

EMBRACING NEWCOMERS



"I was a stranger and you welcomed me" – JESUS, Matthew 25:35 A workshop with Dr. TV Thomas



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Welcome to **Embracing Newcomers.**

This is more than simply a video seminar and workbook. It may be for you a grand new adventure in God's Kingdom. For a Newcomer, it will be eternity changing.

The Kingdom of God is about people. Eternal beings. People in search of ultimate meaning and truth. And those are only found in the Person of the King.

You, like me, have probably already found this to be true: Not everyone is open and ready for this Truth.

But of all people, Newcomers are more open. The more recent someone has arrived in their new land, the more open they are to hearing, learning, and trying new things.

And this is why God's heart is so much for the Newcomer. God intentionally includes Newcomers from Genesis through Revelation. They're apples of His eyes, too, just like you.

And His heart beating in you is why you've opened this Participant's guide, and are taking time for this video seminar with Dr. TV Thomas.

How did we get here?

I've met TV multiple times through the years in both the U.S. and Canada. He's always a delight. Funny. Challenging. Charming. Relevant. Significant. Called of God as His tool to equip God's people to better love their neighbours – Newcomers especially – in every way, and most with the life and destiny changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A while back I took in his live presentation of "Becoming More Welcoming and Embracing." After participating, I thought, "*I need to share this!*"

Did the host record it? No. Did TV have a recording of it? No.

Ok. Let's fix that. So TV and his Centre for Evangelism & World Mission, based in Regina, SK, and the PAOC Mission Canada's Cultural Language Ministry collaborated to have him in with a live audience, record it, edit and distribute it.

All so you can be blessed and better equipped to Embrace Newcomers in your life, too...all to the Glory of God and the growth of His Kingdom in you and your Newcomer friends as well.

May the Lord cause you to advance in maturity and fruitfulness as a result.



Charles Hermelink

Cultural Language Groups Coordinator

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EMBRACING NEWCOMERS

By Dr. T.V. Thomas



INTRODUCTION

*The crucial question is NOT how do we _____ the culturally/ethnically different;
the crucial question is how we do _____ the culturally/ethnically different.*

Q1. HOW DO PEOPLE IN OUR CONGREGATIONS _____ THE CULTURALLY/ ETHNICALLY DIFFERENT NEWCOMERS

1. As a _____ spot → to remain in _____.
2. As _____ → to leave them _____/ignore them or be indifferent to them.
3. As a _____ → to be _____, if possible.
4. As an _____ → to make new _____ and touch them with God's love.

Leviticus 19:33-34

³³ *When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong.* ³⁴ *The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.*

Q2. HOW DO WE _____ THE CULTURALLY/ETHNICALLY DIFFERENT IN OUR CONGREGATIONS?

THREE STEPS WE MUST TAKE



STEP #1 – CULTIVATE A CULTURE OF _____

1. Extend a genuine warm loving _____

Matthew 22:39, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

_____ = A word of kindly greeting to a person whose arrival gives us pleasure.

2. Receive people with a right _____

Philippians 2:3, 5 ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves... ⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...

- 2.1. _____ them as they are

- 2.2. _____ them by respecting them

- 2.3. _____ them by valuing them

- 2.4. _____ a multicultural/multiethnic heart among your people

- 2.5. _____ St. Paul's exhortation on hospitality

Romans 12:13 ...contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

- 2.6. Learn to go _____ welcome to embrace

_____ = with your full arms wrapped around something or someone with full acceptance and affection

STEP #2 – _____ TO BECOME A 1 CORINTHIANS 9:22 CONGREGATION

²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.

1. Not feeling _____ but _____



2. Not _____ but _____

3. Not _____ but _____

4. Not “_____” but _____

STEP #3 – _____ DIVERSITY AND PROMOTE INCLUSION

1. Be proactively _____ in your pursuit of diversity

2. Promote “_____” and show zero tolerance to partiality, ethnocentricity, prejudice or racism.

_____ is to extend _____ goodness to those who are typically left out, marginalized or are on the fringes of dominant culture.

