

# LOCAL TO GLOBAL

## Diaspora Engagement for Church Planting and Training for Global Sending



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Diaspora: the dispersion of people from their original homeland; forcibly displaced by war, genocide (refugees), famine, economic opportunities (immigrants), or education (international students)

## WHY DIASPORA MISSIONS + WHY I'M PASSIONATE ABOUT IT

- I spent 14 years in Oaxaca, Mexico and saw fruit among 38 unreached people groups; during that time, however, we noticed that most of the churches planted were when people received the gospel other places and then brought the Good News back to their own villages and communities
- In our current North American context, 12% of the United States population is foreign-born (with places like LA and NYC averaging a foreign-born population of about 37%)
- The rest of the world is also experiencing diaspora: Greece receives many refugees from all over the world; in Spain, a lot of North Africans come up as seasonal workers; Kenya has both international students and refugees from places like Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan; Sydney's population is 42% foreign-born; Emirates only make up 20% of the population in UAE

**"MISSIONS REALLY IS FROM  
EVERYWHERE TO EVERYWHERE."**

# MINISTERING TO, THROUGH, AND FROM THE DIASPORA

**To the Diaspora:** In the diverse context in Atlanta, GA, we seek to meet spiritual needs as well as physical needs, such as teaching English, providing job training, helping with after-school programs, and just offering our friendship. Sometimes we simply knock on doors, welcome people to the neighborhood and ask them if there is anything we can pray for. We equip individuals through our Missionary Training School to work and minister cross-culturally with the diaspora in Atlanta, as well as seeking to mobilize local churches from the majority culture to engage in reaching out to their foreign-born neighbors. We can clearly see the impact of ministry to the diaspora through meeting physical and spiritual needs, and we pray that we can see disciples made, churches planted, and hopefully even movements started.

**Through the Diaspora:** Using the American context as our example again, we should consider how we can come alongside believers in the diaspora -- local ethnic churches -- as they reach out to their own people and near culture neighbors. The diaspora is not merely the mission field; they are the mission force as well. We should consider what it looks like for us to do ministry and events **with** local ethnic churches. In Atlanta, we equip indigenous believers with tools for evangelism, discipleship and church planting and then we can live on mission together. Ethnic churches are much more effective in ministering to their own people due to their shared language, culture, and worldview, and we should seek to work side-by-side with them.

**From the Diaspora:** Missions used to be “from the West to the rest,” but that’s no longer the case. The diaspora is uniquely suited to take on the Great Commission due to their linguistic and cultural savvy. Local ethnic churches need to be mobilized and trained to see themselves as senders and goers, not just recipients of mission efforts. We have a Burmese congregation here in Atlanta that is starting to send people to places like Iraq and Saudi Arabia, and we champion them, pointing them to Scriptures that especially focus on multi-lingual and multi-cultural people that God used mightily in the expansion of His Kingdom.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### LINKS:

[Global Frontier Missions](#)  
[NextMove](#)  
[Global Gates](#)  
[People Group Research](#)

### BOOKS:

*Strangers Next Door*  
*by JD Payne*  
*Across the Street*  
*and Around the World*  
*by Jeannie Marie*