

New Roots Review

December 15, 2020

Being Part of Christmas.... by Fred Wilgenburg

Advent is a time of expectant, hopeful waiting for the birth of Jesus, which is celebrated on Christmas Day! During Advent's 25-day period of excited anticipation, we reflect on the hope, peace, and joy that Jesus brings! I included the "!" points to help us become more excited, expectant, celebratory, and hopeful. Is it working? 🤗

Personally, different kinds of stimuli help raise my Advent-excitement. Christmas lights, music, and extra treats definitely help. For this season, a book I am reading—*Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*, by Dallas Willard, has also been helpful. It is encouraging the growth of my relationship with God through how I converse with Him and how I experience Him. The book also empowers readers to be active partners with God in the advancement of His Kingdom.

Ahhh, to be intimately and actively part of something really significant—the growth of God's Kingdom, is energizing for me during Advent. In the Timothy Leadership Training program (www.raiseupglobal.org/leadership/tlt) offered by New Roots Ministry, at the end of each of the six manuals, students write their Goal for Kingdom Change, as well as their Planned Activities to meet the Goal. A few months later, they write their Action Report as they reflect on if they had Kingdom-impact based on their Activities. Regardless if the Kingdom-impact turned out to be strong, weak, or neutral, affirmation is offered to the student during the reporting if they at least put forth a solid effort and if they learned during that process, because they partnered with God in impacting His Kingdom for good.

What is celebrated at Christmas—that God came to be with us as a relatable person, as Jesus Christ—is the focal point for the growth of God's Kingdom. That Jesus then taught us, did miracles, and gave himself up as a sacrifice so we could have a new life, testifies to what was ushered in by Christmas. In essence, the Kingdom of God grows as people receive Jesus into their lives. The book —>>



**NEW ROOTS
MINISTRY**



The Falls Park  is a major attraction for Sioux Falls. Smithfield Foods, known by many as "John Morrell,"  is one block north, and it's also a major attraction. While its night time lights aren't as nice, it has been an "attraction" for people all over the world. This 3500-employee work place, for which **New Roots Ministry provides chaplaincy**, has a workforce which is 85% non-US born. "John Morrell in Sioux Falls" is known in refugee camps and communities around the world as a place at which you can get a job.

I appreciate the company's integrity and generosity during this COVID-era. Safety measures are high, and as a "thank-you" to employees for working during these riskier times, they all received a substantial raise for several months. Those over age 60, or with health concerns, did not have to work for about 5 months, while still receiving full pay and benefits.



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

Fred Wilgenburg
Director & Pastor
225 E 11th St Suite 203
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
phone: (605) 376-6330
sfnewroots@gmail.com
www.sfnewroots.com
[Facebook.com/SFNewRoots](https://www.facebook.com/SFNewRoots)

Continued...

I mentioned above describes how in Jesus' Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30, the master (God), who is often understood as harsh, was actually interested in sharing His life and goods with others, which is why He was so disappointed when the one guy only brought back what he had originally received. God has made each person in His image. Though sin tarnishes that image of God, He has never stopped growing His Kingdom—His family, and He does this by redeeming us through the saving work of Jesus so we are not

What is New Roots Ministry?
It's "a springboard for immigrants & their churches." This is done through workplace chaplaincy (both as Fred is chaplain for 16 hours/week at Smithfield Foods & as we train & place bi-lingual chaplains on commercial farms), through Timothy Leadership Training, through hosting special educational events, through empowering refugee/immigrant pastors, leaders, and their churches, through offering unique Service Opportunities—serve in, or visit, stores owned by refugees or immigrants, then hear their stories, and through helping people navigate the American system and strategically achieve their goals, like education.

only family members in that wonderful Kingdom, but partners in helping grow that Kingdom. The book I mentioned highlights 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, describing that believers have received "the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words." The passage closes with this big statement: "...we have the mind of Christ." The Apostle Paul also writes in Galatians 2:20, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." As the book describes, that oneness with Christ our Savior is the culmination of "the progress of God's redemptive work, (where our) *communication* (with God) advances into *communion* (with God), and communion into *union* (with God).

Advent is a time of expectant, hopeful anticipation for the coming Immanuel—God with us, who is lovingly and compassionately finding/harvesting (Matthew 9:35-38) the "harassed and helpless, (who are) like sheep without a shepherd." If you say "yes" to Him, you are a rescued sheep, which is so good. Then, being part of Christmas—intimately knowing Immanuel, and making Him known according to how He calls you, makes Advent even more fulfilling and joyful.

New Roots Ministry can help you find opportunities for making Him known among former refugees and immigrants, and among unreached people groups, if that is of interest to you. Other Gospel ministries can guide you in finding opportunities for making Him known in other ways. **We ministries are thrilled to hear from you!**



Timothy Leadership Training on Zoom is not as nice as in-person, but it works, and it allows Ethiopian students—Ensermu & Martha—in Cyprus, Ruth in Sioux Falls, and me, to have class together. And friendships develop, too, after meeting 20+ times.

May God bless you and your loved ones with a Merry Christmas!