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BECAUSE WE MUST
PARCE QUE NOUS DEVONS



PHILOXENIA: EMBRACING NEWCOMERS

NEWCOMERS TO CANADA: OUR HISTORY, OUR PRESENT AND OUR FUTURE

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Do we, as individuals and congregations, demonstrate this true mark of being Christ-imitators?

The Holy Spirit, by Paul, writing to the Church in Rome, provides us with quite a list. In the midst of this list, following “*Contribute to the needs of the saints,*” includes what is often translated as “*and show hospitality*” (Romans 12:13, ESV).

Hospitality, here in its root, is an interesting conjunctive in the Greek and of powerful significance that we often miss: *philoxenia* – hospitableness, entertain strangers, hospitality; lover of strangers (g5381, from g5382); *philoxenos* – fond of guests, given to (love of, use) hospitality. Not just “set a nice table,” but the expression of the heart and spirit: agape’ love toward those who are new, different, unknown, “strangers” to us.

In an almost repeat of the Romans 12:13 sequence, Hebrews 13:1-2a again commissions us: “*Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality...*” As much as we know and assume the first regarding fraternal affection (*philadelphia*) to abound in Christ’s church, so also we are to abound in love of strangers (*philoxenia*) in Christ’s church, too. And with the added benefit, “*for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*” The emphasis of the verse isn’t on angels; it’s on our demonstrated character, behaviour: **Be known for your love of strangers!**

SCRIPTURE ISN'T TALKING ABOUT YOUR BUILDING, WORSHIP SERVICE OR OUR SUNDAY HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

We know, too, historically that church buildings won't enter into the mix for more than three centuries. **Thus, these passages are *not talking about being friendly in our welcoming of visitors to our worship services on Sunday mornings***. The demeanour of our greeters and ushers doesn't even enter into this picture.

What does?

This is the character of believers, full of the Spirit, who *"day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved"* (Acts :46-47 ESV).

We need to redeem the Spirit-filled practice of loving strangers in ourselves the 21st century.

How do we do that?

HOW PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT AND APOSTOLIC ADVANCEMENT LEADS TO CHURCH REVITALIZATION

In this paper I seek to share the Word, my heart, the vision and reiterate the prophetic, apostolic call to the Church in Canada to excel in this grace of the Holy Spirit: Philoxenia. Why? Newcomers to Canada are our historic reality, our current reality, and our future reality...and the ultimate reality of the Church standing before the Throne in Revelation 7:9. Until that day, the Spirit and the Bride cry "Come, Lord Jesus!" And let us speed His coming! (2 Peter 3:12).

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ARE WE MISSING SOMETHING God has intentionally embraced?

When Christmas rolls around, we sometimes like to include that Jesus was a refugeeⁱ. He was a foreigner, the alien, the sojourner in Egypt. And that his experience was yet another prophetic fulfillment pointing to his Messianic nature: Only He can fulfill all the prophecies combined.

We like to quote Peter, inspired of the Spirit, to characterize ourselves as ⁱⁱ“aliens and strangers, and Paul when, by the Spirit, he says we are ⁱⁱⁱ“citizens of heaven and not here on earth.

While Israel was repeatedly commanded to love the foreigner (not shortchange them, discriminate against, shun, fail to provide for, and incredibly so much more) they were even literally, legally commanded to provide means of full acceptance and status in civic and religious life, God’s prophetic vision for Israel and immigrants went profoundly further: In Ezekiel 47, the redivision of post-exilic Israel moving back into the land, God commands immigrants among Israel be treated with absolute equality and inclusion. Radical hardly encompasses God’s heart, intent and embrace.

Indeed, immigrants – whether termed foreigners, aliens, or sojourners, etc. – are consistently present in God’s mind, in His heart, and in His pronouncements and parables from beginning to end. They’re present from the scope Abrahamic covenant – ^{iv}“*through your offspring all the nations of the earth will be blessed*” - to Apostle John’s revelation of heavenly worship twice – ^v“*and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.*”

Like leaving salt out of your bread or stew, the local church today without the immigrant tastes flat.

