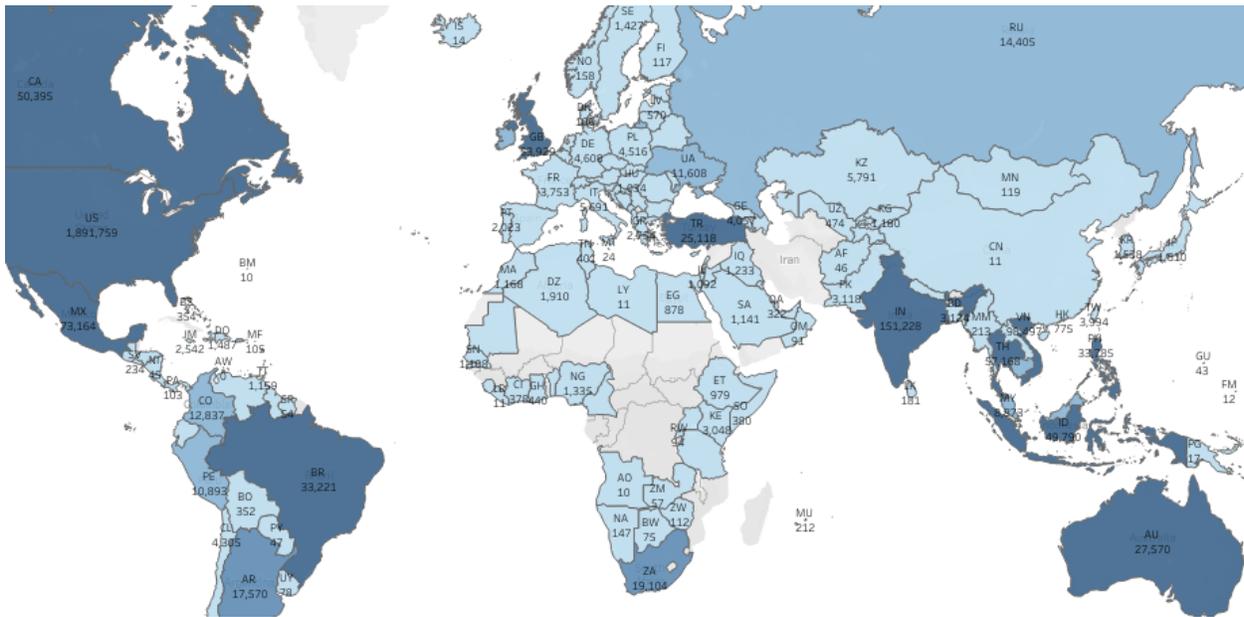


Greater Things

Week 1: Greater Gatherings

Weekly Summary: In the past decade, 922 has exploded in Sunday attendance. God has blessed us with great things—2 campuses, 6 services, and a humbling number of souls who regularly gather around the Word of Jesus. But God still desires greater things. There are still so many from our church family who rarely gather (mid-40% of our membership=weekly attendance; that number includes guests!). There are still so many temptations that keep us from church and so many distractions that keep us from worshiping once we get there. This message reminds us why we gather every week in Jesus' name.

- ◆ “I have not been religious in the past. I am 64 years old and recently found your television program. I have fallen in love with [the] teachings. I am beginning to embrace religion, and I hope to one day fully give myself to God.”



- ◆ 1 Thessalonians 4:1a - As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living.

- ◆ 1 Thessalonians 4:1b - Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

- ◆ To “live” = To “walk” = Direction and Pace.

- ◆ Greater Gatherings:
 1. Make church a given.
 2. Seek God.
 3. Serve people.

- ◆ 1 Thessalonians 4:2 - For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

- ◆ Why? Because of the Lord Jesus.

Points to Ponder

1. How often do you “gather” for worship with other Christians? If church is a weekly habit, how did you get in to that habit? If not, what is currently getting in the way? How might you improve it during this next season of life?
2. Do you tend to think of Jesus more as your “Lord” (authority) or more as your “Savior” (forgiveness)? If you balanced those ideas perfectly, what might change about your life?
3. Meditate on Hebrews 10:19-25. Find at least three wonderful encouragements to gather with other Christians around the good news of Jesus’ love.

Homework For Next Week: Acts 8:26-40