

**PRAYING  
FOR THE WORLD**

**NEXT DOOR**



# PRAYING FOR THE WORLD NEXT DOOR

By Scott Griswold

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**For more information on cross-cultural training visit  
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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.<sup>1</sup> 1 in 5 Canadians is foreign-born.<sup>2</sup> 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?<sup>3</sup> 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)

**1 in every 4 children in the USA  
has at least one parent who is  
an immigrant.**



*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](http://ReachtheWorldNextDoor.com)**

# MANY LANGUAGES

In some cities like Houston, approximately 1 in 2 residents speak a language besides English at home.<sup>5</sup> About half of these say they cannot speak English well. Nearly 350 languages are spoken in America's homes.<sup>6</sup> 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 States<sup>7</sup>:

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](http://asapministries.org) to share the [MyLanguageMyLife.com](http://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.<sup>7</sup> In 2016, Canada received 46,700 refugees, its highest number since 1980.<sup>8</sup>

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.<sup>9</sup>

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](http://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.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> In 2017, the highest amounts of international students came from Saudi Arabia, China, India, and South Korea.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> Can you imagine? Add to that the fact that 80% never entered a church while they were here.<sup>14</sup> 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)

**Today, more than 1 million international students are studying near you in Canada and the USA.**



*Pray like the four determined friends of the paralytic who ripped away the roof until they got their answer from Jesus (Mark 2:1-2).*

- Pray for international students at your local university to know God.
- Pray for God to raise up a movement, a network of Seventh-day Adventists who will powerfully enter this amazing mission field across North America.
- Pray for the universities that have the most international students, such as the University of Southern California, Columbia University, New York University, Purdue University and the University of Illinois.
- Pray for God to lead you to modern kings, vice presidents, and other future leaders in the form of international students as God promised, “Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn” (Isaiah 60:3, NIV).

**For more info, visit [ReachtheWorldNextDoor.com](http://ReachtheWorldNextDoor.com), [pcm.adventist.org](http://pcm.adventist.org), and the interdenominational ministry International Students Inc. at [isionline.org](http://isionline.org)**

# THE PERSECUTED

Where is a person most likely to die or be persecuted for changing his or her religion? Here is where the fire is hottest<sup>15</sup>:

- |                |          |             |
|----------------|----------|-------------|
| 1. North Korea | 5. Sudan | 9. Yemen    |
| 2. Somalia     | 6. Syria | 10. Eritrea |
| 3. Afghanistan | 7. Iraq  | 11. Libya   |
| 4. Pakistan    | 8. Iran  | 12. Nigeria |

Would you like to be a missionary in any of those countries? You and your converts might not last long. Still, it is important that they have a chance to hear the gospel.

What if you knew that the largest concentration of Iranians outside of Iran was in Los Angeles? What if you knew you could meet thousands from Somalia in cold Minnesota? Would you stay at home watching the news if instead you could welcome newly arrived Kurd and Arab refugees from Syria in Toronto, Canada?

Pray and act for these refugees, and the thousands of Tajiks, Pashtuns, and Uzbeks from Afghanistan living in Fremont, California and beyond. Come close to the many South Koreans in schools, restaurants, and businesses across America and pray with them for a spiritual and political breakthrough for the salvation of millions of North Koreans.

Go to the internet to discover where the growing number of Saudi Arabian international students are studying near you. Change your career plans to go work or study at that university in order to lead those students to Christ.

15. <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

**Since you don't have to die for your faith at the moment, why not live for those who are fleeing death?**



*Pray like Rhoda and the early church until angels opened prison doors for Peter (Acts 12:5-19).*

- Pray for those whose lives are at stake right now for their faith.
- Pray for immigrants, refugees, and international students from these countries to meet and love Jesus.
- Pray for your own courage to stand for truth in small ways now and unto death.

**To learn more about people around the world who are suffering for their faith and need your prayers visit [www.opendoorsusa.org](http://www.opendoorsusa.org).**

# WORLD RELIGIONS

The 2010 US Religion Census lists every house of worship in the United States, including<sup>16</sup>:

71	Jainism temples	2,106	Mosques
246	Sikh temples	2,854	Buddhist temples
1,625	Hindu temples	3,464	Jewish synagogues

That is a big change from 100 years ago. Is there a mosque or a temple next to your church? There may be soon!

