for a glorious solo. Instead there is nothing but silence. The conductor drops his baton and stares. The place where the soloist should stand is completely empty. Disappointment floods the entire hall. Someone terribly important is missing.

This description depicts God's world. He is the Master Conductor of the Universe. Our words and songs of praise delight His heart. He recruits, transforms, and trains us from every tribe and nation to blend into an orchestra of incomparable beauty.

God's ear is so tuned that He can hear each person and every language. He takes in the lovely strains of a Spanish solo while also soaking up a powerful choir thundering in Swahili. However, at this very moment, He also hears specific blocks of stark silence smashing the beauty of His masterpiece. The emptiness is the silence of hundreds of languages from around the world in which no one is praying or praising. Why? Because nobody has ever introduced them to the Song of the Lamb.

The choir is God's family. If they are not in heaven, God will long for them like a parent who grieves for a missing child.

So what can we do? We have an amazing opportunity to be missionaries for God to the Refugees, Immigrants, and International Students who have come from unreached countries to our cities and towns.

This booklet will introduce them to you. May your prayers partner with God to fulfill His promise: "Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn"(Isaiah 60:3, NIV).



Pr. Scott Griswold

IMMIGRANTS

Two new legal immigrants enter the USA every minute. That is more than a million a year! 1 in every 4 children in the USA has at least one parent who is an immigrant.¹ 1 in 5 Canadians is foreign-born.² Our world is rapidly changing.

You probably knew there were lots of immigrants in California, New York, and Toronto, Canada. But did you know that in the last decade the biggest growth in immigrant populations in North America was in Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, Kentucky, and Arkansas?³ People from everywhere are now moving to everywhere. What is going on? Is there some great purpose behind all of this?

Ellen White wrote, “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 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” (*Evangelism*, 570).

Are you frustrated about immigration or are you excited, seeing each new face as an opportunity to reach the world? God loves every person as if there was not another in the whole world. Migration is part of His great strategy. Today, we can be a tool in God’s hand to reach the world’s unreached by praying and caring for the immigrant next door.

1. <http://www.migrationinformation.org/USfocus/display.cfm?id=931> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

2. <https://globalnews.ca/news/3823778/canadians-immigrant-foreign-born-asian-census-2016/> (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

3. <http://www.migrationinformation.org/USfocus/display.cfm?id=931> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

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Pray like the disciples pled before Pentecost and saw the world reached (Acts 2:1-11).

- Pray that you will love people of other cultures like God does.
- Pray for immigrants—the rich and the poor, the legal, and the undocumented. They each have challenges. They each need to know more of God’s love.
- Pray that you will be warm-hearted to the strangers around you.
- Pray for the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit’s Pentecost power to move through us, to the immigrants, and to the ends of the earth.

For information and training on how to share Christ across cultures visit the website: ReachtheWorldNextDoor.com

MANY LANGUAGES

In some cities like Houston, approximately 1 in 2 residents speak a language besides English at home.⁵ About half of these say they cannot speak English well. Nearly 350 languages are spoken in America's homes.⁶ Are we creating a Tower of Babel? Or is this an amazing opportunity to share the gospel with every kindred, tribe, and tongue?

The following is the approximate number of people speaking various languages in the United States⁷:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 37.5 million Spanish | .87 million Russian |
| 2.8 million Chinese | .73 million French Creole |
| 1.6 million Tagalog | .70 million Italian |
| 1.3 million French | .68 million Portuguese |
| 1.3 million Vietnamese | .58 million Polish |
| 1.1 million German | .53 million Hindi |
| 1.1 million Korean | .49 million Japanese |
| .92 million Arabic | |

Other significant language groups with between 100,000 and 300,000 people are Armenian, Cambodian, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hmong, Laotian, Navajo, Persian, Serbo-Croatian, Thai, Urdu, and Yiddish. There are many smaller groups, as well. English pamphlets, Bible studies, and television programs are not enough to reach our multilingual neighbors! If you have tried reading something spiritual in a foreign language, you know we need materials in their heart language. So what should we do?

