



# PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

## *Diaspora: Embracing the World at Your Doorstep*

HAVE YOU NOTICED? THE FACE OF NORTH AMERICA IS CHANGING! IN FACT, THE UNITED STATES HAS BECOME A MODERN CROSSROADS OF PEOPLES FROM THE ENTIRE GLOBE. THIS IS GREAT NEWS WHEN IT COMES TO SPREADING THE GOSPEL TO ALL PEOPLES. YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMBRACE THE WORLD BECAUSE THE WORLD IS COMING TO YOU!

### **God is orchestrating gospel opportunities by bringing diaspora peoples to your doorstep**



For years, IMB has encouraged churches and individuals to go and share the gospel among the unreached. While missionaries are still greatly needed to go to the nations, faithful witnesses are also needed to welcome the diaspora, people whom God is bringing from the nations to communities in North America.

In 2017, the number of people who live outside of their country of origin rose to 258 million (one in 30), according to the United Nations' International Migration Report. Many of them came to the U.S. In 2018, one in seven U.S. residents were immigrants, according to a **MigrationPolicy.org** report on the 2018 American Community Survey.

What an opportunity! The people group God is calling you or your church to disciple might not live only in their homeland — they could be your neighbor or a student at your school! Pursuing this opportunity makes strategic, missiological sense when it comes to getting the gospel to all peoples. As immigrants, international students, and refugees in the U.S. come to know Christ and are discipled, they will take the gospel, virtually or in person, back to their communities, which could be in some of the least-reached nations of the world. Missionaries must continue to go to unreached people and places globally, but Christians in North America shouldn't miss the opportunities that God is orchestrating to reach the nations at their doorstep.

You can research the diaspora peoples who live near you on **peoplegroups.info**. Learn about them. Pray for them. Go minister to them.

**1 DIASPORA.** A virtual and in-person Diaspora Training Summit is scheduled in April. Pray for the planning, coordination, training, and participation of individuals, churches, and other groups. Pray that the results of this training effort will glorify God and further His kingdom.

**2 DAKAR, SENEGAL.** Boubacar\* recently watched an evangelistic film about Jesus. Pray for him as he considers the truths he is wrestling with. Ask God to convict him of his sins and his need for a Savior. Pray that he will believe that what he heard in the film is really from God's Word.

**3 PEOPLES OF ACEH, SUMATRA, INDONESIA.** There are no known believers among the 50,000 Kluet in southern Aceh. Most Kluet are friendly and work as farmers. They mix Islamic beliefs with animism, and some have rings that they believe have magical powers. Pray for the Kluet to hear the gospel and come to faith.

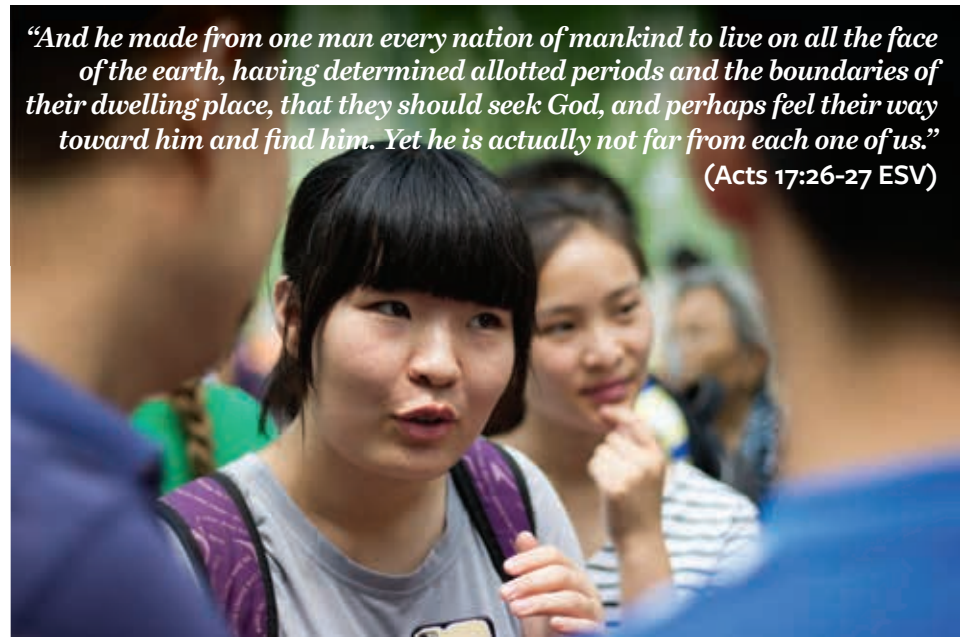
**4 DIASPORA.** The gospel, when proclaimed in both word and deed, is a powerful package. Please pray that God will bring health care professionals to work among refugees and displaced peoples around the world who have dire physical needs.

