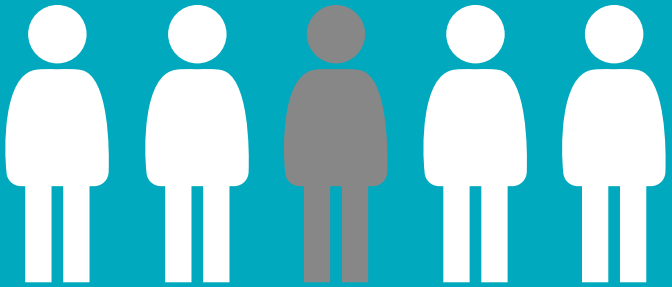
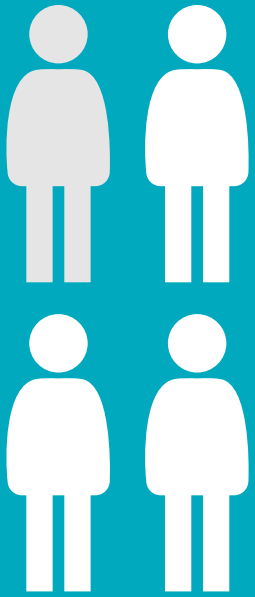
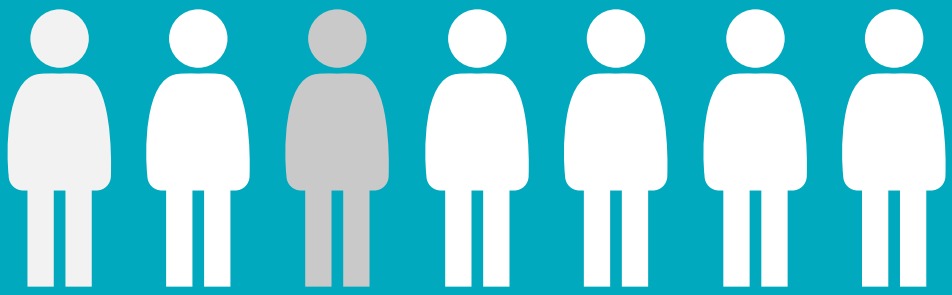


WHO IS MY  
NEIGHBOR?



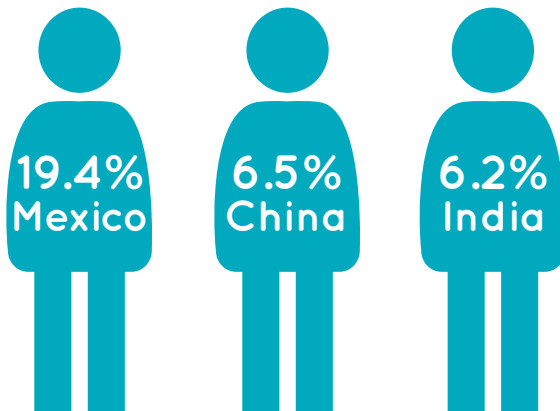
Reaching  
the Nations  
in Missouri





# Foreign Born and International Students Living in Missouri

- Between 2000 and 2011 the foreign born population in Missouri increased by 60.9%.
- As of 2011, the foreign born population living in Missouri was 243,263 (To put this number in perspective, the 2011 total population of the city of Springfield, Mo. was 160,611)
- Of the total foreign born population in Missouri 48% have entered the state since 2000
- The three leading countries of origin of the foreign born population in Missouri in 2011 are:



- In 2013, there is an anticipated enrollment of **16,000+** International students studying on Missouri college and university campuses

# How We Respond Makes a Difference

The way we respond to the presence of our nation neighbor has a lot to do with how effective we will be (or not be) in reaching him for Christ.



We might be  
**ANGRY...**



We might be  
**PERPLEXED...**



We might be  
**JOYFUL...**



# What God Says About My Nation Neighbor

**Exodus 22:21** – You must not exploit a foreign resident or oppress him, since you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.

**Leviticus 19:34** – You must regard the foreigner who lives with you as the native-born among you. You are to love him as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.

**Matthew 25:35** – For I was ... a stranger and you took me in.

**Genesis 22:18** – And all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring because you have obeyed my command.

**I Corinthians 9:22b** – I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some.

**Revelation 7:9,10** – 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 robed in white with palm branches in their hands. And they cried with a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

These are just a few of the verses that speak to what God thinks of all the world's nations. In addition also are the Bible stories of the many foreign born included in God's salvation plan: Rahab, Ruth, the Samaritan woman, the Syrophenician woman, the centurion, the Ethiopian eunuch, Cornelius, and on and on goes the examples of the Lord's concern for all nations.