God calls us to move outside our comfortable church walls to meet those of other religions. He calls us, like Paul at Athens, to start where the people are at and lead them to an understanding of the Creator and the risen Savior (Acts 17). Will you learn enough about them to make connections from their beliefs to the Word of God?

16. <http://www.usreligioncensus.org/maps2010.php> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

## Is there a mosque or a temple next to your church? There may be soon!



*Pray like Elijah prayed for fire and rain that the people may know that “the Lord, He is God!” (1 Kings 18).*

Canadian church members have rapidly increasing access to the mission field. The Vancouver Sun reported, “Compared to the U.S., Canada has more than twice as many members per capita of non-Christian religions—at almost nine per cent of the total population.”<sup>17</sup>

We must ask, “Who is in my community who is not in my pews?” They are the ones that desperately need our attention.

Jesus once saw the “church” so busy that the Gentiles could not get near His Father’s house. He cried out, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’?—but you have made it a den of thieves!” (Mark 11:17). We must make sure that none of our church business steals away the time and money that should be spent on the people of world religions in our community. Like the Gentiles of Jesus’ day, they will not understand God’s truth unless we clear the way.

- Pray every time you see a mosque, synagogue, or temple, for the people who worship there to be led by the Holy Spirit into all truth.
- Pray that your church will be a place where the spirituality and morality is deep and real enough to attract these devoted people.
- Pray that you will know how to share the three angels’ messages with people of other world religions.

**For information and training to reach those of other world religions visit [globalmissioncenters.org](http://globalmissioncenters.org). Find out about six Global Mission Centers that can help prepare you to share.**

17. <https://vancouversun.com/news/staff-blogs/is-u-s-really-the-worlds-most-diverse-on-religion> (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

# MUSLIMS

Some estimate that there are 3.3 million Muslims in the USA.<sup>18</sup> The number of Muslims in Canada is predicted to triple in the next twenty years, rising to almost 3 million.<sup>19</sup>

How do you feel about that? Do you have a negative stereotype based on Islam's radical fringe? Have you had the privilege of making a close friendship with a hospitable, family-centered, deeply spiritual Muslim?

You may actually have more in common with some of your Muslims neighbors than with your typical secular American or Canadian. Muslims teach a lifestyle lived in surrender to the one true Creator God. They believe that Jesus was born to a virgin, taken to heaven, and they are waiting for His

18. <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/01/06/a-new-estimate-of-the-u-s-muslim-population/> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

19. <http://www.pewforum.org/2011/01/27/the-future-of-the-global-muslim-population/> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)



**Some estimate that there are 3.3 million Muslims in the USA.**



## *Pray without ceasing like the Samuel of thunder and rain who would not sin by “ceasing to pray for you” (1 Samuel 12:16-25).*

return. Committed Muslims do not eat pork or drink alcohol—something else in common with Seventh-day Adventists.

It would take a whole book to describe the various kinds of Muslims in North America, where they are, and where they come from. The ten states with the largest Muslim populations are California, New York, Illinois, New Jersey, Indiana, Michigan, Virginia, Texas, Ohio, and Maryland.<sup>20</sup> There are Somali, Mali, Sudanese and others from North African countries. There are many Urdu and Punjabi from Pakistan and Northeast India. Others come from Albania and Algeria, Bosnia and Bangladesh. Ethnic groups of Muslims by the tens of thousands, have come to America.<sup>21</sup>

Unfortunately, as one study shows, 14% of Muslims in the world do not personally know a Christian.<sup>22</sup> That is sad, because while they are our brothers and sisters, most have not yet followed the instruction in their holy book, the Quran, which says to read the law, the prophets, and the gospel. They do not yet know Jesus as the Savior who has obtained full pardon for their sins and has the power to make their hearts new. Your prayers can change that.

- Pray for Muslims in North America to know the true Jesus, not what they see in faulty, corrupted Christianity.
- Pray for Seventh-day Adventist families and individuals to purposefully move to areas where there are many Muslims.
- Pray for God’s love to pierce through our prejudices and flow to our Muslim brothers and sisters.

