

COLOMBIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

QUICK OBSERVATIONS

Country/region of origin	Colombia
Population (community leaders)	25,000
Population (Census 2000)	
Main reasons for migration	Political instability, guerilla warfare, economic hardship
Years in this region	Varies considerable
Primary areas of residence	Fort Worth, Garland, Plano, Addison, Carrollton, The Colony, Dallas, Irving
General level of education	High school and college
Employment	Wholesale, sales, health care, clerical/office, management
Principal religions	Catholicism, Protestantism
Language	Spanish
Media (newspaper or radio)	None
Community newsletter	None
Cultural organizations	None

OTHER SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Age distribution	Evenly distributed
Percentage of men and women	40% men, 60% women
Ties to country or origin	Nuclear family and close relatives remain, send money regularly, phone relatives weekly
Frequency of travel to country of origin	Some travel once a year, those without legal status cannot visit
Estimate of undocumented	70%

Material Source: DFW International
aweiss@airmail.net

OUTREACH STRATEGIES

If at all possible, locate a Columbian Christian to assist you, otherwise, work one on one building trust in relationship.

ESL for new immigrants

Family centered and children's activities

HOW DO YOU OPEN THE DOOR TO CONVERSATIONS ABOUT FAITH?

Share your everyday relationship with God...answered prayers, Scriptures that comfort

Ask about how needs are met through their faith...loneliness, courage, direction

Offer to pray for their needs

Give books/videos that tell a faith story

Discover their interests and find Christians in that field to share their story

Look for Bible stories or principles that teach a value they respect

Learn a small amount of Spanish to express interest in the culture

Understand Catholic teachings and how to bridge to the gospel