

# “...EMPOWERING PASTORS & LEADERS OF IMMIGRANT CHURCHES REACHING THE WORLD”

## NEW ROOTS MINISTRY

### RELEVANT AND SEEKER-SENSITIVE

Like me, do you struggle with being relevant? The word “relevant” is defined as “being helpful for, or closely connected to, what is being done or considered, and to the current time or circumstances.”

As pastors and leaders, I suppose we are most concerned with being

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relevant to the people of our congregations. If that is true, then within our congregations, for whom are we most concerned with being relevant?

As we consider that question, let’s review Jesus’s parable in Luke 15—“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open

country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

In many of our churches, we often offer a style of worship, and a language, that is most comfortable for the “ninety-nine” safe people, but not for the “lost ones,” including our young people who are most at risk of being lost from the church, and more importantly, from losing their faith. Along the same line of thinking, would guests who are (→ →)

### Here are some opportunities!

- **Underground House of Prayer (UHOP) at 1401 W. Bailey St., Sioux Falls (1 block east of the Premier Center)**
  - **Pastor gatherings each month (Coffee & bagels from 7:30-8am; Worship & prayer from 8-9am-- come and go as needed)**
  - **Future dates: May 17, June 14, July 12, August 16, Sept. 13, October 11, Nov. 15, December 13**
  - **A relaxing, refreshing worship time.**
- **Siouxland Evangelical Association (SEA) meets monthly, 11:45am—1pm in the community room of Sioux Falls Ministry Center—225 E. 11<sup>th</sup> St., 57104**
  - **An association of evangelical pastors and other Christian leaders who enjoy a meal (\$6) and discuss common interests and needs of the church.**
- **[www.ServeSiouxFalls.com](http://www.ServeSiouxFalls.com) is worth visiting!**

potentially part of the “lost ones,” be interested in visiting your church again based on your worship style, the language of your worship, and how they were welcomed and included? Would your young people be proud to invite their friends to your church based on its worship style and its language?

I understand that this subject may be challenging for many of us. It is challenging for me as I get older and there seems to always be new technology and changes in society with which to keep up. As well, I realize that I’m just not as “cool” and “hip” as I used to be 😊. Perhaps this issue is

especially challenging for you as many in your congregation who are older (perhaps the same as the “ninety-nine” in Jesus’s parable) may be resistant to change in worship style or in language. I do not recommend changing everything quickly, but I encourage us to question if we are relevant, and if we are seeker-sensitive. I encourage us to think deeply about what our Savior teaches us in Luke 15—to passionately reach out to the lost so they can join us in the great family of God.

Please visit with me anytime about being relevant and seeker-sensitive. It’s on my mind also as it is just as

challenging for me as for anyone else. Or, if your church is doing something special, and it is working well, the rest of us want to know what you are doing. Please share that with me, and I will share it with the rest of the group. We’re in this work together!

**I love you, my fellow pastors**, for your passion for the Gospel, for receiving me warmly as the director of New Roots Ministry, and for being my co-workers in the harvest fields owned by our great God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 9:35-38)! May we continue to learn together!

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