**For information and training to reach out to Muslims, register with the Global Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations at [GCAMR.globalmissioncenters.org](http://GCAMR.globalmissioncenters.org)**

20. Create table based on state and religion. <http://www.usreligioncensus.org/compare.php> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

21. <http://ireports.wrapsnet.org/> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

22. <https://archive.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/research/documents/ChristianityinitsGlobalContext.pdf> (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

# JEWISH

In America, two out of one hundred of your neighbors are Jewish. That is approximately 6.4 million special people.<sup>23</sup> Their historical background includes what Christians think of as their prophet Moses and their book of Psalms. Seventh-day Adventists and others share similar practices regarding Sabbath and unclean meats.

Just in New York City, Los Angeles, and Miami live almost one-fourth of the Jews in the world.<sup>24</sup> Canada has about 375,000 Jews, with the largest groups in Montreal and Toronto.<sup>25</sup> These are people who wonder why Christians have blamed and killed them through the centuries in the name of their Messiah.

There is a huge variety in belief, practice, and background among Jews who live in North America. People commonly know about the groups called Orthodox, Reform, and Conservative but may not recognize the need for a diversity of ministries through which to share the gospel. There are 75,000 Syrian Jews and Bukharan Jews who fled places like Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan. There are highly religious groups such as the Lubavitch, a branch of Hasidic Jews eagerly waiting for the Messiah. There are anti-Zionist Satmars who have isolated themselves into what has become the poorest community in the USA.<sup>26</sup>

Then there are those considered to be secular Jews. “Only half of Jews compared with 80 percent of all Americans strongly agree that God exists. Forty-one percent of Jews never attend religious services aside from a family life-cycle event, and 87 percent of

23. <http://www.pewforum.org/2013/10/01/chapter-1-population-estimates/> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

24. <http://www.jewishdatabank.org/Studies/downloadFile.cfm?FileID=3557> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

25. <http://www.jewishdatabank.org/Studies/downloadFile.cfm?FileID=3583> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

26. <https://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/21/nyregion/kiryas-joel-a-village-with-the-numbers-not-the-image-of-the-poorest-place.html> (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

**In America, two out of one hundred of your neighbors are Jewish.**

American Jews fail to observe kashrut (religious food taboos) outside their homes."<sup>27</sup> These various groups need your prayers.

- Pray for Seventh-day Adventists to take a renewed interest in knowing and fellowshiping with Jews.
- Pray that we will truly keep the Sabbath holy and thus have a platform from which to share a message of rest for the many who are stressed and caught up in a materialistic lifestyle that threatens their health, family, and happiness.
- Pray for devoted and secular Jewish people to embrace who Jesus truly is.

**For information and training to reach out to Jews, visit the World Jewish-Adventist Friendship Center at [WJAFC.globalmissioncenters.org](http://WJAFC.globalmissioncenters.org)**

27. Barry A. Kosmin, *The New American Jewish Secularism*.

*Pray like Paul prayed for Jews, wanting their salvation more than his own (Romans 9:1-5).*



# HINDU

India, a country of 1.2 billion people with 2,533 distinct people groups is known as the land of a million gods. Walk along the Ganges River and you will see deeply religious people devotedly practicing their faith. The majority follow Hinduism.<sup>28</sup>

How many Hindus live close to you? Canada's statistics show 479,965 Hindus,<sup>29</sup> while estimates for Hindus in the United States are nearly 650,000.<sup>30</sup> The majority of these Hindus are from India, with almost 2.4 million Indian immigrants living in the USA. Thirty-three percent of them live in New York, Chicago, San Jose, and San Francisco.<sup>31</sup> In Canada, many Indians live in Toronto and Vancouver.<sup>32</sup>

Knowing that Hindus have beliefs like karma and reincarnation may make you feel uncomfortable or leery of sharing your faith. You may wonder if you have anything in common. The very fact that you believe in the supernatural realm (God, angels, and evil spirits), the judgment, and a future life, though different from Hindu beliefs, gives you areas to easily discuss and share.

