

A Prayer Guide for Those God Brought to Our City

THE NATIONS IN CINCINNATI

TO EVERY CHURCH AND EVERY BELIEVER IN CINCINNATI

God wants to have a saving relationship with all people. He is actively seeking those who would worship Him (John 4:23). He reminded Jonah that every city and its thousands were important to Him (Jonah 4:10-11). And Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all peoples (Matthew 28:19-20). We rely upon the Holy Spirit's power to be His witnesses here, there, and everywhere (Acts 1:8).

This prayer guide is for followers of Jesus responding to God's call to be workers in His harvest fields (Luke 10:2). In these pages, you'll find not just demographic information, but ways to engage the many people groups living in the Cincinnati Area. It is meant to be informational and inspirational, too. It is meant to bring Light to those living in spiritual darkness.



God has been actively sending thousands of people into our city, communities, workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, and into our everyday lives. This guide is meant to touch our hearts and move us to prayer. If your church faithfully works among one people group and another church works among another people group, then God's people collectively bring the kingdom to each lost person in Cincinnati.

Please take the time to read and pray over these people groups. Pray that God will open these immigrants' eyes to Him and ask Him to open our eyes to *them*. God has brought many nations to our city. Would you ask God who He is inviting you and your church to engage?

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR ALL GROUPS

1. Pray that God will raise up laborers to take the Gospel to least-reached peoples and to make reproducing disciples in each group. (Luke 9:38)
2. Pray that God will open doors for salvation among each people group.
3. Pray for unity, love, purity, and protection from the evil one. (John 17:15-26).
4. The most common prayer request from believers in these groups is for the younger generation to follow God and flee the evil in the world caused by evil desires (1 Peter 1:4).
5. When praying for those laboring among these groups, observe Paul's requests for protection, acceptable service, and fellowship with other believers.

"Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in fervent prayers to God on my behalf. Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, and that, by God's will, I may come to you with joy and be refreshed together with you. May the God of peace be with all of you" (Romans 15:30-33 CSB).

What is a People Group?

For evangelization purposes, a people group is the largest group within which the Gospel can spread as a church planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance. 1982 Lausanne Committee



Each people group has been assigned a Status of Christianity. These three categories are used to represent the status of people groups on PeopleGroups.info.

1. No Longer Unreached
2. Engaged Yet Unreached
3. Unengaged and Unreached

First-generation people groups are either immigrants or refugees. The U.S. Census tracks Asians, for instance, but not Africans. It lumps all African-Americans together with other Blacks. An immigrant is usually foreign born. A refugee is a smaller subset of immigrants. An immigrant usually has worked for several years before coming to America to reside. A refugee has had to flee their country for a number of reasons and often have to find work. This guide does not address students or illegal immigrants.

What is an Unreached People Group (UPG)?

A people group is considered unreached when there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to engage this people group with church planting. Technically speaking, the percentage of evangelical Christians in this people group is less than two percent.

What is an *unengaged* people group?

A people group is unengaged when there is no church planting strategy or consistent evangelical faith and practice underway. A people group is not considered to be engaged even if a church says it has adopted it or even begun praying for a people group.

“I was a stranger and you took me in...” (Matthew 25:35 CSB)

The Foreigner Among You

The U.S. Census data 2016 estimates say that there are more than 1.8 million people living in our nine counties. The largest of each county is Hamilton Co. with more than 809,000 people. And more than 86,000 of them living here were born in another country. Sources vary between 12,000 to 25,000 of Cincinnati’s immigrants being refugees. And hundreds arrive each year.

