

# MOSAIC CULTURAL MINISTRY

Reaching  
Unreached Peoples  
from  
where you live

John Chung

Bless the Lord  
Oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name



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## [ session 4: Friendship First ]

### Parable of the Unrighteous Steward (Luke 16:1-15)

**“And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings.”**

**Luke 16:9**

It is difficult to understand why the master in this parable praises the steward for the use of "unrighteous wealth" (which contrasts with "true riches" in verse 11). However, the story of the steward who uses the wealth his master entrusted him to make friends - by easing the debt of his master's debtors - is an important lesson to us who live as stewards of God's Kingdom. We are to use the wealth God entrusted us to share the love of the Lord to those who did not hear the Gospel, and do not know Jesus. That is the kind of wise dealings we, as the "people of light" can learn from "the people of this world" who are more "shrewd in dealing with their own kind."



Jesus asks us in verse 11, "If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" That is, those who are trustworthy in handling small things - for example, worldly wealth - will be trustworthy in working for true riches - that is, the Gospel, salvation, eternal life. So, the parable is casting the following question: if we are reluctant to spend the "worldly wealth" given to us to form friendship for the sake of the Gospel, then how could you expect God to entrust us with a greater task in bringing those around us to the Lord.

The reason why people around us often do not know Jesus, or are skeptical, suspicious, or even hostile to Christians, is certainly not because the love that Jesus demonstrated

for us through the cross and the resurrection is insufficient, nor because the power and wisdom God grants us is unable to answer the challenges posed by atheism and other religions. Rather, it may be that we, the stewards of God's Kingdom, are unwilling to use what God has given us - love, faith, talents, wisdom, relationships, health, wealth, time - to bless the people of the world and truly testify the Gospel, only using them for the sake of “ourselves,” and those who are already close to us.

When we look out only for ourselves, and ignore or even hurt our neighbors from other cultures and lands that God has sent us, we not only fail to “make friends,” but increase the “foes” that obstruct the preaching of the Gospel. In doing so, we are being unwise, failing to reach the standard of even the “unrighteous steward.” So, let us repent from the ways, in thoughts, deeds, and responses, we have failed in the past, and seek to become the kind of wise stewards who will share the love of God with our neighbors in everything, so that when we stand before Jesus, He will commend us as His faithful servants and disciples.

## 1. Our New Neighbors from the Ends of the Earth

Year	2011	2036
% of Immigrants / Population in Urban Centers	41.1% (2016)	- Toronto - 46.0%~52.8% - Vancouver - 42.1%~48.5% - Calgary - 32.7%~40.8% - Montreal - 28.4%~34.2% - Winnipeg - 29.2%~40.5%
Per Cities		
Immigrants/ Total Pop. Including 2 <sup>nd</sup> Gen/ Total Pop.	20.7% 38.2%	24.5%~30% 44.2%~49.7% Toronto - 77%~81.4% Vancouver - 69.4%~74%
Per Cities		
% of Immigrants living in Urban Centers	90%	91.7%~93.4%
Per Cities		Toronto – 33.6%~39.1% Montreal – 13.9~14.6% Vancouver – 12.4%~13.1%
Immigrants of Asian origin / Total Immigrant population Incl. Middle Eastern origin European origin	44.8% 70% (2016) 31.6%	55.7%~57.9% 15.4%~17.8%
Non-Christian religions/Total Pop.	9%	13~16% Muslim – 5.6%~7.2% Hindu – 2.5%~2.9% Sikh – 2.3%~2.7%
Per Each Religion		
Number of languages English-Speaking French-Speaking Other	200 languages 58.7% 21.3% 20%	52%~56% 17%~18% 26.1%~30.6%
Population of Canada (2018) Number of People groups (2018)	36,963,854 273 People Groups	

Canada, befitting its characterization of a “mosaic” of diverse ethno-cultures, is where over 273 people groups are living together. Among these, there are around 50 people groups, which are officially classified as “unreached people.” (source: Joshua Project)

It is projected that by 2036, most of the immigrants in Canada, or children of immigrants (91.7%~93.4%) will live in cities, and 44.2%~49.7% of these will be concentrated in major metropolitan areas such as Toronto,

Source: Statistics Canada

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/170125/dq170125b-eng.htm>

Montreal, and Vancouver. Thus, in this upcoming global age, “overseas” mission is no longer the only way to reach out to people groups who never heard the gospel. God has brought them, through immigration, employment and education visas, tourism, and refugee claims, to the reach of “local” mission in our very own cities.

