

Global Prayer

Digest

May 2018 • Frontier Ventures • 37:5



Toronto: The Gathering Place for Unreached Refugees, Businessmen, and Students

2—Submitting to God's Mission in Toronto is "Exhilarating"

5—Gospel Inroads for Rohingya Refugees

6—Are Gujaratis the Best Businessmen in the World?

14—Reach Them by Moving Into their Neighborhoods!

25—Pray for Saudi Medical Students to Become "Dr. Lukes"

Editorial



Dear Praying Friends,

Canadians are noted for their willingness to accept people who have no safe place to run. Refugees have come to Canada for decades, and Toronto seems to be a key place where they settle. It might be safe to say that the Lord has given the Canadians the gift of compassion for less fortunate people.

Why is it so important to reach refugees for Christ now? When people are unsettled, they are much more willing to seek and find new spiritual answers to life. The Muslim Rohingyas who are arriving in Toronto at this time are much more open spiritually to the word of God than the children of Buddhist Cambodians that arrived 40 years ago. Thus, there is a matter of strategy as well as compassion. Compassion is one of the most endearing attributes of our Lord, and He wants us to show it to those who are in need. You will be amazed at what the organization MoveIn is accomplishing by serving and living among refugees in Toronto and other cities.

This month we will also pray for efforts to reach students from wealthy, highly unreached nations. You may not be able to tell Saudis or Kuwaitis in their own country about Jesus, but you can reach them at Toronto's universities.

I would like to thank the staff at Global Gates once again for their willingness to share their work in Canada so we can pray intelligently for them and the unreached peoples in North America.

Keith Carey, editor-in-chief, *GPD*

Keith.carey@frontierventures.org

globalprayerdigest.org

May 2018

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Frontier Ventures
1605 East Elizabeth Street
Pasadena, CA 91104-2721
888-903-3322 (from within the USA)
386-246-0170 (outside the US,
including Canada)
subscriptions@frontierventures.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Keith Carey
For comments on content call
626-398-2241 or email
keith.carey@frontierventures.org

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Paula Fern

WRITERS

Eugena Chou
Patricia Depew
Karen Hightower
Wesley Kawato
Ben Klett
David Kugel
Christopher Lane
Ted Proffitt
Cory Raynham
Lydia Reynolds
Jean Smith
Allan Starling
Chun Mei Wilson

DAILY BIBLE COMMENTARIES

Keith Carey
Robert Rutz

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Lois Carey
Jeanne MacBeth

GRAPHICS

Keith Carey
David Gutierrez

PRINTER

Yuli Color Reproduction Co., LTD.
(Taiwan)

WEB SITES

www.globalprayerdigest.org
[https://prayerstrategists.net/about/
prayer-guides/](https://prayerstrategists.net/about/prayer-guides/)

ISSN 1045-9731
Contents of the *Global Prayer Digest* © 2018
Frontier Ventures
1605 East Elizabeth Street
Pasadena, CA 91104

Contents of this booklet may be
reproduced if appropriate credit and
subscription information are given.
Cover Photo by iStockPhoto.

PRAY FOR

The gathered unreached people groups in TORONTO



Toronto: The “Gathering Place” For Unreached Peoples

The City of Toronto’s population of 2,731,600 makes it the fourth largest city in North America after Mexico City, New York City and Los Angeles. A total of eight million people live in the entire Greater Toronto Area (GTA),



the most populous metropolitan area in Canada which includes the Golden Horseshoe, a heavily urbanized region that is home to 9.2 million people or over 26 percent of the entire population of Canada. A “global city,” Toronto is an international center of business, finance, arts, and culture. It is also recognized as one of the most multicultural and cosmopolitan cities in the world. Toronto is also among the most ethnically diverse cities on earth that vividly captures the meaning of a “global gateway city.” Fully half of Toronto’s population was born outside of the nation of Canada, and approximately 20 percent of the GTA’s population is under the age of 20.

The name Toronto comes from a Huron Native American word that means “the gathering place.” Toronto was the location where various Indian tribes would come together to trade or fish for a period of time before dispersing back to their own territories.

Extreme Ethnic Diversity

The Greater Toronto Area is one of the most ethnically diverse regions on the planet, home to the following sampling:

BY CHRIS CARR,
GLOBAL GATES

Gathering Place

- Muslims (all ethnolinguistic groups): 696,000
- Chinese: 537,000
- Punjabi Sikhs: 300,000
- Slavic peoples (Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Serbian, Polish, Czech, Slovaks, Bosniak, Croat, Macedonian, Montenegrin, Slovene, Bulgarian): 269,000
- Jewish Diaspora: 200,000
- Pakistani Muslims (Urdu): 120,000
- Indian Tamils: 100,000
- Somali Muslims: 70,000
- Iranians (Farsi speakers): 57,000
- Vietnamese: 57,000
- Bengali Muslims: 35,000
- Afghan Muslims: 24,000
- Tibetan Buddhists: 8,000

Representatives of unreached people groups from closed countries pour into Toronto every week. In this great metropolis, the Christians have been given an historic opportunity to openly spread the gospel, without fear of persecution, to these least-reached peoples of our planet. But, sadly, the “laborers are few.” Approximately 150 different languages and dialects are spoken daily in the GTA. Just over 30 percent of the Toronto residents speak a language other than English or French at home.

Two-hundred-seventy-three ethnic groups are represented on Canadian soil and within the GTA. New missionary personnel are needed to engage these unreached people groups.

Of the top 15 languages regularly spoken at home, Mandarin Chinese was the fastest growing language in Toronto in 2011. Today it is spoken by more than 50,000 residents (2.1 percent of the total population – an increase of 32 percent since 2006). Other fast-

Gathering Place

iStockPhotos



growing groups include those who speak Bengali at home (17,820 in 2011), an increase of 22 percent in five years. Farsi (Iranian) speakers have increased by 11 percent over the same period, and Tagalog (Filipino) speakers have increased by 10 percent.

The top five visible minority groups in the GTA are:

- South Asian at 298,372 or 12 per cent of the population
- Chinese at 283,075 or 11.4 per cent of the population
- Black at 208,555 or 8.4 per cent of the population
- Filipino at 102,555 or 4.1 per cent of the population.
- Latin American at 64,860 or 2.6 per cent of the population

The GTA's population base is one of the fastest growing in Canada. It is estimated that it will grow annually for the next several years by an average of 108,766 persons.

