

"...EMPOWERING PASTORS/LEADERS OF IMMIGRANT CHURCHES REACHING THE WORLD"

NEW ROOTS MINISTRY

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARPEN SKILLS AS PASTORS & LEADERS

I am inspired by you pastors and Christian leaders who are immigrants within the last several years. You have life experiences, personal testimonies of God's faithfulness, an understanding of cultures and languages, a good understanding of the world's religions, and you are motivated, hard-working people. This all makes you extremely important for the growth of God's family throughout the world!

Much is expected of us by our king, by God. The apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 4:12--"Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ."

Part of doing that well is to continually sharpen our skills, and often that can come through education. Education is good, and it's necessary for each of us. Fortunately, education for us pastors can come in different ways, depending on what is most

practical for our situations. Sioux Falls has a good seminary (<https://sfseminary.edu/>), and I know that some of you, like me, have studied there. While it has been expensive, it takes much time, and it may be difficult if your first

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language is not English, Sioux Falls Seminary is now offering some new programs which are just as good as the traditional routes, and which may be more

fitting and more affordable now.

My predecessor, Pastor Carl Bruxvoort, and I, are teachers of the **Timothy Leadership Training Institute** (www.tlti.org/training.html). Please visit that website to view the 7 major areas of study for pastors and Christian leaders. → →

TIMOTHY LEADERSHIP TRAINING (REFERRED TO IN THE ARTICLE):

Fred Wilgenburg will teach "From Harm to Harmony: Overcoming Violence in the Family."

- Four, 4-hour sessions, **beginning on Sat., January 21** at 9:30am. (*flexible dates beyond here*)

- Location: Sioux Falls Seminary

Carl Bruxvoort will teach "Teaching the Christian Faith."

- Four, 4-hour sessions, **beginning on Sat., January 28** at 9:30am. (*flexible dates beyond here*)

- Location: Sioux Falls Seminary

Call or text Fred (376-6330) by January 12 if you or someone from your church is interested in either FREE course.

January 4, 2017

We offer these courses at NO COST, and when you graduate from this feasible, flexible, and thorough program, you will be certified as a teacher of the program so you could teach it to others. **(In Spanish and English.)** This program was originally written in Nigeria to help grow the church there.

A program for any Christian, including leaders, is a program called "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement." It will be at Faith Baptist Fellowship in Sioux Falls on Thursdays from 6:30-9:00 pm, from

January 19--May 11, 2017. There is a cost, but there are scholarships available. Learn more at <https://class.perspectives.org/Visitor/Public.aspx?ClassId=433404>.

Further down in Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul explains why we seek to become more educated and better-equipped pastors and leaders: "Then we *(all of us, as well as the people of our churches)* will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be

influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way....like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church."

I know we are busy! I know many of you work many hours already, besides being pastors! Let me know if you have questions about any of the above opportunities described, or if you would like information on other possible education opportunities.

Fred Wilgenburg, Director & Pastor
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