### We can do Mission “Here and Now”



With Nepalese brothers and sisters



Christmas Service and Fellowship with Nepalese Christian community

We tend to think missions are done by missionaries or in mission trips in far away, foreign lands. So, we are blind to the extraordinary missionary opportunities when we meet with people who have come into our everyday life from those lands as refugees, foreign workers, students, and immigrants. We forget that they are the very people we have been called to testify about the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Some of us are well aware of our calling to testify to our new neighbors. However, we may disobey because of a number of reasons. It may be that it is too difficult to reach beyond our cultural boundaries and “comfort-zones.” It may be that we are unwilling to commit to the work and personal sacrifices needed. It may be that we feel we lack the necessary knowledge or qualifications.

This Mosaic Cultural Mission Training is designed to encourage those Christians who face such barriers to their calling, showing them how why life of Mission can be lived out “Here and Now.”

here&  
Now



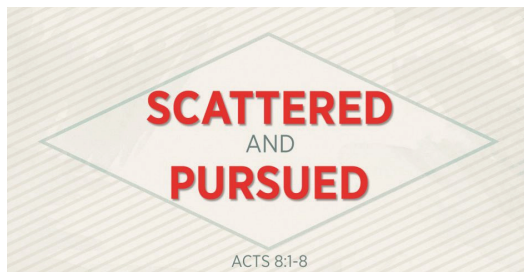
## 2. Going beyond our Boundaries: Form Friendship First

Friendship first, means that it is more important to form a relationship of trust and love, than evangelizing to them without such relationships.

This is not some strategic advice that says “becoming friends” is a good method to evangelize. The Gospel is that Jesus came to us to become our friends and loved us, and so died for us (John 15:13-15). If we separate friendship and relationship of trust and love, from our testimony to the Gospel, we betray our very message.

The story of a friendship with a refugee from Iraq, Ihsan Jaro, who planted the Arabic-speaking church.

The Springtime of My Life has come: <http://www.cmcaallnations.org/our-stories/>



**“On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. ”**

**Acts 8:1**

It is these scattered members of the Church who spread the Gospel beyond Jerusalem. The words “all except the apostles” clearly affirm that sharing the Gospel is not a task given to a few specialists and leaders, but to everyone who belongs to the Lord. Thus, this is a story of the whole church taking the whole Gospel to the whole world.

We are not scattered and pursued like the Church in Acts 8, but, we are called like those believers to step beyond our familiar places and people, to reach out to the unfamiliar people, our new neighbors who have come to us from afar. Our new neighbors, arriving as immigrants, refugees, visa students, and foreign workers, find themselves often alone and unnoticed in unfamiliar lands and culture, without the support or security of friends, families, or community. Like the early Church who shared the Gospel beyond Jerusalem, and beyond fellow Jews, we are called to form friendship in Jesus with such people.

This is not merely an abstract call to love our new neighbors. God calls us to love specific, real individuals He brings into our lives. Jesus loves everyone, but in his life on earth, he poured out his time and life to a specific number of people, such as his twelve disciples. If we approach these new neighbors who God specifically brings into our life, in love and humility, to walk with them and be among them, as Jesus did for us, then they will likewise open their hearts. We believe that this is how God will use us to bring people into His kingdom.

**“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17**

**We cannot demonstrate our love to every person in the world, but we can befriend and love our immediate neighbors.**



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Here are some concrete steps to befriend and share the Gospel with the people of other cultures who God has brought to us.

### **1. Pray to become friends with our new neighbors from other cultures**

**Story of forming friendship with Sue and Frank, who would later start a Thai Church.**

Tears turned to Songs <http://www.cmcaallnations.org/our-stories/>

- Pray that God will lead you to meet and befriend people from other cultures.
- Continue praying for God's guidance, after meeting new neighbors, co-workers, customers, etc. from other cultures.
- Pray for opportunity to share the Gospel, and trust in faith that God will prepare and reveal to you in time the right moment.
- First, love and respect them as friends, rather than mere “targets” for conversion. Pray that God will shape your character accordingly.
- Remember that when we walk with God, we do not compel ourselves to love others; rather, love God places in us will become too compelling for us not to.

