

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:10

PRAYERPOINTS

AMERICAN PEOPLES

IMB teams in global cities across the Americas are using digital engagement to find people online who are seeking God. The team members are not looking for likes or followers on social media. Rather, they are seeking to engage the lost, share the gospel with them, and meet for face-to-face discipleship. Pray for the millions of people in these global cities: Bogota, Colombia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Lima, Peru; Mexico City, Mexico; Porto Alegre, Brazil; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Santiago, Chile; and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

IMB TEAMS LEVERAGE DIGITAL TOOLS TO ENGAGE THE LOST IN GLOBAL CITIES

Lostness is the greatest problem in global cities across the Americas. It's the one issue with eternal consequences.

“In these cities, we see masses of people everywhere, all the time,” an IMB missionary said. “Where we only see a crowd, God can see each individual – individuals with many cares that weigh them down, fueling hopelessness and despair. They try to cover their pain with countless things, but in the end, they are lonely and live without hope. Most people do not know that they are lost.”

To impact lostness, IMB teams are employing a digital engagement strategies, using social media ads to reach out to seekers.

In one city, a young woman suffering from depression saw a social media ad about the value of each person being created by God. She messaged the



A young woman views an evangelistic social media ad. IMB Photo.

response team, and a team member connected on a video call with her and shared the full gospel. This young woman believed and placed her faith in Christ during that call. The responder then connected her with a local church for discipleship and Christian community. Praise the Lord who came “to seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

“We are working to fight lostness, but we need intercessors who will pray, asking God for more workers, more local partners, and for an outpouring of His Holy Spirit,” an IMB missionary said.

Please pray for these digital engagement strategies to expand. May the gospel reach many people in global cities.

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

In the latest Loving the Lost prayer guide (page 7), we celebrated that a tribal leader in an indigenous village had allowed believers to lead a Bible study in his home. This summer, they finished the study, and the believers challenged people to follow Jesus Christ. Praise God that six people decided to turn from animism and trust completely in Jesus! These are the first salvations that we know of in this indigenous tribe.

1 MEXICO. Pray for seminaries throughout Mexico to be united and share professors so they can continue improving their effective training together. Pray that local churches will partner with them to share the gospel widely, disciple congregations, and send missionaries.

2 GLOBAL CITIES. Screeching brakes, honking horns, and blaring sirens. When you hear these sounds in your city, pray for more missionaries in the global cities across the Americas. Pray that God would raise up many local believers to become church planters, pastors, and missionaries.

3 AMAZON RIVER. Along the Amazon River in Brazil and Peru are pockets of peoples who mainly live as subsistence farmers or fishermen. Most have never heard the name of Jesus. Pray for Brazilian, Peruvian, and other Indigenous believers to bring them the good news of salvation in Jesus.

4 AMERICAS. Many peoples and places of Latin America that are unreached, under-evangelized, and without a missionary presence. Pray for new churches to be planted and for new and established churches to become sources for sending others to continue expanding God's kingdom.

5 GLOBAL CITIES. Pray that God would stir the hearts of the U.S. church to go on short-term trips, find jobs overseas, and go to the nations as full-time missionaries. May the global cities of the Americas be full of workers proclaiming the truth of Christ to people who live daily without hope.

6 COLOMBIA. Colombian believers have stepped into leadership of a local medical shelter ministry. Pray that God will provide more local believers to join them in sharing the gospel and studying the Bible with patients in the shelters, as well as with the families and visitors.

7 AMERICAS. "Pray for wisdom for our team as we serve people who have been through trauma and navigate the constantly changing laws for passing through the Americas. They need hope and help, spiritually and physically. Pray that we will show love and direct the people to Christ."

8 GLOBAL CITIES. Missionaries were pickpocketed while they stopped to help an elderly man who had fallen at a public transportation stop. Locals often distrust strangers in public for fear of pickpocketing. Pray for safety for IMB teams and for opportunities to connect with local people.

9 COLOMBIA. "Ask God to put a hunger for discipleship into the hearts of the young believers who come to a center for Indigenous university students in Bogota, Colombia. Pray that our team will be able to gather these believers into groups for discipleship and leadership development."

10 GLOBAL CITIES. Global Cities Teams in Buenos Aires, Bogota and Santiago give thanks for incredible opportunities to grow a digital engagement strategy that pushes out gospel content 24 hours a day to seekers using social media platforms. Pray for these teams to make disciples who make disciples.

11 BRAZIL. The Brazilian Baptist Convention is uniting their three national Baptist seminaries: South, North, and Equatorial. Pray that their theological education will be characterized by biblical fidelity, theological orthodoxy, and passionate missional engagement.

12 GLOBAL CITIES. When IMB teams connect with seekers through text messages, they share the gospel and invite people to meet in person for conversations. Pray for these teams to craft eye-catching social media ads and to respond wisely and appropriately in text messages.

13 COLOMBIA. "Our team is teaching Spanish and English classes to the displaced Indigenous living in Bogota to help them sell handicrafts to tourists. Pray that the Bible stories we share during the classes will bring the Indigenous to faith in Jesus."

14 AMERICAS. "Pray for our team and local believers who are mentoring, training, and preparing candidates to fulfill their ministry calling. We also ask that you pray for the resources (monetary, emotional, and spiritual support) needed for their long-term success on the field."

