

# Congolese

## Country of Origin:

Democratic Republic of Congo

## Place in GLAMA:

Baldwin Village part of the Crenshaw district of Los Angeles, Carson, Lakewood, Fontana, Riverside, and Van Nuys

## Number in GLAMA :

3,000 to 3,500

**Primary Language:** French

**Secondary Language:** Lingala

## Primary Religion:

Christianity 80% to 90%

**Secondary Religion:** Islam, 10% to 20% and some Tribal religions

## How can I pray?

- One of the needs of DRC Immigrants coming here is language acquisition. Most speak French or a tribal language and need English to get jobs.
- They also need help adjusting to the American culture which many of them feel is corrupt.



Congolese women

**History of Migration:** Following independence in 1960, some Congolese students began coming to GLAMA, but returned to their country as civil servants. In 1965 Joseph Mobutu took over in a coup, renaming the country Zaire. Mobutu was overthrown in 1996 in a bloody civil war, causing many to flee the country, which reverted back to the Congo in 1997.

**Daily Life:** Their issues in coming here are adjusting to the economic and financial ways and their children's education. Family relations and family responsibilities back in Congo are important so they send money back to the families they left behind.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is the eleventh largest country by size in the world and one of the most mineral-rich nations. Instead of being a blessing for the Congolese people the struggle to control these riches has fueled a bloody war in which nearly four million people have died since 1998.

**Spiritual Condition:** As most of the people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are Christian, most of the GLAMA immigrants from this region here are Christian. There are several Congolese churches in the GLAMA. However, with the rising influence of Islam in Africa, some who are coming here now are Muslim.

# Ethiopians

**Country of Origin:**

Ethiopia

**Population in GLAMA:**

Possibly as many as 50,000

**Location in GLAMA:**

Little Ethiopia, Mid City Crestview and Westchester areas

**Primary Religion:**

Ethiopian Orthodox Christian 80%

**Secondary Religion:**

Evangelical Christian 20%

**Primary Language:**

Amharic

**Secondary Language:**

English

**How Can I Pray?**

- There are seventeen Ethiopian Churches in the GLAMA with most being of the Coptic Orthodox or Tewahedo Churches.
- Pray that believers will come to true evangelical faith, and share that faith with others.



*Ethiopian Priest*

**History of Migration:** Located in the Horn of Africa and once known as Abyssinia, Ethiopia is one of the world's ancient countries, a great source of pride for its people. It is one of two African nations that never was colonized, though it was occupied by Italy between 1936 and 1941.

The first Ethiopians to come to America were students under Emperor Haile Selassie from 1942 to 1975. The second wave of migration began in the mid-1970s, driven by war, drought, and famine.

Ethiopians have been the most heavily represented group from Africa admitted to the United States between 1982 and 1994.<sup>6</sup> In Los Angeles, they have created an ethnic enclave called Little Ethiopia on Fairfax Ave.

**Daily Life:** Many Ethiopians here work as taxicab drivers or parking attendants and send large remittances to relatives back home.

**Spiritual Condition:** The Oromo people in Ethiopia are strongly Muslim, but reports say that 50% of the

Oromo people here are Christian. The Oromo people, the largest ethnic group in Ethiopia, make up about a third of the people in the country and in the Diaspora.

**Celebrations:** On the weekend closest to January 19 the Ethiopian community gathers to celebrate

Timket (meaning baptism), the Ethiopian Orthodox celebration of the Epiphany. The holiday commemorates Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan and his revelation as the Son of God. The Los Angeles gathering is the largest gathering of Ethiopians outside that nation, celebrated in different locations each year.



Service in a Coptic Church



Little Ethiopia businesses



# Eritreans

## Place of Origin:

Ethiopia and Eritrea

## Population in GLAMA:

20,000

## Place in GLAMA:

Little Ethiopia in Los Angeles, Inglewood, Hawthorne, and Irvine

## Primary Language:

Tigrinya

## Secondary Languages:

Tigre and English

## Primary Religion:

Christian

## Secondary Religion:

Islam 6%

## How Can I Pray?

- Pray for families separated because of the wars and persecution in their country.
- Pray for Christians to share the gospel with Eritreans both in GLAMA and in their homeland.



Eritrean man

**History of Migration:** Eritreans are from Ethiopia, historically the land of Cush in the Bible, or the Land of PUNT. Eritreans first began coming to GLAMA in 1970, as part of Ethiopia. The Eritrean War of Independence that lasted 30 years until 1991 and the Eritrean- Ethiopian War of 1998-2000 brought many to seek freedom and a new life in America.

**Daily Life:** Eritreans live near Little Ethiopia, a stretch of Fairfax Avenue in the Pico area in Los Angeles, as well as across L. A. and Orange County.

**Spiritual Condition:** Though the majority of the Eritrean people in Eritrea are Muslim the major of Eritrean here are Christian. The largest concentration of Tigre speaking Muslim Eritreans in the US is in Orange County. <http://awate.com/14165/>

There are several Eritrean Churches in the GLAMA in both the Evangelical and Orthodox tradition.

**Celebrations:** Each May 25 the Eritrean community gathers to celebrate their Independence Day.

The 30th Annual Eritrean Sports Festival in North American took place in Los Angeles in 2015. **The Eritrean Sports Federation of North America.**

<http://www.eritreansports.com>

**The United Eritrean Association of Los Angeles -**

<http://www.unitederitreaanla.com>

# Ghanaians

**Country of Origin:**

Ghana

**Location in GLAMA:**

Spread out across Orange County and San Fernando Valley

**Population in GLAMA:**

4,000

**Primary Language:**

English

**Secondary Language:**

Tribal languages

**Primary Religion:**

Christian 75%

**Secondary Religion:**

Islam 10%

Ethnic Religionists 15%

**How Can I Pray?**

- Pray that Ghanians can adjust to living in California but retain their family and community unity.
- Pray for jobs and their children's education.
- Pray that they reach back to families in Ghana with the gospel as well as financial support.



*Ghanian believer*

**H***istory of Migration:* The first Ghanaians who came to GLAMA were students, although in the 1980s and 1990s many came seeking business opportunities as well as specialized experience and training. Many migrants are well educated, primarily in the medical profession. As Ghana was a British colony, English is the primary language, although over 100 languages are spoken in Ghana.

The Ghanaian people are known for their music with the drum being a key instrument. Their complex drumming techniques are said to speak an intricate language. Ghanaians are mostly Christian, so most migrants are Christians as well, although the northern part of Ghana is actually dominated by Islam. The Ghana pastors' association here includes pastors of the Assembly of God, Catholic, Anglican, Adventist and independent churches.

The primary adjustment issues are financial and educational. They push themselves and their children to succeed while seeking to balance the traditions and customs of both Ghana and America.