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Across-Borders Ministry: Who Am I?

As humans, we strive to attain our objectives, always assessing our plans and rethinking how achievable our dreams are in order to build a better life for ourselves and our loved ones. We all hope for a better tomorrow, or at least that tomorrow will be similar to today in terms of fulfilling our goals. However, as Christians, the parable in Luke 12:20 about the rich man who was labeled a fool, as well as historical political instability, reminds us that there are forces beyond our control that affect individuals who are hopeless and marginalized. Despite our best efforts, unforeseen occurrences can derail our goals and hard work, leaving us feeling helpless and hopeless as we witness all we have worked for crumble in front of us.







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There are certain circumstances that can bring about drastic changes in our lives, such as wars, natural disasters, famines, and pandemics. These situations can result in the death and suffering of our loved ones, forcing us to flee our homes and seek shelter elsewhere in order to survive. In such situations, we may find ourselves transitioning from being self-sufficient to being dependent on others. As a result, it raises the question of whether the idea of "a better tomorrow" still holds true. In other words, can we still have hope for a brighter future when we are no longer living in the place, we call home? What does the Bible teach us about strangers, sojourners, or foreigners, whom we now referred as refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, or immigrants in our country?

These had encouraged us to start a ministry named Across-Borders Ministry.

Why Across Borders?

It resembles all our brothers and sisters who have left their homelands and crossed countless national borders in search of survival or a better life. Our ministry's major goal is to begin and continue to walk spiritually with them. In the Bible, mistreating outsiders would incur God's wrath; therefore, hospitality



was an integral aspect of daily living.

Jesus instilled a strong sense of hospitality throughout his ministry.

In the parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus teaches that the Son of Man will collect the nations and divide them on the left and right sides. Jesus claims that people who care for strangers will obtain eternal life, while those who do not will incur eternal torment. Apostle Paul also addressed it in Hebrew 13:1-2, "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." Jesus affirmed by saying we should show disciple-like behavior in how we treat "strangers." In Matthew 25:35, "...I was a stranger and you invited me in."



Therefore, it is critical that we recognize that as Jesus' followers, we are all members of God's kingdom. If some of you recall, we were formerly referred to as "Pendatang," which most of us dislike, but it is a fact that we cannot ignore. Consider how good our God is to us. His compassion for us should appropriately direct our thoughts and actions toward those who live as strangers in our midst today.

As Paul said in Ephesians 2:19, "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household." Most people may relate to feeling like an outsider at some point in their lives, whether because of their race, color, ethnicity, status, nationality, gender, or other characteristics. For believers like us, it can be a chance for solidarity with the displaced and marginalized, especially when we remember that we, too, were once foreigners in God's kingdom but were welcomed in by God's love. In this sense, the biblical duty to welcome outsiders becomes a strong statement of our common humanity, as well as a mirror of divine love that knows no limits.

As you are aware, we have put up two round tables in the heart of the Garden Café for the Across- Borders Ministry. Their purpose is not to separate them from the church community, but to offer an identity so that they can be visited, greeted, and even fellowshipped with.



by Peter RajPeter serves in the Across-Borders
Ministry and attached with Saujana
Life Group



Prayers for the Philippines Mission Trip in July

- Thank God for the many sign-ups, from young adults to seniors.
- Pray for the team preparation for the children program (Bible stories, songs and crafts)
- Pray for team unity, spiritual protection and health for many have never been on a mission trip.
- Pray that God would work on the hearts of the participants in a personal way as they prepare themselves spiritually for the trip.
- Pray that God would provide the fund for those who need partial financial support.
- Pray for the team in the Philippines as they prepare the itinerary and programs for us.