

On Mission 2019

*The State of the Global Gospel:
Present and Future Trends*

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Hi, my name is Rachel Jackson and I am the Unreached People Groups Advocate for Foursquare Missions International. When I consider God's movement of peoples, I'm reminded of the movement of Israel from Egypt to the promised land. In their sojourning, God demonstrated His power on behalf of Israel to the surrounding people groups. God's reputation will always go before Him and in the case of Israel, His reputation of His mighty acts reached a very unlikely Canaanite outsider. Rahab heard of God's mighty acts. As He dried up the Red Sea, He defeated the Amorite Kings. On the other side of that wall, Rahab was an outsider of Israel who was part of God's redemptive plan to bring about deliverance not only to her but her whole household. Well, she's also part of God's plan for Salvation for the world. And as we know, that she was the first Gentile in the genealogy of Jesus. And she was a mighty woman of faith in Hebrews 12.

God's plan to bringing the displaced and outsiders into His family will often transpire in the most unlikely ways. In the case of Rahab, her declaration of faith set her apart from the impending destruction of Jericho. And this woman who was once an outsider, she was now going to be an insider in God's family. God will continue to remind Israel that they were once displaced and foreigners. And because of that, that they were to always welcome the stranger and the foreigner. Similar to the act of hospitality that Rahab demonstrated to the spies, acts of hospitality would become an essential ethos of Israel, and an example for us to follow today. Among the displaced, we have amazing opportunities to compassionately love populations of people with radical acts of hospitality. The global harvest and the scattering of people is a Kairos moment for the Gospel to go forth among diaspora communities to be welcomed and gathered into God's family. But it's also a Kairos moment for diaspora populations to be on mission together to reach people on their own communities and beyond.

These diaspora communities' disciples are being made, indigenous churches are being planted in the power of the Holy Spirit is a driving force of many of these disciple-making and church-planting movements. With the presence of many people groups in Jerusalem during the time of Pentecost. Luke tells us in Acts 2, that they heard the mighty deeds of God in their own language. And after the Pentecost and the martyr Stephen, the advancement of the Gospel became an unstoppable force, and they are right into the Roman Empire, into the ends of the earth. And today, God has brought the ends of the earth to our Jerusalem's. With refugees, immigrants, and migrants, and international students, they are our opportunities to reach the un-

reached who will in turn, make disciples who will make disciples. Today there's over 25 million people around the world that are displaced from their homes and in times of persecution and displacement, there's a receptivity and an openness to the Gospel. In this case, I'm encouraged by the many of the diaspora communities that are here in the US, that are our mission to reach people groups and they're also reaching across to reach near-culture people groups.

There's an Indonesian diaspora here in the US. that's reaching Muslim Indonesians. They're conducting church services in their heart language and they're becoming a place of comfort and community to those that are new to this country. We also see this with the Chinese diasporas, Iranians, Koreans, Filipinos, Brazilians, even a Buddhist population that are reaching near-culture people groups of the Gospel of Jesus. I used to think of my Nigerian brothers and sisters that are -that have been sent out to the United States and to the United Kingdom to reach their own Nigerian diaspora's. But what else to consider in the nations, I consider those that are reflected here in our public schools. Children not become the great catalyst of evangelism in their schools and communities, and in their families. The mission force of children and empowering them with the Gospel, is something that we can't overlook. The Los Angeles Unified School District is the second largest school district in the nation with over 900 schools. And with 94 languages that are spoken other than English in LA. Consider Spanish, Armenian, Arabic, Vietnamese, Cantonese -all these languages are represented and more. Think of what it would look like to see children in the schools reaching these other kids or perhaps consider the teachers and administration that God is placed in schools to be a safe introduction to Jesus.

When we talk about International Students, every year, for the last three years across the million-student threshold, and those who have come to United States to study. So, they come from China, India, South Korea and Saudi Arabia and the power to cultivate trusting relationships with international students that come from nations that are restricted to the Gospel is so significant. 80% of those students will return to their countries have never been inside in an American home. 40% of the world's 220 heads of states, wants to study in the United States. And only 10% of students that study here is going to be reached by ministries in United States. God is using these amazing diaspora communities as near-culture agents to build bridges within their relational networks that are providing inroads to people groups that the Western Church has not been able to reach. Much of what we read about Scriptures about finding a person of peace, petitioning prayer, hospitality, households coming in Jesus are the very means and strategy for the diaspora mission force that they are operating in. What we're seeing is that the nations are now becoming a blessing to the nations. The 2009 Lausanne-Seoul Consultations state that, "Diaspora missiology is a missiological framework for understanding and participating in God's redemptive mission among people living outside their place of origin."

As we continue to contend for Jesus to be made known among unreached people groups as well as empowering diaspora populations to make disciples, may we continue to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit that He would be the voice behind us to say, "This is the way, walk in it" as we declare His glory among the nations.