

## **PARTNERING WITH CHRISTIAN IMMIGRANTS**

### **Foster Healthy Relationships**

- Both people we minister to and with are increasingly from around the world.
- There are opportunities to be used by God to welcome, share the gospel, and live out Christ's kingdom.
- From large to small cities to rural communities around the country there are Christians gathering and planting churches amongst their own language speakers.
- Partnerships modeled after Christ our servant king looks like: Phillipians 2:1-4

### **Take the Role of a Servant**

- Don't make decisions as a Western/or host country/church/ministry on what immigrant churches need.
- Meet together and see how your churches can mutually bless one another.
- This requires listening, asking questions, letting people outside of your congregation shape what the partnership looks like.

### **Take the Posture of a Learner Instead of an Expert**

- Examples of Christians from China, Iran, Nepal, and Honduras
- Some immigrants are planting their second or third church by the time they come to your city.
- Give immigrants opportunity to make decisions and lead.
- Learning how they communicate.

### **Do Nothing Out of Your Own Interests**

- Likely there will be barriers of language, or distance – the city and suburbs, cultures that keep to themselves, and cultures that expect much of relationships.
- Making friends might mean seeking out immigrant churches to go to or visit, shopping at culturally specific grocery stores, getting in touch with a local refugee resettlement.
- Be slow in your expectations at how fast you become friends but generous with your time.
- It might mean entering into discipleship complexities or having complicated conversations in your church or wrestling with ideas yourself you haven't thought of.
- There are often barriers to theological education depending on where immigrants come from.

### **Partner as Brothers and Sisters in God's Kingdom Work**

- When it is mutual and not one way, we reflect our status, under Jesus, the One who has brought us together into relationship with the Father by the blood of his cross.
  - Pray together – Encourage your brothers and sisters to pray in their first language.
  - Read the Word together
  - If your church has multi-lingual services, consider having the immigrant pastor preach in their language and someone translate for the majority of the congregation to understand.
  - Eat together. Jesus spent a lot of time eating with his disciples, people he ministered to, and people that ministered to him.
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