“The truth is to be translated into many languages, that all nations may enjoy its pure, life-giving influence. This work calls for the exercise of all the talents that God has entrusted to our keeping—the pen, the press, the voice, the purse, and the sanctified affections of the soul...(I)f we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ and are filled with the joy of His indwelling Spirit, we shall not be able to hold our peace” (*Evangelism*, 570).

4. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2013/demo/2009-2013-lang-tables.html> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

5. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2013/demo/2009-2013-lang-tables.html> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

6. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2013/demo/2009-2013-lang-tables.html> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)



*Pray for boldness, like the early church,
until the world shakes (Acts 4:29-31).*

- Pray for publishing houses and various ministries to publish materials in many more languages.
- Pray for God to raise up effective writers in the various languages.
- Pray for personal courage to carry and share literature.

Order business cards at asapministries.org to share the MyLanguageMyLife.com website, which offers spiritual resources in more than 150 languages.

REFUGEES

What is it like to flee as soldiers burn your house and kill your family? How does it feel to wait for years in a refugee camp wondering about the future of your children? What goes through the mind of a single Somali mother who arrives in Minnesota in the dead of winter, speaking no English and needing to find a job within three months? This is the life of a refugee. On average, the United States has received nearly 78,000 refugees per year since 1975.⁷ In 2016, Canada received 46,700 refugees, its highest number since 1980.⁸

In 2016, 19,829 refugees arrived in the United States from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 15,479 from Syria, 11,332 from Iraq, 11,572 from Myanmar, 5,974 from Bhutan, and 10,786 from Somalia.⁹

We are busy people. Do we need to concern ourselves with this? God said, “The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself” (Leviticus 19:34).

If you look, you will find refugees in many places, both in cities and rural settings. Think about where they have just come from—countries where it is very difficult to share the gospel. Now, they have the opportunity and freedom to decide.

If we will extend ourselves to provide comfort and tangible help to refugees, we will meet Jesus! He said, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35, NRSV). Jesus was a refugee when He was just a baby. Israel fled Egypt. The early church fled Jerusalem. God understands and loves refugees. We must too.

7. <http://www.wrapsnet.org/admissions-and-arrivals/> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

8. <http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/record-number-of-refugees-admitted-to-canada-in-2016-highest-since-1980-1.3382444> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

9. <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/02/03/where-refugees-to-the-u-s-come-from/> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

Each year, the United States receives around 78,000 refugees.

- Pray for the needs of the more than 100,000 refugees who have been in North America just under one year. It is their most difficult and vulnerable time.
- Pray for healing for those who have come from war and persecution.
- Pray that we will care enough to find out which refugees are in our cities and towns and find a way to help them.

For information on how to be involved, visit Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Ministries at refugeeministries.org

Pray like Moses, who left Pharaoh's palace to help refugees and pleaded to have his name blotted from the book of life for their salvation (Exodus 32:32).



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Would you like to become friends with the king of Bahrain? Would you like the chance to give the vice president of Taiwan a tour of your city? These very individuals, along with former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Jordan's King Abdullah, and many other foreign dignitaries, studied in North America as international students.¹⁰ What an opportunity to learn and witness to future world leaders!

Today, more than 1 million international students are studying near you in Canada and the USA.¹¹ In 2017, the highest amounts of international students came from Saudi Arabia, China, India, and South Korea.¹² Think of the many Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, and atheists who live in those countries. God has brought to your town the very ones who could powerfully influence their own countries for Christ.

However, 75% of international students returned to their countries of origin without ever being invited into an American home.¹³ Can you imagine? Add to that the fact that 80% never entered a church while they were here.¹⁴ No one invited them. Those statistics should change. We can help finish the gospel commission if we take seriously this amazing opportunity!

10. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/aug/19/armed-with-us-education-many-leaders-take-on-world/> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

11. <https://www.iie.org/Research-and-Insights/Open-Doors/Data/International-Students/Enrollment> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

12. <https://www.iie.org/Research-and-Insights/Open-Doors/Data/International-Students/Places-of-Origin> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

13. <https://www.isivolunteers.org/statistics.html> (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

14. <https://www.isivolunteers.org/statistics.html> (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

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