Ethnic Suburbs, AKA, Ethnoburbs

Three thriving “ethnoburbs” (ethnic suburbs) are emerging in the Greater Toronto Area; one of them includes Brampton, most of Mississauga, north Etobicoke, and western North York which is predominantly South Asian. A second ethnoburb includes most of Markham, Scarborough, eastern North York. It has a predominantly Chinese population. A third emerging ethnoburb is located in Pickering and Ajax, with a high South Asian population.

Many of the immigrants coming to the Toronto region in the last decades have settled directly in the suburbs. They have created distinct ethnic suburbs with their own businesses and cultural organizations.

In Toronto's ethnoburbs the local residents own, or have a stake in a large percentage of local businesses, and they have developed a full range of cultural institutions. For example, by July 2011 there were 53 Chinese supermarkets (43 of which are in the ethnoburbs) and 66 Chinese shopping centers (57 in

Gathering Place

the ethnoburbs) to serve more than half a million Chinese ethnic residents in the Toronto Region. The first South Asian shopping center opened in Scarborough in 2008, and three new centers later added 540,000 sq. ft. of commercial space in Brampton and Scarborough.

Forty percent of Toronto's youth moved there within the last five years for better opportunities. The GTA is home to 10 universities and colleges, as well as Tyndale University College and Seminary. One-hundred and eighty-seven thousand students study at GTA's institutions of higher learning, with immigrants comprising a considerable number of the student population. This has considerable implications for evangelism, disciple-making, church starting, and mobilizing.

A Waiting Harvest!

We know that God is sovereign and is guiding human and cosmic history. Acts 17:22-26 makes it clear that God is the one who prompts and determines the pre-allotted times and boundaries of where people groups immigrate and live. We know that God is bringing the nations to Toronto for more than just a better life; rather, a new kind of life—in God's forever family!

“The ends of the earth” is the greatest challenge of the great commission. For 2,000 years, “The ends of the earth” have waited for the hope of salvation in Jesus Christ. Today, God has brought “The ends of the earth” to the GTA, a place that is now home to scores of unreached people groups from around the world. We at Global Gates firmly believe that abundant gospel-sowing will result in a global harvest in GTA that will literally spread to the ends of the earth when these same people groups reach out for Jesus Christ in other parts of the world.

Let's Pray!

Pray for the Lord to make this dream a reality for Global Gates (globalgates.ca/gateway-cities/#_Toronto) workers among immigrants in urban Canada.

Pray for efforts by International Students Ministries in Canada to reach those who come for an education and can be used of God to reach others when they return to their home countries. (ismc.ca/page.aspx?pageId=26)

Pray for efforts by the Refugee Highway Partnership to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of displaced people in Toronto. (refugeehighway.net/focus-groups.html)

CHRIS AND EILEEN CARR, GLOBAL GATES WORKERS

ACTS 1:8, NIV

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Pray that thousands of others will heed Jesus' call just as the Carr family has done. Pray that believers will understand that they can "go" to those who "come" to where the gospel is available.

What do you do when the unreached people groups are almost impossible to reach in their home countries, but easily reached, and spiritually open in the West? Global Gates, a mission agency, has the answer: send workers to ripe fields in the West!



Slavic people in Toronto

Global Gates is a mission agency working in a number of North American cities. This month we will focus our prayers on their work and the work of others in Toronto, Canada, including specific unreached people groups in that cosmopolitan city.

The leaders for the Toronto team are Chris and Eileen Carr. This couple worked with the International Mission Board (Southern Baptist) witnessing to Slavic peoples from 1999–2015. During that time they worked not only with people who speak a Slavic language, but also Muslims who lived in Eastern European countries like Russia. This prepared the Carrs to minister to those who have migrated to Toronto, where they now work.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and anoint Chris and Eileen in their service as leaders for the Greater Toronto Area and as directors of Global Gates Canada. Pray that they will be able to build their team and network with Canadian believers and churches. Pray that their work will result in many new fellowships and disciples-making movements in at least 12 different Canadian cities among the unreached people groups.—Global Gates

MISSIONARY TESTIMONY, NICOLE LEUNG

DAY

02

My name is Nicole Leung, and I became involved with Global Gates in 2016, following the 2015 Urbana Student Missions Conference.



A Tibetan shopowner

Global Gates

Originally from Calgary, Alberta, the Lord called me into missionary service after I graduated from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. After much wrestling and pleading with God out of fear of an uncertain future, the Lord changed my heart so that I might willingly submit to His purposes and plans He has for me—and it has been exhilarating!

I moved to Toronto in June 2017, and have been working to become more exposed to a variety of unreached people groups (UPGs), so that the Lord might direct me to focus on reaching one of them in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). So far, I've been blessed with opportunities to connect with Tibetan Buddhists, Pakistani Muslims, Punjabi Sikhs, and even a Muslim from Oman. The diversity of Toronto is beautifully unmatched!

Pray that the Lord will send more laborers into the harvest of Toronto. Pakistani Muslim women I've met have been reluctant to speak about religious matters. Pray that the Lord would help me wisely navigate those conversations and continue to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God. Tibetans in Toronto can be somewhat exclusive and suspicious of outsiders in their neighborhood. Pray for persons of peace who will gladly receive us.—Nicole Leung, Global Gates

JOB 31:32, NIV

... but no stranger had to spend the night in the street, for my door was always open to the traveler ...

Pray that Global Gates workers will understand that they are blessed when they reach out to the strangers and foreigners who come to Canada.

SETH BEEBE, GLOBAL GATES

1 KI 8:41-43, NIV

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.

Pray that through Seth Beebe and other believers, Sikhs in Toronto will look to the Lord and see that He indeed blesses all who respond to His lovingkindness.

Global Gates



Sikhs can't celebrate without tasty food!

Seth Beebe came to know Jesus Christ as Lord and savior as a child while living in Nova Scotia, Canada. His family moved to Maine, and he was baptized at age eight.

Growing up in southern Maine, Seth grew in his heart for the Lord and for people. Through studies at the Word of Life Bible Institute, he was called into Christian ministry. God's calling on his life would later become clearer as he studied at the Baptist Bible College in Pennsylvania, ministered in Indiana, and studied at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky.

