



*Strangers Next Door:  
Immigration, Migration  
and Mission*

**Available  
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\$15, 192 pages, paper  
978-0-8308-5758-6

## The Missiological Assumption

If the Lord of history and creation is actively engaged in his creation (Psalm 139; John 1:14; Galatians 4:4) so that people may come to follow him, then he has provided a means whereby the peoples of this world will come to experience his salvation and abundant life (John 10:10). This divine means is the proclamation of the gospel by his church (Romans 1:16; 10:14-15). Since he has commanded his followers to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19), the expectation is that his church will walk in obedience to this Great Commission.




While we must continue to send missionaries throughout the world, we must also recognize the Great Commission opportunity that is present in Western nations. Something is missiologically malignant when we are willing to send people across the oceans, risking life and limb and spending enormous amounts of money, but we are not willing to walk next door and minister to the strangers living there. Again, we must continue to go to the nations, but we must also remember that the nations have come to us.

The Lord of the harvest has been moving some of the world's unreached and least reached peoples to countries where governmental opposition will not interfere with missionary labors and where obtaining a visa and the costs of travel are not issues. The church in the West must remember her missional nature and function intentionally, strategically and apostolically.

It is not enough to know that least reached peoples are living in our communities; rather, we must be intentional about ministering to them. The wise steward recognizes that the Lord has provided these opportunities for us for such a time as this. It is necessary that we begin to think strategically. How can we reach these people with the news of the gospel? How can we model before them a simple, yet biblical, understanding of church life that would be highly reproducible by them among their people groups across the world? How can we equip them and partner with them as they are sent as missionaries to their families, friends and others throughout their social networks? These are just a few questions that the church in the West must be asking in light of global migrations. Such



  
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## BOOK EXCERPT






**J. D. Payne** (Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) serves as the pastor of church multiplication for The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Alabama. He has pastored churches in Kentucky and Indiana and served as a seminary professor for a decade. He is the author of several books and articles. He and his wife Sarah and their three children live in Birmingham, Alabama.

questions, along with others, will be addressed throughout this book to help us think about the Great Commission opportunities in our contexts.

—*From chapter one, “Immigration, Migration and Kingdom Perspective”*



  
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## The Complexity of Being Missional in the 21st Century

Now more than ever a vast flood of people from all over the world are coming to America, searching for a new home. What is the response of the church to these sojourners among us? In J. D. Payne's newest mission-minded book, *Strangers Next Door*, readers are introduced to this phenomenon and asked how the church should respond in light of the mission of God.

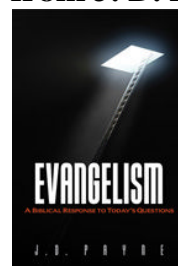
**In *Strangers Next Door*, J. D. Payne examines the following topics:**

- the history of immigration and kingdom expansion
- the present global realities regarding international migration
- the reasons why people are migrating to the West
- the biblical, theological, historical, missiological and practical basis behind ministering to unreached individuals living in the West
- what the guidelines should be for doing crosscultural missions
- how the church has been responding *positively* to this new phenomenon
- how to develop a specific strategy for making disciples and equipping them to reach the Western world

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