It is estimated that 80% of Hindus living in North America do not personally know a single Christian.<sup>33</sup> We can change that percentage through prayer and friendship. Then they can learn they do not need to live thousands of lives and perform perfectly in order to escape suffering. Jesus has made a way already.

“Not all the means that can be gathered up is to be sent from America to distant lands, while in the home field there

28. <http://www.operationworld.org/country/indi/owtext.html> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

29. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-003-x/2014001/section03/33-eng.htm> (accessed Mar. 24, 2021)

30. <http://www.usreligioncensus.org/maps2010.php> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

31. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/indian-immigrants-united-states> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

32. <https://www.immigroup.com/news/where-do-indians-live-canada> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

33. <https://archive.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/research/documents/ChristianityinitsGlobalContext.pdf> (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

**It is estimated that 80% of Hindus living in North America do not personally know a single Christian.**



*Pray like the Canaanite mother who would not give up until her daughter was free from evil spirits (Matthew 15:21-28).*

exist such providential opportunities to present the truth to millions who have never heard it. Among these millions are the representatives of many nations, many of whom are prepared to receive the message. Much remains to be done within the shadow of our doors" (*Evangelism*, 571).

- Pray for Hindus to turn from their many idols and gods to the one true Father who made them and loves them.
- Pray for church members to make lasting spiritual friendships with Hindus.
- Pray for the Indians who come to Christ to use their large network of family and friends to reach back into India and its 2,533 people groups.

**For information and training to reach Hindus visit the Center for South Asian Religions at [CSAR.globalmissioncenters.org](http://CSAR.globalmissioncenters.org)**

## BUDDHIST

Many Buddhists have come from Southeast Asia to live in the United States over the last forty years. David Takami states: "Never in the history of the United States have so many people come from the same region in so short a time under such dire circumstances as did the Southeast Asian refugees in the decade after 1975. Once in this country, the refugees and their families overcame great obstacles to learn English, educate their children, and achieve a degree of economic success....For 10 years after 1975, 100,000 Southeast Asians per year streamed into the United States."<sup>34</sup>

Many Buddhists continue to come. When you meet a Burmese, Cambodian, Chin, Hmong, Karen, Laotian, or Vietnamese, you can be fairly sure they have an amazing story of heartache, hardship, and perseverance from the Vietnam war era, or more recent conflicts in Myanmar. Thousands have become Christians. Many more remain faithful to their Buddhist roots. Of the 1.8 million foreign-born Chinese living in America many also practice some form of Buddhism.<sup>35</sup>

34. David Takami, Southeast Asian Americans, <http://www.historylink.org/File/894> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

35. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/chinese-immigrants-united-states-1> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

**Over 70% of Buddhists believers  
in North America do not know one  
Christian personally.**



Nearly 70% of the many Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Taoists, and Chinese folk religion believers in North America do not know even one Christian personally.<sup>36</sup> This should highly motivate us to befriend Asians. These religions, though promoting many good moral principles, also teach a method of salvation that is based on what a person can do, usually over many supposed lifetimes. They need to know God's free gift through Jesus!

In America, adherents are estimated at between one and two million Buddhists.<sup>37</sup> Canada reports 366,830 Buddhists.<sup>38</sup> Not all Buddhists are immigrants from Asia.

*PewResearch* says, "In sharp contrast to Islam and Hinduism, Buddhism in the U.S. is primarily made up of native-born adherents, whites and converts."<sup>39</sup> Many westerners have studied or practiced Buddhism and decided they like it better than what they knew of Christianity. You can help them through prayer.

- Pray to meet Buddhists at the many ethnic Asian restaurants and other businesses they operate.
- Pray for them to know that the God who created their beautiful beaches, made mangoes, pineapples, and durians, also died to free them from "karma."
- Pray for our church to live the life of Jesus in such a way that western Buddhists see the very values they are searching for being lived by those who know God's power.

