Detroit: The Opportunity Place
(For Church Planting)

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Ethnically Speaking, Michigan is more than just one state out of 50; it is a snapshot of America’s ethnic whole.
When it comes to Ethnic ministry, Detroit is a land of opportunity. When you think of ethnicity, many of you immediately think about certain areas of the city, whether it be Mexican town . . .

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Or Greektown.

Monday, April 26, 2004, Detroit News
“Cultures collide in diverse Hamtramck”
HAMTRAMCK — From her front porch, Alice Dembowski has watched her city change, one tidy house at a time. “Chinese, Polish, Bosnian, Polish, Bengali,” she recites, her finger moving down the block. “They were all Polish at one time. “I’ve made friends. I go to their weddings. (But) we’re losing our tradition and I’m getting mad,” Dembowski said. “If they’re going to live in America, why can’t they be more American?”

City of immigrants
That such a controversy would arise in Hamtramck is not surprising. The city has become Michigan’s Ellis Island, with immigrants from Europe, Asia and Africa settling there. In the 2000 census, 41 percent of Hamtramck residents said they were born outside the United States; English is the only language spoken in less than half of the city’s homes; one-third of the 23,000 residents report speaking English “less than very well.” Between 1990 and 2000, the city’s Arab population jumped more than fivefold, while its traditional Polish population dropped by more than a third. Shabad Ahmed, the city’s first Muslim City Council member, estimates that Hamtramck’s population is now more than one-third Muslim.
Hamtramck also is a city with a long and colorful history of political dissent. Many elections are followed immediately by efforts to recall the winners. Currently, there is a petition drive to recall three school board members. But even that tradition has bowed to reality: Petitions are written in Polish, Bosnian, Arabic and English. “People are so passionate about the city’s character, whatever they may imagine it to be,” Majewski said. “Here, it matters who your neighbors are and what you hear outside your window. It’s a glorious thing and a maddening thing as well.”
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Polish Communities
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“Little Yemen”

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Arabic Dearborn/Detroit
Jewish Communities

Hindu Communities
Undecided

The People
But hopefully your mind doesn’t go only to your belly, but to the thousands of people from various ethnic backgrounds.

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Detroit’s Diversity

A Challenge and an Opportunity!

- Nearly 150 languages are spoken in Michigan Homes, the top 10 (after English) being Spanish, Polish, German, Arabic, French, Italian, Chinese, Greek, Dutch and Korean.
- The 2000 census recorded over 100 ethnic groups in the Detroit Metro Area.

Let’s Look at the opportunities that we have in our Urban Centers, Detroit included.

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Detroit’s Diversity

- One-fourth of metro Detroit claims German heritage.
- Between 1910 and 1948 the African-American population swelled from less than 6,000 to over 200,000.
- 550,000 ethnic Poles live in the Detroit area.
- 1.5 Million Michigan residents claim Polish decent, the largest group of all in Michigan.
- 10.7 percent of the Metro Detroit Area have an Irish Heritage.
Detroit has always been a city of ethnic diversity, particularly stemming from Henry Ford’s announcement in 1913 that he would give $5 a day jobs to laborers who would move to the area. Other times of rapid movement to Motown included during WWII when Detroit became known as “The Arsenal of Democracy” and then after the war, when automobile sales soared, 400,000 African-Americans and Whites moved up from the Southeastern US for factory jobs.

Understand, “Hispanic” is rather broad, including over 16 different actual nationalities.

A. America is an Ethnic Place!

- There are 500 plus total ethnic groups in the US
- 14% of the US population lacks a command of English (40 million)
- A vast majority of “ethnics” live in Urban areas. This is changing
- Over 10% (40 Million) of present residents are foreign born
The Challenge of American Diversity
The stats about Detroit’s ethnicity should not surprise, because, America itself is growing in its ethnic diversity.

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A. America is an Ethnic Place!

- In this decade, over 50 major cities will have an ethnic majority.
- Hispanics are now the largest minority group.
- By 2050, the Asian population may surpass the Hispanic population.
- By 2056, Caucasians will be a minority in America.

Ill: LA is the second largest Hispanic city in the Western Hemisphere (Mexico City)

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Change in Immigrant Population in the Largest 100 Metro Areas

Numeric and percent change in immigrant population, 2000 through 2010

Mouse over a metro area for details.

