

A person is seen from behind, standing in a dark doorway and looking out at a bright sunset over a body of water. The scene is silhouetted against the warm light of the setting sun.

MIGRANT UPG MINISTRY

Starter kit

 worldoutreach

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Migrant UPG Ministry: Starter Kit

If you want to reach out to Migrant Unreached People Groups (UPGs) in your area, grow an existing ministry for Migrant UPGs or mobilise other Christians to focus on Migrant UPGs, then this Starter Kit is for you!

There is no shortage of available resources for starting or growing a ministry among Migrant UPGs. But it is good to know which resources will be most helpful to one's context and how one can access them. It is also valuable to learn from other practitioners and to consider a variety of approaches that have been effectively used in different parts of the world.

This Starter Kit enables you to engage with Migrant UPGs. It lists the different components which are essential to Migrant UPG ministry, as well as the various resources and reflection questions that relate to each component.

You can use the content for personal reflection, a strategy meeting, a training workshop, a roundtable discussion or a series of conversations. Read the whole document and identify what applies to your context. You can use the Starter Kit as a whole or focus on specific components.

The broad category of “migrant” refers to one who moves from one place to another, especially in order to find work or better living conditions.

The word “migrant” in the WO context includes students, workers, refugees and asylum seekers.

A. WHY SHOULD WE REACH OUT TO MIGRANT UPGs?

33 “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. 34 The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 19:33-34)

Today we are witnessing one of the most extraordinary times of human migration. Large numbers of people all over the world are uprooting their lives and migrating to other countries for various purposes: to escape hardship, to find work, to study or to pursue greater opportunities. Many of these migrants belong to unreached people groups and communities that restrict evangelism. They are now moving into towns and cities where there are strong Christian churches.

While it is still important to send out missionaries into ‘all the world’, the unreached people groups that are now at ‘our doorstep’ cannot be ignored. This phenomenon requires a new way of doing missions.

More than 258 million people now live within a country that is not their own country of birth and that amounts to 3.4% of the world’s population. As these numbers increase year by year, the global Christian community needs to recognise and respond to the tremendous opportunities God has given for large numbers of the remaining unreached people groups to be reached with the Gospel.

This theme of migration can be seen throughout the Bible and is very much part of salvation history. The Bible is filled with stories, admonitions, instructions and commands that reflect God’s heart for foreigners and strangers. It also shows how God uses the movement of people or “diaspora” as a tool to advance His purposes.

From the perspective of God’s redemptive work, ministering to migrants can be very strategic. Enoch Wan, author of “Diaspora Missiology: Theory, Methodology, and Practice” (2011), mentions at least three phases:

1. Mission TO the diaspora: Christ followers in the host country share the Gospel with Migrant UPGs.
2. Mission THROUGH the diaspora: Migrant believers reach out to those in their own ethnic group, both in the host country and sometimes beyond, by returning to their own countries as missionaries virtual means/
3. Mission BY and BEYOND the diaspora: Those who have been reached by Migrant believers also share the gospel to their own people in their country of origin and beyond.

Questions for reflection/discussion:

- How can you enhance your understanding of what the Bible says about Migrant UPG ministry?
- How can you mobilise and educate other Christians through the use of Scripture about our call and opportunities to reach out to Migrant UPGs?

Resources related to the Biblical Basis for Migrant Ministry or Diaspora Missiology:

Books and Articles

- [The Greatest Opportunity for the Unreached We Have Ever Seen](#)
- [Biblical Verses Related to Ministry Among Migrants](#)
- [Diaspora Missiology: Diaspora Missiology: Theory, Methodology, and Practice \(2nd Edition, 2011\) by Enoch Wan](#)
- [Refugee Diaspora: Missions Amid the Greatest Humanitarian Crisis of the World by Sam George and Miriam Adeney \(September 2018\)](#)
- [Devotional Plans \(https://www.bible.com/search/plans?q=refugees\)](https://www.bible.com/search/plans?q=refugees)
- Bellofatto, Gina. 'People and Their Religions On the Move: Challenge and opportunities of international migration'. Lausanne Global Analysis. Lausanne Movement, 2012. <http://www.lausanne.org/content/lga/2012-11/people-and-their-religions-on-the-move-challenge-and-opportunities-of-international-migration>.
- Inchley, Valerie M. 'Globalization, Migration and Mission in the Nepali Context'. Global Missiology, 2007. <http://ojs.globalmissiology.org/index.php/english/article/viewFile/306/857>
- [A Hybrid World: Diaspora, Hybridity, and Missio Dei](#)