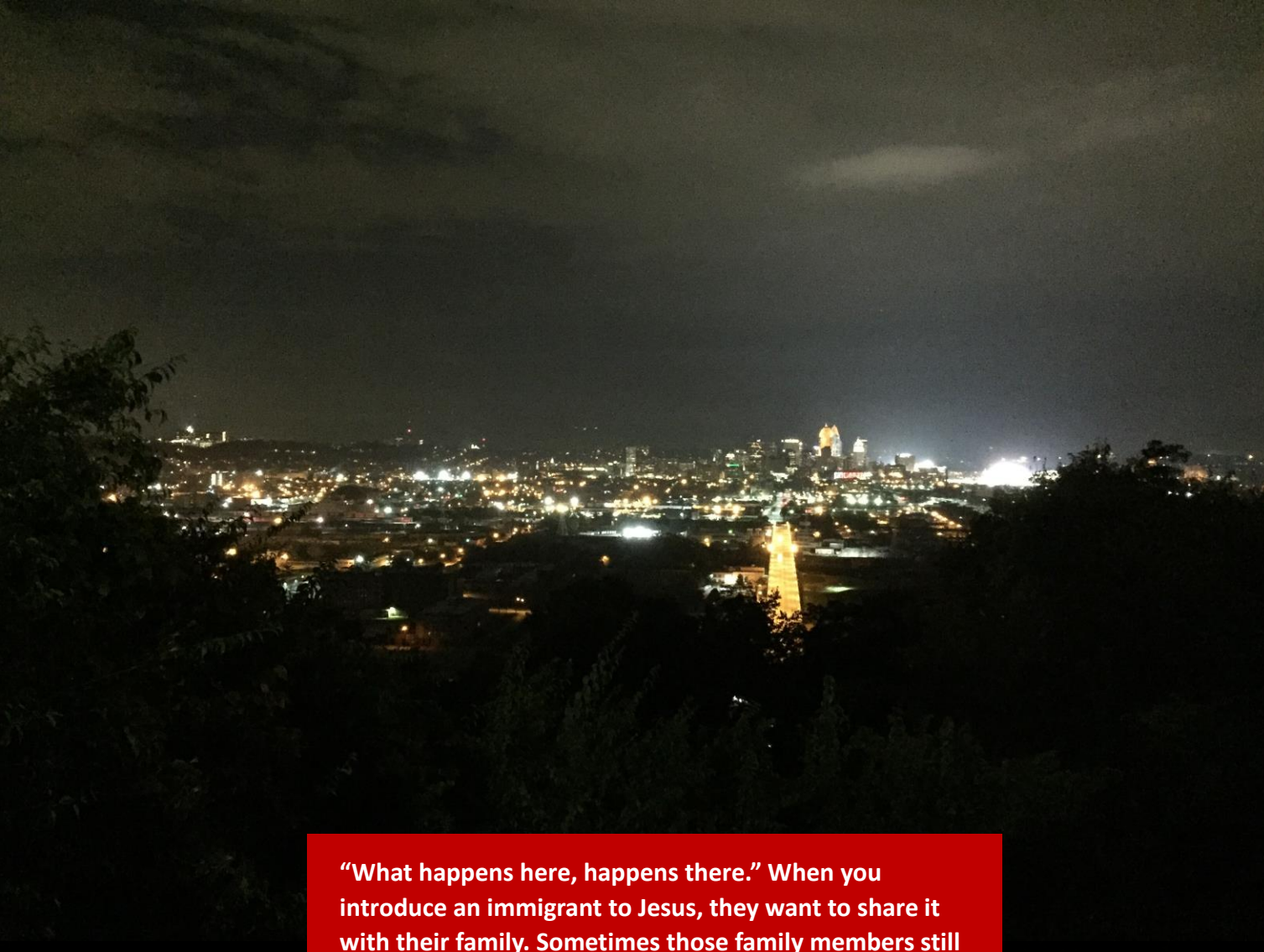
<u>County in Ohio</u>	<u>2016 Est Population</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Foreign Born</u>
Adams	27907	5.00%	1,395
Brown	43,759	6.00%	2,626
Butler	377,537	5.20%	19,632
Clermont	203,022	2.30%	4,670
Clinton	41,902	1.00%	419
Fayette	28,676	1.50%	430
Hamilton	809,099	5.00%	40,455
Highland	43,029	7.00%	3,012
Warren	227,063	5.90%	13,397
	1,801,994	4.8%	86,035

In these nine counties, the 86,035 foreign-born comprise 4.8% of the population. However, the U.S. Census reports that there are thousands of ethnic peoples in our nine counties:

- 475,700 racially non-white people (26.4%)
- 265,000 African-Americans (14.7%)
- 58,100 Hispanics (3.2%)
- 55,200 Asians (3.1%)
- 36,000 Native American Indians (2.0%)
- 41,400 people who are two races or more (2.3%)

A country may have dozens of people groups. In the Americas, there are 50 countries with 1,006 people groups. Meanwhile, India is just one Asian country, but has 1,756 people groups. (Source: PeopleGroups.org).



A nighttime photograph of a city skyline, likely Pittsburgh, viewed from a hillside. The city lights are visible in the distance, with a prominent illuminated tower in the center. The foreground is dark, showing the silhouettes of trees and foliage.

“What happens here, happens there.” When you introduce an immigrant to Jesus, they want to share it with their family. Sometimes those family members still live in another country. When you reach out to a foreign-born person, you touch their global network. Some call these “gateway peoples.” They may be open to the Gospel here, otherwise never encounter the Gospel message.

“He told them, ‘The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest’” (Luke 10:2)

AFRICANS

Africans arrive in Cincinnati as immigrants or refugees. Refugees are typically fleeing civil unrest or some other form of persecution. They typically arrive because they have close family members already living here. Africans typically have immediate needs for friends and some help getting resettled here. In the Cincinnati area, African immigrants are typically considered Sub-Saharan peoples. West Africans are typically English or French speakers. Eastern and Southern Africans typically have some experience with English and Swahili languages.

What are their beliefs?

Animism, Christianity, and Islam are the major religions among Africans. Animistic beliefs often lie underneath a veneer of observable formal religions. Many hold to paganism so that they may go to church on Sunday, but try to cast a spell on an enemy during the week. European colonists brought with them Anglican (Episcopalian), Methodist, and Roman Catholic religions. Many Africans have become part of the global Pentecostal movement caught up in the hope of health and prosperity. African Muslims are Sunni, the largest global group of Islam. Muslims view Judaism and Christianity as leading up to Islamic teachings. They believe that

AFRICANS IN THE CINCINNATI AREA

<u>Pop.</u>	<u>People Group</u>
6,800	Mauritanians
5,000	Soninke
2,000	Fulani Sudanese
2,000	Ethiopians
750	Nigerians
730	Ghanaians
280	Eritreans



our Bible became distorted through interpretation from original texts. Africans typically hold their ancestors and older adults in high esteem, believing wisdom comes with age.

What are their needs?