Circles are sized according to numeric change and colored according to percent change:

- Gain of 500,000 immigrants
- Gain of 100,000 immigrants
- Gain of 10,000 immigrants

Source: Authors' analysis of Census 2000 and ACS 2010 data

BROOKINGS
B. Immigration Observations

Legal Immigration is Increasing!
- 70’s- 429,000 per year
- 80’s- 600,000 per year
- 90’s 880,000 per year

Illegal Immigration is up!
- An estimated 1 million come in each year
- More than that are caught and returned
- 70% are from Mexico

The foreign-born population in the U.S. reached 40 million in 2010, an increase of 8.8 million since 2000.
Immigrants to U.S. settling in newer, smaller metro areas & in suburbs within metro areas at a faster rate.
Immigrant enclaves in U.S. central cities no longer lead the way as the landing places for immigrants.
By 2010, 51% of immigrants in U.S. lived in the suburbs of large metro areas, up from 48% in 2000.
85% of immigrants called the 100 largest metropolitan areas home in 2010 compared to 86% in 2000.
The five U.S. metropolitan areas with the largest foreign-born populations were New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago, and Houston.
In Los Angeles, San Jose, and Miami, 1 out of every 3 people are foreign-born.
21 metropolitan areas gained at least 100,000 immigrants between 2000 and 2010; among those, Baltimore (72%), Orlando (72%), Las Vegas (71%), Atlanta (69%), and Riverside (52%) saw the fastest rates of growth.
Source: The Brookings Institute
B. Immigration Observations

- Refugees are on the Rise
  - Over 150,000 per year are admitted legally
  - Includes asylum seekers like many Chinese
  - Highly responsive to friendship and the gospel
C. Ethnic Types

- The Immigrant: A new resident planning to stay but with a different cultural mindset
- The Transitional: Someone passing from one culture to another
- The Established:
  - Some retain old world ways
  - Some create a unique new culture
  - Some adopt the majority culture and blend in

D. Ethnic Identity

- Nuclear Ethnics: Strongly identify with their group and remain controlled by traditions. Often isolated from mainstream.
- Fellow Traveller Ethnics: Identify with cultural group, but are bi-cultural.
- Marginal Ethnics: Identify with group when convenient or beneficial
- Alienated Ethnics: Reject their ethnic heritage and adopt another

How do the ethnics see themselves?

C. and D. from Ken Davis, *Baptist Mid-Missions School of Church Planting*, 2011.
Different ethnic groups have different numbers that identify themselves in these categories. African Americans tend to have the highest number of Nuclear ethnics, while more Hispanics are “Fellow Travellers” than “Nuclears and there are among Hispanics about the same number of Marginal Ethnics as there are Nuclear Ethnics.

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E. Church Planting Approaches to Ethnics

- Nuclear ethnics likely require “Ethnic Churches” which target specific ethnic and language groups.
- Fellow-Traveler ethnics may need bi-lingual churches.
- Marginal ethnics may best be reached by churches with a multicultural beginning or mindset.
- Existing mono-cultural churches can best reach out to alienated ethnics and to some marginal ethnics with some adjustments.

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E. Church Planting Approaches to Ethnics

- Mother/Daughter Church Plants
  - We decide to plant an ethnic church in a specific location
  - We find struggling ethnic churches and come alongside them and help them
  - We begin an ethnic church within our own facility
**E. Church Planting Approaches to Ethnics**

- **Mother Church/Satellite Congregations**
  - Larger church establishes preaching satellites in various ethnic communities
  - These may turn into church plants in time
  - Most resources are provided and offerings of satellite churches come back to the mother church

- **Multicultural/Multiethnic Church**
  - An existing church adjusts its programs and thinking to reach an increasingly diverse community
  - A new church is planted from the start to reach various ethnic groups
  - Services are in English, but smaller groups may use other languages
F. Personal Challenges

- Beware of Racism or Ethnocentrism (James 2:1-9)
  - People of other ethnic groups are often poorer than us
  - People of other ethnic groups may make us uncomfortable because of their cultural norms
  - People of other ethnic groups are our neighbors
  - Overall, people of other ethnic groups need the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ!
F. Personal Challenges

Beware of Fear

God Gives Resources to Deal with Fear

2 Tim 1:7 - For God has not given us a spirit of Timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

A. God gives us power in witnessing so He gets the glory (Acts 1:8)

B. God gives us the ability to love so we see others over ourselves (1 John 4:18; 1 Thess 2:8)

C. God gives us the discipline to overcome our feelings so we can obey Him

F. Personal Challenges

Believe in the Life-Changing Power of the Gospel (Romans 1:16)
Prayer Focus

- For Wisdom
- For Laborers for our Urban Harvest
- For Boldness to Penetrate the Groups of Opportunity