

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group
March 2012

Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? Luke 17:18

Integration is NOT assimilation. *Assimilation* is an approach to migration that expects the newcomer to fit in and to adapt to 'our' ways of doing things. *Integration* is a mutual relationship of interaction, exchange and development. How often within our churches do we demand of newcomers to learn 'how we do things'? Do we directly or indirectly tell them where to sit, how to behave or what to do in 'our' service? Do we provide any space for others to teach us how to praise and give thanks to God in new and varied ways?

In the Gospel of Luke, we encounter Jesus healing ten men with leprosy. In this story, the despised Samaritan, the foreigner, was the only one of the ten lepers to return to Jesus in gratitude.

What message is there for the other nine who did not return to Jesus and what challenge is there for us today? How can we be open as individuals, as churches and as a society to the gifts of different approaches and perspectives?

Contributed by Scott Boldt, EMBRACE Committee Member

This month, we give thanks for...

- Churches seeking to connect with and learn from migrants
- All the various ways that new residents have enriched the churches and broader society by bringing and sharing their varied life experiences and traditions
- The way in which 'outsiders' can break down our own sectarian attitudes and allow us to learn from different denominations without carrying any negative political or historical associations
- People of other or no faiths who can teach us about gratitude

And we pray for...

- Churches struggling to move beyond 'welcome' and who are seeking to integrate people from varied nations and backgrounds into the life of the church community

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and to pray with us throughout the month. Do you have a topic and/or an item of concern or joy that you would like to share with the EMBRACE Prayer Group? If so, please contact jenna@embraceni.org.