3. Ensure ongoing _____ for the congregation to embrace diversity

Plan for training in “Intercultural Competence”

= Cultural _____ (awareness)

+

Cultural _____

+

_____ cultural engagement

4. Learn about the _____ of different cultures, religions and generations

CONCLUSION

Selected Bibliography for Continued Reading:

Multicultural Ministry Handbook: Connecting Creatively to a Diverse World by David A. Anderson and Margarita R. Cabellon ed. (Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010).

Pocket Guide to World Religions by Winifried Corduan. (Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006).

Making Disciples Across Cultures: Missional Principles for a Diverse World by Charles A. Davis (Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press 2015).

Oneness Embraced by Tony Evans (Chicago IL: Moody Publishing, 2011).

The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor by Mark Labberton (Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011).

A Beginner's Guide to Crossing Cultures: Making Friends in a Multicultural World by Patty Lane (Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002).

Crossing Cultures with Jesus: Sharing Good News with Sensitivity and Care by Katie Rawson. (Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015).

Where the Nations Meet: The Church in a Multicultural World by Stephen A. Rhodes (Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998).

The Color of Church: A Biblical and Practical Paradigm for Multicultural Churches by Rodney M. Woo (Nashville TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2009).



Dr. T.V. Thomas

Director, Centre for Evangelism & World Mission

2146 Robinson Street, Suite 1B, Regina SK S4T 2P7 CANADA

Ph 306-569-8999 • Fx 306-569-1536 • tvthomas@accesscomm.ca

And for more resources and connections, find us at:



<https://www.paoc.org/canada/workers/priorityculturalministries>



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Leader's & Participant's Guide to filling in the blanks:

The crucial question is NOT how do we reach the culturally/ethnically different;
the crucial question is how we do receive the culturally/ethnically different.

Q1. HOW DO PEOPLE IN OUR CONGREGATIONS VIEW THE CULTURALLY/ ETHNICALLY DIFFERENT NEWCOMERS?

1. As a blind spot → to remain in denial .
2. As aliens → to leave them alone /ignore them or be indifferent to them.
3. As a threat → to be removed , if possible.
4. As an opportunity → to make new friendships and touch them with God's love.

Q2. HOW DO WE RECEIVE THE CULTURALLY/ETHNICALLY DIFFERENT IN OUR CONGREGATIONS?

THREE STEPS WE MUST TAKE:

STEP #1 – CULTIVATE A CULTURE OF HOSPITALITY :

1. Extend a genuine warm loving welcome .
Welcome = a word of kindly greeting to a person whose arrival gives us pleasure.
2. Receive people with a right attitude .
 - 2.1 Accept them as they are.
 - 2.2 Affirm them by respecting them.
 - 2.3 Appreciate them by valuing them.
 - 2.4 Nurture a multicultural/multiethnic heart among your people.
 - 2.5 Obey St. Paul's exhortation on hospitality.
 - 2.6 Learn to go beyond welcome to embrace.
Embrace = your full arms wrapped around something or someone with full acceptance and affection.

STEP #2 - CHOOSE TO BECOME A 1 CORINTHIANS 9:22 CONGREGATION:

1. Not feeling superior but humble .
2. Not patronizing but identifying with .
3. Not exclusive but inclusive .
4. Not "us/them " but mutuality .

STEP #3 – CELEBRATE DIVERSITY AND PROMOTE INCLUSION

1. Be proactively intentional in your pursuit of diversity
2. Promote "grace-ism " and show zero tolerance to partiality, ethnocentricity, prejudice or racism.
Gracism is to extend extra goodness to those who are typically left out, marginalized or are on the fringes of dominant culture.
3. Ensure ongoing training for the congregation to embrace diversity
Plan for training in "Intercultural Competence" = Cultural intelligence (awareness)
+
Cultural sensitivity
+
Skillful cultural engagement.
4. Learn about the worldviews of different cultures, religions and generations