



GLOBAL DIASPORA NETWORK

17 Countries with the Largest International Migrant Populations

(not in order)

1. A leading migrant destination country, **Ukraine** has over 5.2 million international migrants out of a total population of about 45 million people. Most of these migrants come from former Soviet republics, with the majority being from Russia but a significant number from Central Asian countries.

Praise God for Ukraine's strong spiritual legacy, including God's use of African leaders to start new churches and the responsiveness of Jews to accepting Jesus as Messiah. Pray for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters to welcome international migrants, especially foreign students, with the love of Christ and the testimony of His power today. Pray for unity among Christ-followers from diverse backgrounds, which may itself be a witness to the reconciliation found in Christ. Pray for many people to enjoy peace and assurance in God.

2. About 1 in 4 people living in **Australia** are international migrants. While about a fifth of migrants in Australia are from the UK, there are also significant numbers of people from Lebanon, Turkey, China, Vietnam, and southern and eastern Europe.

Pray for the Church in Australia to be mobilized and equipped to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the over 500,000 Muslims from over 70 nations and with the over 100,000 Jews. Ask God to call forth Aboriginal Christ-followers to work cross-culturally among non-Western diaspora people groups, building bridges using their unique heritage and history. Pray that through student ministries, including the opportunities to provide religious instruction at schools, many young immigrants and children of immigrants will encounter the Lord Jesus.

3. Well over 5 million international migrants live in **India**, the world's most ethnically diverse country. Most of these migrants come from neighboring countries, including nearly 3 million are from Bangladesh, another million are from Pakistan and about half a million are from Nepal. A significant number of migrants from Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates and Malaysia also live in India. India's tourism industry is also growing, with about six million visitors each year.

Praise God for the growth of cross-cultural outreach agencies in India. Ask the Lord to equip and send forth Indian Christ-followers to present the good news of Jesus with truth and love to Muslim and Buddhist immigrants. Of the 1.2 million children involved in prostitution in India, many are Nepali or Bangladeshi. Praise God for the ministries taking a holistic approach to helping these children. Ask the Lord to reveal Himself as the Heavenly Father and to rescue these boys and girls from their dark circumstances. Pray that God will give His people wisdom and creativity to use India's tourism for His glory, as the Israeli Massah teams have done.

4. Over 10% of **France's** population are international migrants. There is great diversity in countries of origin for the over 6.6 million migrants; many are from Francophone countries in North, West and Central Africa, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia but others come from other European Union members. France is also the most

popular tourist destination in the world with over 83 million visitors in 2012 alone. In France, over 80% of the people have never even touched a Bible.

Pray for the spiritual hunger in France to be satisfied with the Word of God in a variety of languages through the printed Bible and other literature, radio and TV programs, and Internet resources. Pray for the approximate 660,000 French Jews, the third largest Jewish population in the world, to recognize the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Many North Africans, including Arab and Berber groups, often face poverty and discrimination, contributing to much tension and anger especially among the youth. Ask God to reveal Himself as their loving Father and the Prince of Peace. Pray for vibrant Central African churches to cooperate and take the lead in reaching out to West Africans. Ask God to provide more pastors and other workers for the Chinese, Korean and Southeast Asian communities.

5. Spain is a major destination for migrants, having somewhere between 6 and 7 million immigrants. Because of Spain's official language, the first language of over 340 million people worldwide, it has a large number of Latin American migrants. Because of its location, Spain also has significant African populations (especially Moroccan and Senegalese).

Ask God to bring a revival in Spain, one which will reach across the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Praise God for starting many new churches through Latin Americans. May these churches grow in maturity and multiply among the nations. Many of the evangelicals living in Spain are living in diaspora -- Romani, Latin American, Eastern European and African. Pray for some of these brothers and sisters to intentionally identify more fully with Spanish culture -- even the specific regional culture -- so as to present the gospel to Spanish nationals in a non-foreign way. Pray for Muslims from Morocco and other African countries to encounter the Living God through dreams, Scriptures, and Christ-followers. Pray for the existing Chinese churches to cooperate in sharing the Truth among the nearly 100,000 Chinese migrants.

6. In the **United Kingdom**, 6-7 million international migrants make up over 10 percent of population. Immigration is expected to account for most of the net population growth over the next couple decades; moreover, a quarter of all babies are born to immigrants. Many migrants from South Asia, Somalia, the Middle East and North Africa now have potentially greater access to hearing the good news of Jesus Christ than in their homelands. About 1500 migrants are missionaries who have been sent to the UK's harvest field.