The Lord worked in Seth's life, burdening him for the unreached people immigrating to the greater Toronto area of Canada where today 75 percent of the population is first or second-generation immigrants. Seth serves with Global Gates in the task of reaching the ends of the earth through Toronto. He is reaching out to South Asian people groups.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of Punjabi Sikhs, especially among the 5,000 Indian students being engaged at a nearby college. Pray for the powerful name of Jesus to be exalted in the hearts and minds of these people as Seth and his team engage them with prayer, Jesus stories, and discovery Bible studies. Pray against the spiritual attacks that Satan desires to bring into Seth's life and ministry.—Seth Beebe, Global Gates, Toronto.

http://globalgates.ca/gateway-cities/#_Toronto

PUNJABI SIKHS IN TORONTO

DAY

04

In April 2017, tens of thousands of Sikhs thronged the streets of Toronto to celebrate their New Year. They were joined by the Canadian Prime Minister, the Ontario Premier, and the Mayor of Toronto. In the 1960s and 1970s tens of thousands of skilled Sikhs settled across Canada, especially in the urban corridor from Toronto to Windsor. They established places of worship called *gurdwaras* in major cities. There are 32 in Ontario Province alone. The Ontario legislature declared April as Sikh Heritage Month.



A happy Sikh family

iStockPhotos

Sikhs form a main religious group among South Asian immigrants in Canada—currently 35 percent. Punjabi Sikh immigrants have taken on a variety of occupations. Many of the Sikhs, visible by their neatly wound turbans, excel as mechanics, construction workers, and business professionals. Others work in retail and trade, particularly through small family businesses.

They express devotion through daily chants, gathering at the *gurdwara*, and worshipping their holy book. Sikhs believe they may increase their karma and escape the cycle of reincarnation through devotion, community service, and charity. Although there are many Christian resources available in their Punjabi language, less than two percent of Sikhs in Toronto are believers.

Ask God to raise up prayer teams to prepare the way for the gospel. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will thrust out laborers among the Sikhs. Pray for the effectiveness of evangelistic tools among Punjabi Sikhs.—AHS

HEB 4:12, NLT

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Pray that the Sikhs will understand that the word of God is to be internalized, not worshipped.

ROHINGYAS IN TORONTO

RUTH 2:4, NIV

Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, “The Lord be with you!” “The Lord bless you!” they answered.

Pray that Rohingyas who enter the job market in Toronto will find employers who love the Lord as much as Boaz did. Pray that their employers will be willing to act justly and mercifully to these suffering people.



Rohingya children

The army and police have been accused of human rights violations against Myanmar’s Muslim Rohingyas. As of September 2017, about 400,000 refugees (about a third of the

Rohingya population) have fled. There’s one silver lining in this sad refugee picture. It opens doors to the spread of the gospel message. Recently, a team from Global Gates on a mission trip into the refugee slums of southeast Bangladesh led 399 Rohingya Muslims to salvation in Jesus Christ. In the Kansas City area the “RefugeeKC” ministry reaches out to hundreds of refugees from Myanmar.

Several hundred Rohingya refugees migrated to Toronto. In 2008, they organized the Canadian Burmese Rohingya Organization “to serve the hopeless Rohingyas all over the world.” Their chairman, Anwar Arkani, pleaded with the Canadian parliament to save the Rohingyas left in Myanmar from genocide.

Until recently, there were no known believers among the Rohingya nor Christian resources in their language. Now Global Recordings Network has made a one-hour audio-visual recording for them called *The Good News*.

Pray for these resources to be widely distributed among the Rohingya people. Pray for an all-out effort to reach the Rohingyas in Toronto, a city where many will find refuge. Pray that, as the Toronto Rohingyas seek justice for their people, they will find compassion from the judge of all the earth.—AHS

GUJARATIS IN TORONTO

DAY

06

From small businesses such as markets to international conglomerates, entrepreneurship is a focal point in Gujarati culture and value system.

A *Star Tribune* article

hypothesized that the Gujaratis are the most successful business people in the world. They value education in areas such as engineering and medicine, and any knowledge that will help create business returns.

Despite the long hours spent developing careers and financial stability, Gujaratis value their family life even more. This is the case even in the younger generations that are becoming more closely assimilated into Canadian culture and standards. Extended families live in the same household, sharing meals and caring for one another. This starkly contrasts with Western individualism, in which the pursuit of a career often divides the individual from the family.

The name Gujarati refers both to an ethnic group and the language of Gujarat, a state in Western India. Gujarati is a widely spoken language, with around 28,000 registered speakers living in the Toronto region, according to the 2011 census. Regarding spiritual life, most Gujaratis are culturally Hindu. Most Gujaratis reserve religious practices for special events such as weddings, but without any active personal relationship with God.

Pray for the hearts of the Gujaratis to have good soil to receive Jesus. Pray for an awakening of the Canadian church to reach out to its neighbors, and for genuine, Christ-centered friendships between believers and Gujaratis.—EC



iStockPhotos

ACTS 16:14, NLT

One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying.

Pray that God will raise up many Gujaratis, who will be moved by the Holy Spirit to serve the Lord like Lydia did 2000 years ago.

PARSEES IN TORONTO

LUKE 7:9, NIV

When Jesus heard this, He was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following Him, He said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."

Pray that God will raise up Parsees in Toronto who will have great faith in the God of Israel.

I will go before you and I will level the mountains, I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name, Is 45:2-3, NIV. These are the words of the Lord to King Cyrus, whom the Lord blessed.



Parsee youth

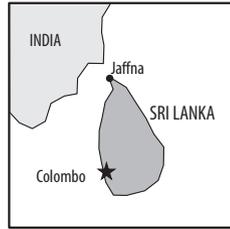
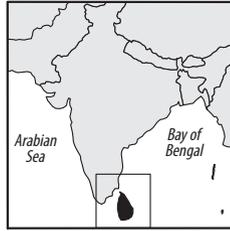
The Parsee people are known to be connected to the bloodlines of King Cyrus and other Persian kings. Today there are around 7,400 Parsees living in Canada. The majority of Parsees follow Zoroastrianism, one of the first religions to follow only one god. In the early 2000s a large center devoted to Zoroastrianism was opened in Oakville, Canada. The community plans to construct a fire temple to be completed by 2019.

The Parsees operate with this standard: "good word, good thought, good deed." They believe that service to the poor and the study of their scripture are sufficient to earn a place for them in heaven. Within Zoroastrianism there are some overlaps in terminology with Christianity, such as resurrection and sanctification. However, their meanings are different. The Parsee people deeply value wisdom and their heritage. They choose to marry within their people group, and their numbers are dwindling.