**For information and training to reach Buddhists visit the Center for East Asian Religions at [CEAR.globalmissioncenters.org](http://CEAR.globalmissioncenters.org) and [asapministries.org](http://asapministries.org).**

36. <https://archive.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/research/documents/ChristianityinitsGlobalContext.pdf> (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

37. [https://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/files/2011/08/ARIS\\_Report\\_2008.pdf](https://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/files/2011/08/ARIS_Report_2008.pdf) (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

38. <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/buddhism> (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

39. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2008/03/17/american-buddhists/> (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

*Pray like the little maid who believed the impossible healing from leprosy for her master Namaan (2 Kings 5:1-19).*

## NEW, VERY OLD, OR UNUSUAL

In North America there are other religions and cults that are springing up new. Some estimate more than 2,000 New Religious Movements in the West alone and more than 10,000 world-wide.<sup>40</sup> Other devotees are focusing on ancient religions, like the Zoroastrian religion from Iran, which speaks of a Supreme God and rituals of fire and water. Shamanism and voodooism have been brought in by various people groups from around the world. There is not room to list them all here, but it is important that we pray for the many people we pass who have a real hunger for spiritual meaning and power.

The New Age has been an umbrella name for various mixtures of eastern religions and modern thought. The Baha'i religion has attempted to bring many other religions into one.

The Pew Research group claims that Pagans, Wiccans, and Spiritualists each make up less than 0.3% of the population, or less than one million people in each religion.<sup>41</sup> With the increased interest in magic and spiritual powers, no doubt the adherents to these religions are growing. Movies and video games are often full of witchcraft and paranormal phenomena. Paganism focuses on polytheism, pantheism, and animism. Simply put, that means they are worshiping many gods and spirits in nature.

“In our own country there are thousands of all nations, and tongues, and peoples who are ignorant and superstitious, having no knowledge of the Bible or its sacred teachings.

40. Eileen Barker, *New Religious Movements: Challenge and Response* edited by Bryan R. Wilson and Jamie Cresswell, pp 15-31 (New York: Routledge, 1999), 16.

41. <https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2008/06/report2-religious-landscape-study-full.pdf> (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

**Many people we pass have a real hunger for spiritual meaning and power.**





*Pray like Daniel amid fortunetellers and magicians until God is exalted above all others (Daniel 2 and 6).*

God's hand was in their coming to America, that they might be brought under the enlightening influence of the truth revealed in His Word, and become partakers of His saving faith" (*Christian Service*, 200).

- Pray that God will "open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God" (Acts 26:18).
- Pray that Christians will have the courage to get acquainted with people in such religions and cults and be prepared to set them free in Jesus' name.
- Pray that we will stay away from games, movies, and any practices that are related to magic and evil spirits.

**For more information and training, purchase the handbooks, *Reaching and Winning Followers of the Occult* or *Reaching and Winning New Agers*, available at [AdventSource.com](http://AdventSource.com)**

## NON RELIGIOUS

What about people who have no religion, faith, or denominational affiliation? They also comprise a group that God loves and wants us to pray for. More than 34 million Americans do not identify themselves with a religion. Of that number, nearly 2 million are atheist and 1.6 million are agnostic. That is a lot of people. Fully 27% felt they had no need for a religious funeral at death.<sup>42</sup> What is their comfort at a moment like that?

More specifically, 1 in 3 young Americans ages 18-29 say they have no religious affiliation. According to the Pew Report of the many “nones” in America some 57% are men and 43% are women.<sup>43</sup> The percentages of non-religious people in Canada are even higher than those in the United States.<sup>44</sup>

Does that concern you? We need to be prepared to share the reasons we believe in the Bible and God in an effective manner. We need to be able to show why we are confident that Jesus rose from the dead and is unique among other gods. These evidences can be effective, especially in the context of a vibrantly caring Christian life.

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church.... Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain”(*Christ’s Object Lessons*, 69).

42. [http://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/files/2011/08/ARIS\\_Report\\_2008.pdf](http://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/files/2011/08/ARIS_Report_2008.pdf) (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

43. <https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2012/10/NonesOnTheRise-full.pdf> (accessed Jul. 1, 2020)

44. <http://vancouver.sun.com/news/staff-blogs/is-u-s-really-the-worlds-most-diverse-on-religion> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

**Approximately 1 in 5 Americans  
do not profess any religious belief.**



*Pray like the desperate Jairus for his dead daughter. Don't give up when it seems there is no hope (Luke 8:40-56).*

- Pray for those without religion or faith to know God.
- Pray that we will grow in our understanding of truth and the ability to defend it rationally and lovingly.
- Pray for boldness to speak for God unashamedly.

