**Praying for Countries Receiving Diaspora Peoples**

Countries are listed by the most recent estimates of international migrant populations as percentages of total populations (UN DESA, 2017). Please click on the name of the country to see its most recent diaspora prayer profile. Some prayer points were found in Operation World.

[Antigua & Barbuda](#Antigua) – 28%, 21st

[Aruba](#caribbean) – 35%, 15th

[Australia](#Australia) – 29%, 20th

[Bahrain](#Bahrain) – 48%, 7th

[Brunei Darussalam](#Brunei) – 25%, 22nd

Channel Islands – 50%, 6th

[Curaçao](#caribbean) – 24%, 23rd

[French Guiana](#France) – 40%, 12th

[Guam](#USA) – 48%, 8th

[Hong Kong, China](#HK) – 39%, 13th

[Israel](#Israel) – 24%, 25th

[Jordan](#Jordan) – 33%, 16th

[Kuwait](#Kuwait) – 76%, 2nd

[Lebanon](#Lebanon) – 32%, 17th

[Luxembourg](#Luxembourg) – 45%, 10th

[Macau, China](#Macau) – 57%, 4th

[Mayotte](#France) – 29%, 19th

[New Caledonia](#France) – 24%, 24th

[Oman](#Oman) – 45%, 11th

[Qatar](#Qatar) – 65%, 3rd

[Saudi Arabia](#Saudi) – 37%, 14th

[Singapore](#Singapore) – 46%, 9th

[Switzerland](#Switzerland) – 30%, 18th

[UAE](#UAE) – 88%, 1st

[US Virgin Islands](#caribbean) – 54%, 5th

1. Over 8 out of every 10 people in United Arab Emirates is an international migrant.  Not only is UAE a regional hub for international students, it is also a growing tourist destination.  Many migrant workers from places such as 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 United Arab Emirates have been able to gather together and worship; pray that these freedoms 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 the Creator and Sustainer of all life overtake the love of money in the hearts of those in UAE.  May migrant workers work in such a way that their employers are blessed and may their employers act justly and with compassion. (September 2014)

2. About 6 out of every 10 people in Kuwait are foreign-born. Whether from Egypt, South Asia, the Philippines, Indonesia, China , Korea or elsewhere, these migrants make up most of the workforce. Some religious tolerance exists, but it is illegal to evangelize Muslims.

Praise God for the opportunity Christ-followers have to live and worship in Kuwait. Pray for the unity of believers, both within and across cultural groups. Pray for forgiving hearts among currently divided congregations. Most migrants have short-term contracts; pray that God will provide ways for long-term, fruitful work. Praise God that many more Kuwaitis have come in contact with the good news message in some way; pray for effective, personal follow up with those interested in learning more.

Please pray that the migrant Church in Kuwait will cover strategic people and places in prayer. Pray that nannies and maids who care for Kuwaiti children and households will be godly influences on their employers. Pray that the stateless Bidoon will know the love that the Father has lavished upon His children through the Lord Jesus. (January 2016)

3. About 65% of the population of Qatar are migrants. The largest numbers are from India, followed by significant numbers from other South Asian countries, the Philippines and Egypt, but there are many nations represented in Qatar. There is some religious freedom for expatriate Christ-followers, although outreach to Muslims is forbidden. Qatar has been criticized for the treatment of migrant laborers, especially regarding construction in preparation for the FIFA World Cup in 2022. The working and living conditions as well as the visa and wage payment system have often been denounced as modern-day slavery. Government leaders have promised certain specific reforms, but these have not yet been implemented.

Praise God for the opportunity for many Christ-followers from other countries to work and worship the Lord in Qatar. Thank God for raising up spiritual leaders who are pastors and teachers among those who came to Qatar for economic opportunities. Thank Him for the unity which exists between brothers and sisters from different countries and languages and which can now be displayed in Qatar.

Ask God to increase the love between Filipinos and Sudanese, Lebanese and Indian, Pakistani and British Christ-followers. Pray that more of them will be mobilized and equipped to share the good news of Christ with other migrants as well as with Qataris. Pray that migrants who have not yet entered the Kingdom will come to know the Lord as their provider and protector. Ask God to move the hearts of Qatari employers and government officials to treat migrant workers with respect and dignity. Pray for much spiritual fruit among the Qatari people. (November 2016)

4. Macau, a Special Administrative Region of China, is known as a “City of Sin.” The economy is based on gambling, especially by mainland Chinese tourists.

Thank God for Macau’s religious freedoms. Pray for the Spirit to strengthen the churches and make them eager to reach out. The first Chinese Bible was translated in Macau; pray that the Word would “speed ahead and be honored” among mainland Chinese, other tourists and immigrants (see 2 Thess. 3:1). Pray for those who have been trafficked from the mainland or from Southeast Asia to find healing in Christ. Pray for Indonesian and Vietnamese domestic workers to know the watchful care of the Creator. May Macau be a City of Hope.

