

# Immigration Resource List

There are many opportunities to share God's love, hope, and peace!

Get involved as the Holy Spirit leads you! Feel free to contact the [Ohio Conference Immigration Resource Team](#) for more ideas.

## Books

### *Adult*

- ❖ ***After the Last Border: Two Families and the Story of Refuge in America\**** by Jessica Goudeau (2020, adult non-fiction narrative). Striking accounts based on the author's friendships overseas and in Austin, Texas — of two women's experience with terror, opportunity, and the human impact of ever-shifting federal policies towards refugees from 1880 to present.
- ❖ ***The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong*** by Karen Gonzalez (2019, non-fiction). Karen Gonzalez has experienced from childhood the many challenges immigrants face when trying to adjust to a new culture. She masterfully weaves together three strands: biblical stories of immigrants like Hagar and Joseph, her own personal stories, and current-day issues of immigration. Discussion questions for each chapter at the end of the book are excellent for Sunday School classes and small groups. A must read from Herald Press!
- ❖ ***The House that Love Built*** by Sarah Jackson. (2020, for readers 16 and older). The gripping story of a young Christian woman in Denver, moved with compassion for immigrants in a local detention center, who opened her apartment to out-of-town families who were visiting loved ones in the detention center and grew this ministry to its own hospitality house — Casa de Paz.
- ❖ ***The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border\**** by Francisco Cantú (2018, adult non-fiction). The story of the son of Mexican immigrants who becomes a border patrol agent, highlighting his experiences as an agent, the personal reckoning he had to undertake after witnessing the violence of the border, and the complex issues that occur on both sides of the border due to our current immigration and border control policies.
- ❖ ***Separated: Inside an American Tragedy*** by Jacob Soboroff (2020, adult non-fiction). Well-researched look at the U.S. policy of separating adult undocumented immigrants from their children and its severe impact on these individuals.
- ❖ ***Welcoming the Stranger*** by Matthew Soerens and Jenny Yang (2018). Excellent book for individual or group study with discussion questions for each chapter. The authors discuss immigrants' experiences in our current system and show the system's limitations.

### *Picture Books*

- ❖ ***Coming to America: The Story of Immigration*** by Betsy Maestro (1996). Grades 3-5. (Includes brief reference to war as a reason to leave one's homeland.) Introduces the idea that we are all immigrants and talks about the process of coming to Ellis Island and the meaning of the Statue of Liberty. Speaks briefly about refugees. [Discussion Questions](#)
- ❖ ***Grandfather's Journey*** by Allen Say. (1993) Grades 3-5. (Includes brief reference to war as a reason to leave one's homeland.) Author tells the story of his grandfather's experience in coming to America from Japan. [Discussion Questions](#)

## Organizations and Movements

- ❖ **American Immigration Council** - Provides demographics, census data and economic impact of immigrants. [americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-ohio](http://americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-ohio)
- ❖ **Brazo en Brazo** - Spanish-language spiritual ministry to individuals and families.  
Marti Meza (419) 296-9574
- ❖ **Evangelical Immigration Table** - A national movement committed to learning more about what the Bible says about “welcoming the stranger.” [evangelicalimmigrationtable.com](http://evangelicalimmigrationtable.com)
- ❖ **Immigrant Worker Project** - Faith-based organization in Canton that has provided legal assistance to immigrants for more than 20 years. [iwphio.org/english\\_version/program.htm](http://iwphio.org/english_version/program.htm)
- ❖ **The Matthew 25 Movement/Pledge** - Immigration toolkit. [matthew25pledge.com](http://matthew25pledge.com)
- ❖ **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)** - Immigration resources.  
[mcc.org/learn/what/categories/immigration](http://mcc.org/learn/what/categories/immigration)
- ❖ **Mennonite Church USA (MCUSA)** - Immigration resources.  
<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/ministry/peacebuilding/learn-pray-join/immigration-justice/>
- ❖ **National Hispanic and Latino Mental Health Technology Transfer Center** - Provides training to improve the capacity of the workforce serving Hispanic communities in behavioral health prevention and treatment. [mhttcnetwork.org/centers/national-hispanic-and-latino-mhffc](http://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/national-hispanic-and-latino-mhffc)
- ❖ **Ohio Immigrant Alliance** - A group of Ohio immigrants and citizens working together to protect the dignity and rights of all individuals who choose to make Ohio their home.  
[facebook.com/Ohio-Immigrant-Alliance-Public-Page-108785600874071](https://facebook.com/Ohio-Immigrant-Alliance-Public-Page-108785600874071)
- ❖ **ONE group** - Advocates for Hispanic immigrants in Dover/New Philly area. (330) 556-0428
- ❖ **Open Arms Hispanic Ministry** - Anabaptist organization that has been ministering to and working to meet the needs of Hispanic immigrants in Wayne Co. and the surrounding areas.  
[openarmshispanicministry.org](http://openarmshispanicministry.org)
- ❖ **Project Hope/Proyecto Esperanza** - Led by the Franciscan Sisters of Tiffin and based at Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, this organization works on providing legal services and other means of support to immigrants. (419) 445-0728
- ❖ **Women of Welcome** - A community of Christian women committed to creating a movement of Christ-like welcome in our country. [www.womenofwelcome.com](http://www.womenofwelcome.com)

## Films

- ❖ ***A Better Life*\*** - Hard-working, undocumented single dad works to reconnect with his teenage son and keep him from getting pulled into the local gang life.
- ❖ ***El Norte*\*** - Peasants escaping mindless labor and a murderous Guatemalan government head to America in hopes for something better.
- ❖ ***Men with Guns*\*** - Filmed in a Latin American country, we meet a doctor searching for his former students, only to learn that they’ve been taken by “men with guns.”
- ❖ ***The Other Side of Immigration*\*** - A 2010 documentary that explores why so many people leave the Mexican countryside to work in the USA.
- ❖ ***The Stranger*\*** - A film on immigration and scripture. [thestrangerfilm.org](http://thestrangerfilm.org)

\*May contain language or other content that could be offensive to some.

## CDs

- ❖ ***Song to a Refugee*** by Diana Jones. Don't listen to this CD if you want to be entertained! Diana's mournful voice sets the tone in describing the heart-wrenching experiences of so many refugees - violence and poverty in home countries that force them to brave the dangers of a long journey in hopes of a better life. You might even shed a few tears!

## People

- ❖ **Brian Hoffman** of Cleveland, immigration attorney and educator on immigration issues, works with the International Institute of Akron. [brian@ocsilio.org](mailto:brian@ocsilio.org)
- ❖ **Deb Kline**, Director, Cleveland Jobs with Justice  
20525 Center Ridge Rd. Ste 700, Rocky River, OH 44116  
*Office: 440-333-700 Cell: 216-310-7657*
- ❖ **Conference staff and several pastors** are building bridges with a Congolese congregation in Akron.