## 2. Become friends who love and respect who they are and where they come from

Our new neighbors have left their homes, people, and cultures, and are greatly moved by a friendly hand and hospitality in this new land. This opens a wonderful opportunity to learn about their lives, cultures, and perspectives, which enables us to share and testify to the love of Jesus in appropriate and effective way. Keep in mind these concrete things as you engage them.

- Be there for them in their important life events, like births, weddings, deaths, etc.
- Invite them in activities of common interests – sports, hiking, music, movies, etc.
- Especially for newly arrived immigrants, offer some concrete help regarding living in their new homeland, such as how to use public services, etc.
- Learn specific ways of showing your love that they can recognize and appreciate.
- Learn to understand and respect their people and lands they come from.
- Show humility by seeking to understand their cultures and values.
- Respect their spiritual and religious perspectives, and avoid fruitless arguments.
- If we understand them and respect them, we can better prevent any serious affronts or misunderstandings when we interact with them.
- Moreover, if they are convinced that we love and respect them, they will likely forgive any unintended affronts we may make in the context of their cultures.
- When sharing the Gospel, doing the above may enable us to distinguish for them the Christian Gospel and European culture: showing how one can be Christian without abandoning one's cultural roots.





Photos of different people groups praising God in their own language.

### 3. Share with those in need generously and with love

“All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:44-47

Pray and find what specifically our new neighbors need the most, and seek ways to best meet them.

- Be there for our new neighbors especially in their suffering and hardships.
- The financial principle of this world is to calculated reciprocity; the financial principle of Christ is generous and graceful giving.
- Generous giving in the Lord ought to show that only outstanding debt from our acts is the debt of love; such is the way we interact in the body of Christ.
- When we give to each other in this way, those who give and those who receive both learn to know and trust the Lord.

“For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people.”

2 Corinthians 8:3~4

**“I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.” Psalms 37:25~26**

#### 4. Make time for fellowship and breaking of bread with our new neighbors



Toronto Korean Presbyterian Church holding a joint picnic with churches of other ethnocultural people groups

**“Breaking of bread” – meals and fellowship with neighbors of other cultures**

**“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”**

**Revelations 3:20**



Having tea or coffee, or a meal together is more than just an act of eating and drinking. It is a key way through which one builds a mutual relationship and understanding.

Jesus who dwells in us can indeed stand and knock at the doors of our new neighbors when we eat and drink together with them. Through us, He will tell them that He will likewise eat and drink with them and welcome them as the children of God.

- Have tea or coffee with our new neighbors from other cultures..
- Before, we celebrated meals and special occasions among ourselves; now, let us invite them to our celebrations, and join their celebrations .
- Invite them for fellowship and meals on special days like the New Year, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.
- Share with them special dishes and recipes from our cultures and communities, and in turn learn and share their dishes; this is very effective fellowship.
- Find other venues of fellowship - through picnics, sports, shared hobbies, etc.

## 5. Have meaningful conversations in the Lord with neighbors from other cultures

**“The purposes of a person’s heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.”**  
**Proverbs 20:5**

- Listening is the starting point of friendship. To listen means to hear what the other wants to say with respect before we say what we want; to fully hear what the other seeks to say without interrupting.
- Start with simple greetings and taking time to talk about simple, everyday life (weather, sports, food, language, etc.)
- Be willing to make opportunities to meet regularly - perhaps once or twice a month at least - and exchange contacts like emails.
- Meet regularly to share each other's lives, both good and bad times, and continue to pray for them.
- If they are parents, talk in helpful ways about child-rearing.
- Expand topics of conversations to other helpful or significant topics, such as immigration, jobs, interests, and families.
- Listening is important, because it enables us to ask the right questions at the right time, which will build deeper relationships and lead to deeper conversations.
- When we build a trusting relationship with our neighbors, we will be able to share about our relationship with God, what He has done for us in our lives.