Africans who have come to the Cincinnati Area seek out friendship and being accepted into a community. Outreach that takes the initiative works best with Africans. They believe in prayer no matter their religious persuasion. They want relationships with those who care for them and their families, and not just so that they can make a decision *to (cont'd)*

Africans *(continued)*

accept Christ. Establishing relationships opens doors for receiving the Gospel message. They are excellent at relationships and can cut off those who have ulterior motives or are just superficial, instead of genuine.

Barriers to the Gospel

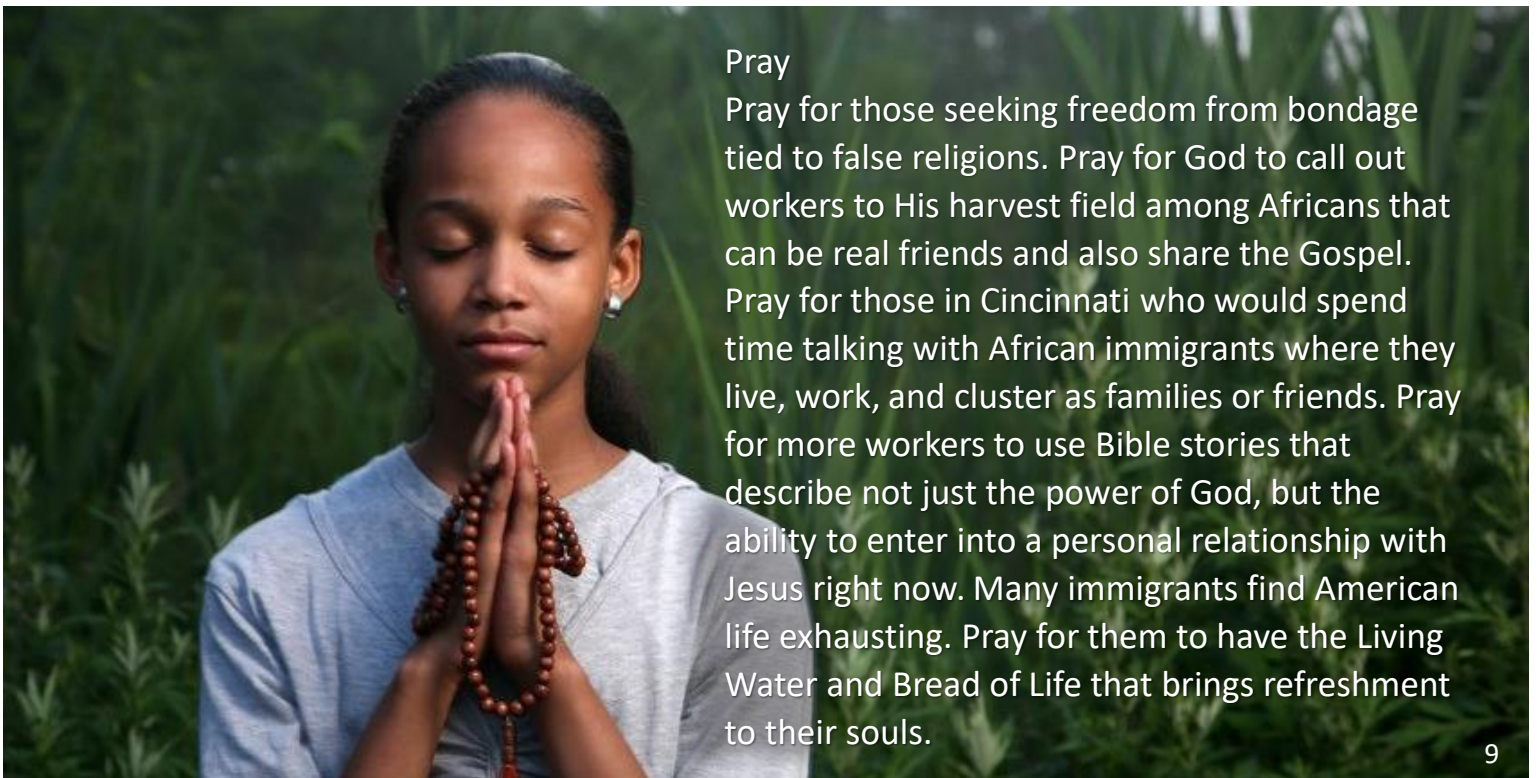
African immigrants typically embrace the Gospel not through lots of Bible facts, although that is important for them to know. Most Africans have a worldview influenced by shame and honor. Biblical examples include the woman caught in adultery or Jesus teaching the people to turn the other cheek. They want to avoid bringing dishonor to themselves or their family. Fear/power is another worldview that taps into the animistic beliefs that the spirit world is alive and well. Think of biblical miracles and how Jesus healed, cast out demons, fed thousands, and raised the dead. It links the spiritual world with the real world. Families often have traditions, legends, and stories that influence how they view truth. Bible stories are very important as it takes a better story to overcome an existing (false) one.

What you can do

Invite Africans you know to join you in a prayer time. This may be personal or it may be at a church-



sponsored prayer time. When you encounter someone from Africa, identify their people group. Lead your church or small group to adopt that group. Get with a partner and begin engaging them, being very intentional as you do. Tell them Bible stories that address bridges and barriers to accepting the Gospel message. Ask them the meaning of the story to help them discover Truth as the Holy Spirit reveals it to them (John 14:26). Help immigrants know how to navigate the legal aspects of living in the U.S. – work permit, drivers license, government subsidies, etc. Invite them to participate in ESL, parenting, marriage, or other skill improvement interactive workshops. Be a genuine friend that also shares your life and the Gospel with them.