MORE THAN MEAT LOVES SALT: When we include all the ingredients, the soup tastes better and feeds more.

Life is better together. How often we say that. Because God made it true like that. God has always known, always loved, always embrace and included all peoples in His body, both Old covenant and New. The European tale of ^{vi}“stone soup” reflects this truth: Everyone adds something, and together it feeds everyone. And even more it’s like one of my wife’s favourite tales which seems to have found its way into cultures from Hebrews to the Hebrides: A father has three daughters. “How much do you love me?” he asks them. The first says “More than all the gold and silver in the kingdom.” This pleases him. He looks to the next, wondering what she’ll say: “More than all the precious gems in the world.” As pleased as Punch, he turns to his youngest, who says, “More than meat loves salt.” Harumph. This did not please him at all. Yet she, as youngest, was the cook for all, too. So, she prepared a lavish meal and expensive roast...without salt. “What’s wrong with this meal?! What’s wrong with this cooking! It’s terrible! What’s wrong with you, daughter?” “Father, I love you more than meat loves salt.” And the old father, humbled before the simple and profound wisdom of his daughter, broke into tears and a smile.

God’s table and lavish meal invites and includes everyone. When we *intentionally* include everyone, we’re god-like: we exhibit the aroma of Christ, full of salt and flavour. W. It’s wonderfully distracting, like the smell of fresh baking bread. It’s attractive, like the bakery window filled with delicious delights. When we’re intentionally inclusive of immigrants, the nature of Christ in us is on full display and the world takes notice, too.

BEYOND “UNINTENTIONALLY MULTICULTURAL” to Apostolic Growth & Revitalization

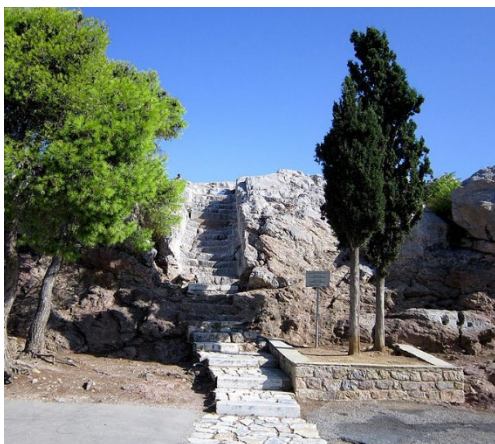
The Church, even from the day of Pentecost, was multicultural: Just look at all the ^{vii}nations present and hearing the praises of God in their local tongues. At least 15 are mentioned. All Jewish? Evidently, yet perhaps not all Hebrew, but rather all multicultural, for “language is the mother of culture.” The early Church also, pressed by the Spirit and persecution, spread every direction throughout the Roman Empire and beyond, further demonstrating the embrace of

Gentiles and the supernaturally-natural growth without regard for ethnic, linguistic nor world-view differences. If anything, like Paul, they embraced with apostolic intentionality and fervour the use of ^{viii}all things by all means so as to win some.

Our perception in history is warped, viewed through the lens of majority populations, having filtered out – intentionally or unintentionally – minority populations and diversity, with usually characteristic discrimination of refugees, immigrants, aliens and sojourners, all for the ease and domination politically, economically and culturally. Yet only in the most remote places of earth have populations remained isolated and unmixed culturally for limited periods of time. We’ve always been mixed and mixing. Cultures and especially languages demonstrate the begging, borrowing and stealing of other-culture words and concepts.

David Wells has often used the term “unintentionally multicultural” to describe what happened to many of our churches, particularly urban and suburban, during the 90’s and early 2000’s. Visible diversity fed into our congregations, but more by osmosis than intentionally. God’s intent is always purposeful, leading to the greatest in health and vitality.

Prophetic/apostolic/biblical vision reveals God has always been behind immigration.



The Areopagus, Athens. © Pieter De Praetere, used under a creative commons license.