Pray for the refining fire of Christ to burn away all deceptions in their faith and replace it with His truth.—EC

SRI LANKANS IN TORONTO

The teardrop at the bottom of India—Sri Lanka—was torn apart by its 26-year-old civil war that began in 1983. Many Sri Lankans, including members of the Sinhalese majority, fled their homeland and some began migrating to Canada as early as the 1950s. Since Canada and Sri Lanka are both members of the British commonwealth, many emigrated to Canada. For years Canada and Sri Lanka have conducted a bustling trade benefitting both countries.



The largest ethnic group of Sri Lankans is the Sinhalese. They are able to keep a dual citizenship. They have a vibrant community life and stay well connected through social media, newspapers, and television. Buddhist temples host many events that are central to the Sinhalese's community, cultural and religious life.

Only a fraction of the approximately 5,000 Sinhalese living in Canada follow Christ, but God can do great things with small numbers. Jesus started out with only 12 dedicated men—the apostles—who led a movement that turned the world upside down.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will empower the tiny number of Sinhalese believers to disciple their community with the good news of Jesus. Pray that the Sinhalese media will be used to transform many lives.—JS

RUTH 1:20, NIV

“Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter.”

Pray that refugees in Toronto will seek and find blessing, even when they arrive tired and discouraged.

HAKKA CHINESE IN TORONTO

1 KINGS 10:9, NIV

Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord's eternal love for Israel, He has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.

Pray that like the Queen of Sheba quoted above, that Hakka Chinese people in Toronto will marvel at the glory and splendor of the true Lord.



Everyone loves dim sum!

(These events are hypothetical.)

Harold cooked a spicy curry at the Hakka Chinese restaurant in Toronto. Using a spoon, he took a small bite

and smiled because he'd gotten the flavor just right. Hakka Chinese food was known to be spicy. His family owned the restaurant. Harold made curry the way his father and grandfather had.

But there was no “spice” in Harold's life. Making money seemed empty to him, as were the parties he attended on weekends. Where would he find meaning for his life?

The first Hakka Chinese arrived in Canada in 1882 to help build the Canadian Pacific Railroad in British Columbia. After the completion of that railroad, some Hakka Chinese migrated to Toronto and formed a community that still exists today. Now there are many 5th and 6th generation Hakka Chinese Canadians living in Toronto. Some practice Buddhism, while others are nonreligious. There are few, if any, followers of Jesus Christ among them.

Pray that a mission agency would reach out to Toronto's Hakka Chinese with the gospel. Ask God to break the hold that Buddhism has on this people group. May the Hakka Chinese come to see Jesus Christ as the one who can give meaning to their lives. Pray that soon there will be a strong disciple-making movement among the Hakka Chinese in Toronto.—WK

JAPANESE PEOPLE IN TORONTO

DAY

10

(These events are hypothetical.)

At a Buddhist temple in Toronto, Sachiko, a young Japanese woman in



iStockPhotos

her 20s, sat in a lotus position and chanted. There were other people sitting on the temple floor doing the same. Most of the others were much older than Sachiko. She continued chanting, but she felt nothing inside. She had a good job in downtown Toronto, but nothing she could buy filled the emptiness in her heart. That's why she decided to give the Buddhism practiced by her ancestors a try.

There is a large Japanese community in Toronto. Many of the young people are 5th or 6th generation. Around 1900 many Japanese settled in British Columbia, on Canada's west coast. After Japan declared war on the British Empire in 1941, all ethnic Japanese were forced to move to relocation camps in the Rocky Mountains. After the war ended in 1945, laws were passed to prevent these people from returning to British Columbia, so many relocated to Toronto.

Over the years Canada's ethnic Japanese have clung to the Buddhism practiced by their ancestors. There are 65,000 Japanese living in Canada and less than one percent of them know Christ as their Lord.

Ask God to raise up faithful workers to reach out to Toronto's ethnic Japanese with the message of salvation. Pray that this people group would come to see Jesus Christ, and not Buddha, as the one who can bring meaning to their lives.—WK

2 COR 10:3-5, NIV

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Pray that spiritual powers that keep the Japanese away from Jesus Christ will be thrust away by the mighty arm of the Lord.

KHALKA MONGOLS IN TORONTO

DEUT 10:18, NIV

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

Pray that Canada will always be a place of refuge for those who need protection and acceptance.

Create Intl.



Mongol girls

A Khalka Mongol woman heard sirens blare and glanced out the window of her second-floor apartment. Her heart skipped a beat when a police car parked in front of the apartment

building. The woman in her 20s wondered if the police had come for her. She glanced at her baby girl, crawling on the living room rug. Had the Canadian authorities rejected her request for asylum? Will she and her baby be sent back to Mongolia? She'd fled Mongolia to get away from an abusive husband. Looking out the window, she saw two officers dragging the man who lived downstairs into the police car. The woman was still safe.

Since the early 1990s many Khalka Mongols have immigrated to Canada, not all of them legally. Many of these people settled in Toronto. Among them are people who have fled from domestic abuse in Mongolia and are now having trouble proving that they have been abused.

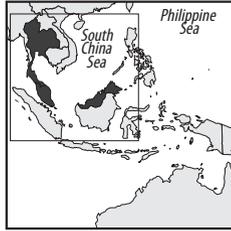
The Khalka Mongols used to be mostly a Buddhist people group, but 80 years of communism eroded the strength of the Buddhist religion among them. Some Mongolians have become believers, but few if any of these live in Canada.

Pray that the Khalka Mongols in Toronto would develop a hunger for the true God. May the few followers of Jesus among them be energized by the Holy Spirit to witness to their unsaved countrymen.—WK

BRUNEI MALAY PEOPLE

(These events are hypothetical.)

The young Brunei man sat in a Toronto library reading a book. Another young man sat at a nearby table and bowed his head before opening the book he'd brought with him. The man from Brunei knew that his white neighbors often bowed their heads to pray. Might the book be religious? Curious, he walked to the next table. "What are you reading?" The white college student smiled. "I'm reading the Bible, about Jesus Christ, the only person to rise from the dead."



LUKE 24:45, NIV

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

Pray that Malay peoples in Toronto will hear and understand the word of God.

"The Qur'an talks about resurrection, but it only will happen in the future. My English reading is not good. Does the library have a copy of the Bible in Brunei Malay?" They walked to the checkout desk. The librarian checked her computer and responded, "I'm sorry. We don't have a Brunei Malay language Bible. No library does because the Bible hasn't been translated into that language."

The first Brunei Malays arrived in Canada in 1906. Today there are 4900 members of this people group living in Canada. Some live in Toronto. Brunei Malays are all Muslims.