**To explore solid rational reasons for belief in the Bible and its teachings, read the book *Cross Examination: The Evidence for Belief* by Subodh K. Pandit. Global Mission also has a Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies at [CSPS.globalmissioncenters.org](http://CSPS.globalmissioncenters.org)**

# TOURIST AND BUSINESS TRAVELERS

Over 160 million tourists, business travelers, or students pass through the USA every year.<sup>45</sup> Just to put the statistic into perspective, that is half the population of the United States! This has created a great opportunity to reach the world next door. Two of the eight countries who have the most people visiting the United States are Japan and China, with huge populations of non-christians.<sup>46</sup> Many others visit from secular Europe.

The Japanese follow the Buddhist and Shinto religions. Not even one percent of the Japanese are evangelical Christians.<sup>47</sup> Since many travel abroad every year, maybe you, like Philip in Acts 8, can partner with the Holy Spirit to come alongside one of these travelers and introduce them to Jesus.

45. [http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ni\\_fr\\_2009.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ni_fr_2009.pdf) (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

46. <https://travel.trade.gov/view/m-2017-I-001/index.asp> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

47. <http://www.operationworld.org/japa> (accessed Dec. 17, 2017)

Over 160 million tourists,  
business travelers, and students  
pass through the USA every year.





*Pray like Abraham whose hospitality led him to beg for the lives of sinners in Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18).*

- Pray for new ministries to be established that especially focus on reaching international guests at tourist destinations like Disney World and the Grand Canyon.
- Pray that you will have a heart to meet and befriend the unreached when your paths cross. Ask God to lead you to those who are searching wherever you travel or work.
- Pray for church members to conduct their business in such a way that people from other countries will see an integrity and service that attracts them to God.

**For more information on the status of Christianity and other religions in the countries of the world, buy the book *Operation World*, a definitive prayer guide for every country, or visit [operationworld.org](http://operationworld.org) (see also [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net)).**

## APPENDIX A: A PRAYER FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

“Every soul who has accepted this truth should make personal efforts for the salvation of friends and relatives and neighbors. Individual cases should be presented as subjects of our prayers, to our heavenly Father. Let us imitate the life of Christ” (*Manuscript Releases*, Volume 6, 377).

To help you intercede more effectively, pray through the following prayer. Claim God’s promises for the person or the specific people group you want to help know Him. Place their names in the blanks below. You can also search for other promises that especially fit your friends’ needs.

Dear Father in Heaven, You are the God of all nations. You told me in Psalm 46:10, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” You alone created all things and have all power. You are the healer and the mighty warrior. Only You have sent Your Son Jesus to die for the sins of all the world. May Your name be exalted everywhere and all around me.

You said in 1 Timothy 2:4 that You “desire all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” Please fill my heart with Your love and empower me to pray for them. In specific I am asking You to save \_\_\_\_\_. You promised that You would send the Holy Spirit “and when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8). Please convict \_\_\_\_\_ now. “Open \_\_\_\_\_ eyes and turn him/her from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that s/he may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith” (Acts 26:18).

Jesus said, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself" (John 12:32). Please work in my heart and in my church so that Jesus is lifted up in our lives and let \_\_\_\_\_ be drawn. Give us unity and deep love for the lost.

In Luke 11:13, You promised "how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" I ask now for the Holy Spirit. Please give me love and boldness to speak to \_\_\_\_\_ for You. Please do miracles that will help \_\_\_\_\_ to believe in You.

You said, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye" (Psalm 32:8). Please give me opportunities today to care and help me to know what to say to \_\_\_\_\_ and anyone else You send my way.

You have promised that when Jesus returns You will have redeemed a "great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues" (Revelation 7:9). The task is huge. I ask you to send more laborers into Your harvest (Matthew 10:38). Let Your kingdom come!