Pray

Pray for those seeking freedom from bondage tied to false religions. Pray for God to call out workers to His harvest field among Africans that can be real friends and also share the Gospel. Pray for those in Cincinnati who would spend time talking with African immigrants where they live, work, and cluster as families or friends. Pray for more workers to use Bible stories that describe not just the power of God, but the ability to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus right now. Many immigrants find American life exhausting. Pray for them to have the Living Water and Bread of Life that brings refreshment to their souls.

ASIANS

Description:

There are more Asians in the world than any global grouping of people. China and India alone have one-third of the world's population. It is no surprise that Hindi-speaking Asian Indians and Mandarin-speaking people from mainland China dominate the number of Asian people groups living in Cincinnati. Most Asians have come to Cincinnati as immigrants with jobs. However, some peoples are refugees fleeing unstable governments or, like the Nepali-speaking Bhutanese, have been forced out of their countries.

What are their beliefs?

Asians are religiously diverse and many follow Hinduism, Buddhism, Tao, Confucius, and Islam. However, some groups like Filipinos and Koreans are increasingly evangelical Christians. Roman Catholicism has made advances among some immigrants by mixing church teaching with pagan practices. Asians are typically circular-thinkers. They address a topic, change the subject, but will revisit it later. Their worldview seeks to preserve their honor and avoid being shamed. This means that evangelizing should help them embrace a personal relationship with Jesus.

What are their needs?

Asians want to work. They seek employment and have a very strong work ethic. This typically leads to high stress family and work relationships. Families tend to be tight and decisions are made either by the family leaders or as a unit. Asian immigrants need help understanding American culture. Many Asians find the concept of "assimilation" to be offensive. They are proud of their culture and see themselves as part of a bigger unit, whether a work team or a family. And families tend to be a strong influence, if not downright controlling. Asian immigrants want to succeed and will work long hours. They need friends outside of work and family to help them know how to navigate Cincinnati culture. *(continued)*

ASIANS IN THE CINCINNATI AREA

<u>Pop.</u>	<u>People Group</u>
30,000	Hindi-speaking Indians
15,000	Nepali-speaking Bhutanese
10,750	Chinese Mandarin
6,350	Vietnamese
2,500	Taiwanese Hokkien
2,500	Korean
2,260	Filipino, Tagalog
1,600	Khmer-speaking Cambodian
1,500	Gujarati
1,030	Urdu
510	Thai
100	Japanese



Asians (continued)

Barriers to the Gospel

Asians who come to Christ do not understand grace and seek ways to earn their salvation. They also typically want to do more good works not out of love, but out of fear of their sins outweighing their charity on the Day of Judgement. Making a decision to leave their former religion and embrace Jesus as an individual often violates their cultural collectivism. Their experience is typically within a group or family that not only provides support, but can exert enormous pressure not to buck their traditions. Discretionary time can be another barrier. Will they be willing to invest hours in Bible study? Fellowships? Worship services? Retreats? When an Asian immigrant is driven by expectations to succeed, then their free time becomes scarce.

What you can do

Asian immigrants may be more responsive to things that help them succeed, such as ESL classes. Classes of any type must be done right and benefit the Asian immigrants. Look for Asian celebrations such as independence celebrations and join in their fun. Develop relationships that are genuine, then share your faith in Christ early and often. Most Asians find their faith extremely important and are quick to discuss their belief system. Be sensitive to time and family restrictions. Provide support to those that may become depressed at failure or rejection. One witnessing technique that works is to see an individual as a “person of peace” that introduces their entire family or network to you. Consider sharing Christ as if it were a class and learning experience. Offer the opportunity to follow Christ exclusively and then be ready to continue meeting with those that accept Christ, typically as a group. Expect individual converts to have family issues, such as rejection and in some cases, threats and abuse.

Pray

Pray for Asian immigrants to find peace in Jesus despite tensions they encounter every day. Pray that God would call out workers to the Asian harvest across the Cincinnati Area. Pray that these witnesses will be able to show care, concern, and career paths that are biblically-based. Pray for the opportunity to befriend an Asian and then help them follow the teachings of Jesus.



EUROPEANS

Very few European immigrants are refugees, fleeing some level of problems. Instead, they are joining families or some employment opportunity. European immigrants in Cincinnati typically join a community of others already living in enclaves. An individual may get a job, but then quickly begin bringing their spouse, children, and extended family to Cincinnati.



What are their beliefs?

Most Europeans emigrating to Cincinnati are highly-secularized. Christianity is typically seen as Roman Catholic or Orthodox Christianity. These faith systems typically keep its members in a spectator role. The Church has been used for baptizing infants, marrying, and burying rituals. However, the current generation of immigrants increasingly has no connection with a church of any stripe. For instance, less than 1% of Italians are active in any faith tradition. Evangelicals are viewed as almost cult-like. They just don't know any.

EUROPEANS IN THE CINCINNATI AREA

<u>Pop.</u>	<u>People Group</u>
6,200	French (France)
3,000	Czech
2,500	Russian
1,500	Greek
1,300	Italians
750	Croat
640	Pole
620	Ukrainian
550	Serb
300	Dutch (The Netherlands)
200	Hungarian

What are their needs?