Ask God to lead a mission agency to translate the Bible into Brunei Malay. Pray that this people group will become curious about Jesus Christ. Pray that soon there will be Brunei Malay believers studying the Bible in their own language.—WK

DAY

13

TIBETANS IN TORONTO

MARK 11:24, NLT

I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours.

Pray that many believers in Canada will faithfully pray for Tibetans in their country to be freed from spiritual bondage.

GlobalGates



Tibetans

In 1950, China took control of Tibet claiming it was part of China. Tibetans are different from Han Chinese in every way: language, religion, customs, etc. Their leader, the Dalai Lama, was exiled and what has followed every year since then is an exodus of Tibetans to countries all over the world.

Some countries have been welcoming, and that includes Canada. In March of 1971 the first Tibetan refugees arrived in Canada with many settling in Toronto. If the resettlement was successful, the government decided it would accept more. Tibetans have done especially well in “caring professions,” such as in hospitals or homes for senior citizens.

A loophole in the Canadian Refugee and Protection Act has allowed Canada to accept stateless refugees. It's available for groups of people who act like refugees, function like refugees, but do not fit under the normal category of refugee. Such is the case with some Tibetans considered stateless. Tibetans are often Buddhists who incorporate the ancient shamanistic *bon* rituals in their religion (that includes techniques involving ecstasy and ritual magic).

Pray for God to directly intervene in the lives of Tibetan refugees living in Canada. May they have both divine visions of Jesus and “divine appointments” with believers who can share the gospel.—JS

Jesus never said, “When the people come to you . . .” Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations. . .” (Matthew 28:19a).

That command came in 2009 to MoveIn founder and director, Nigel Paul. God gave him the vision to see regular followers of Christ move in and pray in high-needs neighborhoods in Toronto.

Nigel Paul reminds us that God literally moved in with us when Jesus was born. Nigel’s journey began when he moved into a Muslim-majority neighborhood in Toronto at the invitation of friends who had started a church-plant there. He explains that it was a powerful experience to see God at work.

God’s two words to Paul, “move in,” led to a movement by that name, MoveIn. This current generation has to go where the people are needy and meet their needs in the name of Jesus. MoveIn has literally moved on to other areas of Canada wherever there are needy people to hear about the savior. Their theme verse has come from John 1:14a, NIV which says, “The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. . .” but the Message paraphrase puts it best: “The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.” That is what the MoveIn movement is all about—going and living with the needy.

Pray that hundreds of believers will move into neighborhoods and share Christ with the the unreached immigrant. —JS



Lashio

Your new neighbors!

LEV 23:22, NIV

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God.

Thank the Lord for the kindness that MoveIn workers are showing to those who have arrived in Canada without hope.

DAY

15

REFUGEE HIGHWAY PARTNERSHIP

DEUT 24:17, ESV

Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge.

Meditate on how you can apply this verse to the refugees in your city.



“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” (Lev 19:33-34, NIV).

The Refugee Highway Partnership provides opportunities for followers of Christ to work together ministering to forcibly displaced refugees who are now living in North America. They offer a resource where all kinds of groups, churches, etc. working with refugees can learn, network, and share information.

Sharing refugee stories is one way the group informs believers of their plight. “My name is Jean and I am from the Central African Republic (CAR). I came to Canada hoping to find a safe place to live. My involvement in politics put me at great risk in my country. I was tortured and imprisoned for speaking out against the government.” Sahar from Iraq shares that she and her husband fled when his barbershop was blown up by those who didn’t like the western style haircuts he gave. Canada has been very pro-active in meeting refugee needs.

Pray for compassionate hearts among God’s people as they see refugees entering their cities. May they find opportunities to welcome the “sojourners” and treat them as their own.—JS

UIGHURS IN TORONTO

DAY

16

“We can jail you any time we like We don’t care about Canadian passports. This is China.” A Uighur-Canadian man recalled these words from Chinese authorities when he visited China in 2013. The quote appeared in a recently-updated article from Canada’s largest newspaper,



Uighur

The Globe and Mail that is published in Toronto.

Approximately 800 Uighurs live in Canada, with active communities in Toronto and Montreal. A Turkic people group, millions of Uighurs mostly live in Northwest China’s Xinjiang Province. China’s severe persecution of the minority Muslim Uighurs is not confined to China, however. Various testimonies indicate that Chinese authorities attempt to intimidate and infiltrate Uighur communities worldwide. The Chinese reportedly use serious threats and bribery to pressure Uighurs to spy on their own people outside of China, including in Canada.

Ongoing Chinese oppression has intensified the resistance of the Muslim Uighur diaspora to outsiders and their beliefs. Although the Bible, the JESUS Film, and gospel recordings all exist in the Uighur language, there are few Uighurs who follow Christ.

Ask that Christ-followers in Toronto and other Canadian cities pray for and effectively reach out to local Uighurs. Pray for disciple-making movements among Uighurs in Canada that will lead to disciple-making movements among Uighurs in other parts of the world.—CR

ACTS 17:28A, TPT

It is through Him that we live and function and have our identity...

Pray that Uighurs take this scripture to heart by giving their allegiance to Jesus, the almighty redeemer and the only true hope for their culture.

TURKS IN TORONTO

ACTS 16:9-10, NIV

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Pray for many Canadian believers to have a "Macedonian call" to the refugees in Toronto.

iStockPhotos



The Turks are an ancient people, and they have almost legendary status in stories and tales of the East. Rightly so,

as they have influenced the world significantly. Modern Turks are descendants of the Ottoman Empire, conquering warriors that spread their rule over most of the Middle East. A vast empire in 1299, the remainder of the said empire became a republic in 1923. Christians and Jews were tolerated but were second class-citizens under the Turks, and they were finally driven out as the empire collapsed during WWI.

Today, the majority of Turks reside in Turkey, but there is a significant diaspora. Opportunities for education, economic gain, and escape from political unrest have drawn many Turks to migrate throughout the world, even to Toronto. The first Turkish immigrants to come into Canada are recorded as far back as the 1880s, and today over 55,000 Canadians claim full or partial Turkish descent. When they migrate, Turks bring with them their commitment to Islam, and they are proud of their heritage and nationality.

Pray that the Turks would be placed on the hearts of churches, mission organizations, and Toronto believers. Pray for God's wisdom and favor for those reaching them for the Savior. Pray that the message of the risen Christ would be spread back to Turkey.—BK

AZERBAIJANIS IN TORONTO

Azerbaijan is crowded by powerful neighbors. The Azerbaijanis (aka, Azeris) have outgrown their tiny nation, and have spilled copiously into the rest of the world. Azerbaijanis comprise the second largest ethnic group in Iran.