Websites

- Didasko Academy (dasko.org)
- Mahabba Network (mahabbanetwork.com)
- Refugee Campaign (eearefugees.org)
- Diasporas and International Students: [The New People Next Door \(www.lausanne.org\)](http://www.lausanne.org)
- Lausanne Global Classroom: Diaspora (<https://www.lausanne.org/lausanne-global-classroom/diaspora>)

B. COMPONENTS OF MIGRANT UPG MINISTRY

This list of six components is based on input provided by various practitioners who have shared their experience in reaching out to Migrant UPGs. It includes fruitful practices, steps, approaches, strategies, resources and reflection questions that have been applied in a variety of contexts.

Under each component is a list of coaching questions that will help you engage with the topic and links that will help you access related tools and resources.

The components are not listed in order of importance. You may find one component more relevant to your journey than others. However, we recommend that you start with prayer as it is foundational and it will give you a launching pad to work from.

1. PRAYER

Jesus modelled the important link between prayer and fruitful ministry. There are many Biblical passages that show the strong correlation between the mission of God and intercession.

Therefore, it is incredibly important to prioritise prayer when starting or continuing one's journey to reach Migrant UPGs. There are various ways to do this as individuals or groups.

Questions for reflection/discussion:

- How can you incorporate praying for Migrant UPGs in your walk with the Lord?
- Who can you ask to pray with you?
- What strategy and which materials will you use to mobilise prayer for the Migrant UPG?
- How often will you gather to pray together in person or virtually?
- How will you record and document the highlights from your time of prayer?

Resources with practical strategies and guidelines that will make your Prayer journey consistent, interactive, creative and exciting:

Books and Articles

- [Prayer Walk Guidelines from UPGRAYDE](#)
- [Prayer Strategy](#)
- [Ministry Considerations for Migrant UPG Ministry](#)

Websites

- www.prayerstrategists.net
- www.prayercast.com
- www.operationworld.org
- <https://jwipn.com/>
- <https://marn.org.nz/resources/>

Apps

- [Operation World](#)
- [Unreached of the Day](#)

2. RESEARCH

Getting to know the Migrant UPGs among us involves research. It is important to know what kind of information is needed and how it could best be documented.

Questions for reflection/discussion:

- What types of need/resource assessments are available for you to understand how best to approach and help Migrant UPGs?
- Which Migrant UPG groups can be found in your city or region?
- What do you know about them?
- What other information do you need to know?
- Where and how can you get information?
- Who can help you?
- Which people groups would you like to focus on? Why?
- Which language do you speak? How will you communicate with them? Should you consider learning their language?
- What are their most urgent needs, from their perspective?
- How will you start connecting with them?
- Who else is already working among them?
- How can you collaborate with these workers? (See Component 6)
- What research and assessment tools are available?
- What key concepts or terms with Biblical equivalents can you use from the migrant's language or culture that can be used for evangelism and discipleship?

Resources related to Migrant UPG Research:

Books and Articles

- [UPG Profile Survey](#)
- [Considerations to Be Taken When Starting a Migrant ministry.](#)
- [Process of Documentation](#)
- World migration report UN - https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2020.pdf
- <https://honorshame.com/>

Websites

- www.joshuaproject.net
- www.inserv.org.za

Apps

- [Joshua Project](#)

3. RELATIONSHIPS

Building relationships, forming friendships and developing trust are important ingredients to having a fruitful ministry among Migrant UPGs. Every follower of Jesus has the capacity to become friends with others and demonstrate love to them in practical ways.

