imb

OCTOBER 2019

PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

Gospel Opportunities Abound in the Americas

THE PEOPLE AND CULTURES OF THE AMERICAS HAVE A RICH HERITAGE OF MISSIONS, YET MORE THAN 550 MILLION AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE LIVING WITHOUT JESUS. YET EVEN IN THE MIDST OF TRAGEDY AND CRISIS, SOUTHERN BAPTISTS ARE MOBILIZING TO EXALT CHRIST AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS AMONG THEM.

Trained to Go: Serving in Venezuela

On tired legs and blistered feet, Venezuelans struggle up the high moor, carrying heavy babies and even heavier children. Already filthy from days of trudging in the cold, they have days more to walk. They walk in hunger, sadness, worry, and fear. They have lost everything.

Four million Venezuelans—13 percent of the population—have fled Venezuela, and more are coming. Broken and in need of the God who can hold their shattered hearts, these refugees are open to the gospel. At the shelter, Summer Sojourners welcome them with hugs, foot washings, listening ears, and prayers. These six young adults have given their summer to minister to Venezuelan refugees crossing the Colombian Andes on foot.

Pray that God will equip and empower student volunteers like these as they serve among Venezuelan refugees.

They don't always have the words to say. They often feel insufficient, weak, and incapable as they meet desperate people who have endured so much. "A lot of these stories don't have happy endings," they say. But the Sojourners also see the amazing grace and love of the Father. They see God glorified as he provides a way.

This summer, Dalton, Karla, Mary, Josie, Annie, and Josh are hearing the stories, but they are also sharing a story—God's story. Pray that many will come to know him.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isa. 41:10 ESV).

1 **INDIA.** Bangalore Baptist Hospital has extensive rural work in scores of villages. During a recent storm, the clinic building—the base for this outreach—was severely damaged. Pray for wisdom about the possible need to tear down and replace the building. Ask the Lord to provide all that may be required for this unexpected need.

2 **AMERICAS.** Lima, Peru hosted both the Pan-American and Para Pan-American Games in July. Pray for the people with whom connections were made and for follow-up conversations.

3 **SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Please pray for a team of translators who are working on a translation of Henry Blackaby's *Experiencing God*. Pray that this translation work can be completed in a timely manner. Pray that it can be edited and printed so that local leaders can learn from it and then go and teach it to others.

4 **WEST AFRICA.** Pray for field personnel who will be moving to a new location among the Hausa people. Ask that all the visa issues will come together smoothly and in perfect time for their transition to a new country of service.

5 **AMERICAS.** Venezuelan refugees arrive daily into cities across the Americas. Restrictions are being placed on visas and entry, making it more difficult to find a place to go. Pray for open hearts to receive these desperate souls and for the refugees to find work.

6 **CENTRAL ASIA.** Please pray for several discipleship groups. Please pray that these times of fellowship and discipleship will be deep and edifying. Pray that the participants will have teachable hearts as they seek to know Jesus more.

7 **AMERICAS.** Cubans are coming to salvation in record numbers and desire to go to the world to share the good news. Pray for the two Cuban conventions and for sending agencies working to train and send these faithful Christians to the lost around the world.

8 **CONAKRY, GUINEA.** Please pray for unity among the workers who are serving in Conakry and among the Christians in the local churches. Ask that they will be united in purpose and vision as they work together to further God's kingdom.

9 **CAMBODIA.** Please pray for a young Khmer woman in her twenties who has suffered from schizophrenia for the past four years. Her family is staunchly Buddhist, but has turned to Jesus out of desperation. Please pray for her parents, who are allowing their daughter to explore the Christian faith.

Entire families are fleeing Venezuela, crossing mountain ranges like this one on foot.

10 **AMERICAS.** High in the Andes, scattered groups of Quechua work their small farms or make handicrafts to sell. Language barriers complicate communication. Pray that these groups will receive the gospel and believe.

11 **NORTHERN AFRICA.** Among the Bedouin of Northern Africa, men have the sole responsibility of working to bring income into their homes. Pray for good work opportunities for Bedouin men so they can provide for their families. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw Bedouin men to the Father.

12 **EAST ASIA.** Praise God for the many Chinese churches that are beginning to engage in cross-cultural missions. Pray that leaders will yield to God's master plan as they help churches determine the places and timing of their work.

13 **AMERICAS.** Costa Rica and Panama are home to our Connections Cluster and are excellent training grounds for churches entering into first-time missions. Pray for fruitful partnerships between US and local churches.

14 **KAZAKHSTAN.** Kazakhs have spent their lives influenced by deep cultural norms that are closely tied to their religion. Pray that the Father will continue to raise up spiritually mature Christians to engage in life-on-life relationships with other Christians.

15 **SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.** Internally displaced persons (IDPs) flee with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Many Christian villages are welcoming both Christian and Muslim IDPs. Please pray that God will meet the needs of both the IDPs and those caring for them.

16 **AMERICAS.** Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world, home to both enormous cities and the Amazon rainforest. The Brazilian Baptist Mission Board, local churches, and US churches, are partnering to share the gospel in this diverse country. Pray for all involved in sharing the gospel in Brazil.

17 **EAST ASIA.** Pray for Brother June.* He wants to obey the Lord by going on a short-term mission trip. Please ask God to lead Brother June and his church to the right place to serve.

18 **AMERICAS.** There are six major Gateway Cities in the Americas, where people from all over the world visit or live. A variety of methods are used to share the gospel with visitors and residents alike. Pray for strategies to be successful in evangelizing millions of people.