Moving beyond their near neighbors, Azeris can be found throughout the world. In Canada, most Azerbaijanis live in Toronto. There have been five waves of Azerbaijan immigration, the first in the 1930s. The majority of this immigration has been due to war or political instability. According to the official census, there are less than 5,000 Azerbaijanis living in Canada; however, unofficial estimates range from 20,000 to 80,000.

Azerbaijanis have made an effort to blend in, but they do not forget their own culture. Though they speak a Turkic language, the Azeris are Shi'ite, not Sunni Muslims as are their Turkish neighbors. Every spring, they hold a festival featuring their own food, dance, and music. Of the 40 million Azeris worldwide, only 10,000 are known to be believers. Amongst the Azerbaijanis in Canada, that number shrinks to 50.

Pray that the Azerbaijanis in Toronto would encounter the work of the Holy Spirit. Pray that any fear of Muslims among Canadian believers would be washed away by the love of God for these people, and pray that they would step out boldly for the Kingdom of God.—BK



DAY

18

EX 22:21, NIV

Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.

Pray that believers in Canada will show the same kindness to Azerbaijanis that Jesus showed to those outside their own group (see Jn 4, the woman at the well.)

PASHTUN AFGHANS IN TORONTO

IS 56:7, NKJV

Even them I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.

Pray that as believers intercede for the unreached nations at a distance, that they will remember to pray for and go to those nearby.

iStockPhotos



Pashtun children

Farid was 14 when he arrived alone 23 years ago. He spoke no English. Today, he is a successful Afghan-Canadian lawyer in Toronto. He says, “The first thing you must remember is we are a resilient people.”

Northern Pashtun Afghans in Toronto like Farid number 1,400. It has been a difficult road for them. They were raised in a land where war and violence were prevalent, and schooling was not even possible. They went back and forth between various refugee camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan. After a generation of struggling, the Pashtun Afghan community is now taking root economically in Toronto, but acceptance and assimilation is still illusive. “No matter how hard I try, I can't think, talk, or walk like I grew up here,” says Farid.

Written, oral, and video Christian resources are available in their Pashto language. Though Pashtun society does not permit them to explore anything but Sunni Islam, in Canada they can embrace other spiritual answers without the law being on the side of those who persecute them. Still Pashtuns in Toronto remain 100 percent Sunni Muslim.

Pray that believers will reach out to Pashtuns in Toronto. Pray that their hearts will be open, and that Pashtun believers will begin to disciple others in His ways.—KH

AFGHAN TAJIKS IN TORONTO

DAY

20

The history of Afghan Tajiks goes back to the fourth century. They were forcibly converted to Islam during the seventh century, and today over 99 percent remain Muslim; few would consider straying from Islam. A small number of Tajiks fled to Toronto in the 1970s. More immigrated to Toronto in the 1980s when the USSR invaded Afghanistan. Today, they number about 1,000.



Afghan Tajiks are learning new job skills, English and French, and running businesses. Ahmad, a 29-year-old former bank clerk, is a testament to the need for adaptability. When fluent English-speaker Ahmad arrived in Toronto two years ago, he could not find any work matching his training, so he worked as a porter in the market. He then learned to repair shoes while on the job.

Tajiks had few opportunities to hear about Jesus in Afghanistan, though they can hear of him in Canada. Some are devout Muslims while others are nominal. In the Tajiki language there is a Bible, the JESUS Film, and various audio, visual, and oral resources.

Pray for the Lord to raise up believers in Canada who will invest valuable time with Afghan Tajiks, teaching them marketable skills, and exposing them to the one who loves them more than they can imagine. Pray for strong Afghan Tajik church plants in Toronto that will develop mature disciples who will reach Tajiks in Afghanistan and Tajikistan.—KH

DEUT 31:12, NIV

Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law.

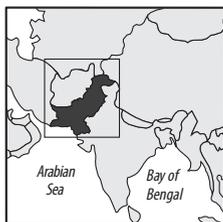
Pray that the Tajik speakers in Canada will have the chance to read, hear, and respond to the word of the Lord in Canada.

URDU SPEAKERS IN TORONTO

LEV 24:22, NIV

You are to have the same law for the foreigner and the native-born. I am the Lord your God.

Pray for Urdu speakers, who are used to injustice and merciless behavior, to find justice and mercy in Toronto. Pray for them to understand that justice and mercy come from God the Father.



If you can't find a job, you go where jobs are available. That's what educated Urdu speakers did as early as 1960, when some immigrated from India and Pakistan to Toronto.

Urdu people in Toronto were concerned they would lose their culture, so they establish their own community groups. They have adjusted well, but not without effort. Their children usually do well in education, even though they experience a tension between Canadian customs and their Islamic ways.

With an Urdu speaking population of 202,000, Toronto has the highest number of Urdu speakers in Canada. They also speak English among other languages. Most are well educated. Many are in professional work such as in medicine, and many have their own businesses. Women work too. Marriages tend to be arranged by parents.

Urdu speaking Canadians are almost 100 percent Sunni Muslims. They have the opportunity to hear the gospel in Canada, and Urdu Bible resources abound. Who will share Christ with them?

Pray that God will give them dreams and visions showing that Jesus Christ is the way to salvation. Pray for believers to go to Urdu speakers in Toronto. Pray for the Holy Spirit to raise up Bible believing fellowships among them.—KH

MOROCCAN JEWS IN TORONTO

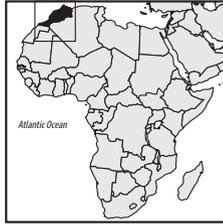
(This story is intended to illustrate truths about this people group.)

Youssef, a Moroccan of Jewish heritage, could hardly hold back his joy as the plane took off from Toronto, Canada for Morocco. He closed his eyes and thought about what visiting the country of his heritage would mean. He would be part of a Jewish pilgrimage, and visit the tombs of famous Moroccan rabbis.

The rest of the time would be devoted to visiting Moroccan Jewish people and praying for God to give them a good life.

Jewish people in Morocco are Sephardic, meaning their ancestors lived in Spain or Portugal before being driven out in 1492. Some of these same Jewish people live in Tunisia. In 1950 there were 300,000 Jews living in Morocco. This is a total contrast to the 2,700 living there today. Though Moroccan Jews feel accepted in Morocco today, the decades that followed 1950 were rough. Moroccan Jews began to emigrate to Israel, France, Canada, and to South America. Most of them left because of the increasing political pressures and persecution from the dominant Islamic society. Today the population of Moroccan Jews in Toronto is flourishing, and they have maintained their Sephardic identity and religious leadership.