Paul, the traveler and sojourner through his apostolic journeys, making his way down the peninsular mainland and later through the Pelloponnese, arrived in Athens to the Areopagus where they ^{ix}“spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.” Herein the Spirit through Paul demonstrates the Gospel-oriented intent of people movements from the beginning of time, ^x“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.” ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.” God Himself has marked out the when’s and where’s of nationalities’ sojourns in particular plots on His earth. He, the author of history itself, has been intentionally moving people across the earth SO THEY WILL SEEK HIM (not so sorry to shout in my excitement!).

We need a biblical vision of immigration and newcomers to Canada. We need to see that God is moving them here – many from places where it’s unlikely they will hear the Gospel – to Canada SO THAT they will hear the Gospel. From you. From me. To be made disciple-making-disciples in our local churches.

APOSTOLIC INTENTIONALITY - LOCAL MISSIOLOGICAL FULFILLMENT - LEADS TO REVITALIZATION

We love Jesus’ words in Acts 1:8. As Pentecostals, we quote it often, and rightly so. I wonder, however, if there’s a bit of a gap in our thinking and application: We emphasize the first part – receiving power with Holy Spirit infilling – and the middle part – we’ll be His witnesses – and even the end part, thinking of our missions sending, giving, praying, reporting, etc. looking at the ends of the earth. We know that our Jerusalem is our area and people typically like us. We may recognize our Judea as our wider area with people still like us.

But do we have a Samaritans gap... or, perhaps, more of a Samaritan blind spot?

Who are our Samaritans today? People near us, but not like us. And we recognize again God’s inclusive drive for the stranger. It’s no surprise that the single most detailed conversation of Jesus’ witness about himself is with a Samaritan, a woman, a woman of questionable reputation, a person who in Jewish eyes is corrupt in her being – mixed blood – and corrupted in her religion. Different. Not the same. Shunned. To be avoided. Yet I love Jesus’ heart expressed in John’s words, “*And He had to pass through Samaria.*” No, He didn’t. He didn’t “have to” like there wasn’t any other way. The Jews did it all the time, taking the long way round to avoid going through Samaria. *Yuck. Then we might have to engage with them and become unclean.*



Lorie Shaull, Flickr, creative commons license

Jesus “had to” because His heart, the Father’s heart, the Spirit’s leading, compelled him to. He had to.

We have to, too. But let’s face it. Apostolic intentionality – reaching people across cultural differences – is difficult for us. We’re often like the disciples: It’s uncomfortable engaging in someone else’s worldview. And, like the disciples, we need to walk with Jesus through Samaria and intentionally to Samaritans – to those not like us. Watching Jesus, we learn. And we will experience, too, what He and the disciples did as well: A person impacted by the person and message of Jesus, sharing and gathering others, remaining with them and enjoying their hospitality, and seeing multiple people come to faith in Jesus!

In principle we know this: The more we walk in alignment with the Spirit and the Word, the more we experience the greater presence, power and fruitfulness. Thus, as we walk in greater alignment and intentionality toward Samaritans, immigrants, newcomers, aliens, strangers, newcomers-to-Canada, the greater will be the presence, power and fruitfulness of the Spirit’s work in us individually and collectively as local churches. I saw this in my own congregation, too: As we engaged with newcomers to Canada through an ^xESL-Conversation Circles (ESL-CC), the sudden influx of new people on a midweek evening excited the believers. Further encouragement came as newcomers began, through both invitation and osmosis, moving over into our Sunday services. Great joy always came as newcomers became new believers. And newcomers and new believers frequently invite and bring more newcomers. And presto: A nearly-100-year-old, tired congregation of mostly more-than-middle-aged began experiencing revitalization.

THE NEW POST-PANDEMIC LOCAL-CHURCH EXPERIENCE

Our churches nationwide are experiencing something refreshingly new in this season of post-pandemic reopening:

- **Pre-pandemic**, many were still largely mono-cultural
- **Mid-pandemic**, 30% disappeared, 30% transferred, and 40% remained
- But something else happened during the pandemic: **Pent-up demand** for in-person experiences
- **Post-pandemic**, churches are experiencing an influx of people new to the church, and many of them are newcomers to Canada, too.

