

Expanding Our Reach - Knoxville

One of the greatest challenges immigrants face is loneliness.

This is even truer today as normal social interaction has been strangely interrupted. In conversation over the phone, we hear sadness and even despair in the voices of our dear friends.

Our mission has not changed. We continue to provide meaningful friendship and service to dispersed people. The current circumstances have led us to establish new virtual and digital ways to connect with our international friends during this time in which we cannot gather face-to-face.

There are specific ways that we are seeking to accomplish better connections:

- **Teaching English** English language classes have been unable to meet face-to-face due to coronavirus restrictions, so developing online lessons is critical. Daily English lessons and a weekly Discovery Bible Study are currently being held over the phone and on Zoom, but a better platform is needed.
- **Culture Coaching** A website is currently in development to reach diaspora as well as Americans who serve the diaspora population and desire to improve their intercultural skills. Certification in the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), as well as the GlobeSmart Profile, will provide robust tools for coaching people in Intercultural skills.
- A **virtual hangout** to reach diaspora is in development. This will enable interaction, as well as provide content relevant to immigrants at the click of a button.

What do we need?

Our project requires an updated computer and new software and services, as well as licenses and cultural coaching certifications. Currently, we are seeking \$22,575 to move this project forward. As the funds are provided, we will gather the equipment, become certified, and continue the work.

- ESL/DBS Teaching 10 hrs/wk, ongoing \$6250
- Blog content development/coaching 10 hrs/wk, ongoing \$6250
- Forum moderator 5 hrs/wk, ongoing -\$3125
- Website content editor 2 hrs/wk, ongoing \$1250
- Training/Certification July 1-3 \$2500
- Tech support ongoing \$1000
- Equipment and software June 2020 \$1200
- Internet hosting and other fees ongoing \$1000

When can we start?

We have already begun utilizing and publishing content on the blog, and with the necessary funding, we would be able to make the blog a more effective resource and move forward with other aspects of this project within a few months.

Objectives

We anticipate being able to maintain friendships, service and ministry to our existing friends as well as expanding our reach to make new contacts now and beyond the COVID restrictions. We hope to see steady growth in the number of contacts and participation we see in our community.

Appeal

Be a part of this opportunity to meet and connect with our neighbors while we are unable to do so face-to-face and prepare us to better reach those who are unable to meet regularly due to work schedules or other reasons. Pray for these next steps in this project and visit us.worldteam.org/give to financially support this ministry!

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