

@home in a strange place



off the shelf
ready-to-use series for sacred conversation

‘entertaining angels’

introducing sacred conversation on migrating

'Sacred conversation' on migrating is aimed at local churches and/or church related groups to help in the exploring of issues around moving/migrating.

'Sacred' alongside conversations is intentional. It underscores a faith and biblical perspective on lived experiences and encounters. It invites honest engagement, intentional listening, transforming relationships and commitment to a different vision of home and belonging.

Working the theme '*at home in a strange place*', it is hoped that the resources: can generate a series of 'conversation points' to help people reflect together on their experiences, stories and encounters; and create opportunities for churches to connect faith, worship, advocacy, solidarity and practical engagement.

What follows here are some suggested conversation points that you may use as you find appropriate. It is not intended to be prescriptive. Consider these suggestions as pointing to possible ways of shaping your own conversation. At the end we have also provided pointers to additional resources.

All the materials can be located on line at <http://www.urc.org.uk/at-home-mission.html>. Read especially the @home in a strange place flyer which offers suggestions on ways the materials can be used. Also, on this page materials will be added as received and suggested.

May our sacred conversations lead to deeper reflection, conversion of minds and attitudes *and* concrete acts towards a new vision of home and belonging in our common humanity!

Good adventure in your 'table talks'!

Art credit	Elizabeth Gray-King
Logo credit	Mark Robinson
Photos	Michael Jagessar
Videos	Kevin Snyman and Marcus Hargis
Resource Credit	World Mission Council, Church of Scotland (for use of Together we Walk)



We would very much appreciate if you can kindly provide us with any feedback that would help us to improve this and any of other the resources we have put together. Please use the feedback form which can be found among the online resources [titled your feedback matters].

stepping out

Look at the 'entertaining angels' video clip (2016 URC) <http://www.urb.org.uk/at-home-mission>

Read: Hebrews 13: 1-3

- Reflect on the times you have welcomed strangers and they became an unexpected blessing for you.
- Reflect on times when you were a stranger in a strange place and because you were welcomed you had an opportunity to be a blessing for someone



Prisons are not only places with barred windows and locked doors. They can also be spiritual or emotional chains.

Can you imagine people in such places?

- Imagine you are in such a place with them: how you can help and how they might help you? What can you do for each other?
- Imagine people who are being mistreated, abused and oppressed: try to feel their pain and suffering as if it were your own.....



We are one body and when one part of the body hurts the pain is felt everywhere so we want a conversation on how we can heal this pain.

going further

To inspire the conversation we invite you to consider the following: Darwen Centre video [<http://www.urb.org.uk/at-home-mission.html>]

Pray together [see prayer resources]

Moved video [<http://www.urb.org.uk/at-home-mission.html>]

**Conversation points:**

- Do you look back on place or time with nostalgia? Why and how do you feel?
- "If you live somewhere, you feel confident in somewhere, peaceful and with good security. I think it can be your perfect home." What might the story be behind these words?
- "We are all here temporarily, after all," said one contributor. Do you agree?
- Have you ever been apart from those you love for some time? What did it feel like?
- Have you heard the term 'survival migration'? What do you think this refers to?
- What bible verses come to mind as you reflect on the videos and conversation?

moving on

Read the poem *Who is my neighbour* by Karen Campbell reflect on the questions in the poem

Consider or identify one matter from the conversation you will follow up on
Pray (together aloud or in silence)

a conversation partner

"....we did not leave, of our own free will choosing another land. Nor did we enter into a land, to stay there, if possible forever. Merely, we fled. We are driven out, banned. Not a home, but an exile, shall the land be that took us in."

[Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956) on 'Concerning the label Emigrant in *Refugees: An Anthology of Poems and Songs*, edited by Coleman (Ottawa 1988)]

Loving Neighbours

stepping out

Look at the 'entertaining angels' video clip (2016 URC)
<http://www.urchurch.org.uk/at-home-mission.html>



Read Hebrews 13:1-13 (reminding ourselves of our purpose)

- Reflect on an occasion last week you have welcomed a stranger and they became an unexpected blessing for you.
- Reflect on times when you were a stranger in a strange place and because you were welcomed you had an opportunity to be a blessing for someone

Prisons are not only places with barred windows and locked doors. They can also be spiritual or emotional chains. Can you imagine people in such places?

- Imagine you are in such a place with them: how you can help and how they might help you? What can you do for each other?
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going further

To inspire the conversation we invite you to consider the following

Film When Truth is Blind (25 minutes) <http://www.urchurch.org.uk/at-home-mission.html>

Prayer [see prayer resources]

Conversation points

- Have you ever heard someone's voice and then been surprised when you have seen the person?
- Arthur's main complaint was about speaking English: Do the majority of people you know who originate from other countries not speak English? Do all British people who live and work in other countries speak the language of their host nation?
- Jesus says we should love our neighbours as we love ourselves (Matthew 19:19): can we love others if we do not love ourselves? What would cause us not to love ourselves? What can you do?
- What do you remember in particular about Arthur in the film? And about Tom?

moving on

Read one of the poems [see resources online]

Consider doing one concrete action as a result of the conversations

Pray (together aloud or in silence)



a conversation partner

"How can you judge a guy who has nothing, who is fleeing war and just wants a life for his family? People who are so desperate to flee that they will entrust their entire future to a leaking boat are examples of the man fallen among thieves. Jesus asks us today: who is their neighbour? Who will bind their wounds and carry them to a place of safety and pay for their rehabilitation? The man fallen among thieves did not recover overnight."

[Juliet Kilpin in 'Mission, Migrants and Refugees', p.6]

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going further

To inspire the conversation we invite you to consider the following:

Video: a short explanation of the European refugee crisis (<https://youtu.be/v13kTeAHY4c>)

Game: play: the **Yes/No Statement Game** (see the additional resource page in the appendix)

Activity: print photographs of refugees and place them on the table or floor.

- Explain that you would like each person to pick a photograph that they feel drawn to and will ask them to tell the rest of the group about it and why they picked it. Once they have answered the following questions, you can let them know a little bit about each photograph
 - What story does the picture tell you? What drew you to it?
 - How would you feel if this was a photo of one of your friends?
 - Does this photograph make you feel differently about immigrants and refugees?

**Conversation points**

- Consider questions that may arise from looking at the video, playing the game or sharing in the activity

moving on

Read: *Where do I come from?* by Karen Campbell [see online resources]

- Where do you come from? Is it the same place where you are now living? Do you remember the place you came from? How did you feel when you moved?

Consider doing: one action as a result of your conversations?

Pray: from the game, activity and poem, consider what you wish to pray for

a conversation partner

“Leaving home is the most difficult thing...As soon as you leave, it hits you how much you miss everyone. You know that they are worrying about you every step of the way, and the journey is so dangerous. Those who make this journey are playing with their lives.”

[Harriet Paintin talks to Pakistani refugees]

stepping out

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going further

To inspire the conversation we invite you to consider the following:

Video: "We Walk Together: a Syrian refugee family's journey to the heart of Europe"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubGhzVdnhQw>

Conversation points

- What is the furthest you have ever walked? Was it enjoyable or a struggle?
- How desperate would you need to be to walk so far, for so long and without knowing what you will find at the end?
- What would be the most important things you would want to have with you on such a journey?
- What strikes you about the faith that many said kept them going?
- Would faith be enough for us?

Reflect together on: The Birmingham Declaration 2014 and United Reformed Church resolutions [<http://www.urchurch.org.uk/at-home-mission.html>]

- Do you agree with these intentions? Are we and our churches doing anything about them? What would you want to change, if anything, in the statements and resolutions?

**moving on**

Read *Imagine a world* by Karen Campbell

- Can you imagine such a world where you don't belong? What can we do to help people feel they do belong?