European immigrants are more independent and individualistic than most immigrants. They take pride in their educational attainment. Their family connections can be multi-ethnic and mixed ethnicities. They want friends and love to socialize. Because of a desire to fit in and get along, they may experiment with alcohol, illegal substances, and other vices such as gambling and prostitution (which is legal in many European countries).

Barriers to the Gospel

Most Europeans have been exposed to some form of Christianity, without encountering a personal, saving, relationship with Jesus as Lord. This has caused many Europeans to be "inoculated" against hearing the Gospel. They think they know it. (cont'd)

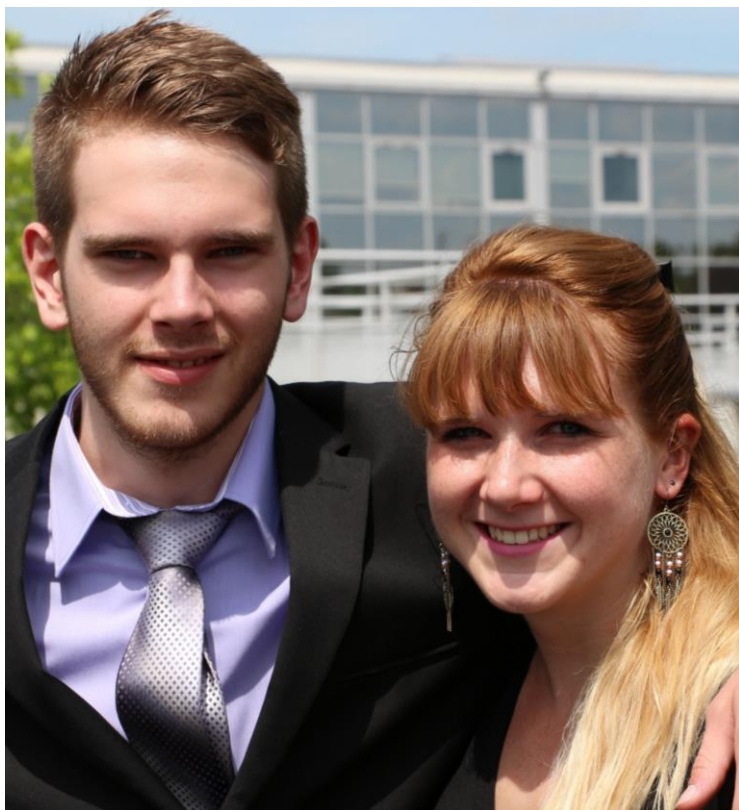


Europeans *(continued)*

Many are wrapped up in earning salvation through good works. Others don't see any difference between religions and relegate them as historical oddities. From those exposed to generations of Soviet-style Communism, a type of atheism and agnosticism has infused deep doubt and derision to the claims of Jesus.

What you can do

Addiction and co-dependence classes may be added to ESL classes. Like most immigrants, they are most open to the Gospel during the first six months after arriving. A problem with sharing the Gospel with European immigrants is making assumptions that they have a background in Bible knowledge or healthy church life. Find opportunities to engage European immigrants. Genuine faith in action needs to be credited constantly to a Bible-based faith in Jesus. It's not about the church traditions, but the Lord at work in your life each and every day. Worship attendance may be difficult at first for a European immigrant, but they will eagerly participate in servant evangelism community projects conducted by your church that integrates the Gospel. When they encounter Christians that are living out their faith, they will become interested in understanding the Gospel. Guide them in reading the Bible for themselves.



Pray

Pray for Europeans that are seeking a better life and opportunities. Pray that God would call out workers to work among the Europeans in the Cincinnati harvest fields. Pray that followers of Jesus will actively seek out each European people group one at a time, focusing on language learning and crossing into their world as incarnational witnesses. Pray for boldness among those who witness to have their words match their lifestyle, being genuine models of what it means to become a disciple that makes disciples.

LATINOS & HISPANICS

Spanish-speaking immigrants are called Hispanics. The broader term Latinos includes those, like Brazilians, that don't have ancestors from Spain. According to PeopleGroups.org, Mexico has 60 languages; Spanish is just one of them. Latinos come to Cincinnati from throughout the Americas. Because they have been in the Cincinnati Area so long, it is common to find families with third and fourth generations living here. Many will consider themselves of two or more races and may be fully bilingual. They typically celebrate their nationality with great pride at *fiestas* and frequently travel because the Caribbean and Mexico are close the United States.

Who are they?

Latinos typically come to America seeking better jobs and education. Over the years, many have fled violence, war, and governments. Hispanics trace their heritage to people from Spain who arrived beginning in the 1400s and intermarried with the peoples that they found living there. Hispanics typically have strong family ties. Brazilians trace their ancestry to Portuguese explorers. Friends are friends for life. The Spanish phrase, "*Mi casa es su casa*" is translated "My house is your house," and speaks of openness and personal warmth.



LATINOS / HISPANICS IN CINCINNATI

<u>Pop.</u>	<u>People Group</u>
30,000	Mexicans (often grouped with other Hispanics)
7,000	Guatemalans
1,100	Peruvians
650	Jamaicans
540	Colombians
530	Dominicans
400	Brazilians
360	Cubans
330	Panamanians



What do they believe?