Has the Holy Spirit cleaned house? Has He just made room literally and metaphorically in our hearts and social circles? Are we going to move where and in the direction the Spirit is moving?

While we’ve all heard and many have seen the realities that

- a) **Canada today is overwhelmingly a population of immigrants:** We're multicultural. Even regarding our **First Nations**, they're multicultural, too: It doesn't honour the unique beauty of each of our First Nation cultures to think of them as a homogenous whole. They're not. They never have been. We must celebrate each of these even as we celebrate all our other cultural backgrounds from around the world.
- b) **The present reality of Canada is multicultural:** Approx. 41% of Canadians are either foreign-born or at least one of their parents was ^{xii}born outside Canada, and ^{xiii}24% of Canadian households dialogue in cultural languages.
- c) **The future reality of Canada – and the Church – are multicultural:** ^{xiv}We continue as the G7 country with the fastest population growth rate due almost entirely due to immigration! And it will continue as such (cf. ^{xv}[here](#)).

Biblically we know this: In Revelation 5:9 and 7:9 we're given a picture of the population of heaven before the throne: ^{xvi}*"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes..."*

FAITH-FILLED STEPS: Missiology Expressed Locally

As the Spirit and love of Christ compels you to lead your congregation or friendship group to intentionally reach out to newcomers to Canada, how do you get started? What are the faith-filled steps that will lead us to fruitfulness?

Some pastors have been led to orient much of their church life around serving the needs of immigrants, like:

- **BP Church in the Calgary area**, <https://www.bpchurch.ca/ccm>, with ministries such as:
 - A Place at the Table, hosting intercultural dinners in members' homes
 - ESL Bible studies and ESL Conversation Circles
 - Various kinds of ESL ministries, including a full ESL school
- **Toronto Christian Community Church**, an evangelical Chinese church, purchased a neighbouring 47K sq ft commercial space and to create the **105 Gibson Centre** to minister in wholistic outreach and social concern, also strongly engaged with newcomers to Canada. Be inspired at: <https://105gibson.com/>
- **People's Church**, Toronto, has both a refugee ministry pastor and newcomers ministry pastor. Find them and all the ministries they're doing to engage and support at: <https://thepeopleschurch.ca/newcomers-network/>

Here are ways to step forward in faith-filled steps to open your congregation to abound in this grace of *philoxenia*:

Web:

Invite newcomers specifically, intentionally, and serve their needs with links to resources as well as ministries in your congregation. Be inspired by these examples. If you're just getting started, you won't launch all these at once. What's better is this: Engage newcomers in your area. Explore conversationally their needs. Ask how you can come alongside them. Don't do it all for them, but empower them, resource them. The Gospel will come through.

- **Sandra McIntosh, Bethel Church, Ottawa**, has launched into this digitally with a **Welcome to Canada** page <https://bethel.ca/welcometocanadaenglish/>. And she's given permission to all to copy all relevant data from the page (and add your local resource links) and start your own:
 - Sharing the multi-national nature of their congregation (currently 55+ nations), helping inquirers potentially see themselves as welcomed.
 - Links to government of Canada guides for newcomers to Canada
 - Welcome to Canada get-to-know-you form

- **Nelson Chang, People’s Church, Toronto**, has a well-developed webpage for all their ministries oriented to engaging and supporting newcomers to Canada. Be inspired at: <https://thepeopleschurch.ca/newcomers-network/>
- **Include the text of language groups in your area** and thus be found in Google search results, e.g., Ukrainian, Punjabi (Pakistan & India) or Tagalog (Philippines), etc. This will get your site into the results appearing before newcomers searching the web in their own language for resources in your area. See the next bullet point for how to research what language groups are landing and growing in your area.
- **Consult Statistics Canada to research** census data, including language and/or religious groups concentrated in your area. **We at Mission Canada can assist you with this research if needed:** Contact Charles Hermelink, Cultural Language Priority Coordinator: charles.hermelink@paoc.org
 - StatsCan link: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