# How My Nation Neighbor is Like Me

Although differences exist, there are several ways in which my nation neighbor is like me. These include:

## **Basic physical needs of life:**

There are some basics of life that everyone, no matter their place of origin, language, or culture must have in order to survive. Among these are:

- Water
- Food
- Shelter
- A healthy, safe environment

## **Concerns for family:**

In addition to the normal concerns of family are added questions like, How will our family adjust to changes in a new place?, Will our children be negatively influenced by a different culture?, Will we be able to hold together as a family unit in our new and changing environment? And so, we can rest assured that our nation neighbor has similar family needs relating to:

- Marriage
- Children and Grandchildren



### **A need for acceptance:**

All people have a natural need to sense that they are a part of the larger society they live in and that they are a valuable member of that society. Therefore our nation neighbor, like us, has a deep desire to be assured of:

- Belonging
- Value

### **A desire to progress:**

For whatever reason our nation neighbor has come to our state, there is likely a normal burning desire to both succeed and to pass on that progress to succeeding generations. Common areas of importance are:

- Being all you can be
- Passing progress on to the next generation

### **A spiritual nature that yearns for spiritual truth:**

Although it may take many different forms (Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam, Animism, etc.) there is a worldwide common yearning for that which is higher and what is required. There is often a mutual point of beginning because:

- Man by his own nature knows that a higher being exists
- He accepts the existence of good and evil
- He desires to know how to have relationship with God

# How My Nation Neighbor May Not Be Like Me

It is important to realize that, although there are similarities, differences likely exist. Some usual differences are:

## **Time Reference:**

Essentially every culture has an unwritten code relating to time. Some are very punctual and succinct. Others are more flexible and variable. As you are learning about your nation neighbor it is a good practice to ask about his culture:

- When to begin?
- When to end?
- How long is too long?

## **Relational vs. Task Orientation:**

Every cultural context functions around relationship and task accomplishment, however the relative importance placed on each of these values varies greatly from group to group. Be certain to try to grasp how your nation neighbor would answer these questions:

- Which is the higher value, task or relationship?
- Is relationship built through the task or is the task accomplished through relationship?



## Space:

The need for space in a given moment and setting can vary widely from culture to culture. Where does space become uncomfortable (you're too close) and when does it become unfriendly (you are so far away you must not like me)? How much distance is needed between us when we speak? How close to stand or sit next to? What signs of affection are allowable and expected (Handshake? Hug? Kiss on the cheek?). Try to learn:

- Conversational Space
- Sitting and Standing Space
- Signs of Affection Space

## Worldview:

Worldview is how one perceives the world around them and can encompass many areas of life. A few are listed here. In the case of many cultures, their roles tend to be more traditional and less modern. They may share some common customs, events and special dates, as well as understandings of work and leisure; however, they will also bring some with them that are unique to who they are. Perhaps the area of most distinct worldview comes in regard to religion. Try to get to know your nation neighbor's worldview about:

- Family Roles
- Gender Roles
- Customs, Events and Special Dates
- Work and Leisure
- Religion

# Crossing Barriers | Bridging the Gap | Sharing a Witness

How then can I best relate to my nation neighbor and share a witness with him/her.

Maintain a healthy relationship with the Lord and understand His view of my nation neighbor.

Be a learner of your nation neighbor's culture:

- Read, listen, google
- Observe, ask, and listen. Most foreign born residents/citizens love having a chance to share where they are from and about their own culture

Discover the best ways of sharing a verbal witness with them. Remember: The good news message does not change. The most effective methods by which the good news message is shared may be unique to a particular culture.

If possible, get to know why your nation neighbor is here:

- Work
- Political/Religious Freedom Issues (Refugees)
- Educational Opportunities
- Other

Love your nation neighbor as you love your own self

# My Nation Neighbor Worksheet

OK, now for the real test. What will I do about my nation neighbor? Here is a very simple worksheet to help get started. You may want to add more, but this is a beginning.

The name(s) of my nation neighbor(s) is/are:

---

---

---

The ethnicity of my nation neighbor(s) is/are:

---

---

---

I will learn about my nation neighbor by:

---

---

---

I will connect with my nation neighbor by:  
Praying for God's Guidance.

---

---

---



A Cooperative Program Ministry