

LOVING THE FOREIGNER

Today on Our Campuses:

- In the U.S. there are 1,043,839 international students
- Majority of internationals come from China, India, South Korea, and Saudi Arabia

Acts 17:26-27

- Paul writing, talking to people in Athens, "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. 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 has brought the international student here for a specific purpose, that they would reach out to him, find him, and know him
- The way they get to know him is if we welcome, love, and serve them, if we share the good news of Jesus Christ with them, and if we disciple them

Leviticus 19:33-34

- "When a stranger so joins with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who so joins with you as the native among you and you shall love him as yourself, for you are strangers in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord, your God."
- Example of Anna and 18 Chinese students becoming Christians in one semester

1 Kings 8:41-43

- "As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name—for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when they come and pray toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name."
- Gives us a reason for why God wants us to love the foreigner in our midst
- Through people welcoming and loving the foreigner in their midst, God was extending the offer of salvation to all nations

Reaching Out to International Students:

- The scope of what they can do and the people they can reach is immense
 - Give Jesus a chance to love international students through you
 - If we love them as God loves them, we will impact their lives
 - Internationals are very forgiving if you make mistakes as long as you love them
 - If the nations that God has strategically brought to us are supposed to be reached, then you and I have to be engaged in reaching out to them
 - Do not show up only for the adventure of the mission trip, but live out the mission of God everywhere
 - We have the potential to transform nations profoundly right here if we engage the nations at our doorstep
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