



Partners for the Nations

Lesson 1 • Acts 18:1-22

The 2019 World Outreach Celebration Will Help Us See that **JESUS** Is the Refuge for the Nations.

2019 World Outreach Celebration Global Partners

Mitch & Beth Calmes

*Bridging the Gap in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania by Providing a Refuge for Muslim Women at Risk
[Church Planting, Manna Feeding Center, Sifa Threads with the Baptist Bible Fellowship International]*

Robert & Joanna Graham

*Bridging the Gap in South Africa by Providing a Refuge for AIDS Orphans
[South African Children's Resiliency Project with the BBFI]*

Tom & Regina Franklin

*Bridging the Gap in the Dominican Republic by Providing a Refuge for the Impoverished
[Church Planting with the BBFI]*

Jesse & Erica McCallister

*Bridging the Gap in Berlin, Germany by Providing a Refuge for Muslim Refugees
[Evangelism and Placement with Greater European Missions]*

Alex & Haley Powell

*Bridging the Gap in the Middle East by Providing a Refuge for Muslims
[Evangelism and Discipleship with Cru – formerly Campus Crusade for Christ]*

Our Global Partners Are People Too!

They need churches like ours to be a refuge for them so they will be **REFRESHED** to stay on mission.

*Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers; and they have testified to your love before the church. **You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.** For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth. **3John 5-8***

*For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, **because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother... Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Philemon 7, 20***

*I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, **so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. Romans 15:30-32***

*I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence, **for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people. 1 Corinthians 16:17-18***

*May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, **for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, 2 Timothy 1:16***

Be a Refuge for Our Global Partners to Refresh Them

1. Our Global Partners Go through Times of **DISCOURAGEMENT...Just Like Us!**

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. Acts 18:1

"And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling," – Apostle Paul, 1Corinthians 2:3

Reasons Our Global Partners Get Discouraged

- They endure personal **DIFFICULTIES**. v. 1
- They encounter spiritual **DARKNESS**. v. 1
- They experience financial **STRESS**. vs. 2-3
- They encounter missional **OPPOSITION**. v. 4-6

2. Our Global Partners Need ENCOURAGEMENT to Stay on Mission...*Just Like Us!*

The LORD Brings Encouragement through His People

- The LORD provides sacrificial PARTNERS who are ordinary Christ followers like us! v. 2-4

Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. Romans 16:3-4

- The LORD sends financial SUPPORT through ordinary local churches like ours! v. 5

And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Philippians 4:15-16

And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. 2 Corinthians 11:9

- The LORD blesses with spiritual FRUIT in spite of opposition and persecution! v. 6-8

The LORD Speaks Encouragement through His Word

- The LORD's supportive REMINDER

And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid...for I AM with you..." v. 9

- The LORD's strong MANDATE

"but go on speaking and do not be silent..." v. 9

- The LORD's sovereign PROMISES

"and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." v. 10

"Nothing happens that doesn't first pass through My hands. Therefore, My saving purposes will prevail."

The Result of Experiencing Our Church as a Refuge of Refreshment

Our Global Partners will PERSEVERE in bridging the gap to all peoples until they return to report once more.

And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. Acts 18:11

When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. Acts 18:22

How You Can Be a Refuge of Refreshment to Our WOC Guests

- ☐ **PRAY** for us to be a refuge of refreshment for our Global Partners and at Celebrate Unplugged // Oct 27 @ 5:00 PM.
- ☐ **PARTICIPATE** by signing up to serve and coming to the WOC // October 23-27.
- ☐ **PREPARE** to be a person whom the LORD uses to refresh their hearts.
- ☐ **PLAN** now about personally getting involved in Faith Promise Giving here at LifeBridge.