

C. Ways For Local Churches to do “Foreign Missions” While Remaining Stateside

Not all churches may be able to send missionaries to foreign lands. However, ALL churches regardless of size or age of congregation CAN minister to the world community that God is bringing to our doorsteps as immigrants, refugees and students from all continents flock to the USA right now. Item C provides t ways that any Christian and any church may minister to people from foreign cultures.

Training 301 – English As Second Language

CrossNet’s Training Program

CrossNet provides a six-hour training program for churches, helping them understand what goes into setting up and running an ESL program in their facility. This program does not offer ESL Certification, but it will provide goals and skillsets to enable a church to offer meaningful language acquisition, while at the same time conducting the program with believers, inside a church facility. Here’s the program outline.

1. Exploring visas and choosing a visa platform
 - Internationals arriving in the States
 - a. Various visas
 - b. Green card, permanent residency, work authorization permit, other relevant documents
 - Going overseas
 - a. What is a visa
 - b. Why is a visa needed
 - c. Various visa platforms
2. Establishing an ESL (English as a Second Language) program
 - An ESL program as a ministry of your church
 - a. Support of pastor and church staff
 - b. Demographics of your area
 - c. Volunteers and a director
 - d. Logistics, i.e. when, where, communicating/advertising
 - e. Curriculum, course of study
 - Development of International conversations (See “Training 303”)
 - a. Engage church members
 - b. Train and model conversations to alleviate apprehension

- c. Provide contacts and context
3. Helping the church with knowledge of immigrant services
- Demographics of area
 - a. Countries in your area, population
 - b. Types of services in your area
 - c. Developing a network of services
 - d. Engaging church members who have a heart for helping immigrants
 - e. Identifying and contacting individuals or groups to help

Examples of churches providing ESL

As you consider your role, or your church's role in teaching ESL, check out some churches already using ESL to reach immigrants and refugees. Here are 15 examples among the scores online:

1. <https://cmalliance.org/our-work/church-ministries/esl/>
2. <https://www.nae.org/churches-host-immigrant-refugee-ministries/>
3. <https://eslim.org/>
4. <https://www.crescentproject.org/es>
5. <https://www.tenth.org/mercy/immigrants-outreach/>
6. <https://www.bcne.net/news/5-ministry-ideas-to-reach-out-to-immigrants-in-your-churchs-community>
7. <https://resources.pcamna.org/resource/refugee-and-immigrant-ministry/>
8. <https://www.cmml.us/crossculturalus>
9. <https://refugeelanguage.org/2017/07/07/location-difficulties-church-based-esl-programs/>
10. <https://flbaptist.org/english-language-missions-conference-offers-training-and-more-to-churches-ministering-to-refugees-students/>
11. <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/pro-life/get-your-church-involved-with-the-refugee-crisis/>
12. <https://jerichoroad.org.au/refugee-response/esl/>
13. <https://www.slpca.org/Refugee-Ministry>
14. <https://reachglobal.ministries.efca.org/teaching-english-in-ministry>
15. <https://borderlessafrica.org/house-of-joy/>

Training for this ministry

Teaching English as a Second Language takes a little training. It can become a career but in this generation it *can also be an offering to God* as you train and then volunteer your time and training to minister to foreigners in our land (see Deuteronomy 10:19; 14:28-29; Hebrews 13:1-2; Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9; 3 John 1:5-8).

Here are five organizations providing ESL training:

1. <https://tutorlanding.cambly.com/>

2. https://www.skimataalk.com/en/teacher_info
3. <https://teachaway.com/blog/getting-paid-to-teach-online>
4. <https://www.iapcollege.com/program/teacher-of-english-as-a-foreign-language-certificate-course-online/>
5. https://www.worldtesolacademy.com/?grad_source=5 (online course, \$34.00)

What does ESL training look like

ESL training provides skillsets with which anyone who did not major in English might not be academically familiar. If you grew up speaking English, then learning these skills will be less challenging than if you grew up speaking another tongue. Here are the basics of an ESL course, as provided by the North American Mission Board:

https://www.sendrelief.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2020/08/2014_Teaching_English_as_a_Foreign_Language_Manual.pdf

How to set up an ESL program used by the North American Mission Board

This link demonstrates how to set up an ESL program in your church.

<https://www.sendrelief.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2020/08/TELL-050222.pdf>

Training 302 -- Ministry to students coming to the USA

Students represent another avenue of the Lord bringing “the nations” to our doorstep, as hundreds of thousands from around the globe flock to American Universities every year. Most have never been in an American home or apartment, most are interested in meeting Americans, and what college kid isn’t interested in a good meal?

Therefore, in many Universities a ministry called “International Students Inc.” (ISI) works to help these college kids while also sharing the Gospel. Many cities with a University are likely to have international students, the vast majority of whom have not even heard of Christ. Americans of all ages are welcome to participate in this ministry. To become involved in this ministry, contact ISI at <http://isionline.org>.

Training 303 – Developing International Conversations from your Living Room

The Internet, using programs like Zoom or Microsoft Teams has created an easy means for connecting with people from all around the world. Plus, since English is the most widely spoken global language, it’s easy to pull together a group wishing to practice conversational English. These are already English-speakers who now wish to practice using it.

To set up one of these groups one may use Zoom or WhatsApp and post a note

saying something like, “If you wish to practice conversational English...” When people respond, let them know your name and that you live in the USA. Then set the frequency and time of day you wish to meet. And it’s wise to set ground rules.

In one such group, the following rules have been established:

GROUP RULES

1. Only English language is allowed
2. No chatting during exercises
3. Only learning material is allowed
4. No offensive/romantic/threatening/insinuating language is permitted
5. No political/religious discussion is allowed
6. No personal affair is allowed
7. No sticker and unknown links are allowed
8. No direct contact is allowed without permission
9. No person may request money from anyone in the group
10. Admins have exclusive authority to remove any member of the group (considering valid reasons) without a prior warning or giving explanations

To begin the conversation on any given day, a subject for discussion is sought. The subject is merely a vehicle for people to use as they practice English language, e.g:

What’s your favorite food, and why?

If you had a million dollars, how would you spend it?

If you could visit any country, which would it be and why?

What two lessons did your parents teach you that you still remember?

What was your favorite experience growing up as a child?

Describe the village/town/city in which you grew up.

On any given day the host (that’s you) may ask, “What shall we discuss today?”

Always be polite and gracious – never criticize another person’s faith or nation.

And don’t be an arrogant American bragging about the USA or flaunting money. Be supportive, encouraging, gentle and kind. If they ask you specific questions about your faith, be prepared to give a short, gentle personal response. If they share something difficult, tell them you’ll be praying for them. If they persist with questions about your faith, suggest you return to this subject in a one-on-one conversation after the group chat ends.

Some believers use this idea as their means of being a global missionary. These sessions may last one hour or two, or three. They may be held every day, or once a week. One man we know has a daily conversation with six or eight people from countries that refuse access to missionaries. He has set up three chat-rooms which he uses for different groups from different continents. He says this is his missionary calling. He’s seen many come to Christ through it.

CrossNet strongly encourages all churches, and especially those that don’t send missionaries, to become involved with “*the nations*” God is bringing to our front doorstep in the USA. This is no less “missions work” than sending missionaries to remote nations and working with tribal people.