The Roman Catholic Church in Europe brought their faith to the Americas. The Aztecs, Incas, and other peoples already had strong animistic practices; many cruel. Syncretism happened when many Catholic ideas were superimposed over local deities. The whole act of colonization was frequently tied to conversion. As Latinos immigrated to America, they brought their faith and its distinct differences with them. Roman Catholics are a majority, but increasingly, Evangelical Protestants are among those coming to the Cincinnati Area. *(continued)*



Latinos & Hispanics

(continued)

What you can do

Latinos are typically highly-relational people, so do not be shy about inviting groups or entire families of them to dinner or a family event. Open your home and be casual in talking about your faith. Leave your watch at home and don't look at the time on your smartphone! Be warm and genuine to cross into their world with friendship in your heart and the Gospel on your lips. Be intentional about participating in celebrations – family, national, or community cultural events. They'll notice.



Pray

Pray for opportunities to tell Bible stories that will keep the Gospel message conversational. Pray for opportunities to provide the Bible in their heart language so that they can read it or listen to it on audio for themselves. Pray that God will call out workers to the Latino harvest fields across the Cincinnati Area.



MIDDLE EAST CENTRAL ASIA NORTH AFRICA

Immigrants in the Cincinnati Area from the Middle East and Central Asia are from countries stretching from Turkey to Iran. Because of the influence of Islam, in this guide we're also including immigrants from Northern Africa.

What are their beliefs?

Jews have an incredibly strong representation in the Cincinnati Area. Most Jews here immigrated to Cincinnati more than 50 years ago. This means that they are American Jews, and Israeli immigrants



IMB

are much smaller in number. Most Jews are more ethnically-identified than practicing the Jewish religion. Some practicing Jews see the Bible in their home as a "violation of their sanctuary." Most admit to not practicing, but are still unwilling to consider any other religion, including Christianity.

People groups that are predominantly Muslim often do not separate their ethnicity from Islam. They will say things like, "To be Persian is to be Muslim." The majority of Muslims in Cincinnati are Sunni Muslims. Shi'a Muslims are mainly from Lebanon, Iraq, and Iran. Shiites do not follow the Koran quite as closely as Sunnis. The Koran is the holy book of Islam. Muslims are encouraged to pray throughout the day and attend

MIDDLE EASTERN/CENTRAL ASIANS/NORTH AFRICANS IN THE CINCINNATI AREA

Pop.	People Group
24,000	Jews
420	Persian (Shiite)
400	Arab, Lebanese (Shiite)
370	Jew, Israel
360	Arab, Jordanian (Sunni)
250	Arab, Egyptian (Sunni)
240	Arab, Saudi (Sunni)
240	Turk (Sunni)
100	Uzbek (Sunni)

worship-style preaching services every Friday at a mosque. Muslims often have Sunday School for children and separate services for women. Muslims typically are very suspicious about any effort to befriend them. Muslims have to wash their hands before handling the Koran, so a paperback New Testament stuffed into your back pocket can be offensive or seen as you taking your faith in Jesus too casually.

Jews and Muslims observe dietary restrictions against pork and alcohol. Delis sell Jewish kosher food and Halal markets handle food for Muslims.



MIDEAST, CENTRAL ASIA, & N. AFRICA *(continued)*



What are their needs?

Jews have successfully assimilated into Cincinnati life. Befriending them, listening to them, participating in their holidays or traditions, and asking about their beliefs will go a long way.

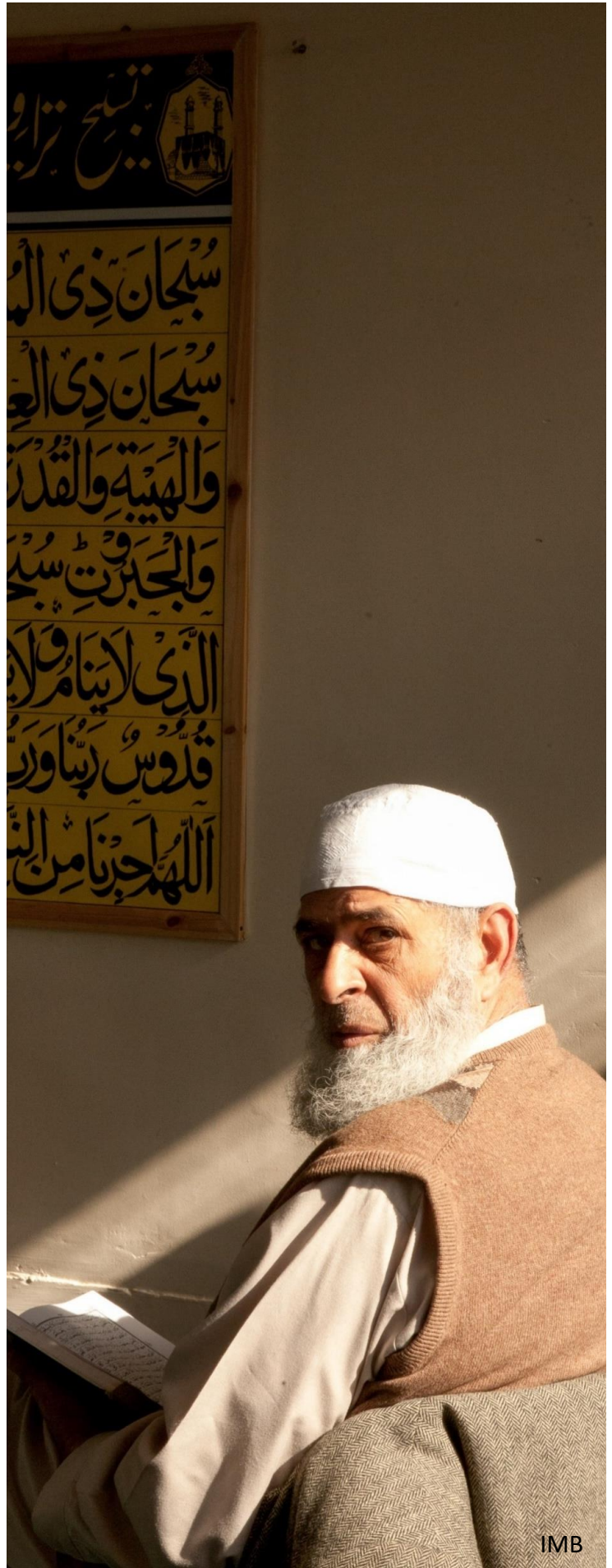
Muslim immigrants do not want to be viewed as terrorists by Americans. Many are in America because they were helpful to U.S. troops and arrived with hope for a country that would accept them. Christians have an incredible opportunity to help them assimilate into American life. Women should be careful to work with Muslim women and men with Muslim men. They need to know where to work, shop, take their kids to school, have fun, etc. They are curious about American holidays.