For those who are not fluent-English-speakers, or good with conversations:

- We can still communicate our love in both gestures and attitudes.
- We can better sympathize with the difficulties they are faced with as immigrants and foreign-born nationals. Try to learn common phrases and greetings in their language.
- Those of us who have lived in non-Western, and non-Christian cultures, our testimonies about Jesus will present a very different and compelling witness to our neighbors.

**“To answer before listening—that is folly and shame. ”**

**Proverbs 18:13**

### 3. Nine steps in developing cultural sensitivity and understanding



Group picture of the participants  
of the CMCA Cultural Festival



The Display booth of the Ethno-cultural  
communities participating in the Festival

To form friendship with our neighbors from Diaspora communities, we need to be able to understand their cultures.

1. Even though there are language barriers, we must proactively meet and interact with people from other ethno-cultural communities.
2. We need to respect and show interest in their culture and language. Be aware that they are finding themselves in a foreign land, experiencing culture shock and even fear that they may lose their culture and identity. For those of us who also have immigrant backgrounds, our similar experience can prove invaluable in helping them cope and opening their hearts.
3. Very often, they will retain their names from their cultures. Make effort to learn how to pronounce these names accurately; being able to say their names as accurately as our own will be meaningful to them.
4. Be sensitive to the pride and value they place on their countries of origin. An attitude of superiority or disrespect toward the culture or economic standard of their land is corrode your relationships.
5. The differences in cultures is not a simple matter of “better” or “worse.” It is important to strive for attitude of mutual-respect and learning. Different cultures coming and working together as a “mosaic.”
6. When communicating in English to those who are unfamiliar with the language (which will most often be the case), speak in shorter, simpler phrases, with slow and clear pronunciation. Be patient when it takes them time to understand. For those of us for whom English is also a second language, communicating with patience in this way will also build sympathetic bonds.



7. We must demonstrate our sincerity in our concern and desire to help.
8. Prioritize listening to them and understanding them, rather than having them understand what we say.
9. Be very careful in making promises, and be watchful in occasions where any misunderstanding can occur.

## 4. Befriend and share the Gospel with international students and youths

According to a survey in 2004, out of the Christians who came to faith in Jesus, 77% of them did so before the age of 21. The study indicated the importance of sharing the Gospel to people when they are younger and more open to different beliefs and changes to their lives.



**Life of Death: International Students in North America, and the dictator and the architect of the Cambodian Killing Fields, Pol Pot**

**Lesson from Pol Pot:** Pol Pot was a dictator in Cambodia and an architect of the Killing Fields, where over 2.5 million of his countrymen were killed for ideological reasons through systematic killing and starvation. In his youth,

Pol Pot went to study in France, where he became a Marxist, and went on to cause one of the most brutal tragedies in the 20th century. What if during his studies, someone had reached out to him with the love of Jesus and shared with him the Gospel? Could it not have changed the destiny of millions in his homeland?

Pol Pot's life is a sobering example of the importance of sharing the love of our Lord to the international students and youths who will lead the paths to tomorrow.

**Consider what such outreach means:**

- **It is to evangelize Leaders of tomorrow:**

Schools - especially universities - raise leaders of the future. This is even more true if the students have come to North America for better education, hoping to bring what they learn back to their homelands. If they meet Jesus here, they will transform the world.

