

## **International/Ethnic Ministry**

### **Ideas for Possible Programs/Events/Ministries**

*These are only a few ideas. As you survey the community, let the Lord show you what the real needs are, and ask for wisdom to find creative ways to meet those needs in the name of the Lord.*

1. **English classes for adults (ESL)**
  - a. At church
  - b. At a restaurant
  - c. At place of work
  - d. At someone's home
2. **Activities for stay home mothers**
  - a. Crafts, music, games, etc
  - b. Parenting classes
  - c. Or any of the other ministries/programs listed here, if offered during the day
3. **Day care and/or Mother's Day Out program**
  - a. For mother's who are participating in some adult program
  - b. For those who need a break to take care of errands.
4. **Basic computer classes for adults**
  - a. REALLY basic due to language difficulties
5. **Spanish literacy classes**
  - a. ALMOST anyone who can read Spanish can teach someone to read the language; easy training
  - b. In collaboration with the Mexican Consulate, establish a program where adult students can learn to read and write as well as take courses from elementary through high school in Spanish. Students may work to earn a high school degree certified by the Mexican government.
  - c. Spanish for Hispanic children who have only learned English in school
    - i. Hispanic parents love these
6. **US Citizenship classes**
  - a. Easy course in American history through the civil war
  - b. US Constitution & government
  - c. Symbols (flag, seal, etc)
7. **Parenting workshops**
8. **Family literacy**
  - a. Establish library with books in various languages, including children's books and other resources.
  - b. Provide access to international papers in various languages.
9. **Exercise classes for adults**
10. **Sports /Recreation programs (men, women, children)**
  - a. Soccer league/tournament
  - b. Volleyball league/tournament
  - c. Pool
  - d. Basketball league/tournament
  - e. Fishing tournament
11. **Health education**
  - a. Health fair
  - b. Workshops and information in the areas of HIV/AIDS, STD, diabetes, obesity, women's health and other
12. **Provide access to health care**
  - a. Connect people with resources and services needed
  - b. Assist with hospital and medical bills
  - c. Provide transportation for medical services
  - d. Assist in obtaining medicines
  - e. Provide information on where to locate services, how to utilize services as well as assistance in understanding health insurance and medical bills and communications
13. **Provide basic instruction ...**
  - a. Moving concerns: new job, schools, driver's licenses, etc
  - b. On how the U.S. system works in areas such as health, housing and the legal system
14. **Clothing ministry**
  - a. Make intentionally evangelistic
15. **Food pantry ministry**
  - a. Make intentionally evangelistic
16. **Furniture ministry**
17. **Connecting to employment opportunities**
  - a. Job bank - database of employment opportunities
  - b. Filling out applications
  - c. Calling potential employers
  - d. "Basic training" for interview

**18. Special youth & children's programs**

- a. Intentionally designed to break barriers through education and positive social interaction between the Anglo, Hispanic, and other international groups in the community, building relationships, learning about each other
- b. Educating youth about issues such as alcohol and tobacco, gang prevention, premature sexual relationships, the importance of staying in school, and access to higher education, and spiritual matters

**19. After-school program**

- a. Provide tutoring and homework assistance to children whose parents are unable to help them with school work due to their own lack of English skills and/or basic formal education.
- b. Recreation
- c. Devotional or Bible time

**20. Summer camp for kids**

- a. For low-income Latino and international children who live in the county
- b. Include playtime, arts and crafts, devotionals, excursions to parks, lakes, museums, zoo, etc

**21. Day trips for children and youth**

- a. Provide excursions to selected work places, special tours of institutions of higher education, visits to historical sites, and other.
- b. The purpose of this program would be
  - i. to expand the horizons of these children and give them a vision of the possibilities opened by a good education
  - ii. to allow them to see "the other world" that may be hidden from them due to their families' present economic/social situation

**22. Basic translation and interpreting services**

- a. Assistance in reading and understanding bills, letters, contracts, etc.
- b. Communicating via telephone with landlords and other
- c. Translation of documents such as letters, birth certificates, marriage certificates, etc

**23. Basic legal assistance**

- a. Referrals to local bilingual attorneys
- b. Free legal clinic
- c. Information on how the US legal system works

**24. Basic immigration assistance**

- a. Filling out immigration forms
- b. Provide accurate INS information
- c. Referrals to immigration lawyers
- d. Offer immigration clinics
- e. Transportation to INS appointments

**25. Income tax assistance**

- a. General information on tax related issues
- b. Assist in obtaining an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN)
- c. Assist in preparing the annual tax declaration

**26. Free Notary Public service**

- a. Important and necessary service for internationals, who are routinely taken advantage of. — [In most countries, a notary public is required to have a law degree. Some notary publics in the US know this and charge exorbitant sums of money for the service.] —

**27. Assist in purchasing airplane tickets**

- a. Service to internationals who do not have access to computer or who lack of English skills, and who are also taken advantage of by many who pretend to help them

**28. One-day events**

- a. Health clinic
- b. Information fair
- c. Immigration fair
- d. Block party
- e. Host the Mobile Mexican Consulate

**29. Sponsor mission team from outside Hispanic/international church**

- a. Could help kick-off a ministry or event
- b. Could help survey community
- c. Could help with backyard bible clubs or VBS in Spanish or target language
- d. Offer evangelistic events/meetings in target language

**30. Establish international welcome center**

- a. The center could provide all of the above
- b. Provide information and assistance regarding other programs, classes and opportunities available in the community
- c. Provide awareness to community at large of needs, etc.
- d. Train church and community leaders in matters of culture and traditions of ethnic groups in the area
- e. Serve as the "go to" place or clearinghouse of information for newcomers to the area