Migrants usually show greater openness to new ideas and experiences outside the usual restrictions of the communities and countries where they come from. However, the fact that these Migrant UPGs belong to different cultural and linguistic groups, should never be overlooked. There is a cross-cultural aspect involved in communicating and relating to them.

In order for the gospel to be shared in a way that relates to their worldview, seeking to understand their culture and learning some of their language is necessary.

Questions for reflection/discussion:

- What phrases do you need to learn in order to start connecting with Migrant UPGs and to become friends with them?
- What aspects about their culture or belief systems do you need to understand for your relationship to deepen?
- What essential cultural dos and don'ts should you be aware of?
- What personal qualities and attitudes do you need to develop in order to be effective in this type of ministry?

Resources related to building Relationships:

Books and Articles

- Add Language Learning Apps (e.g. LAMP method) <https://apps.ankiweb.net/>
- *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation* by Miroslav Volf
- <https://growingparticipatorapproach.wordpress.com/six-phase-programme/>
- *Fluent Forever: How to Learn Any Language Fast and Never Forget It* - Gabriel Wyner
- *Foreign to Familiar*
- *The Culture Map: Breaking Through the Invisible Boundaries of Global Business*

Courses

- Crossing Cultures
- *Fluent Forever App*

Websites

- Lausanne Global Classroom: International Student Ministry (<https://www.lausanne.org/lausanne-global-classroom/international-student-ministry-episode>)
- <https://fastlanguagemastery.com/400-most-common-words>

4. PRACTICAL HELP

Ministry to Migrant UPGs involves a demonstration of the love of Jesus in practical ways. Their 'felt needs' will be discovered as the relationships are built.

Here are a few examples of practical help or platforms that some practitioners have found effective:

- Holding literacy classes
- Providing skills and vocational training
- Assisting with visas and other legal documents
- Teaching English
- Showing hospitality, taking people around and helping migrants settle in
- Helping migrants with employment opportunities
- Accompanying migrants as they go to banks/medical facilities
- Offering special celebrations to align with their cultural festivals/gatherings/celebrations where appropriate
- Translating for migrants at doctor's appointments
- Helping migrants find housing and do the paperwork
- Teaching or participating in a sport with them
- Giving financial and entrepreneurial advice
- Helping migrants access psychological, physical and medical help
- Allowing migrants to share their knowledge and expertise with others
- Helping migrants who are persecuted for their faith when they become followers of Jesus
- Eating together can help with relationship-building and promote togetherness, community and trust.

These practical steps provide an avenue for people to spend more time with Migrant UPGs and share the love of Jesus in a non-threatening way. They are a valuable service to the community that demonstrates care and compassion.

Questions for reflection/discussion:

- What are some of the practical needs of the migrant UPGs you are reaching?
- What practical steps can you take to meet the needs of migrant UPGs?
- How can you create sustainable platforms for helping migrant UPGs?
- How do you maintain healthy boundaries and realistic expectations when you extend help? How do you avoid unhealthy dependence?

Resources related to Practical Help:

Websites

- Sport: <https://www.sportsoutreach.net/>
- Teaching English: <https://www.thetefllife.co.za/>
- Refugee Highway (refugeehighway.net)
- International Association for Refugees (iafr.org)

5. EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

Sharing the Good News of Jesus and making disciples of all nations is our mandate. There are numerous strategies and resources available to make it happen. However, one of the most effective strategies in working with Migrant UPGs is friendship evangelism. The sharing of the gospel and discipleship happens over time as the relationship is built and the love of Jesus is continuously demonstrated and shared as the friendship deepens.

Forming house groups for those who receive Jesus and using storytelling as an approach have also been highlighted as effective strategies.