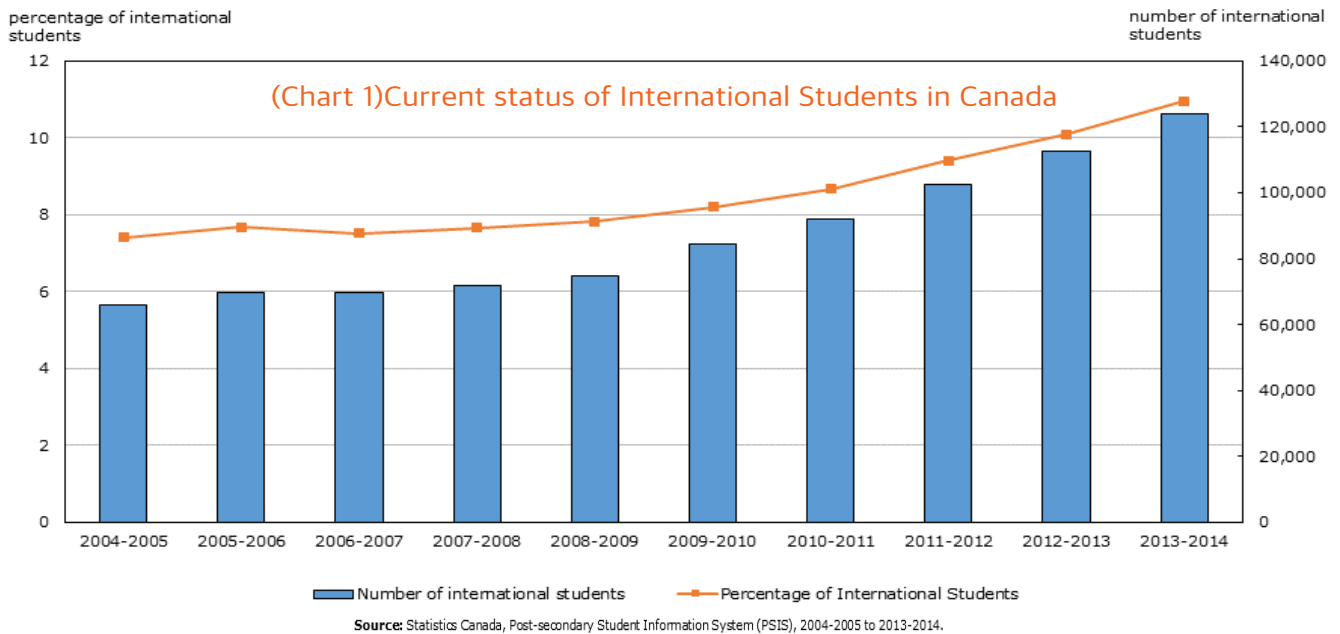


- It is to evangelize families through them

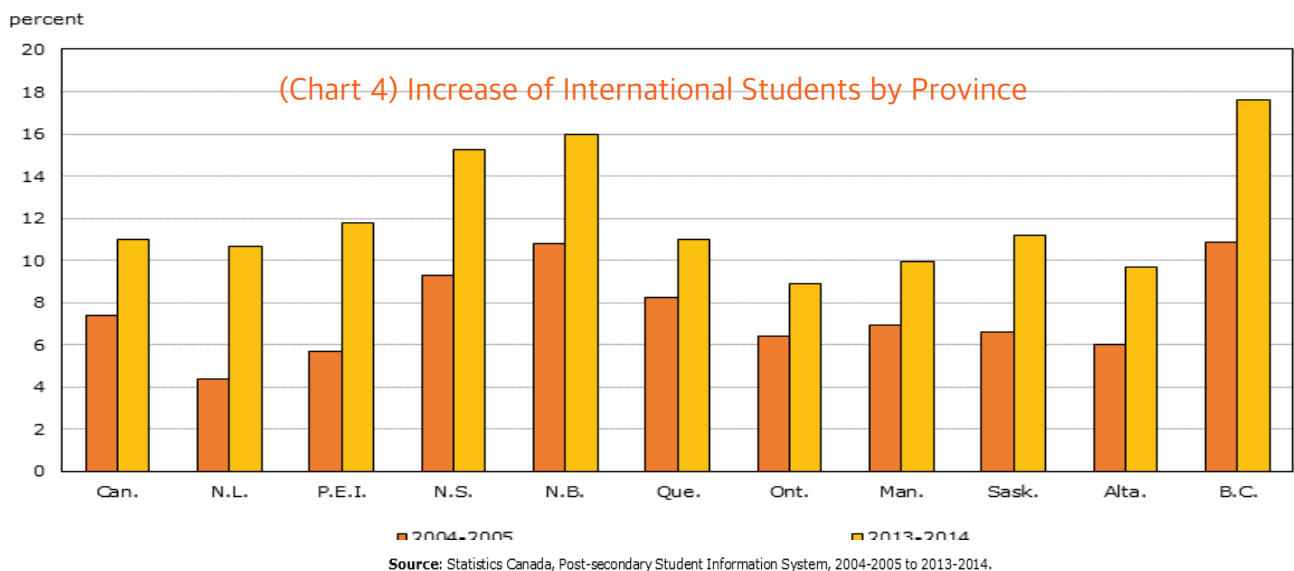
It is during their time as students that people are open to change - and thus, in case of international students, open to the Gospel. There are many reported testimonies where the youths who came to faith in Jesus eventually bring their families back home to to faith as well.

