

Florida-Georgia District Multi Cultural Outreach – 2005

Thank you for this opportunity to describe the work that together we have been called to do in the Florida-Georgia District. Multicultural Outreach is simply put, reaching out with the gospel to the people who make up our community or ministry area. For some, this is very diverse culturally. Jesus said in Matthew that we are to go and make disciples of all “ethnos.” That, in Greek, means all tongues or nationalities.

In 2005 there are 38 mission opportunities to go and make disciples of all nations. 40% are Anglo; 10% Campus; 6% Deaf ; 5% African - American. The remaining 39% are opportunities for outreach to cultures currently coming to our country. During the last 10 years God brought more than 4 million new people into the borders of our District. The Florida-Georgia District is reaching people from Eritrea & Ethiopia, the Sudan, Haiti, Bahamas, several Hispanic countries, and several Asian cultures such as Laotian, Korean and Hmong. Each of these cultures are our neighbors. Plus we have a ministry partnerships in Thailand (TEMP) and Haiti.

The area of Multicultural Outreach has two focuses; helping existing congregations develop outreach strategies and secondly planting new missions. The FL-GA District is committed to planting 75 new missions by the year 2010. By the end of 2004 we had begun work in 35. Church planting has proven to be the best way to reach new & unchurched people. The District welcomes the opportunity to personally discuss outreach strategies for a congregation or circuit.

Strategies for multicultural outreach

Circuit Outreach Councils are made up of pastors and 2 lay representatives from each congregation in a circuit. Their goal is to develop outreach opportunities and training throughout their circuit with a special emphasis on church planting.

Daughter Planting Churches are congregations who see the need to begin a new ministry in their area. They give life to a new church, financially, prayerfully and through other means support the work of their new daughter. A special workshop is available.

Mission Planters Institute – Intensive training offered to all mission planters across the LCMS. The FL-GA District hosts one institute annually at the Woodlands, FL, the other is in Irvine, CA.

Mission Planter Cluster meetings – offers ongoing networking, training and support for our mission planters. One is also offered for our ethnic pastors.

NCD (Natural Church Development) – measures 8 characteristics of health in a congregation. Strategies are developed and implemented to improve the congregation’s health. The FL-GA District has 6 trained coaches ready to assist. Contact David Weidner at dweidner@flga-lcms.org

Open Arms Institute – new mission work begins with the development of an early childhood center (day care). Ideally land and building are paid for through the center and the congregational ministry develops around the families enrolled in the early childhood center.

Stewardship & Funding the Mission – it is anticipated that each new mission become self supporting within 5 years. Whole Life Stewardship in the Mission was initiated last year to assist mission congregations plan and implement sound biblical stewardship. Mission grant writing seminars are offered each year to all congregations to help find additional funding. Seminar dates and places are announced.

Groups Ablaze! Strategic Growth through Small Groups (SG2) – training is offered to congregations wanting to reach and disciple the unchurched. Training dates and places are announced.

Urban Multicultural Outreach – We have lost nearly 50% of our urban baptized membership in the LCMS over the last two decades. At the same time the Lord is bringing people from all nations as immigrants to the city, 24.1 million people immigrated to the US 23 million of those moved to the city. The FL-GA District has begun working with inner city congregations in developing a comprehensive missionary model of ministry that identifies needs, raises up local leadership and works cooperatively across parish boundaries to share staff, leadership and other resources in the proclamation of the Gospel. The goal is to “reach the city for Christ.”

Campus Ministries provide many Gospel opportunities and a setting to connect with students across the U.S. and around the world. Campus ministry also connects with students during a time in their life that their faith and values are becoming more personalized.

How to Help -

1. Pray for our Missions and Missionaries – ABLAZE! Missionary Prayer Calendar
2. Consider being a local missionary by using your God given talents & skills at a new mission.
3. Report areas of significant growth to either the Circuit Outreach Council or the District.
4. Ask your congregation to become a Daughter Planting Congregation.
5. Consider offering financial support to one or more mission congregations.
6. Lead a Small Group.
7. Ask your congregation to be Mission Mentoring Church. Your church has leadership, structure, organization, resources, such as music and programs that could be very beneficial to share with a mission.
8. Take evangelism and outreach training or as a congregation, seek to host such training and offer it to the circuit and community.
9. Become involved in your Circuit Outreach Council. Each congregation can have 1 pastor and 2 lay people at the circuit meetings however any number of people can be involved in doing the work.
10. Make it your personal goal to share your faith daily with the added prayer that someone will be brought into membership in God's family this year.

Contact Us –

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For Updated Information go to:

Website: www.flga-lcms.org
See: MISSIONS & OUTREACH

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