

# “...EMPOWERING PASTORS & LEADERS OF CHURCHES WITH MOSTLY IMMIGRANT PEOPLE, WHO ARE REACHING THE WORLD!”

## NEW ROOTS MINISTRY

### DOES THE WORD “PROGRAMS” GET YOU EXCITED, OR TIRED?

Recently, I was having coffee with some pastors of churches in Sioux Falls. As we discussed ministry, one of the pastors expressed his frustration with programming. He said, “Everyone wants more programs. They say the key to having people involved, and to grow a church, is to offer more small groups, more community events, more children’s ministries,



and more clubs.” He went on, “We don’t need more programs, we just need more time for Bible teaching and preaching. That’s how people will grow in Jesus!”

**What do you think about**

**programs?** Is having more programs better, or worse? I personally think it all depends on the purpose of the programs. Sunday School and Vacation Bible School are programs for children, and most people don’t want them to be stopped. We need to always ask the question, “does this program align with our church’s mission statement, and with our church’s vision statement?” In addition to that, we should also ask practical questions, “Does our church have gifted people to do that, and do the people of our church have time to do that?”

If programs are not evaluated against those questions, then the pastor who was mentioned above has a good point. If we do them mostly because we-always-have-done-them, or because → →

### **Timothy Leadership Training**

**([www.tlfi.org](http://www.tlfi.org)) is a pastor/leader training program. New Roots Ministry offers TLT classes during both day and evening hours, for FREE.**

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a-person-in-the-church-wanted-to-start-something-new-and-we-don't-want-to-hurt-their-enthusiasm, then programs may not be helpful.

However, if a program fits well—it aligns with the Mission & Vision, AND you have the resources—then prayerfully consider doing it.

In response to the pastor mentioned above, I appreciate that he ultimately wants people to “grow in Jesus.” However, programs are often necessary to see that happen. Examples—1) If the church has a gymnasium, then opening it up for a basketball night for neighborhood teens may be a way to connect with them, so they consider coming to youth group, and have the

opportunity to know and “grow in Jesus.” 2) The church might consider offering a weekly meal if they are



in a struggling neighborhood. People will come, and if they are warmly welcomed, they might come to a worship service, and then know and “grow in Jesus.”

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**People in your church might be interested in the Toy Lending Library**

**(<https://www.facebook.com/toylendinglibraryofsouthdakota/>).**

**They lend out fun, educational, and sanitized toys at various sites, including all of the library locations in SF. (Would your church want to be considered as a distribution “library” site?)**

**Talking Bibles**

**([www.talkingbibles.org](http://www.talkingbibles.org)) are audio Bibles.**

**They probably produce audio Bibles for your native country. If your church 1) has people who would be blessed by an audio Bible in your native language, or 2) is interested in donating audio Bibles to your native country, check them out.**