- It is to evangelize the world through them

Universities, colleges, and other schools in North America are increasingly receiving students from all over the world, from diverse ethno-cultural groups. To share the Gospel with them is to reach peoples and nations far beyond our borders.



The percentage of international students in Canadian universities have increased from 7% (2004~2005) of all the students in Canada, to 11% (2013~2014); the numbers of the international students have risen from 66 000 (2004-2005) to 124 000 (2013-2014). This is an increase of 88% in that period, compared to the increase of 22% among Canadian students. (See Chart 1)



From the academic years 2004~2005 to 2013~2014, the increase of international students by province in Canada were as follows (chart 4). British Columbia saw 6.7%, Atlantic Provinces (Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick) saw between 5.2 to 6.3% and Saskatchewan saw 4.6% increase in international student numbers. Every province, in fact, saw significant increase. In the year 2013~2014, percentage of university students who were international students were 8.9%, 9.7%, 10.0% for Ontario, Albert, and Manitoba respectively, which were nevertheless lowest out of the provinces. The highest were British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia with 17.6%, 16.0%, 15.3% respectively. (See Chart 4)

### Status of International Students in the United States of America

In a recent study, there were 886 052 international students in the U.S. Out of these, 62% of them were from the “10/40 Window” nations, which have nearly no presence of Gospel-preaching churches. 451 568 students from these regions, from 68 countries, are studying in the U.S. The top ten nations from which the international students have come to study in the U.S. – in descending order – were as follows: China, India, South Korea, Canada, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Vietnam, Mexico, Turkey.

Over 40% of national leaders (presidents, prime ministers, etc.) of the 220 or so countries in the world have studied abroad more than once in the U.S. Yet, 80% of international students in North America have never been invited to an American home, and all throughout the 4 years

of study, over 85% of them have never been invited to a mainline church nor had any meaningful interaction with a Christian. Only 10% of the students have heard the Gospel during their stay in America. These statistics again are sobering indications of what kind of difference it would make if we reach out to these international students in love and share the Gospel with them; what difference would it make for them to return with the Gospel to their families, their communities, and their homelands? (Source: TheTravelingTeam.org - International Students in USA, 2013~2014)

Of course, international students are but one such significant group we have discussed in this session, along with those God has sent us as immigrants, foreign workers, and refugees. Many of these new neighbors want new relationship in their new land, and their hearts are open to those who would open their lives to them. Thus, to go to them when they are in need, to befriend them, talk with them, and walk with them, to be their spiritual friends and sometimes even mentors, are a powerful way to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

## **5. Find fellow Christians among the new friends from other cultures who will join us in this vision of Mosaic Cultural Ministry and Mission**

When we have formed genuine friendship with our neighbors from other ethno-cultural communities that have settled in our land, and when we share the Gospel with them, God will lead some of them to faith in Jesus. If they become our brethren in Jesus, we must all the more pray for them and serve them in order to raise them up to be true disciples of Jesus.

If their faith matures and they become disciples of Jesus, we should encourage them so that they may in turn share the Gospel with their people and raise up a church in their culture and language. When they are called by God to proclaim the Gospel, it is very important to share in their vision, and partner with them in their work.

Let us apply what we Learn: Reach out to neighbors, students or fellow workers that God leads us to, and build a friendship with them; invite them over for coffee or meals.

### **Prayer:**

**Lord, until now, we have only sought company among the people we were comfortable with - our families and our old friends - and often ignored those you have sent into our lives. We are sorry and we repent.**

**Holy Spirit, enable us and guide us to reach out and build friendship with our new neighbors from different cultures, so that we may show them the love of the Lord. We pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.**