Pray that believers in Toronto will develop friendships with these Jewish people so they will know the saving grace of Jesus.—PD



EPH 3:7-8, NLT

By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving Him by spreading this good news. Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, He graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ.

Pray that many from Toronto's Sephardic community will, like the Apostle Paul, take on the privilege of spreading the good news to those who have not heard about the treasures available to those who submit to Jesus Christ.

ENGLISH SPEAKING JEWS IN TORONTO

EPH 3:4-6, NLT

As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by His Spirit He has revealed it to His holy apostles and prophets. And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the good news share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus.

Pray that the Jewish peoples in Toronto will joyfully unite with all others under the banner of Christ and His Kingdom.

iStockPhotos



Speaking to a group of Israeli visitors to Toronto, Rabbi Shmuel gave them some background on the Jewish people in Canada. “The growth of the Jewish population in Canada

followed the pattern of Canada's development; it is a shift from east to west. The closing of one of the oldest synagogues in the summer of 2010, situated in Nova Scotia, is symbolic of the loss of Jewish communities in the east. Until the mid-20th century, Montreal was the center of Canadian Jewish life; today that role is played by Toronto. Of the 350,000 Jews living in Canada, about half reside in Toronto, a quarter in Montreal, and the rest in smaller communities.

This movement of population has affected the way Jews express their identity. The Montreal community was strongly characterized by holocaust survivors, the use of Yiddish, and mostly Orthodox synagogues. Toronto is more typically English speaking North American with a lower percentage of holocaust survivors, lower use of Yiddish, and mostly Conservative and Reform synagogues. Major Jewish institutions faced difficulties in adjusting to this trend.”

The majority of Jewish people in Canada are respected for their talents especially in the areas of business, social welfare, academics, and medicine. Many in Toronto are secular and seldom attend temple except for their high Holidays.

Pray that stronger relationships with Christ followers will open the doors to bring the Jews of Toronto and other parts of Canada to Yeshua (Jesus)!—PD

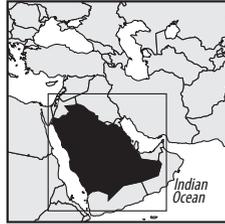
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN CANADA

DAY

24

(This story is intended to be an example of what could happen.)

Sitting on the tarmac, the airplane was the Saudi student's last chance to witness before the plane touched down in his home country, where it was illegal to talk about Jesus. As a graduate in engineering, his career was about to begin. As a new believer, his real work began in Canada where he met the Lord. He'd witnessed to other Saudi students on campus and to Saudi friends on social media.



1 COR 14:21, NIV

In the Law it is written:
“With other tongues
and through the lips of
foreigners I will speak to
this people, but even then
they will not listen to me,
says the Lord.”

*Pray for those reached by
International Students in
Canada to become a witness
to Canadians, and to people
around the world who have
never heard the gospel.*

This Saudi student is an example of the many international students whom God has brought to build His church. Canada hosts more than 300,000 international students, many from countries where it is a crime to worship Jesus.

International Student Ministries Canada (ISMC) is the only Canadian ministry focused solely on empowering international students to become devoted followers of Jesus who share their faith in Canada and beyond. This is a network of partners who collaborate with local churches across 34 cities to evangelize and disciple these students to impact the world for Christ. As leaders, they can speed the gospel's advance in their own countries.

Pray that God expands the work He has started with students to whom ISMC has ministered. Pray that these students will be equipped to share the gospel when they go home.—LR

SAUDI ARABS IN TORONTO

COL 4: 14, NLT

Luke, the beloved doctor, sends his greetings, and so does Demas.

Pray that many Saudis who are being trained in the medical profession in Toronto will be used by God to lovingly heal both the body and souls of their patients.

iStockPhotos



Mohammed, a confident 21-year-old student from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, was happy with the ‘A’ he received from a test he

took at York University in Toronto. He had received a scholarship from his country that paid all his expenses. His friend, Noura, a young Saudi student receiving the same benefits asked him, “How do you manage to do so well in English? I barely made a ‘B.’” Mohammed replied, “My family insisted I learn English. I was able to practice it on our family trips to England. I wanted to study medicine here in Canada so I knew I had to know English and French. Allah has been good to bring us here, even though it is so blasted cold.”

As many as 16,000 Saudi students, including 1,000 medical residents, are studying in Canada. This reflects the long-standing relationship between Canada and Saudi Arabia. Besides medicine, the students are studying in the areas of business, humanities, social sciences, and the arts. Recently more emphasis has been placed on them to study teaching, as good teachers are needed in Saudi, especially in their women’s schools. Canadian believers often reach out to these students and invite them to their homes.

Pray that lasting relationships will develop so Saudi students will come to know the truth and light of Jesus that can change their lives and communities for eternity.—PD

KUWAITI ARABS IN TORONTO

DAY

26

Are there really Kuwaitis in Toronto? If so, they do not belong to the Kuwaiti Expatriates in Toronto organization. Nor are Kuwaitis listed under *Wikipedia's* "Notable Individuals" among Canada's Arab population. But there is an Arab Student Association of Canada, and most Kuwaitis in Canada are students, especially in medical school.



iStockPhotos

According to *Statistics Canada*, there were some 2,000 Kuwaiti-origin Canadians, mostly in Ontario and Quebec. Toronto is the capital of Ontario with major universities, so we may assume that Kuwaitis live there. In both provinces, their numbers are growing.

They are Sunni Muslim, and they are not known for being open to new ideas, especially the idea of following Christ. The fact that Kuwaitis have a great deal of wealth makes them even less open to accepting the free gift of salvation from the savior.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will make them open to Christ and the gospel. Pray that InterVarsity's Nurses Christian Fellowship and university chapters will reach out to Kuwaitis on campus. Pray that Canada's religious freedom will give them the chance to consider Jesus' claims on their lives. Pray for Kuwaiti Arabs to begin their own Christ-centered fellowships in Canada, and share Him when they return to Kuwait.—TP

RUTH 2:11-12, NIV

Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

Pray that the Kuwaiti Arabs in Toronto will put themselves under the wings of the Lord, who gives refuge to all who seek Him.