Consider doing: Befriending a Refugee or Asylum Seeker through your church or a local group.

Pray (aloud or in silence)

a conversation partner

"Migrants and refugees are people with names, histories, needs and desires and this makes us neighbours with common interests. For, as long as the migrants are unnamed and faceless, they become less human to us, and therefore threatening."

[Juliet Kilpin in 'Mission, Migrants and Refugees', p.6]

Resourcing Sacred Conversations

[The suggested list of materials (and more) can be found on the URC webpage at <http://www.urb.org.uk/at-home-mission.html>]

Other study material

1. Hospitality and sanctuary: a resource with material for four sessions by Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal <https://ctbi.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-2015/>
2. USPG Lent course 2016: reflections, prayer and bible study for five sessions
3. Together we walk - a resource from the Church of Scotland for one session

Mix and match - resources for conversation

1. an explanation of the European refugee crisis (4 minutes 30 seconds)
<https://youtu.be/v13kTeAHY4c>
2. an Egyptian billionaire wants to buy an island for refugees.(2 minutes 20 secs)
https://youtu.be/AmzBPd_Tajc
3. We Walk Together: a Syrian refugee family's journey to the heart of Europe (17 minutes)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubGhzVdnhQw>

Helpful Information and Quotes (to inform conversation)

1. Global refugee crisis PIC — good to print and share or can be used for leaders reference
2. Various Quotes for flyers and conversation can be drawn from the resources we have provided.

Poems

1. Imagine a World (Karen Campbell)
2. They ask me where I come from (Karen Campbell)
3. Who is your neighbour (Karen Campbell)
4. Home (Warshan Shire) <http://seekershut.org/blog/2015/09/home-warsan-shire/>

Reading Time (articles for personal reading and reflection)

1. The Other is my Neighbour (WCC)

Game

Yes/No Statement Game

Place one large sign saying 'YES' at one side of the room and another saying 'NO' at the opposite side. Ask people to stand in the middle. Explain that you will be reading a statement and if they agree they should move to the 'YES' side of the room and if they disagree they should move to the 'NO' side of the room. Once the group has split, ask people to express their opinions ensuring they are met with respect and anyone who doesn't want to contribute is not forced to.

Statements (you can add to the list as is appropriate)

- Immigrants are people who choose to leave their own countries of their own free will.
- Immigrants come into our countries to steal our jobs.
- Immigration results in a more vibrant community of different exciting cultures.
- Our government should help immigrants with housing, healthcare and schooling.
- Christians should not be concerned about immigration.
- Groups of immigrants in our cities can be threatening.
- Immigrant, Refugee and Asylum seeker are all the same

Case Study

Place a diverse collection of images associated with migrants and migration on a table or floor. [These can be from newspapers, magazines, printed off webpages or from your own pictures.]

- Explain that you would like each person to pick one image that they feel drawn to and you will ask them to tell the rest of the group about it and why they picked it.

Once this initial sharing, invite all to reflect further on the following questions

- What story does the picture tell you?
- What drew you to it?
- How would you feel if this was a photo of one of your friends?
- Does this photograph make you feel differently about immigrants and refugees?

In the sharing the leader may wish to share briefly about each image or photograph of the collection.

Worship Resources

Prayer

Prayer is a conversation with God and doesn't need to be something which is creative and well written, but something from the heart. It is like telling your story to God, but, of course, God already knows it, so just say what you want to say and let it be your prayer.]

All the Sacred Conversation worship resources including prayers can be found on the URC webpage located at: <http://www.unc.org.uk/at-home-mission.html>

Hymns

This list will include suggested titles found in various hymnals and Contemporary Christian Song Books. Most of the songs will be found online. We hope to offer some written by colleagues who have given permission to use.

Kindly check out the Sacred Conversation Worship resources found on the URC webpage at: <http://www.unc.org.uk/at-home-mission.html>

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