

New Roots Review

June 2018 Edition



**NEW ROOTS
MINISTRY**

Positive Impacts by Fred Wilgenburg

It is my privilege to become acquainted with amazing people through New Roots Ministry. Many came as refugees to the United States, that is, they had to move away from their home countries because their lives were seriously distressed, even in danger. Usually, they first immigrated to a safer neighboring country where they lived in refugee camps or communities for a time. After waiting there for several years, they were able to immigrate to a developed country like the US.

I get inspired by their enthusiasm for life, and for making a difference, including in the home country that they still love. Melke Dajane and Alex Gemechu came to Sioux Falls as a married couple from Ethiopia over 20 years ago, as refugees. Alex has worked at Smithfield Foods (where I am chaplain) since coming here. Melke, who serves on our Board, used to work at Smithfield Foods when their children were young. Now she works part-time for Hy-Vee Food Store with all of her income going to support Mission Support Center for Children & the Elderly, in Ethiopia. This ministry was begun by Melke and Alex a few years ago to share the Gospel while providing food, clothing, funds for education, and medical supplies to those in need. They coordinate with a pastor in Ethiopia to facilitate and grow the ministry. To hear their ministry's story, to learn how they came to the US, or to possibly have Melke speak at a mission rally (she's a gifted speaker), let me know and I will put you in touch.



Theresa Kashale came from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) over 20 years ago. Civil war and genocide were occurring there at that time; war and trouble still continue there. But Theresa didn't



come to the US to get rest. She enrolled in college, and now has been a teacher in Sioux Falls for many years, recently having received her doctorate degree. Theresa's love continues for Congolese people who are still in DRC. In 2006, she began Theresa's House, an orphanage that provides shelter, food, and education for children. Learn more at www.TheresasHouse.org.

Samuel Gayetaye came to Sioux Falls as a refugee from Liberia about 10 years ago. Since that time, he and his wife Dalecia, and their children, have stayed busy. They



own a successful beauty supply store, they began International Outreach Ministries—a congregation of 90+ people at which Samuel is pastor, and they are the founders of Children Rescue International, a fast-growing Christian orphanage and school in Liberia. Check out www.CriLiberia.org.

Gadisa Ameya came from Ethiopia 5 years ago, not as a refugee, but with an immigration-visa. (—>)



Donations are always appreciated! Gifts can be given through our website—
www.sfnewroots.com/donate/

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Many immigrants whom I work with at Smithfield Foods send sizable portions of their paychecks to their loved ones who live at subsistence levels in their home countries. They are making it in Sioux Falls—getting paid decently for hard work, renting apartments or buying homes, dreaming that their children can go to college—but remembering their people who still need help.

That's a few of the inspiring immigrant and refugee stories. If you would like to visit with a refugee or immigrant, I can help you make the connection. If you have a group of 4-10 people who would like to serve in a refugee-owned store, I can get that set up. **You would be blessed!**

Continued...

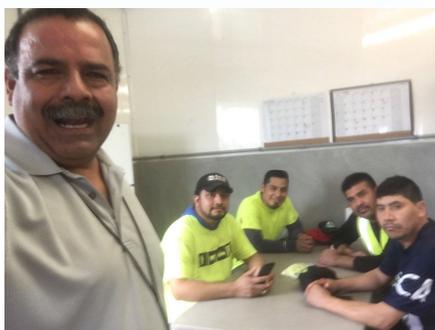
At the time, conditions in Ethiopia were not dire, but still, opportunities were limited. Gadisa feels blessed that his name was picked in the “diversity visa lottery,” to come to the US and receive a green card. Gadisa has worked at Smithfield Foods since coming, and he is grateful that his wife and son were able to join him in Sioux Falls this past year. Gadisa, along with six other people, has been taking Timothy Leadership Training (www.tlti.org) classes which New Roots Ministry offers. As his father is a pastor in Ethiopia, so Gadisa's dream is to be trained here over the next few years, and to then return to Ethiopia as a pastor and evangelist.



A unique Service Opportunity for groups of 4-10 people. Groups serve in stores owned by refugees/immigrants, and the merchants take time to share about their lives. It's a good time! Please contact us if interested.



We are excited that we have begun Bilingual Workplace Chaplaincy! Ernesto Alfaro, having completed 75% of Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) through New Roots Ministry, is the chaplain at Dakota Plains Dairy, Centerville, SD. **(Thank-you, Tim & Elayna Den Dulk, for allowing us to minister at your business!)** Ernesto is a kind spiritual presence among the employees there, providing up to 4 hours/week of service.



We hope to place another chaplain at another farm, in a few months. (Let me know if you are interested in learning more about this program. To learn more about the benefits of workplace chaplaincy in general, check out these website links: www.corporatecare.org/employers-that-care/ & www.corporatecare.org/hr-managers/.)