Barriers to the Gospel

Very few followers of Jesus know a Muslim or Jew. They just don't interact with them in a significant manner. Jews and Muslims both consider Jesus to have been a great prophet.

Jews typically know the Old Testament scriptures very well. Discussing Bible stories with them can be positive, but expect them to reject Christ.

Muslims see Jesus' claims to be the Son of God as offensive. Muslims see the concept of the Trinity as an example of polytheism. They believe that Jesus did not die on the cross, but was replaced. There are more than 90 references to Jesus in the Koran. However, there is no understanding of the Gospel or how Jesus fulfilled prophecy. *(continued)*



MIDEAST, CENTRAL ASIA, & N. AFRICA *(continued)*

What you can do

You, a partner, and others in your church will have to become intentional. Instead of trying to approach all Muslims the same way, focus on one specific people group. Adopt this group and network with others who have begun work among them, too. Learn their heart language. Christian love is unknown to Jews and Muslims, so intentional acts of kindness are appreciated, especially in times of need, loneliness, and transition.

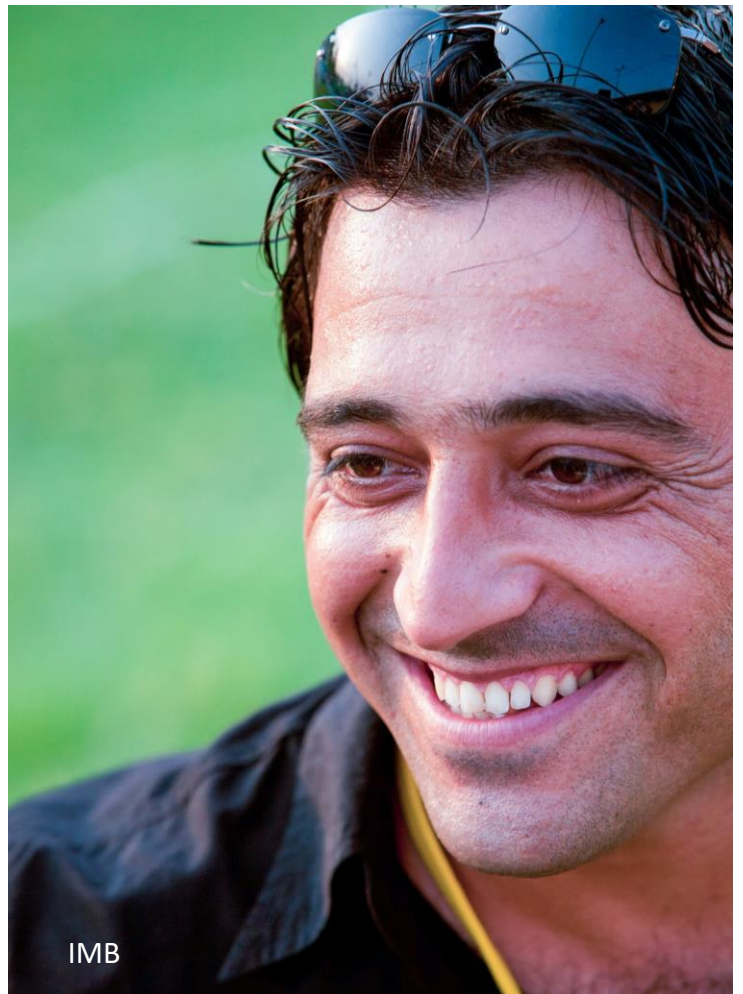
Muslims do appreciate reading the Bible. In the Koran, Muhammad encouraged Muslims to read the “before Scriptures,” meaning the first five books of the Old Testament (Pentateuch) and the first four books of the New Testament. Discussing Bible stories with a Muslim is a great place to start evangelizing. Use specific stories that address Jesus as Messiah. Then, when the relationship has been established, offer a leather-bound or vinyl covered Bible as a gift. Gifts are always appropriate for a Muslim to receive. Seek to engage them in conversations. Consider moving into a community near a mosque. Schedule an appointment with an imam and ask him the needs that your church can meet among Muslim immigrants. He’ll tell you! Then offer to teach classes on the “before Scriptures” and allow the Holy Spirit to move hearts. Finally, encourage your church to adopt one of the people groups from this region. Focus prayer that leads to directly engaging them.