Finally Lord, I claim Your promise in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." I ask You to do incredible things to lead the world to salvation. Work in me and through me. In Jesus' mighty and loving name, amen.

## APPENDIX B: UNITED PRAYER FOR THE WORLD NEXT DOOR

“We are encouraged to pray for success, with the divine assurance that our prayers will be heard and answered. ‘If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them’ (Matthew 18:19, 20). ‘Ask of Me, and I will answer your requests.’

The promise is made on condition that the united prayers of the church are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer. The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and for one another” (*Manuscript Releases*, Volume 9, 303).

It sounds pretty clear that great benefit will come if you gather your family, friends, and church members to pray together.

Many have found it very effective to pray in the *United Prayer* format.

*United Prayer* begins with 1) Adoration and Praise, moves to 2) Confession, then 3) Supplication (requests) and ends with 4) Thanksgiving.

If you start with praise and end with thanksgiving it will help keep your focus on the mighty God who can do anything. Mix in Bible texts and songs as you like. Spend a few minutes confessing private sin in your own heart and corporately admitting to God your great need. That will prepare the way for God to answer your intercession for the world. It will break down barriers between you, like an unforgiving spirit, prejudice, and disinterest.



You may want to include one section from this booklet as you bring your prayer requests to God. In *United Prayer* people pray in short sentences, with everyone participating, able to join in at any time there is a pause. Someone may say, "Lord, please be with the Vietnamese in my neighborhood and help them to know You." Someone else may add, "And help me to know how to share about Jesus with the Vietnamese lady I met at the hair salon." Then it moves on quickly to another person's request.

Praying like this tends to bind the members hearts together and keeps adults and children from being bored.

**You can obtain an excellent booklet online called *Praying for Rain* that explains the United Prayer method and gives great quotes and ideas that will assist you in your prayers. Go to [revivalandreformation.org/prayer](http://revivalandreformation.org/prayer)**



## HEAVENLY CONCLUSION

May your prayers and mine join thousands of others until we see the desire of our Father's heart for all the nations of the earth to be saved.

Truly the day is coming soon, when we will join together in that fully complete choir, "a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes" and sing for our Master Conductor, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7-9-10).

# GET INVOLVED NOW

Prayer leads to action on God's part and ours, too.  
Take a step with one or more of these ideas:

1. **Do** an online search for "refugee resettlement agency" in your local area and ask if they need volunteers. They will likely train you.
2. **Visit** your local university and ask at international student services if there is something you can do to help those who have newly arrived. Develop friendships for eternity.
3. **Ask** someone, "Do you speak another language besides English?" When they respond, learn how to say thank you in that language. Give them the website [MyLanguageMyLife.com](http://MyLanguageMyLife.com), which has Biblical truth in more than 150 languages. Follow up to share more.
4. **Encourage** a committed follower of Jesus in a specific ethnic group to start a small group, branch Sabbath school, or worship service in that distinct language. Support them in any way you can. Open a room for them at your church.
5. **Lead** a small group in your church to study the cross-cultural training kit *Reach the World Next Door* or join the 9-month missionary field training. Both are available at [ReachtheWorldNextDoor.com](http://ReachtheWorldNextDoor.com).
6. **Provide** foster care for refugee children. Learn more at [asadministries.org](http://asadministries.org) under "Take Action."
7. **Give** specifically to ministries that work among the least reached. You will find opportunities at the various websites cited throughout this booklet.
8. **Involve** your friends and church members by ordering additional copies of this booklet from [asadministries.org](http://asadministries.org). Start a prayer group to intercede for the least-reached.

# THE CALL TO PRAYER AND ACTION

“Oh, that the earnest prayer of faith may arise everywhere. Give me souls buried now in the rubbish of error, or I die! Bring them to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.”

*This Day with God, 171*

“Wake up, wake up, my brethren and sisters, and enter the fields in America that have never been worked.... In the cities of America there are people of almost every language. These need the light that God has given to His church.”

*Evangelism, 571*



## THE PROMISE OF GLOBAL JOY

“God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. Let the people praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, and govern the nations on the earth. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.”

Psalm 67