

We are excited about how God is working around the world and how He invites us to be a part of His great work! Check out the opportunities and updates below. More details will be coming on how you can get involved in meeting the needs of our Afghan neighbors as they get resettled.

IMMEDIATE GLOBAL PARTNER NEEDS

Some of our Global Partners will be in the USA this summer and have some needs while they are here. If you can assist with either of the needs listed, please [contact Debra G.](#) or the Global Partner directly.

- **Mades Meas (Cambodia)** – Needs a car to use for his family of four from July 6 to August 14.
 - **Scott, Jacqui & Sara Curley (Poland)** – Need a place to stay for 2-3 weeks in late July/early August.
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REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT UPDATES

We are thankful for the two ladies, M & L, that a team from our church has helped resettle. Please continue to pray for M to be able to find a job. Their friend from home, Z, arrived last week and our COS team is excited to help her resettle with her friends here as well. Pray for the team as they consider when they will be ready to resettle another family. Pray also for another community group that is considering resettling a family.

REACHINTERNATIONAL FREE YARD SALE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

We would like to host this event again. It's a huge blessing to international students, helping to meet their immediate physical needs as well as make connections with the community as they move to a new area for their studies. To make the ReachInternational Yard Sale a success for our international neighbors, we need to pull together a passionate leadership and planning team of volunteers. If you are interested in being a part of the planning of the event, contact [Debra G.](#) this week to get involved the planning.

LOCAL MISSIONS EXPERIENCE

These have been created with YOU in mind! We are excited about the opportunities that God is giving our church to connect with our Muslim and Hindu neighbors. We're excited God has given us connections, but we often feel ill-equipped. We have created this experience to help you grow your skills, give you more experience and build your confidence as you engage with those from other religions. Here's what you expect in your 1-day experience: continental breakfast, group learning, discussions & activities, a Temple/Mosque tour, and an ethnic lunch.

- Friday, July 22, 8:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. – Hindu focus. Register by July 17
- Friday, August 5, 8:45 a.m. - 5 p.m. – Muslim focus (new date!). Register by July 31

[Register HERE](#) – we hope you'll join us!

GROWING OUR CROSS-CULTURAL SKILLS

As the United States becomes a more diverse context, the church must be prepared for cross-cultural encounters at all times, even in unlikely places. *Here are some ways the church can grow in cultural sensitivity as they prepare for these encounters.*

INCREASE AWARENESS - Becoming aware of the cultural diversity around us is the first step in developing cultural sensitivity and considering how you might be a cross-cultural disciple-maker. Once you become aware of the different cultures around you, you will begin to see your community differently.

ASK QUESTIONS - Even the questions you ask and the way you ask them require some cultural sensitivity. First, avoid asking leading questions that begin with “Is it true that...?” Instead, ask open-ended questions such as, “I would love to hear about your family. Can you tell me about them?” Some questions can create unintentional offense. For example, asking someone directly, “Where are you from?” assumes that the person is from somewhere else.

BE HOSPITABLE - As Christians, the cultural characteristic of individualism can be a barrier to biblical obedience. Hospitality doesn’t have to be complex—you don’t have to prepare a three-course meal and have everything perfect. It also doesn’t just have to be for a special event (although inviting people from different cultural backgrounds for birthdays, holidays, weddings, and other major life events would be a good thing). Hospitality is often more about spending time with people than providing things for them.

CONTINUE TO LEARN CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION - While it is impossible to perfect the art of cross-cultural communication, we have the responsibility to do everything we can to communicate effectively—both to share the good news of Jesus and to build genuine friendships that seek to honor and respect the image of God displayed in other people and the beauty of other cultures.

[Read the full blog HERE!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Local Missions Experience – **Hindu Focus – July 22**. Registration closes July 17.
- Local Missions Experience – **Muslim Focus – rescheduled to Friday, August 5**
- ReachInternational Yard Sale (tentative) – **Saturday, September 3**
- Conversational English classes – **Saturdays, September 17- November 19**
- Global Focus Weekend – **October 14-15**