Questions for reflection/discussion:

- What aspects about their culture or belief systems do you need to know to share the gospel to Migrant UPGs in a relevant way?
- Which evangelism method do you think is most appropriate for the Migrant UPG you are reaching out to?
- What, from your personal experience of being disciplined, can you use in discipling others?
- Which aspects of your own culture and worldview do you think you need to set aside as you disciple migrants? (Remember it's not wrong, it's just different)
- In what ways can you invite your migrant friend into your life so they can experience Christian living?

Resources related to Evangelism and Discipleship

Books and Articles

- [Discovery Bible Study, Disciple Making Movement \(DMM Approach\)](#)
- [The Camel: How Muslims Are Coming To Faith In Christ](#) by Kevin Greeson
- <https://answers2ncquestions.nz>
- www.asiapacificdt.swiftly.nz
- www.map4thawt.com

Websites

- [Jesus Film](#)
- <https://siutrainning.org/>
- <http://simplythestory.org/oralbiblestories/>
- [Answering Jihad eBook](#) by Nabeel Qureshi
- [Ministering Cross-Culturally](#) Sherwood G. Lingenfelter
- [Facing the Muslim Challenge](#) John Gilchrist
- [Sharing the Gospel with Muslims](#) John Gilchrist
- [Discipleship booklet](#)
- <http://friendshipfirst.org>
- <https://www.joiningthefamily.org/the-course/>
- www.thepilgrimage.net.nz

Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Haal2QGc7Ws>

App

- [Jesus Film](#)
- [The God Test](#)
- [Discover](#)

6. WORKING WITH OTHERS

The task of the Great Commission is too big for any person or group to accomplish on their own. The Body of Christ has been designed to have an exponential increase in fruitfulness as God's people work together.

It is important to work with other people in a team or to be involved in partnerships among churches and mission organisations, because the task is enormous. Working with others provides accountability, encouragement, prayer support, collective wisdom, greater confidence in applying strategies and the sense of community that is essential for longevity in ministry.

TEAM

Questions for reflection/discussion:

- In what ways will working with a team advance the work among the Migrant UPG?
- How can you mobilise your church and other people to be involved with ministry to Migrant UPGs? What materials can you use?
- What type of people will be most helpful to have in the team? How should they be invited?
- In what ways can the team be developed and kept 'healthy'?
- What will your role be in this team?

PARTNERSHIPS/NETWORKS

Questions for reflection/discussion:

- What type of work is being done by individuals, groups, churches or mission organisations in Migrant UPGs you want to reach?
- Which NGOs, churches, mission organisations, government offices and professional groups can you work with?
- In what areas can you collaborate? What steps can you take to network or partner with them?

Resources related to Working With Others

Books and Articles

- [Partnership resources](#)

Websites

- www.synergycommons.net/
- <https://internationalproject.org>
- <https://refugeelanguage.org>
- <https://globalgates.info>

C. REFLECTING ON YOUR OWN JOURNEY AND LOOKING AHEAD

There is value in pausing to reflect on one's journey and taking the time to seek the Lord's will about the next steps to take. Here are a few reflection questions you can answer personally:

Questions for reflection/discussion:

- Reflect on your journey and how you can share your story with others.
- How did your journey to discovering your call to Migrant UPG ministry start?
- How did your conviction about this calling grow?
- What were the events that led you to conclude that this was the path you were meant to go?
- In what ways has the Lord led you, shown you and guided you?
- What challenges have you encountered, if any? How have you dealt with those challenges?
- What gifts and skills have developed in your life?
- In what ways can these gifts and skills be used in the ministry to Migrant UPGs?

- What are your goals for the next year or two? What fruit would you like to see?
- What opportunities are currently available to you?
- What next step can you take that is beyond your comfort zone?
- What approaches/strategies do you need to use in the next two years?
- What will help you and your team to be more effective?
- In what ways can you remain spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically healthy as you continue to engage in this ministry?

*Thank you for using this document. We hope it has been of help to you.
Feel free to contact us for questions, comments or any additional
information you wish to share at kealeboga.thabapelo@world-outreach.com
May the Lord continue to bless you and your work among Migrant UPGs!*