Praise God for the spiritual vitality among some immigrant groups in the UK. Pray that the Lord will use these brothers and sisters to bring forth revival across the nation. Pray that there will be more cross-cultural training available for more effective ministry to less-reached groups, like the 100,000 Somalis. Ask God to call out people to be trained as religious educators in schools so that even children in ethnic-specific enclaves might always know a caring Christ-follower. May each of the 400,000 international students encounter the Living God before they return.

7. Canada's immigration policy has led to the country welcoming over 7.2 million migrants, over 20% of the population. Canada has large Chinese and South Asian populations and growing numbers of Muslim people groups such as the Middle East, Central Asia, East Africa and Southeast Asia. This amazing opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ with people of so many different ethnicities comes at a time when less than 8% of Canadians are evangelical.

Pray for spiritual revival and renewal across all parts of Canadian society. Pray for the growth and multiplying of churches reflecting First Nation cultures. Ask God to call forth Francophone immigrants to Quebec to plant 3,000 churches. Pray for the Church to cooperate in mobilizing, equipping and sending out brothers and sisters

to reach the 5.4 million immigrants in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Pray for some migrant Christ-followers to bring the message of God's reconciliation to their homelands.

8. The country with the fourth largest diaspora population is **Saudi Arabia**, where about 3 in 10 people are migrants. The over 7 million migrants, including over 3 million from South Asia and around 600,000 from the Philippines, face many restrictions regarding employment and social interactions. Migrants who follow Christ are also under surveillance, as group meetings of Christians even in homes are forbidden. Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, is considered the center of global Islamic missionary efforts and in printing the Qu'ran for worldwide distribution. Every year, over two million Muslims from around the world make the pilgrimage to Mecca; five times each day, countless Muslims turn towards Mecca as they pray.

Praise God for the opportunity Christ-following migrants have to serve the Lord in Saudi Arabia. Pray that God will remove the obstacles to their spiritual growth and by His own hand strengthen and encourage them. Pray that despite language and social barriers, migrant Christ-followers will find creative ways to bless Saudis. Pray for Muslims who have recently been on the hajj or who are preparing to go on the hajj to have dreams and visions of Isa al-Masih. Pray for devoutly religious Saudis to have life-changing encounters with the God of Abraham.

9. About 1 in 8 people living in **Germany** are migrants, but closer to 1 in 5 people -- and 1 in 3 young children -- are either migrants themselves or have at least one migrant parent. Along with being the country with the third largest migrant population, Germany also hosts the third largest number of international students. Only about 2% of youth in Germany follow Jesus and suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people. While there has been rapid church growth among diaspora groups, many regions of Germany are effectively unevangelized or without personal evangelical witness.

Praise God for our brothers and sisters in Germany who are standing firm in Christ. May the Lord protect, strengthen and encourage them so that they may bear witness to the Truth with increasing effectiveness. Pray that followers of Jesus from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds will have and display God-given unity and fellowship. Ask the Spirit to guide His people on how to respond to the needs – spiritual and otherwise – of children, youth and international students in Germany. Pray for the thousands of Messianic Jews to boldly proclaim the message of reconciliation through Jesus Christ. Ask God to send forth more laborers to reach out to the 3.6 Muslims from over 40 nations.

10. The largest country geographically, **Russia** has the second largest migrant population in the world with over 12 million migrants. The Soviet Union's collapse brought an end to much of the severe persecution the Church in Russia faced and a huge increase in religious activity. Nearly 20% of the population are not ethnic Russians, but there is an intense nationalistic desire to "Russify" everyone.

May many Russians put their trust in the One who holds lasting hope and a good future for them. Pray for the Russian Orthodox Church to experience Spirit-led refining and revival. Pray that the Lord will push aside the tensions preventing complete unity of all Christ-followers in Russia. Pray for perseverance in the ongoing efforts to translate and distribute Scripture in the 100 minority languages. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth more workers among Central Asian migrants, the 1 million Chinese migrants and 78 unreached ethnic minorities.

11. With around 43 million international migrants, the **United States** is by far the leading recipient of diaspora peoples. All (or very nearly all) other countries are represented in the US – as tourists, workers, foreign students, refugees, missionaries and so on.

Praise God for gathering people from every nation in a country where the good news of Jesus Christ may be freely proclaimed. Pray that the Church in the US will experience revival and lift up her eyes to see the harvest fields. Ask God to transform consumerist tendencies into wise, sacrificial giving of financial and human resources. Pray for thousands of African-Americans to be mobilized and equipped for cross-cultural ministry. Pray for culturally meaningful expressions of following Christ to flourish among every ethnicity.

