

Suggestions and Resources for Raising Cross-Cultural Awareness in the Local Church

Missiology

- **Perspectives on the World Christian Movement** — Perspectives is a fifteen-week course designed around four vantage points or "perspectives" — Biblical, Historical, Cultural and Strategic. Each one highlights different aspects of God's global purpose. (www.perspectives.org)
- **Multi-Ethnic Ministry Video Series** — 6 videos (each 2-3 minutes in length) developed to create a dialogue within the Free Methodist Church-USA around the unique opportunities that exist for reaching all people for Jesus and to help local churches to reflect the ever growing diversity within their communities and cities. Each video has two dialogues for small group study. (fmcusa.org/fmmissions/2016-missions-resources-series/)
- **A Theology of Mission for Free Methodist World Missions** — (http://fmcusa.org/fmmissions/files/2016/01/theology_mission_2006.pdf)

Books

- *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon
- *You Don't Have to Cross the Ocean to Reach the World* by David Boyd
- *Sharing the Truth in Love: How to Relate to People of Other Faiths* by Ajith Fernando
- *Leading a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church* by Mark DeYmaz
- *Internationals Who Live Among Us: Doing World Missions at Home* by Neal Pirolo
- *Strangers Next Door: Immigration, Migration and Mission* by J. D Payne
- *Cultural Awareness and the Multi-Cultural Church* by Dan Sheffield
- *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett and Dr. Brian Fikkert
- *Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion & Truth in the Immigration Debate* by Matthew Soerens and Jenny Hwand
- *Serving God in a Migrant Crisis* by Patrick Johnstone and Dean Merrill
- *Operation World: The Definitive Prayer Guide to Every Nation* by Jason Mandryk

Websites

- The Art of Neighboring — What if Jesus really meant that we should love our *actual* neighbors? Resources include: book, block map, block party kit, starting a joint church movement, 6-week interactive small group study, 3-week sermon series. (<http://www.artofneighboring.com/>)
- Faith & Forced Migration — blog for those who want to serve or are already serving refugees in their community (<http://www.faithandforcedmigration.com/>)

Evangelism Resources

- Probe — ways to talk to Muslims, Hindus, Mormons and postmoderns (<https://www.probe.org/crossing-the-worldview-divide-sharing-christ-with-other-faiths/>)
- Answering Islam: A Christian-Muslim Dialog (<http://www.answering-islam.org/>)
- World Bibles — helping you to find God's Word in over 4,000 languages (http://worldbibles.org/search_languages/eng)
- *JESUS Film* — evangelism resources, ministry strategies, and a community of like-minded people to help you take the gospel to everyone, everywhere (<http://www.jesusfilm.org>)

Movies Related to Racism, Reconciliation, Immigration

- “City of Joy”
- “Railroad Man”
- “A Good Lie”
- “The Help”
- “Race”
- “42”
- “Amistad” (American Slavery)
- “Selma”
- “The Visitor”
- “McFarland USA”
- “Spare Parts”
- “Slum Dog Millionaire”
- “Gandhi”
- “The Hundred Foot Journey”
- “Lagaan”
- “Amazing Grace”
- “Spitfire Grill”
- “Prince among Slaves” (documentary)
- “Grand Torino”
- “The Letters” (Mother Teresa)

Some of these movies may not be suitable for all audiences and should be reviewed thoughtfully before showing.

Activities/Experiences

- Participate in neighborhood prayer walk
- Complete a cross-cultural intelligence evaluation (such as Intercultural Development Inventory — IDI)
- Train and teach English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Eat at ethnic restaurants/food trucks
- Attend ethnic festivals
- Attend service of a faith outside Christianity
- Visit a temple or mosque
- Put yourself in settings where you can be around people different from you: convenience stores, laundromats, public transportation, etc.,
- Check local library for any cross-cultural events, lectures
- Complete a world religions course
- Serve on short-term missions ministry team through VISA Ministries

Immigrants

- Check with your local Office of Refugee Resettlement (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr>) for training and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Engage with Welcoming America — a network to help communities embrace immigrants and foster opportunity for all. (<https://www.welcomingamerica.org/>)
- Offer legal services to under-resourced immigrants through the Immigration Alliance. (<http://fmcusa.org/blog/2014/10/22/free-methodists-to-offer-legal-services-for-immigrants/>).
- Participate in workshops to better understand cultures that are a part of your community.
- Research the changing demographics of your city.
- Invite a guest of another culture to speak to your group about cultural differences in aspects such as these:
 - * Appropriate “personal space”
 - * Gestures to avoid
 - * Eye contact
 - * Body language
 - * Touching
 - * Expressions of respect/disrespect
 - * Display of affection
 - * Acceptability of asking personal questions
 - * Expressions of humor
 - * Styles of conflict resolution
 - * Expressing disagreement
 - * Use of first names and surnames