5. (Until we have specific profiles for these nations, please use this profile for Caribbean countries.) The movement of people in various forms has played and continues to play a significant role on the islands of the Caribbean Sea. European exploration in the late 15th century soon led to colonization by Spain, and later by Britain, France, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and the United States. Indigenous peoples were usually killed or enslaved. West Africans were trafficked as slaves until the abolition of the slave trade; in the 19th century indentured servants from China, India and Indonesia were sent to the Caribbean. In modern times, much of the Caribbean economy depends on international tourism. The destruction caused by recent hurricanes has led some residents to consider moving elsewhere even as humanitarian aid workers arrive.

Praise God who “works all things together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). Ask the Lord to forgive the sins which were brought through the movement of people and to remove the offenses and hurts which linger, for “to the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness” (see Daniel 9:9). Pray that Christ-followers in the Caribbean of all languages and cultures will be strengthened, so that through them the good news of Jesus might be fully proclaimed in the islands and beyond (see 2 Timothy 4:17). Pray that the beauty of the islands would be surpassed in fame by the “glorious splendor” of the Lord’s majesty in the Church in the Caribbean (see Psalm 145:4-7). (October 2017)

7. Nearly half of Bahrain’s population is foreign born. Many of these international migrants are from South Asia and India in particular, but significant numbers are also from Southeast Asia, the horn of Africa and other Arab nations. In Bahrain, it is illegal to proselytize Muslims but Christians are allowed to worship together. According to Operation World, half of the church fellowships in Bahrain are south Indian. Different congregations often share space.

Praise God for the open doors to worship Him in Bahrain; may He be enthroned upon the praises of His children. Agree with Jesus’s prayer in John 17:21 and ask for complete unity among the believers in Bahrain so that the world will believe the Father sent Jesus. Pray that the Lord will arrange divine appointments between those who follow Christ and those who are eager to learn about Him. Ask God to enable Christ-followers in Bahrain to overcome language barriers and cultural differences when sharing the good news. (April 2019)

8. (Until we have a specific profile for Guam, please use this one for the USA.) 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. (May 2014)

9. Singapore has become a hub for diaspora, helped by its political stability and wealth. About 2 out of every 5 people in Singapore are immigrants, and nearly 100 ethnic groups are present, speaking over 30 languages. The country values strongly its ethnic and religious diversity, outlawing open attempts to persuade someone to change his or her religious beliefs.

Praise God for the growth of the Church in Singapore. Thank Him for His blessings of peace and prosperity which have helped make the country a strategic center for biblical training, mission sending and international ministry.

Pray that Jesus’s humility and material simplicity will be imitated by Singaporean Christ-followers and resonate with the marginalized. Pray that short-term mission participants will pursue life-long support of and direct involvement in the spread of the Kingdom. Ask God to strengthen the ministries which interact with the many migrant workers from across Southeast Asia.

Pray for those who do not currently follow Christ to have repeated dreams and visions of Jesus. Pray that Malays, Indians and mainland Chinese will then initiate discussions with Christ-followers. Ask the Spirit to give to His people bold speech and grace-filled actions so that many will finally encounter the Living God. (March 2016)

10. Luxembourg is one of the wealthiest nations in the world, with the second highest GDP per capita. Over 45% of its population of about 583,000 are international migrants; when day commuters are included, over 50% of the population is foreign born. According to Operation World, French is used in official communication, German for education and newspapers and Letzebuergesch (or Luxembourgish) in indigenous homes. Most Luxembourgers identify as Catholic by tradition.

Praise God as Luxembourg has recently welcomed refugees and asylum seekers from places like Syria and Eritrea; may the Lord who watches over sojourners bless this country (Psalm 146:9). Thank God for the translation of the New Testament in Letzebuergesch; pray for the completion of the Old Testament as well. Pray that many Luxembourgers will be made new after hearing the Word of God in their own language. Luxembourg offers many economic opportunities, but it is also an expensive place to live. Pray for the Portuguese, French, Italians, Balkan peoples, refugees and other migrants to come to Jesus and take His yoke (Matthew 11:28-29). Pray for all those who live in Luxembourg to look to Jesus to receive riches which last, be clothed with honor and see clearly (see Revelation 3:17-22). (July 2019)

11. Nearly half of all people living in Oman are international migrants. Most foreign workers are from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, with smaller but significant numbers from Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Other migrants include people from across the Middle East and East Africa. The government’s policy of “Omanization” is an effort to reduce Omani unemployment by limiting the types of jobs expatriates can hold.

Praise the Lord that worshipping at churches and changing religious affiliations are technically permitted by law in Oman. We boldly pray that more Christ-centered places of worship will be established and that prayer and worship in the name of Jesus will be made legal in more places. Please ask God to protect migrants in Oman from harsh or unjust treatment and from all sorts of deception. Pray that those who follow Christ would be filled with the Holy Spirit in their words and actions. Pray for increased opportunities to share the good news of Christ through radio, social media and phone-based apps in Omani Arabic and other key languages. (September 2016)

7. (Until we have specific profiles, please use this one for France.) 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. (October 2013)

13. 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. (January 2015)

14. Over 3 in 10 people in Saudi Arabia are 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. (February 2014)

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. King Abdullah recently remarked that there are now around 1.4 million Syrian refugees in his country, or about 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. (November 2014)

17. The turmoil in past decades of civil war and conflicts with neighboring nations led a reported 80% of Lebanon’s population to have been at least temporarily displaced at some point. Now relatively politically stable, Lebanon has become a shelter for many refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless peoples, who make up around 1 in 5 people there. Unlike the other nations in the region, Lebanon has religious freedom, including the freedom to legally change one’s religious affiliation.

