

Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association

The Next Best Places to Begin Something New

by John Mark Clifton

BAPTIST CHURCH



VISION



2020

Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association

1. North East Kansas City, Mo – African/Islamic

Zip codes 64123, 64124 64126, 64127

Population of “other” in 2000 was 6,799

Population of “other” in 2009 was 10,379

In an area of declining overall population, in a relatively small area there are over 10,000 people of “other nationalities” Not, black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or Pacific Island. After several visits into this community we have discovered a close knit group of immigrants from a half a dozen African countries, nearly all Islamic. While “planting a church” seems to be an inappropriate strategy at this time, intensive relationship development and ministry to these neighborhoods is not only an appropriate strategy but one that would appear to be well received. Central Baptist should be used as a focal point for these two new works, along with Truth Bible Fellowship which is located at Independence Ave and Van Brunt.

2. Belton- Lee’s Summit MO – African American

Zip Codes 64081, 64083 are home to 2400 African Americans

Black Population 2000 was 971

Black Population 2009 was 2,366

Trends are for this growth to continue, especially with the closing and consolidation of KCMO High Schools, tending to encourage further growth out of the KCMO school system. While there are a number of strong and growing Black churches in the region, this target area is further south then most of these are located.

3. Arabic People Groups

There are at least 10,000 Arabic speaking people in the metro area. The greatest recent growth is Iraqi immigrants who are focused in the area just east of the KU Med Center.

Zip code 64108 (approx 1,230 “other”) and in the North East area, the zip codes 64123, 64124 64126, 64127.

There is one Presbyterian Arabic Church that currently worships on Saturday evenings at Grace Presbyterian on College Blvd. in Overland Park. A beginning strategy for this “next best place to start” could involve three approaches.

A) Connect with the Presbyterian Church to learn how we might work with them in the areas of Kansas City, MO listed above.

B) Provide extensive and detail equipping to our churches/leaders about how to “talk to your Arabic neighbors”

C) Work with IMB/ St Louis Baptist Assoc and Kansas Nebraska Southern Baptist State Mission leader, George Boujakly (speaks Arabic) seek to begin cultivate ministry among the recent immigrants.

4. Blue Springs

Focus on zip code 64014, 64015

2000 population, 31,143

2009 population, 43,526

This area of Jackson County continues as it has for the past 30 years to be a place of constant suburban growth among most young families. There are an increasing number of Hispanic and Black families among the growing numbers. While there are several churches in the Blue Springs area, we have in no way kept pace with the ever increasing population.

5. Your own church field

Within our city and towns and communities of Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association are “hidden” pockets of unreached people. These include the East Indian family in your subdivision, the Arab young man at your nearby gas station, the Hindu gentlemen who takes his walk past your house every morning. Everywhere we look, IF we will just look we will find people all around us who were born in another country and are completely immersed in another culture. These are people that God has brought to our very door step.

We need to inform our people about the need to connect with them and we need to equip our people to engage them. There are a wide variety of strategies with which we can involve our people/churches to touch the lives of these unreached people groups. No one has better resources for connecting to these people than do Southern Baptist, and our Association needs a comprehensive strategy to connect our churches/people with these resources. This is a “next best place” that can involve nearly everyone in our Association.

6. River Market Area of Downtown Kansas City

This is an area of Downtown Kansas City that is bounded by I-70 on the south, I-35/29 on the east, the Missouri River on the north and Broadway on the west. This is an area that is unique community with a distinctive understanding of itself. The housing is nearly all multi family with a few single family homes. There is a good mixture of homeowners and renters. As with much of the Downtown area the majority of people who live here are young professionals, without children. Population figures range from 1,000 – 2,500 and have shown significant growth in the last decade.

This is also a destination location for shopping and dining in Kansas City, especially on the weekends with the Kansas City River Market as a large attraction for people from across the region.

7. South Kansas City

South of I 435, along State Line Road, Zip code 64145

Population 2000/ 4,792

Population 2009 / 5,308

This is a mostly white (with an increasing number of blacks) area. Affluent and

highly educated community. This should be a partnership with Kansas City Kansas Baptist Association, since State Line Road cuts through the middle of this focus area. There has been a great deal of development in this area in the past five years and when the economy returns this will be one of the key areas of rapid growth.

8. Hispanic Belton, zip code 64012

2000 Hispanic population 1053

2009 Hispanic population 1949

The Hispanic population has doubled, and the trends are even greater in the future. There is a need for Hispanic work in nearly every corner of our city; Belton is one place where we can get out just a little ahead of the trend that is coming.

9. Inner suburban ring.

There are at least 25 BR-KC churches that are in the suburban ring circa 1950s-1970s around Kansas City. Many of these churches are awesome places in which to plant a new work along side the existing work. These are strategic new works that focus on one unique pockets of the waffle.

10. Set Free South of the River.

The area along Linnwood Blvd to downtown and north to the River is a strategic area for an ongoing ministry of Set Free. We have nothing at this time for homeless men and women in this part of our city. With an awesome ministry north of the River, we need to find a place to support an expression of that ministry in KCMO.

Strategic Demographic Reality

Cass County, Missouri

Total population

Year 2000 / 82,092

Year 2008 / 98,429

Year 2009 / 100,212

Cass County Hispanic population

Year 2000 / 1816

Year 2008 / 3223

Year 2009 / 3498

Cass County Black population

Year 2000 / 1345

Year 2009 / 3736

Jackson County, Missouri

Total population

Year 2000 / 654,880

Year 2008 / 668,417

Year 2009 / 669,287

Jackson County Hispanic population

Year 1990 / 18,888

Year 2000 / 35,160

Year 2009 / 52,395

Jackson County Black population

Year 1990 / 136,717

Year 2000 / 152,391

Year 2009 / 150,686

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Jackson County “OTHER”

Year 2000 / 15,914

Year 2009 / 23,273