

# Loving Internationals

A Panel Discussion led by Pastor Mark Bickel

## Foreign-Born Residents Living in the USA:

- **44.5 Million people, or 13.7% of the US Population ... and growing**<sup>1</sup>
- US largest number of immigrants in world, with 19.1% of the 244 million international migrants<sup>2</sup>
- Percentage of foreign-born population in US who were born in ... South and East Asia – 27%, Mexico – 26%, Other Latin American – 25%, Europe-Canada – 13%<sup>3</sup>
- 1.18 million admitted legally in 2016 – 48% were the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, 20% were family-sponsored, 13% were refugees and/or asylum seekers, 12% were employment-based preferences, with 7.2% being admitted under special targeted programs<sup>4</sup>
- **Over 1 million International Students studying in the US ... 45,000 in PA ... and growing**<sup>5</sup>
- **About 1 in 4 children under 18 in families have at least one foreign-born parent.**<sup>7</sup>

## God's Heart for the Foreigner

- When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. ~ Leviticus 19:33-34
- **He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.** ~ Deuteronomy 10:18-19
- Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.' ~ Deuteronomy 27:19
- The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. ~ Psalm 146:9
- You shall allot it as an **inheritance for yourselves and for the sojourners who reside among you and have had children among you.** They shall be to you as native-born children of Israel. With you they shall be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. ~ Ezekiel 47:22
- For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, **if you truly execute justice one with another, if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow,** or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, **then I will let you dwell in this place,** in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever. ~ Jeremiah 7:5-7
- For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, **I was a stranger and you welcomed me ...** ~ Matthew 25:35
- Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ~ Hebrews 13:2

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<sup>1</sup> US Census numbers for 2017 from the American Community Survey

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia quoting UN Population Report from October 3, 2017

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia quoting Pew Research Center Facts on U.S. Immigrants, 2016

<sup>4</sup> Wikipedia quoting US Department of Homeland Security 2016 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics

<sup>5</sup> International Open Doors Report on International Education Exchange, 2018

<sup>6</sup> PA Stats derived from Philly Voice article "International Students Find a Home in Philly", April 3, 2015

<sup>7</sup> US Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

## **Loving Internationals ~ A Panel Discussion**

*Leo, Elena & Liliya Ivanenko; Zeno Hsaio & Aja Chao; Anna Lee & Thiago Lima; Andrew Piasecki*

- Tell us your name, what country you were born in / grew up in, and when you came to America
- Before you arrived in the USA what made you most excited about coming here? What were you most afraid of / anxious about?
- When you first arrived, was there anything that surprised you about America?
- Describe some ways people here in America were helpful to you in those early days and months
- Looking back, is there anything you either wish someone would have done for you when you first came, or that you wish people would not have done?
- What did you personally struggle with most being in a new country?
- Do you have any fun stories of your early times here in America?
- Is there anything you wish people would do with you / help you with even now, after being here a while
- Any other advice you would have for us in the audience here as we consider how to best love the internationals around us?

## **Resources for Loving Internationals**

- Bethany Christian Services - [bethany.org](http://bethany.org) ~ Refugee / Refugee Foster Care services, Education
- Catholic Social Services - [cssphiladelphia.org](http://cssphiladelphia.org) ~ local Refugee services, including resettlement
- Charity Navigator - [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org) ~ Hot Topics – Immigration and Refugees
- PA Immigration Resource Center - [pirclaw.org](http://pirclaw.org) ~ legal rights and resources
- International Student Incorporated – [isionline.org](http://isionline.org) ~Christian site for inter. student ministry
- International Student - [internationalstudent.com](http://internationalstudent.com) ~secular site with lots of college resources
- PACMI (Philadelphia Association of Christians Ministering Among Internationals) ~ see Pastor Mark to get on mailing list / prayer circle
- International Friends ~ International Student Ministry of Grace BFC – See Pastor Mark!
- Pastor Mark Bickel – [mbickel@gracebfc.org](mailto:mbickel@gracebfc.org) – (484) 788-9026