15 ARGENTINA. "Many in Buenos Aires disagree with the Bible without studying it. Our team is partnering with local churches to host discussions about the Bible and faith in Jesus. Pray that many people will desire to know the truth about God and that they will come to salvation."

16 AMERICAS. Immigration can be extremely difficult

in the Americas as governments, rules, and requirements change frequently, often without warning. Pray for missionaries to have favor with immigration officials for visa and residency matters. Pray for patience and peace.

17 GLOBAL CITIES. Populations in global cities are experiencing soaring rates of depression and suicide. Pray that hurting people will find healing and salvation in Jesus. Pray for people to turn to Him and find hope and abundant life.

18 MEXICO. Missionaries and local partners are hard at work in Oaxaca, Mexico to reach several people groups and plant new churches where there is little gospel presence. Pray that their labor would not be in vain, and the Lord would be glorified in them and through them.

19 GLOBAL CITIES. "Ask God to provide good local partners and wisdom for us as we create online ads for digital engagement in our global cities. Pray that people who are seeking the Lord will see our ads at the right time and come to know Him. Pray for us to stay within God's will."

20 PERU. Some believers in Lima, Peru said that they have never shared the gospel with anyone and believed that their lifestyle was enough to draw people to Christ. Please ask God to give these believers the boldness to verbally share the gospel with others.

21 GLOBAL CITIES. In global cities, one Baptist church may be present in an area of 25,000 people. Pray for church planting efforts in these massive cities. Ask

God to provide local partners to come alongside IMB missionaries in this enormous task.

22 MEXICO. Pray for local partners and pastors who are working with displaced peoples on the northern and southern borders of Mexico. Most of the pastors serve in their churches as well as start migrant churches. They are tired and weary, but they continue the work.

23 GLOBAL CITIES. Glittering lights and flashing ads call people to buy new and better things. Pray for people in global cities who are trapped by materialism and vanity, seeking to fill their emptiness with possessions. Pray that they will seek God who can fill them with His peace.

24 CHILE. Santiago, Chile has an extreme income disparity between the wealthy who claim cultural Catholicism and the working poor who are more focused on survival rather than spirituality. Pray for more people in this global city to know and worship the God who created them.

25 GLOBAL CITIES. Traffic, crowds, noises, and distrust of strangers are all sources of apprehension for people in global cities. Please pray for healthy, Baptist churches to be refuges across the Americas, where frightened souls can find God's peace.

26 AMERICAS. Pray for all levels of government in the Americas from presidents down to municipal mayors, police, and security guards to hear and obey the call of God to rule justly. Pray that they will carry out His will and not their own.

27 GLOBAL CITIES. Global cities across the Americas have decades of history of violence, drugs, and kidnappings. This reality makes it even more urgent to reach as many as possible with the gospel. Pray for God's Word to be shared widely and effectively.

28 GUATEMALA. Please pray for the three families currently working in Guatemala. They have varied roles, but all desire to see people in the cities and in the mountains come to salvation through Christ. Pray for them to have strength and for their travels to difficult places.

29 AMERICAS. Work among the many Indigenous people groups is greatly affected when IMB missionaries must leave the area. Please pray for well-trained, strong local partners and pastors to hold the ropes and carry on the work.

30 VOLUNTEERS. Please pray for U.S. volunteers that labor alongside IMB missionaries in Brazil, Costa Rica, and Panama to serve well while on the field and return home ready to share the gospel wherever they go. May many be called to full-time missions or ministry!



Children perform for money in one of market districts in Lima, Peru. IMB Photo.

IMB TEAMS ENGAGE GLOBAL CITIES THAT BUSTLE WITH HURRIED, HOPELESS PEOPLE

Sidewalks in global cities are busy as people rush by with eyes cast down, as if hoping to avoid eye contact. They hurry by, searching for something to give them hope. Your IMB missionaries go out into these busy sidewalks to meet people, build relationships, and share the gospel. It's a challenge for missionaries to gain access among the large populations living in high rise buildings and behind gated communities in the most crowded cities across Latin America. Most people in the Americas are highly relational, but it takes time to develop those relationships. An added difficulty is the sheer number of languages and dialects spoken in each of these cities, such as in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where thousands of Indigenous people have moved to the city from at least 38 tribes that speak different languages. While most people in Latin America have widely been assumed to hold a Catholic worldview, research among younger generations exposes that this worldview is shifting. This past summer, students from the U.S. joined missionaries in Mexico City and spoke with 100 people on the street. They found only one



People crowd the streets of Buenos Aires, Argentina. IMB Photo.

person who was a follower of Christ. Most everyone else professed to be agnostic or atheist.

Join IMB teams in praying for wisdom as they develop strategies that will help them reach this large group of self-identified agnostics and atheists among the young urban professionals. Ask God to draw the lost to Himself, and to create opportunities for missionaries to build relationships with people so that more will hear and respond to the gospel.

Lostness in THE AMERICAS



Though many have heard of Jesus, fewer than 1 in 10 people have a personal relationship with Jesus in the Americas



Most people in the Americas identify as Catholic but have not heard the gospel. They know the name of Jesus but think of Him as one among many saints



The area is experiencing rapid growth of Neo-Pentecostalism, an aggressive form of prosperity theology that spreads theological confusion.



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Some names may have been changed for security reasons. BI 13.5M 06/23 P7511-8

**REACHING
THE NATIONS,
TOGETHER.**