**5 MIXTECS OF GUERRERO, MEXICO.** Pray for God's guidance as workers engage Mixtec people. Pray for protection as they travel to villages that are closed to the gospel and talk with people who seek guidance from witchdoctors. Ask that people will be saved from this bondage and God will be glorified.

**6 DIASPORA.** A refugee group of nearly 1 million men, women, and children had to flee their homeland and are now stateless in a Southeast Asian country. Please pray that God will provide long-term workers to help reach these dear people with the gospel.

**7 PEOPLES OF MAHARASHTRA, INDIA.** Greta\* came to faith through the witness of a local couple who taught her right away how to witness and disciple believers. Greta and another woman planted 22 house church last year! Pray for these new churches, asking that God will provide a shepherd to lead each one.

**11 CENTRAL ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.** Pray for the 200,000 Turkmen people in Uzbekistan. Ask that they will understand the identity of Jesus, "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32 ESV). Pray that the truth will penetrate their darkness and that God will bring many into saving faith in Jesus.



**8 SOUTHERN YEMENI ARABS OF YEMEN.** Many Southern Yemeni Arabs struggle with being displaced, not able to live at home because their houses have been destroyed or are on the front lines of opposing armies. Pray that they will hear that God wants to give them refuge, peace, and goodness in their lives.

**9 DEAF PEOPLES.** Two Deaf believers meet with a Deaf man who wants to learn about Jesus. He prays at the mosque and talks to Allah but said he finds nothing there. Pray for him to understand the truth and surrender his life to Jesus. Pray for the believers to keep witnessing.

**10 DIASPORA.** Recently, a diaspora believer in the U.S. gave evangelism training online to a believer in his homeland. That person has led two people of an unengaged, unreached people group to Jesus! Pray that more diaspora believers will invest in believers back in their homelands.

**12 WOK PEOPLE OF EAST ASIA.** Pray for His Light Church\* that has been meeting as a church for over two years. They have been praying that the Lord will bring male leadership to their group.

**13 DIASPORA.** As millions of refugees stream into global cities, they are often unwelcome and unable to provide for themselves or their families. Pray that IMB personnel in global cities will provide them with relief, share Christ's love, and see them come to faith in Him.

**14 SRI LANKA.** Regardless of all the efforts being made, there are forces at work attempting to prevent people in Sri Lanka from having the opportunity to accept Jesus as their Savior. Pray that many local believers will hear and obey the call to go to the harvest field and witness.

**15 MALONG OF THE PHILIPPINES.** Sometimes, it can take years for a Malong person to believe. Recently, seven





Malong people trusted in Jesus! Pray that more will believe. Pray for workers not to grow weary in sharing the gospel. Also pray for the persecution that is now happening to the new believers.

**16 DIASPORA.** While studying in the U.S. for usually four years, most international students are never invited into an American home, nor do they have meaningful contact with genuine Christians. Pray that more Christians will reach out and befriend international students.

**17 GENT, BELGIUM.** Most Belgians don't know God personally. In Ghent's bustling city of 300,000, you'd find only 200 believers gathered for weekly worship. Pray for more people to desire to know God. Pray for the believers who face harsh criticism, rejection, and ridicule as they witness.

**18 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES.** Pray for believers in the central Sahel region of Africa to be strong amid persecution. Ask for them to find new community in the church as they lose their former Muslim community for following Christ. Pray that they will reach others with the truth of God's Word.

**19 KATIO OF URABA, COLOMBIA.** Please pray for the Katio to be strong in their faith and bold in their witness. A young person committed suicide in a community, and usually, this is not a lone occurrence. Pray for the Katio to be faithful in witnessing to other Katio and to their own families.

**20 DIASPORA.** An IMB Diaspora Coalition team member is coaching and mentoring a Southeast Asian pastor in starting a new church. Pray for their relationship and for this new church that is reaching out to diaspora peoples in the U.S.

**21 SHIA OF THE DESERT.** Most married believers among this people group came to faith after marriage. Pray for their unbelieving spouses' salvation and for believers' physical protection if the spouse is hostile to Jesus. Pray for single believers who are being pressured to marry unbelievers.

**22 DIASPORA.** A new diaspora believer in the U.S. was trained by his pastor to start a house church. That believer has now reached and baptized a relative! Pray that they'll succeed in planting a healthy church. Also, pray that diaspora believers throughout North America will be sent out to start churches.



**23 KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA.** Pray as some believers meet together to pray and develop plans for a new church this year. Petition for wisdom and a clear vision. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead this new body to be a bold gospel witness in Kuala Lumpur. Pray that they will live for Christ with passion.

