

The Drum Family

September 2015



Immigrants and Refugees

Immigrant: noun (im·mi·grant \ 'i-mə-grənt)

a : a person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence

b : a plant or animal that becomes established in an area where it was previously unknown

synonyms: newcomer, settler, incomer, new arrival, migrant

refugee: noun (ref-u·gee \ re-fyü-'jē)

one that flees; especially : a person who flees to a foreign country or power to escape danger or persecution; a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

synonyms: displaced person, DP, escapee, fugitive, asylum seeker, runaway, exile, émigré, stateless person, outcast

(Merriam-Webster dictionary)

I am an immigrant. I have been an immigrant for the past 8 years. I know that makes some of you nervous. You think of me as a missionary or as an expat, but I'm an immigrant in the eyes of the rest of the world.

I first occupied the definition of immigrant status when I moved to Costa Rica. I was a newcomer, a new arrival, a biological being in a new place surrounded by a new habitat, an outsider. I later immigrated to Peru, where I became a legal, card carrying resident for 5 years. But I never gained status as a citizen or as a native of Peru...no, I would always be thought of as an immigrant, an outsider, different. Now, I have immigrated again. I now live in Spain as a permanent resident. We've been here for two years so far. I came here speaking the language. I look like everyone else. I'm not as easily distinguished by my appearance. But, I will forever be an immigrant. It is a label that never goes away for me.

It is tough to be an immigrant. Yes, it is something that I chose to do. I'm here because I want to be here to do the work that I am called to do. But that doesn't make being an immigrant any easier. Immigrants, aliens in a foreign land. Outside of our home culture, away from our native language, separated from family and friends and all of our emotional support systems. Nothing seemed familiar, everything seemed strange and different when we moved here. Away from home. Away from community. Away from any sense of belonging. Lost.

It's hard living in a new world and trying to adapt and fit in and find people who will stand beside you.

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...immigrants and refugees

All of this brings on heightened stress, transition shock, culture shock, financial struggles, family stressors, marriage and relational stress, frequent misunderstandings and conflicts. Loneliness. Exhaustion. Depression. Yes, we've been through all of that. And we still fight some of it, even after being immigrants for many years.

I want to show you some other immigrants. (see below)

These are the people that we work with, that we love, that we share life with here. We are all immigrants. Some of my friends, by definition, are also refugees. They fled persecution or danger in their home country. Some ran from physically abusive situations. Some of them are not legal, due to their fears of eventually being found and sent back to the situation that sent them here in the first place. These are people who left behind family, who left their culture and their language, who left all of their belongings.

The current issue of mass migration in Europe is astounding. The refugee population is clamoring for hope, leaving behind all that they know. Immigration touches every age group and every socio-economic status. It isn't choosy... it doesn't elect whom to touch... it touches us all. When hundreds of thousands of souls decide that life is worth risking it all and striking out on epic voyages that have costs thousands and thousands of lives already, we should sit up and take notice. As followers of Christ – disciples of Him – we should fall back on what we know to be Truth:

Matthew 2:14 - And he (Joseph) rose and took the child (Jesus) and his mother (Mary) by night and departed to Egypt. Jesus

was an immigrant. Jesus was a refugee fleeing a murderous king and tyrannic government.

Exodus 22:21 - "You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. The Israelites were a nation of immigrants and refugees, fleeing from Egypt and the oppression of an unjust government.

Leviticus 25:35 - "If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. Deuteronomy 10:18 - He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Original law of the old testament was highly in favor of hospitality, especially to strangers and those traveling through your land in search of a new life.

Hebrews 13:2 - Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. The new church is warned to remember who they are, remember hospitality, and remember Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25:40 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

I leave you with two more:

Philippians 3:20 - But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

Mark 12:30-31 - And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

We minister to the least, the lost, and the left out. We love them, because we are one of them. We are immigrants. That's who we are.



These are only a few of our immigrant friends. Many of our friends are NOT pictured. More than 80% of our work is with immigrants and people who are living outside of their native culture.

How can you help?

At this writing, 400,000 refugees have entered Europe during the first nine months of 2015. In the last three days alone, 22,500 landed on the beaches in Lesbos, Greece. European countries are negotiating how to absorb the vast numbers of displaced people. "It is important to remember that getting refugees through borders safely is the very beginning of the crisis for many of them. These people need work, and homes, and language training, and child care, often post-traumatic counseling, and on and on the list goes.

"We have to stop letting the size of the problem consume and overwhelm us to the point that we just sit there with our eyes glazed over, motionless. It is comparable to a million people staring at the flames of a city burning, so engrossed by the sheer magnitude that they fail to see the buckets of water which stand at each of their feet. Imagine if the million of them took their eyes off of the fire, picked up their own bucket of water and threw it on the flames they could reach?"

"Think, who are the people you know who might have something they could offer to help one family? Then pick up the phone, send an email, start a conversation." ~M. Chastain

Some of our peers in The Mission Society are doing something to help. They are currently amassing supplies for refugee families – tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, basic living supplies that can be carried in a pack and help sustain them via shelter and warmth. The Chastain family, currently serving in Estonia, will be packing these supplies in their van and traveling the route that is currently being taken by many refugees, driving south from Estonia to Albania. Once in Albania, they will refill the van and make the trip back to Estonia again. If you would like to be a part of their help for refugees, please give to their fund at <https://themissionsociety.org/give> Go to the box marked "Give to a Partner or Project" and write in "**Chastain Special Project Refugees**".

Prayer Requests -

- *Pray for the refugee situation in Europe and that all of us can find ways to love and care for our newest neighbors.*
- *Pray for our care regions and our communications with peers within Europe and the Middle East.*
- *Pray for our preparation to teach in a mission conference in Albania in October. We will be teaching a 3-day coach training workshop and 2 discipleship workshops. We will be away from Spain for two weeks.*
- *Pray for the disciple groups, bible studies, relational gatherings, and all of the other ways that we live life among people here in Spain. Pray that we are a light in their day, that we shine light on Truth, and that people come to know and love Him by knowing and being loved by us.*
- *As always, please pray for our boys (Ryan and Miles) in Texas and far away from us during these young adult years.*
- *Please pray for Sarah as she begins a new school year next week. She will be missing quite a bit of school in the first semester due to work-related travel that we must do... pray that she is not negatively impacted by those absences and that her teachers are accommodating and understanding of our work.*



DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

I will pray for you.

As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving \$ _____ Per month / quarter / year for _____ years.



Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

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Sharing the Love of Christ with the least, the lost, and the left out... immigrants, displaced peoples, the lonely, the abandoned, those who need a friend.

Nurturing and developing people to be healthy spiritually, physically, emotionally, and relationally - because "care" is not just an emotional feeling word, "care" is a verb - an action. That's who we are... the care-givers!

Contact The Drums!
We love to Skype,
chat, email, or receive
mail at the post office!

You can contact them:
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that will route to our computer in
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This statue is on a corner in Antequera (our town). It stands as a reminder of the mass exodus of Muslims when a religious war broke out and our town's castle was overtaken by the army of the Catholic Kings. Thousands of people were given 24 hours to leave town or be killed. Today, over 500 years later, we are watching a return of thousands of people to Spain after fleeing religious wars and oppression in their countries.