12. The message of salvation through Jesus Christ first arrived in **Italy** in the first century and Rome became a leading center for the Church. But today most Italians do not have an active relationship with Christ; of those who pray, less than 10% pray to Jesus. Christ-followers from eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Philippines have brought new life to the Italian churches. A major challenge facing Italy is dealing with the tens of thousands of migrants from Syria, Eritrea, other African and Middle East nations, and even Pakistan who attempt to enter Italy by crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

Praise God for using diaspora peoples to strengthen the Church in Italy. Pray for Italy to experience Spirit-led revival in all sectors of society and in all denominations. Ask God for the sake of His name to remove hindrances to fellowship and cooperation between churches so that more Italians may know the Living God. Pray that the Lord will cause a hunger for His Word and that more non-literature-based resources will become available. Pray for the desperate migrants trying to cross the sea to know Christ, who calms the wind and waves and who gives everlasting peace.

13. Since biblical times through today, **Israel** has been a center of migration activity. (The term Israel includes the autonomously governed areas of Gaza and the West Bank.) Today, migrants from nations as diverse as Yemen, Rwanda, Thailand and Kazakhstan make up around 40% of Israel's population.

We intercede for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, including Jewish congregations and those in Gaza who have suffered from both persecution by Hamas and Israeli operations. Pray for the unity of Christ-followers throughout Israel and a move of the Spirit as on Pentecost so that the nations in Israel and around the world may see Jesus's work of reconciliation in action. Ask God to bring about a lasting peace – through turning the hearts of many living in Israel toward Himself; it is only through Christ that hostility may truly end.

14. An estimated 8 out of every 10 people in **United Arab Emirates** is an international migrant. UAE is both a regional hub for international students & a growing tourist destination. Many migrant workers from places like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines, and the Middle East are employed in areas such as construction and domestic services.

Praise God that Christ-followers in the UAE have been able to gather together and worship; pray that this freedom would continue. Pray for increased opportunities, resources and training for discipleship so that people from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds may be able to mature in Christ. May the desire to honor God overtake the love of money in the hearts of people. May migrant workers work in such a way that their employers are blessed and may their employers act justly and with grace and compassion.

15. Kazakhstan, one of the countries receiving the most migrants, is a major hub for trade and migration in Europe and Central Asia. In addition to being rich in natural resources, there is large cultural and religious diversity with many people groups. The government's Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy is designed to push the country to become one of the top developed nations and this month negotiations will be finalized for stronger ties with the European Union.

Praise God for the amazing growth of the Church since the breakup of the Soviet Union, the completion of the translation of the Bible into Kazakh and training of Kazakhstan nationals to be sent out. Pray that more Bibles and other resources will be available for those who are hungry for God's Word. Pray for changed perspectives about the place of religion in Kazakh identity and for culturally specific expressions of following Christ. Ask God to bring many migrants in Kazakhstan into His kingdom.

16. With migrant workers from places such as the Middle East, China, Indonesia and South Asia, **Jordan** has been one of the top diaspora receiving countries. Its location has also made it the new home for many refugees. Syrian refugees number over 20% of the entire population. Before the turmoil in Syria, Jordan welcomed many Iraqis, Kuwaitis and Palestinians. Amman is also a popular destination for those seeking to learn Arabic, including many Christ-following workers.

Praise God for Jordan's relative stability and religious freedom which have drawn the nations to its borders. Pray for its leaders to act justly and make wise decisions regarding its resources so that it may continue to enjoy peace. Praise God for the reports of many Syrian refugees recognizing and desiring to see themselves the power of prayer in the name of Jesus. Pray that this move of the Holy Spirit will grow and spread among all peoples in Jordan. Pray for churches and Christ-centered ministries in Jordan to seek to meet the physical and spiritual needs of refugees, to spread the good news of Christ in creative ways, to effectively disciple new believers from various backgrounds and to train immigrant believers in cross-cultural ministry.

17. Hong Kong, a major global city, is a center for finance and a hub for migration. Well over two million migrant workers and tourists from mainland China are in Hong Kong, which since 1997 has been a Special Administrative Region of China. As displayed in the mass protests a few months ago, some Hong Kong residents are concerned about the evolving relationship with the mainland and possible restrictions on freedoms in the future.

Praise God for blessing Hong Kong with media ministries such as publishers and radio broadcasts as well as Bible colleges and training centers. We also thank God for our Hong Kong brothers and sisters who have taken hold of their unique position in order to provide support to the Church in mainland China and its mission efforts; may these partnerships bear much fruit. Pray for our Heavenly Father to provide fellowship and protection for the many Filipino and Indonesian domestic workers. Ask God to call forth His people to reach out in love to South Asians and Middle Easterners.