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Pray

Prayerwalk communities where Jews and Muslims live. As you encounter these people, ask them how you can pray for them. Consider praying on the spot. Pray for an open heart to hear their needs and what they care about for their families; particularly their wives and children. Pray that God would raise up bold workers in this harvest field. Pray for wisdom that will lead you to be genuine in all your interactions. Pray for opportunities to explain the “before Scriptures” to Muslims and the Truth that Jesus is the Anointed One, the Messiah, to the Jews.



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NEXT STEPS

Look beyond your window. Who do you see? Our goal as followers of Jesus in the Cincinnati Area is to make disciples of all peoples. (Matthew 28:19). Disciple-making efforts must be intentional if they are to make disciples that can make disciples.

We envision seeing multitudes of people from every language, nation, and tribe one day standing around the throne of God. Not just a few, but thousands! We should take the pains not to push aside their leaders or to make them dependent upon an outside group for their growth.

Pray fervently for each grouping of people in this booklet. Ask the Lord for ways you can respond in faith believing He is at work.

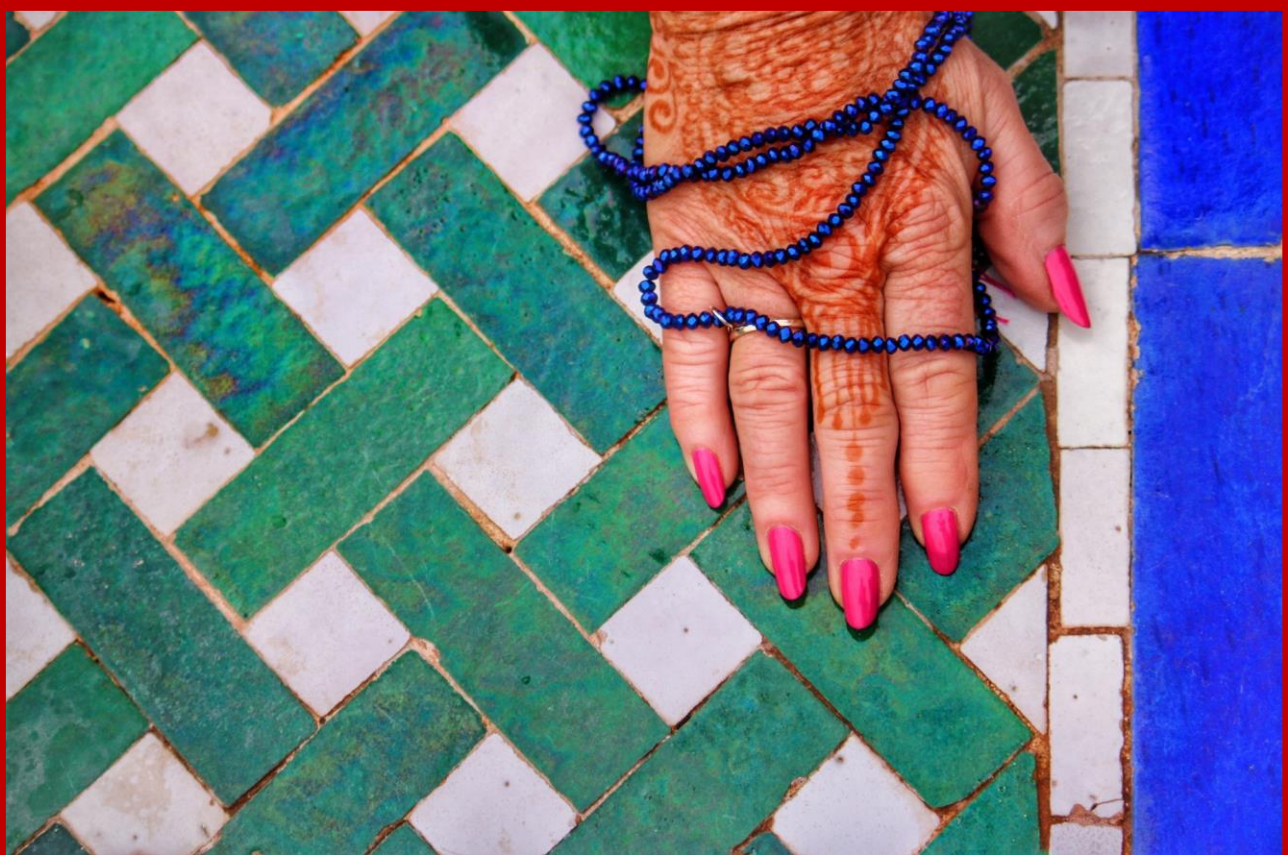
EQUIP. There is great value in being equipped to cross cultures to make disciples who make disciples, and start churches that multiply.

ENGAGE. Follow the Holy Spirit as He opens doors for friendship with the lost in your family ties, work relationships, or those with whom we do recreation. We trust that God is already at work opening windows of opportunity.

ENCIRCLE: A variety of networks in Cincinnati offer regular gatherings to cast vision, share tools, and provide community for like-minded missionaries to these people groups. Details are available upon request.

For more information about certain groups in this brochure, training, and networks, email CABAoffice@gmail.com.





After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!”

Revelation 7:9-10 (CSB)



CINCINNATI AREA
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

www.cincinnatiabaptist.com