



How Far Are You Willing to Go for the Gospel?

For **FRANKLIN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH**, it was to another country to pursue an unreached people with the Gospel. Franklin Heights, led by pastor Mark Griffin, pursued an unreached people group called the Mixteco in south central Mexico. The Mixteco is listed among the 6,832 unreached people groups of the world according to the International Mission Board.

However, the church discovered through International Mission Board missionary mobilizers Lloyd and Connie Rogers that there are now 5,000 to 6,000 Mixteco people who have migrated to metro Richmond over the past 12 years. The Rogers knew about the church's passion to reach the Mixteco and encouraged them to meet Pastor Fernando Mangieri with Iglesia Nueva Esperanza.

NOW FOLLOW THIS TRAIL OF CONNECTIONS TO SEE HOW GOD IS AT WORK WHEN WE COMMIT.

In 2009, Fernando was starting a new church to reach Hispanic people in Chesterfield County. Kingsland Baptist Church helped Fernando by starting an English as a Second Language class and expanding the reach of the church's Awana program.

Odilon and Tayde' Mendoza brought their children to Awana and started attending the ESL class. Through these and personal contacts Fernando witnessed to Odilon for a year.

After a year Odilon brought his wife and two children to worship. After three weeks, Odilon came to Fernando and said, "I must profess Jesus Christ as my Savior."

Odilon gathered his friends for a Bible study in his home and after a month of studying God's Word discovered that he was supposed to marry Tayde'.

Because God so transformed Odilon and his marriage, five more families came to Christ through their witness and became part of the Bible study.

After three years of focused discipleship, Fernando recognized that God has a calling on Odilon's life. Therefore, Fernando took Odilon to an IMB *Embrace Conference*. At

the conference, they both heard of the need among the Mixteco people. Fernando asked Odilon if he had ever heard of the Mixteco people — an unreached people. He said yes, that he was Mixteco. And many that had been coming to his Bible study were Mixteco.

About the same time that the Rogers contacted Franklin Heights about the need for the Mixteco people that now live at metro Richmond, Fernando discovered that his disciple was from the Mixteco people. When Franklin Heights contacted Fernando, they made plans to do a block party to reach both Hispanic and Mixteco people. There is now a small group

gathered of the Mixteco people and Odilon is being mentored to become the church planter to ‘his people.’

Franklin Heights pursued an unreached people group in another country. God honored their faithfulness to enable them to partner with reaching them in Metro Virginia. There are more than 190 people groups in the I-95 corridor between Washington DC and Richmond. Many of these are unreached with the gospel. How far are you willing to go for the gospel? Could it be that you are needed to be a missionary at home?

Please pray for the many challenges of reaching the unreached people called the Mixtecos.

Resources

SBC of Virginia People Group Profiles:
sbcv.org/peoplegroups

IMB Embrace Conference:
imb.org/updates/storyview.aspx?StoryID=12442

IMB (People Group Information):
public.imb.org/globalresearch/Pages/default.aspx

Franklin Heights Baptist Church:
franklinheights.org

People Group Missionary with SBC of Virginia:
 Contact Larry Black at lblack@sbcv.org

People Groups.org:
peoplegroups.org

HELPFUL TERMS DEFINED

PEOPLE GROUPS: *A people group is the largest group through which the gospel can flow without encountering significant barriers of understanding and acceptance. By this definition there are 11,489 People Groups in the world.*

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS IN THE WORLD

(UPGS): *A people group is unreached when the number of Evangelical Christians among them is less than 2% of its population. There are 6832 unreached people groups in the world where less than 2% of its population are Christians. Note: The Mixteco people group are part of this group of UPGs.*

UNENGAGED UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

(UUPGS): *A people group is unreached and unengaged when there is no church planting strategy consistent with the evangelical faith and practice. There are 3264 people groups that are classified by our International Mission Board as being “unreached and unengaged with an intentional evangelism and church planting effort.*

How You Can Pray for the Mixteco People Group of Richmond:

Pray for God to open their hearts to the gospel and to pray that the deceiver’s voice will no longer be heard

Pray for God’s witnesses (Mendozas and others) to be discerning and bold

Pray for scripture portions that have been translated into the Mixteco language to become available

Pray for a multiplying church to be planted in metro Richmond among the Mixteco that will take the gospel back to Mexico

