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Welcome...

East Asia Diaspora Forum

**Capture your Greatest
Mission Opportunity**



What is the challenge ahead

(from OMF Diaspora Ministries)

■ CHINA

- 62.5 million Mainland Chinese Diaspora
- China sent 180,000 students overseas in 2008—a record high number (*March 26, 2009, Xinhua*).
- 150,000 Mainlanders at least reside in the UK
750,000 Chinese temporarily reside in Africa, primarily involved in mining and construction.
<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/IL13Ado1.html>
- There are currently 100,000 Mainland Chinese students in Japan. http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/200704/09/eng20070409_364740.html
- For every 100,000 mainlanders that leave china a year – they reckon about 10,000 return as believers.

■ JAPAN

- Japan reports 172,993 Japanese students studying overseas in 2008, and 28,743 accompanying family members. (*Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2008* <http://www.mofa.go.jp/Mofaj/toko/tokei/hojin/o8/pdfs/1.pdf>)

■ THAILAND

- 50,000 Thai in the UK, (http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2006/06/19/national/national_30006759.php)
- 30,000 in Australia, (http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/comm-summ/_pdf/thailand.pdf),
- 53,000 in Germany (*Population and Employment- Foreign Population, Resultsof the Central Alien Register, 2008, Subject- Matter Series 1/ series 2, Statistisches Bundesamt, Wiesbaden*).

■ VIETNAMESE

- 3 million living abroad

■ PHILIPPINES

- 10% pop of the Philippines

God's Heart for the Dispersed Peoples of the World

(from OMF Diaspora Ministries)

- The movement of the world's peoples about the globe is no new thing. Dreams, opportunity, work, human trafficking, asylum, conquest, war, and education have all been reasons for the dispersion of peoples. God has been involved from the beginning, and through the movement of peoples, has brought many into contact with his people and given them the opportunity to know him. God moved Abraham west and positioned his people at the crossroads of the known world (Eze. 5:5), establishing the people of Israel there, so that all the world would know that there is a God in Israel (2Sam. 17:46). In Leviticus 19:33-34 we read: *"When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God."* Then later in Scripture we see God's purpose in reaching peoples-on-the-move in Solomon's temple-dedication prayer. *"As for the foreigner...when he comes and prays toward this temple, 43 then hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you...and may know that this house I have built bears your Name"* (1Kings 8:41-43).
- We see threaded throughout Scripture similar expressions of God's love for the foreigner and alien in the land, and we know that we have an opportunity and responsibility to love those who are dispersed for Christ (Matt. 28:19-20). No one is displaced apart from God's awareness. Paul in Acts 17 explains this clearly and once again alludes to God purpose: *"26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us."*
- Each place and time marked out for us – not just any place, but exactly. The East Asians that are coming here are coming because God wants them too, and some of those He wants us to meet and engage with for Christ.