19 **DEAF PEOPLES.** Gretchen Snow* serves among the Deaf in Central Asia. Pray that she will run the race of faith, stay close to the Savior, and be blessed to work in his kingdom. Pray that she will fully rely on him.

20 **MEBO OF LAOS.** A young married couple is having difficulties because she is a Christian but he is not. Please pray for opportunities to hear the gospel and for softened hearts. Pray for his whole family to come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

21 **AMERICAS.** Rivers crisscross many countries and are the main means of transportation. Missionary teams travel up and down these treacherous waterways, carrying the most important news possible. Pray for many indigenous tribes to receive this news with joy and faith.

22 **ZAMBIA.** God has called Houston* to serve in the Western Province, encouraging and training leaders in a remote and rural part of Zambia. He and his family will be moving soon. Please pray that this family will settle well in their new home and community.

23 **BULGARIA.** Andy* is a faithful pastor in southwestern Bulgaria. The summer and early fall months provide wonderful opportunities for him and members of his church to visit villages that are hard to reach in the winter. Please pray that Andy and the Christians in this area will be bold in sharing the gospel, and that many people will turn to Christ.

24 **AMERICAS.** Pray for language students in Mexico and in Brazil who are being prepared and mentored to serve throughout the Americas. Pray as they bring their families to new environments, schools, and cultures. Pray that they will have strength to carry out the tasks before them.

25 **ENGLAND.** Castlegate Church in Dudley, England, is just over three years old. The long-term goal is to plant a church on or near the main street that will be a visible presence as people go into town to shop. Ask for all of this to happen in God's perfect timing.

26 **WEST AFRICA.** If you follow the news in this region, you know that terrorism continues to advance. At the same time, a truck driver who put his faith in Christ at a truck stop now has a new route. This route carries him and the gospel to the northernmost region of Africa. He desperately needs your prayers in order to continue.

27 **AMERICAS.** Natural disasters occur frequently in the Americas. Earthquakes and hurricanes devastate entire communities. Helping people heal from these events is a both a burden and a blessing. Bringing the gospel along with relief supplies has brought many to Christ. Pray for preparedness for the unexpected.

Pray for all involved in sharing the gospel in Brazil.

28 **UGANDA.** Praise God that on June 29, Uganda Baptist Seminary celebrated graduation. Pray for the recently graduated men and women as they return to their home churches and towns across East Africa better equipped to lead and teach in their communities.

29 **AMERICAS.** Spanish-speaking people live in many countries around the world. Personnel living in these countries are working to facilitate relationships between missionaries from the Americas and these expatriates in scattered communities. Pray that good relationships will be formed.

30 **NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** Pray for Arab families as they travel for vacations. Pray that Christians will show hospitality, strike up conversations, and even share their faith with these visitors. Ask that they will accept the good news.

31 **SOUTH ASIA.** Pray for Arab families as they travel for vacations. Pray that Christians will show hospitality, strike up conversations, and even share their faith with these visitors. Ask that they will accept the good news.

Pray that this year's Missions College is a powerful time of equipping and encouragement for all who attend.

Training to Go: Missions College 2020

Friends greet each other with hugs and smiles. Though it is January in Richmond, hearts are warm and happy to be together. But those who are in their first year at Missions College are curious about what the week will hold.

Just as Summer Sojourners receive training, US churches have an amazing opportunity to learn how to be on mission locally and around the world. This winter, Missions College 2020 will be held at the IMB's International Learning Center.

The Americas Affinity partners with the East Asia Affinity to offer various tracks of classes in orality, basic missiology, cross-cultural connections, and mercy missions. Breakout sessions explore topics such as urban missions, students in ministry, the sending church, security, logistics, prayer, refugee ministry, and characteristics of a healthy church. Keynote speakers lead plenary sessions each day with words of wisdom and encouragement. Attendees and missionaries make life-long connections as they work together to advance the gospel to the world.

Will you attend next winter? Email **MissionsCollege@imb.org** to learn more.

AMERICAS

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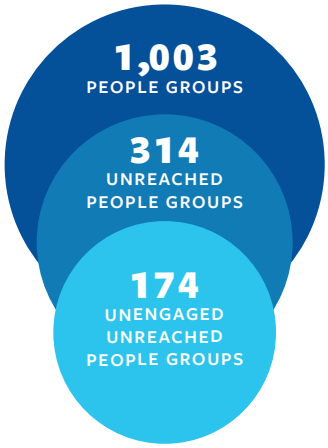
MILLION PEOPLE

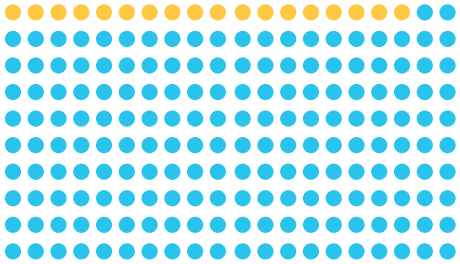


MAJOR RELIGIONS

MAJORITY CATHOLIC

9% EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY

3% ANIMIST



ONE DOT = 3,000,000 PEOPLE

550.4 million are
LIVING WITHOUT JESUS

SÃO PAOLO
LIMA
MEXICO CITY
BOGOTÁ
RIO DE JANEIRO
SANTIAGO
BUENOS AIRES
BRASÍLIA
FORTALEZA
MONTERREY
GUADALAJARA
MEDELLIN
BELO HORIZONTE

13 of the 100 most populous cities in the world are located in the Americas.

**Names changed*

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