



vision 5:9
MEDINA FOCUS 2019
...engaging diaspora Muslims in our cities

Vision 5:9 was birthed in 2002 as a multi-ethnic, international network and has grown over the years to represent more than 180 global partner organizations, denominations, churches, and other networks, working in the Muslim world today. Chances are, your group is already a partner.

Vision 5:9 exists to see effective church planting efforts among every Muslim people group by 2025. The name is meant to evoke a reference to the focus on every nation in Revelation 5:9.

Vision 5:9 welcomes partners who seek to fulfill this goal through collaborative task forces. ***The Medina Focus*** is one of those working communities. “Medina” is the Arabic word for “city,” but it also acts as an acronym for ***Muslim Diaspora in North America***. Together, we’re exploring how to leverage our engagement with Muslim refugees, international students, and immigrants here in North America to bring about synergies of scale that will contribute to the global effort.

The Medina Focus task force has been already reaching Muslims in North America over the last 4 years, like Jaber, who came to the US as a student from a Gulf Arab country. He followed Jesus from the persistent witness of a local church member, was discipled along the way by practitioners from three of our partners, and sent back to his own country as part of a church planting team by a partner sending agency.

The Medina Focus task force goal is to **discover 1,000+ collaboratively minded Muslim ministry practitioners and connect them into an active, relational network across North America by January 1, 2021.**

The following are three examples of the initiatives that we’ve started together.

Initiative 1: Relational Networking Among Grassroots Practitioners

We’re gathering a winsome group of active, thought-leading, Muslim ministry practitioners, who are launching independent efforts in cities across the continent. Our events are called *Nonferences*. They are “not a conference” in that we don’t have plenary sessions or pre-planned workshops. Instead, we use [Liberating Structures](#) to manage a networking swarm.

Connecting these “non-professional” communities on a widespread basis adds a unique value proposition to the cross-cultural ministry community by offering workers the real-time contacts and information they need through the living databases they find in relational networking.

Initiative 2: Providing Models to Activate Churches and Organizations

Something we’re developing as a tool in our toolbelt is a prototype for collaboration called the [Omega Challenge](#), a model that enables a motivated champion to identify key ministry partners for global/local collaboration. In the plan, a champion offers selected ministry partners a template proposal to form dual teams to work simultaneously among local and global Muslims who have cultural similarities.

According to the IMB People Group List, there are currently 19 Unengaged Muslim peoples with populations over 10,000 in North America. Eleven of these are in the United States (*Algerian Arab, Gulf Arab, Saudi Arab, Sudanese Arab, Najdi Arabic Speakers, Azerbaijani, Fulani, Malay, Pashto, Sindhi, and Southern Uzbek*), and 8 in Canada (*Tosk Albanian, Sudanese Arab, Bosniak, Indonesian, Malay, Malayali, Sindhi, and Turk*).

Initiative 3: Gathering Key Trusted Brokers

Trusted Brokers are key connectors within networks or organizations, who are the most familiar with ongoing activities on the ground. They are trusted to act on behalf of their constituents – guarding their reputations and security, and also to represent them to others. A small collection of these trusted brokers from networks with overlapping purposes can allow disproportionately effective opportunities for partnership.

Medina Focus maintains a newsletter list in MailChimp, and publishes announcements as needed to participants in the Medina Focus, and we invite everyone to be in dialog with each other through an online discussion forum hosted by slack.com. [Send an email to get included.](#)

Do you have energy to contribute collaboratively in one of these initiatives? What new effort would you like to launch that we can rally around together?