Worship:

- **Visible diversity on the platform.** Yes, we’ve been aware of this one for some time, yet the challenge is to be more intentional in this direction, beyond just what is visible, to the following as well...
- **Musical inclusion:** Include musical styles in your weekly worship line up. **Chris Padiath and Waterloo Pentecostal Assembly** have been leading the way in this regard. <https://wpa.church/>
- **Facilitate cultural gatherings:** **Steve Swartwood, Glad Tidings in Burlington** <https://www.gtburlington.org/>, among others, have gone the route of cultural fellowship groups rather than spawning distinct and separate cultural language congregations. These facilitate an inclusive and engaged celebration over segregation.

Ministry:

- **EQUIP YOUR CONGREGATION: Your CROSS-CULTURAL DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY**
 - **STEP 1: Vision Cast** via your biblical preaching of God’s thread of care and inclusion for the immigrant, stranger, alien, sojourner in our midst from Genesis to Revelation. Highlight:
 - the strong New Testament theme of how we who are gentiles are those “outsiders” now included in the family of God, and
 - how the gospel breaks down walls of ethnic, etc., division and build healthy inclusivity and celebration of our uniqueness’s in God’s kingdom worldview both now and in heaven.
 - And that this openness expressed in your congregation leads to fulfillment not only of Jesus’ great commission but also his great command (Gal. 5:14), personal growth and congregational revitalization.
 - **Be sure to include this critical step:** Vision cast to bring your Board onboard first. Use the **Embracing Newcomers** video seminar (see step 2 below) with them first. Be sure you have 80% or better buy-in with your board (avoid uniformity paralysis.)
 - **STEP 2: Discipling Your Congregation.** While we know in principle that we should be welcoming and embracing of all peoples, it’s quite another thing to walk it out on either personal or congregational bases. We cannot assume our fellow worshippers will naturally or even supernaturally blossom into this. The five-fold leadership roles are given by the Spirit to lean in and lead all into this. Here are resources – smaller steps that build precept upon precept – into cross-cultural discipleship:

- **STEP 2A: Embracing Newcomers** video seminar with TV Thomas, available for free download with a printable notes handout (PDF) and Q&A videos at: <https://paoc.org/canada/videos-resources/embracing-newcomers> Dr. Thomas lays out in 45 minutes a beautiful and comprehensive Biblical view of God’s love and inclusion for newcomers from Genesis to Revelation, and what it means for each of us. *After running this stand-alone event, ask for those who the Holy Spirit is moving in them to take the next step with the following:*
- **STEP 2B: Welcoming the Nations Among Us** is a 6-week small group preparatory study available from the Center for Mission Mobilization: www.mobilization.org/welcoming It capitalizes on the foundation laid in Embracing Newcomers, taking participants deeper in personally unpacking and building what is needed in our own heart-mind-spirit to engage openly, warmly, without prejudice, and in a spirit of learning from people around the world who have much to offer us as well.

Additionally, consider using **video-based materials** from ministry coalitions such as Every International, <https://everyinternational.com/about/>: “EveryInternational is a training initiative that is the collaboration of international student ministries across North America with years of experience living and ministering cross-culturally.” Though the materials are oriented toward international university students, all the principles are the same for non-student newcomers to Canada, too. Sign up for free access to their resources on their website. And these are available through [RightNow Media](#) as well.