IRAQI ARABS IN TORONTO

RUTH 1:16, ESV

But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go. And where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”

Pray that the Iraqis of Toronto would find and devote themselves to the God of the Bible in their new land.

Global Gates



Iraqi Arabs in Canada

Imagine the possibilities for would-be missionaries! You don't have to relocate, and the

unreached people groups are more spiritually open than they are overseas. Surveys have shown that a Muslim is much more open to the claims of Christ in his or her newly adopted nation than he or she would be in their Muslim land.

This is the situation for anyone reaching Arab Iraqis in Toronto. Since 1979 when Saddam Hussein became “president” of Iraq, many Iraqis have fled their country to live in Canada. Many of them have chosen to live in Toronto. While some of these Iraqi immigrants have been members of the ancient Chaldean and Assyrian churches, the majority have been Shi'ite or Sunni Muslims fleeing violence and political instability in Iraq. These Iraqis are highly educated, and they have a lot to offer Canada. Unfortunately, a large percentage of these Iraqi Muslims have been unable to find jobs in their professions in Toronto, often because of the language barrier.

Pray that the evangelical churches of Toronto would develop ministries that reach out to Iraqi Muslims. Pray that believers in Toronto will befriend Iraqis and help in practical ways with their unemployment issues and assimilation into Canadian life. Pray for Iraqi-based fellowships and discipleship groups that will transform Iraqi communities.—DK

KURMANJI-SPEAKING KURDS IN TORONTO

(This story illustrates a fictional character and family.)

Cano's name means "life."

His parents named him that because they were given the opportunity to start a new life in Canada. Cano is Kurdish. His family fled the region of Kurdistan (i.e., the lands where Kurds are in the majority) due to persecution by the Iraqi government in the 1980s. Despite having lived in Canada for years, Cano's family still retains their traditional lifestyle and diet. Being Muslims, they do not eat pork, but the women often do not wear veils.

As a people group, Kurds have lived through the Iran-Iraq War, the Gulf War, and the Syrian Civil War. Many fortunate Kurds have been able to immigrate to Canada, and now over 11,000 of them live in that country. In their new land, the Kurds must learn the language and try to enter the job market.

Kurmanji-speaking Kurds are Sunni Muslims. As far as we know there are no Kurds in Canada who follow Christ. Since Canada allows religious freedom, pray for friends and neighbors who will proactively bring the gospel to these newcomers.

Ask God to show the Kurds that living in a peaceful land is not enough. They need the savior who can forgive them of their sins and give them abundant life. Pray that the Kurds will come to know Jesus and be able to spread the news of His saving grace to relatives in Kurdistan.—CMW



Kurdish men

iStockPhotos

DAY

28

DEUT 30: 19-20, NIV

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life, and He will give you many years in the land He swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Pray that the Kurds in Toronto will choose life, as defined by God, and turn away from any ways that lead to spiritual death.

DEUT 27:19, NIV

“Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

Pray that the Yazidis will understand that those who persecute them are putting themselves under a curse, and that they can find blessings in the arms of the Almighty Lord.

Global Gates



A Kurdish Yazidi man

A Kurdish man waiting at the arrivals gate in Toronto’s airport is trembling with anticipation.

His name is Saadi and he is about to see his family for the first time in two years. A Yazidi, Saadi and his family fled northern Iraq when ISIS descended upon the region, killing and enslaving Yazidis. ISIS began attacking the Yazidi people, a Kurdish religious minority, in 2014. Saadi and his family managed to escape to Turkey. He continued on to Toronto while his parents and siblings remained in a refugee camp. In 2016, Canada committed to resettling Yazidi survivors

Saadi is overjoyed to be reunited with his family, but he knows the road ahead of them will be difficult. They will be starting over; they are arriving with nothing. Nonetheless, they are determined to overcome adversity and already have plans to open a family business.

Pray that these people who have endured so much will recognize their need for healing by the only one with the power to do so. May they see God’s goodness. May they start over with Him.—CMW

DRUZE ADHERENTS IN TORONTO

30

(This fictional account is intended to help explain the beliefs of the Druze people group.)



iStockPhotos

A Druze teenaged girl

“..And only those who were truly Druze

could attend the secret meetings,” the old man was telling the boys. They were huddled around him in the Toronto Druze Cultural Centre, entranced by his story, oblivious to the noise of the community dinner taking place around them. “They were known as the Sessions of Wisdom,” the old man said. “We have always been a people who value wisdom. And we love to study. Some even believe our name came from the Arabic word *daresab* – which means ‘those who study’.”

The Druze have a very colorful and rich heritage, starting in the Middle East and stretching to today. Many are now living in other regions of the world, such as Toronto. Those living outside the Middle East, also increasingly being assimilated into other cultures. Many young people are refusing to practice their religion and are becoming secular.

Pray for the Druze of Toronto to encounter the gospel in ways that will cut through the outward trappings of religion and resonate in their hearts.—CL

PS 146:9, NIV

The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but He frustrates the ways of the wicked.

Pray that the Lord will “watch over” the Druze people in Toronto in such a way that they will hear of and respond to His great glory.

31

TIGREAN ERITREANS IN TORONTO

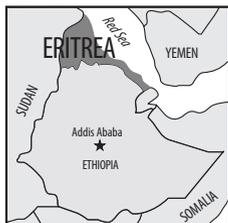
GAL 3:14, NLT

Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing He promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promise of the Holy Spirit through faith.

Pray that as the Tigrean Eritreans enjoy the blessings of living in the safety of Toronto, they will also enjoy the spiritual safety of taking Christ as their Lord.



(This fictional account is intended to help explain the beliefs of the Tigrean Eritreans).



“Why are we here?” As the father peered into the eyes of his 10-year-old daughter, he tried to decide how to respond to her question. The most accurate answer was that they had fled persecution in their homeland, eventually gained passage to Canada. But he

was at a loss as to how he could convey this to his daughter who had no memory of their life in Eritrea. She was too young to understand why people were sometimes forced to leave their homeland.

He finally responded, “Because it is our home. Toronto is a beautiful place filled with beautiful people. And we are grateful to be here.” This seemed to satisfy her for the moment. But he knew that one day, probably not too far in the future, he would have to provide a better, more detailed explanation of their relocation to a new continent and a new nation.

The Tigrean Eritreans living in Canada have escaped the violence, oppression, and poverty facing them in Eritrea in hopes of starting new lives in a peaceful land.

As Tigreans face new situations and new cultures our prayer should be that they also encounter the God who loves them and sent His only son to rescue them and provide them with eternal life.—CL