**24 DHAKA, BANGLADESH.** Ray\* hadn't contacted her believing friend in months. Recently, her friend happily received a message that said, "I want to start reading the Bible with you." As Ray reads the Book of John, pray that she will clearly understand Jesus and her need for His forgiveness.

**25 DIASPORA.** Pray for believers to form sincere relationships and share God's Word with international students, immigrants, and refugees. Ask God to raise up leaders among them who will be devoted to seeing the missionary task fulfilled among their friends and family.

**26 BEHDINI KURDS OF CENTRAL ASIA.** Monthly trainings recently began that aims to help local believers grow in carefully studying and teaching the Bible. Pray that these men and women will grow as they study the Scriptures for themselves and teach it to their families, congregations, and the lost.

**27 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.** About 860,000 Zande live in South Sudan. Most are farmers and practice witchcraft. A few evangelical groups are engaging the Zande, but the need for evangelism and discipleship is still great. Pray for Zande believers to be strong in the faith bold in their witness.

**28 DIASPORA.** As immigrants, refugees, and international students come to faith, pray that they will be bold and share the good news with their community back in their homeland.

**29 GLOBAL NETWORK OF THE AMERICAS.** Pray for a Brazilian couple as they serve in northern Portugal and plan to start a church this year in an area where 3 million people live. In the last 16 years, 800 evangelical churches have closed their doors in Portugal. Pray for this post-Christian nation.

**30 DIASPORA.** Forcibly displaced people often undergo horrific circumstances which cause heart wounds that make it difficult for them to receive the gospel. Pray for ongoing efforts to reach them with trauma-healing training that leads hurting people to the ultimate healer, Jesus.



## Remembering eternity impacts how individuals and churches engage people groups

What's your perspective on the different people groups around you? If all peoples are to have the chance to hear and respond to the gospel, we must start looking at the task before us with new eyes. Every day, people enter eternity without ever hearing the gospel. The next time you're out, look around to see if God has brought someone of an unreached people group to your city or neighborhood.

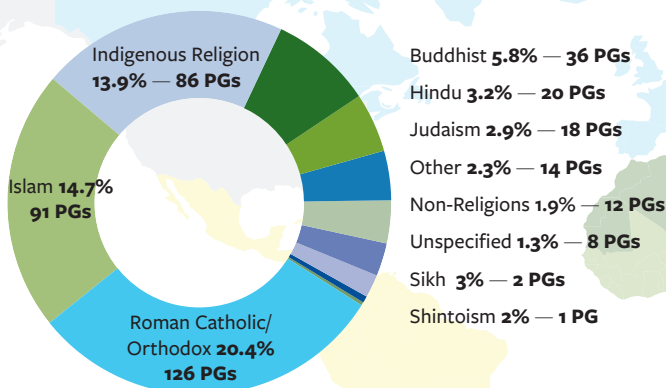


Has God called you or your church to engage a particular people group? Those whom your church is researching, praying for, and possibly planning to visit overseas may also be living in your city or state. You can learn if a people group is living in North America by searching on **peoplegroups.info**. Churches and church planters are engaging many of these people groups right now, and you can join their efforts. Register on **peoplegroups.info** to get started on connecting with these ministry projects. Imagine how the work that you and your church are currently doing could be multiplied!

## North America Diaspora World Religions

251 people groups in North America are unreached

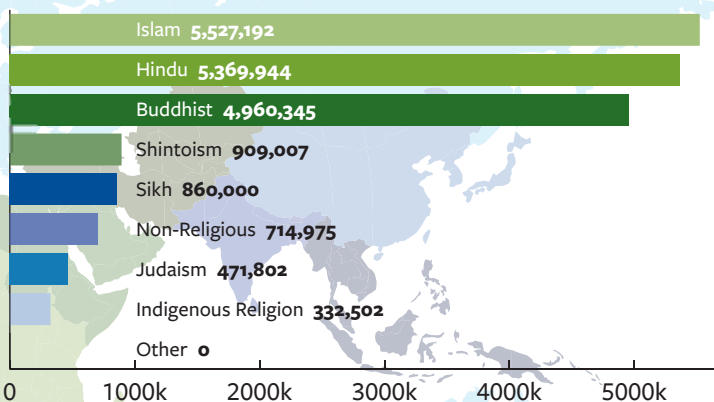
### Percentage and number of Diaspora People in North America by Religion



**NOTE:** This chart does not include the number of people groups considered evangelical Christians.

Go to **peoplegroups.info** for more information.

### Total Population of Diaspora in North America



**NOTE:** The total population of each religion includes only diaspora peoples. So, as an example, people who are native born North Americans and adhere to Judaism or Islam are not included in the above religion bar graph.

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\*Names changed CG 15M 4/21 P7483-4