- **STEP 2C: Pray.** This is included as an intentional step here while assuming you’ve been bathing this in prayer communally from the beginning. It’s intentional here because a) “spiritual things are advanced spiritually” (cf. 1 Cor. 2:13-15) and we must be led of the Spirit in both timing and means, and b) because we need to disciple our congregants in this aspect of ministry, too (cf. Psalm 127:1; John 14:6; John 6:44; John 16:8).
- **STEP 3: Research, strategy and launch your ministry team** of passionate Spirit-filled/led believers in relationship building, serving and growing engagement both within your congregation and those immediately outside. These lay the foundation for not only sharing the gospel, but lovingly explaining and demonstrating the gospel in a way they can understand it in their cultural context.
 - **STEP 3A:** Research - while you pray and continue praying, asking for wisdom and direction - by meeting with cultural language group leaders in your area. Introduce yourself. Ask about their experiences landing in Canada. Inquire what are their needs. Ask how you may be able to come alongside to assist them, rather than above them to provide top-down for their needs.
 - **STEP 3B:** Strategize together WITH those in need. Operate in the manner of “*nothing about us without us.*” Make sure those in need are always part of the conversation, decisions, planning and implementation. Avoid the “great white saviour” complex. And thereby also restore their agency and build new identity and places of belonging in Canadian society. Always minister from an invitational approach, not an impositional approach: The gospel is always present in us and expressed in all we do in deed first and word seeded throughout, yet without the requirement that they must become Christians to receive. We give with open arms, open hearts and open mouths in conversation. The Holy Spirit calls whom He will. And He will!
 - **Resources:** [When Helping Hurts](#), Corbett & Fikkert, Moody

- **STEP 3C:** Seek to build relationally more than building a program or ministry: Relationships before structures, for it is in relationships that discipleship happens. Use structure only as needed to support relationship and community building. We need to seek from the beginning to move beyond a transactional engagement with newcomers to Canada and into an ongoing relationship-building basis.
 - Go for it! You can do this. And we're here to help. How can we resource and cheer you on?!
- **ENGLISH-LANGUAGE HELP:** A significant minority of immigrants, especially among non-wage earners (e.g., spouse of wage earners, children, parents), need to grow in English or French language proficiency. Thus, ESL related ministries are one of (if not the) primary ministry avenues for Christians to purposefully engage newcomers to Canada in their area.

For refugees, federal government funding is available for their basic ESL/FSL classes, but not for all other classes of newcomers to Canada: Thus, most newcomers need basic ESL/FSL support.

If you've ever taken formal study in a foreign language, you'll recall that it is the informal exercise of practice in that language that leads to true proficiency and fluency. **This is good news for churches:** Although some churches have moved very well in this area, the less-resource intensive ESL-Conversation Circles (ESL-CC) programs serve to meet immigrant's needs to practice English or French language in a conversational setting also serves our need to engage relationally with not-yet-believers, wherein gospel-sharing comes about naturally.

- Launch and promote your ESL-CC on all social media platforms and via meeting apps such as MeetUP, Facebook, Instagram, etc.
- Use freely available resources from skilled practitioners such as
 - S. Ontario Cooperative for ESL Ministries (SOCEM) <https://eslministries.org/resources/>
 - Alberta's Cooperative for ESL Ministries (CESLM) <https://eslcooperative.ca/resources/>
 - ELLII <https://ellii.com/lessons>
 - Local church examples:
 - BPchurch.ca <https://www.bpchurch.ca/ccm>
 - Gateway Church, Winnipeg <https://www.gatewaywinnipeg.com/eal>
 - Rick and Patti Love, Foothills Alliance Church, Calgary, and their ministry site specifically: <https://www.lovenewcanadians.ca/>
 - Bibles in 4,598 languages! <https://inscript.org>
- Email me to gain access to an even broader list of ESL related resources online!

Churches engaging in meeting this are fulfilling a critical need, easing newcomers' social acclimatization process, providing a warm and friendly environment wherein they can build a new social network, and the safe space to explore and discover the Good News of Jesus Christ!

- **REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT & LANDING, ACCLIMATION AND/OR ENGAGEMENT:**
 - **Sponsor a refugee!** Contact MissionCanada@paoc.org for more information. Our fellowship is a SAH (Sponsorship Agreement Holder) with the Canadian government, resettling refugees from around the world. Allocations are limited, however: Speak to us *before* you commit your congregation to sponsor!
 - **Start or reorient your congregation's care ministries** to welcoming and supporting the needs of refugees and newcomers to Canada: Almost all newly landed immigrants need personal and practical support to reorient their lives to life in Canada, including:

- **Housing:** Provide or assist in finding and advocating for newcomer housing
 - **Household set up:** Furniture, bedding, kitchenware, etc.
 - **School:** From elementary to university, help in navigating the process of registering children for school to supporting international students in colleges and universities (these often face terrific challenges from loneliness, even hunger, language-acquisition, and more). Contact Mission Canada's Campus Ministries to engage with our existing missionaries on campuses nationwide. ServeCampus@paoc.org or John.Engels@paoc.org
 - **Government:** Assist with getting driver's licenses, how to register to vote, and much more.
 - **Medical:** Assist with how to navigate our healthcare system in your province, from finding family doctors, walk-in clinics, hospitals and the emergency room, support for new parents, car seats, medical crises, aging parents, etc., and so much more.
 - And more: How is the Holy Spirit opening doors for your congregation to engage with newcomers to Canada? Let us know and share your story, too.
 - **CONSULT WITH EXISTING, WELL-PERFORMING MINISTRIES TO REFUGEES**, such as:
 - EFC's refugee news and resource pages: <https://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/refugees>
 - Micah House, Hamilton <https://www.micahhouse.ca/>
 - International Association for Refugees Canada <https://www.iafr.ca/>
 - Adam House, Toronto: <https://www.adamhouse.org/>
- **GOSPEL-SHARING IN MANY LANGUAGES (right here in Canada!):**
 - As you and your congregation move this direction, you'll move to the front line of Gospel sharing even among the least-reached who God has brought to Canada (that was His purpose in doing so, cf. Acts 17:26-27). But of course, we're all *not* experts in cross-cultural communication nor the ins and outs of every culture we encounter. What to do?
 - Go to <https://www.indigitube.tv/> to utilize gospel presentations in *hundreds* of languages!
 - Bibles in 4,598 languages! <https://inscript.org>

A CONCLUDING ENCOURAGEMENT

Newcomers to Canada are the historic reality,
the current reality, and future reality of not just the nation,
but the Church in Canada, too;
It is our path in the Kingdom advancement,
and our destination to the foot of the Throne.

The Bride of Christ, his Church, is beautiful: It is world-encompassing of all peoples. It is more than multicultural in visible manifestation; it is intercultural in expression and health-filled dynamism. All people are welcomed. All people and cultures are embraced. All are included and we all humble ourselves together, equally, before the Father, the Lamb and his throne, submitting ourselves to the ministry of His Spirit. Any means by which we can serve you and your congregation toward the embodiment of this biblical, heavenly vision now, we're here to serve. May you be blessed as you seek the Father's face and heart, and the expression of his agape' will, through His body of which you are a part, so that all many come, see, believe and worship Him, too.

Why? Because we must. And we're here as Mission Canada to help. How can we help you today?

Charles Hermelink

Mission Canada **Cultural Language Priority Coordinator**



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ⁱ Matthew 2:13-23

ⁱⁱ 1 Peter 2:11

ⁱⁱⁱ Philippians 3:20

^{iv} Genesis 26:4

^v Revelation 5:9 & 7:9

^{vi} <https://stonesoup.com/about-the-childrens-art-foundation-and-stone-soup-magazine/history-of-the-stone-soup-story-from-1720-to-now/>

^{vii} Acts 2:8-10

^{viii} 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

^{ix} Acts 17:21

^x Acts 17:26-27, emphasis added

^{xi} ESL-CC is like an ESL-lite program; not heavy on curriculum but rather the emphasis on conversation and fellowship; this is the social context needed for developing ESL proficiency which benefits newcomers in the areas of social adaptation, education and employment. It also happens to be the environment for life, Gospel-sharing and disciple-making to happen.

^{xii} <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/170125/dq170125b-eng.htm>

^{xiii} <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/dv-vd/language-langue/index-en.html>

^{xiv} <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220209/dq220209a-eng.htm?HPA=1>

^{xv} <https://www.cbcnews.com/2022/08/study-immigration-to-drive-canadas-population-increase-into-2068-0830198.html#gs.g6g11v>

^{xvi} Revelation 7:9, emphasis added