

BETWEEN YOU AND ME

by Davy Slabaugh, Director of the SEND Department

LIVING AS ALIENS

Traveling to another part of the world always reminds me of who I am. Every time I walk through passport control, I am confronted with my identity and the country of which I am a citizen. My passport declares it boldly for all to see. Whenever I spend time in a foreign land, I live constantly with the knowledge that I just don't quite fit in there. Even when I spent several years in another nation, I lived with a constant awareness that I was a foreigner, an outsider. I did not belong. I could learn the language, adopt local customs, and adjust to cultural differences, but that place was just not my home.

That reality is in many ways true for all of us as citizens of the Kingdom of God. When we become citizens of the Kingdom, we take on a new identity. Our allegiance is to a different kingdom—one that is not of this world. Suddenly our values and priorities change. The things we do and the way we choose to live is now defined by our new citizenship rather than that of culture and place in which we live. Like the champions of faith in Hebrews 11, we admit that we are “aliens and strangers on earth” (Heb. 11:13).

As foreigners in a strange land, we can tend to withdraw to the safety and comfort of our own community and choose to only be with people like us. Yet wherever we live, we are called to invest ourselves in the lives of others. Being aliens and strangers does not mean we withdraw from the culture in which we find ourselves, but that we allow Jesus to be displayed through our lives to the people living around us.



The SEND Ministries Department exists to equip and motivate youth to be Christ-centered, world Christians who make disciples.

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