Praise God for the freedom and peace which Lebanon currently enjoys. Many Christ-followers left Lebanon during the wars; pray that the Lord will give courage and clear vision to those who remain. Ask God to bring healing across the land and to allow those who follow Christ to lead in extending forgiveness and working towards reconciliation with people from different religious traditions. Pray that the Lord will raise up more pastors and other spiritual leaders so that the Church may be strengthened and grow in maturity. Pray that God’s Word communicated over radio, TV and internet programs will bear fruit among many peoples.

Praise God for the open opportunity to share the good news of Christ with international migrants in Lebanon. Praise Him also for the Bible colleges and seminaries which host students from across the region. Please pray for God’s favor to rest upon our brothers and sisters who are training to become servant-leaders so that the Kingdom may advance. Pray that many Syrians, Iraqis, Kurds and Palestinians will come to know the Creator as their refuge. Pray that the stateless, including children born in Lebanon of refugees and asylum-seekers, will see the Lord’s provision of jobs, healthcare, education and a heavenly country. Pray for the Lord’s protection over 250,000 migrant domestic workers from nations such as Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines; pray that He will bring hope and deliverance to those in dangerous situations. (June 2016)

18. Over 1 in 5 residents in Switzerland are foreign-born, from over 100 nations. Switzerland, one of the wealthiest countries, faces the challenges of an aging Swiss population and the social changes related to high levels of immigration.

Praise God for the unity of Christ-followers in Switzerland across denominations, languages and cultural backgrounds. Praise God for Latino and African congregations who are actively involved in Kingdom outreach.

Ask the Spirit to send renewal among all the churches. Pray for the people of Switzerland to realize the limits of worldly wealth and to pursue treasures that cannot be destroyed or stolen. Pray for youth to find satisfaction in God’s Word. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers among diaspora groups, especially Turks, Kurds and Albanians. (February 2016)

20. 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. (August 2013)

21. (In this entry Antiguans will refer to the people of the country of Antigua and Barbuda.) The Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda consists of two major islands and several smaller ones. Most Antiguans are of West African descent. International migrants make up 28% of the small population of 102,000, one of the largest percentages globally. Most of these are from other Caribbean nations such as Guyana and Jamaica or from the US or UK. Antigua and Barbuda are popular tourist destinations, welcoming visitors from about 180 nations each year.

Praise God that so many Antiguans identify as Christians. Praise God for the freedom of religion within the country. Thank Him for blessing these islands with the wonders of His creation; pray that each person who sets foot in Antigua and Barbuda will encounter the Lord during their stay.

Please pray for Antiguans to seek the Lord as they deal with the impact of COVID-19 on tourism, which is a major part of their economy. Ask God to stir up the spirits of Antiguan Christ-followers for revival. Pray that God will promote brothers and sisters to key positions in government, finance and health care in this season; pray that they would also be able to uproot drug dealing and money laundering. Pray that those who interact with tourists will be led to intercede for them and to share hope and truth when prompted by the Spirit. (July 2020)

22. Brunei Darussalam means “Brunei, the Abode of Peace.” This small, rich nation is on the island of Borneo and made of two areas separated by a Malaysian state. Islam is the official religion; legal allowances for religious freedom are not always followed in practice. About one-fourth of the population are immigrants, mostly from Asia. Another 15% are Chinese, most of whom are stateless because it is very difficult to pass the language requirements for citizenship.

Praise the Lord for blessing Brunei with abundance. Pray for the sultan’s family and the whole country to welcome the Prince of Peace.

Please pray for the stateless Chinese living in Brunei to receive heavenly citizenship. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth Chinese business workers to reach out to the Chinese community in Brunei.

Ask God to make Himself known among all the people groups in Brunei. The immigrants are, as Operation World describes, “Muslim Bangladeshis and Indonesians, Hindu Indians and Nepalis. . ., Buddhist Thai and Catholic Filipinos.” Pray that each one will understand that they can draw close to the Lord (see Acts 10:34-35). (October 2019)

25. (For the purposes of this prayer profile, the term Israel includes the autonomously governed areas of Gaza and the West Bank.)

The recent intensification of the conflict over Gaza has brought the country of Israel back into the world’s spotlight.  Whether a new ceasefire will hold or not, it is only through Christ that the hostility may truly end.  Since biblical times through today, Israel has been a center of migration activity.  Today, migrants from nations as diverse as Yemen, Rwanda, Thailand and Kazakhstan make up around 40% of Israel’s population.

We mourn with and intercede for our brothers and sisters in Christ, including the Jewish congregation whose member was an Israeli soldier killed in action and those in Gaza who have suffered from both persecution by Hamas and Israeli operations to end mortar and rocket attacks.  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 a ceasefire and through turning the hearts of many living in Israel toward Himself. (August 2014)

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