

# New Roots Review

December 2021

## Be Blessed this Christ-mas Season, including by These Stories about God's Children

by Fred Wilgenburg

This newsletter is a continuation of our November newsletter ([www.sfnewroots.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/November-2021-newsletter.pdf](http://www.sfnewroots.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/November-2021-newsletter.pdf)). In that one, I wrote about unique, profound spiritual experiences of sisters and brothers in Jesus, specifically Santosh, Mohammad and Adanech, and another friend. I hope the stories in this newsletter also warm your heart for our Emmanuel—God with us, this



Falls Park is always a good site to see, but especially at Christmas time.

**Chadrack** is a passionate Jesus-follower who is interested in sharing about God wherever he can. This has made him someone I like to bring along when I visit churches as he energetically speaks to those we see. Chadrack's life started on the wrong, or maybe the right, foot. Two weeks before he was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), his mother was told that her unborn baby was not well and would likely die before or soon after birth. With the infant mortality rate being high in DRC, that was very bad news. Chadrack's mother had strong faith, praying much and believing that her baby would be okay. He was indeed okay, and she named him after "Shadrach," one of the three friends of Daniel in the Bible. At two years old, Chadrack became very sick and had some surgeries, but he was okay again. Soon after, a bus accident caused little Chadrack to be thrown from the bus, but he was not hurt. What!?!? There's something special about this young man! At 9 years old, Chadrack had a dream that he would be a pastor as his father is. At 13 years old, he had a vision during which he clearly heard, "I want you to serve me." Chadrack considers that to be his moment of being called into ministry. He went on to high school and then he did some studying at the university, all of which was a quieter time in the way of hearing from God, though he continued to regularly pray and fast. He admits, that unusually quiet time was frustrating, but probably good in the way of learning to wait patiently. Then came the opportunity to come to the US, and with that, some visions again, of angels being with him, and of God healing people as Chadrack prayerfully laid hands on them. Since then, miraculous healing has occurred on people at times as he laid on hands and prayed, affirming his spiritual gift of healing. Chadrack now lives in the US, works hard at a meat packing plant, is married to Diana, is taking Timothy Leadership Training *through New Roots Ministry*, and is always excited about what may be next, especially as he recently heard again from God, "Don't be afraid. Go!"

**Melke** served on New Roots Ministry's Board a few years ago. She and her husband, Alex, came as refugees from Ethiopia 25+ years ago. Like Chadrack, Melke has had consistently unique experiences with God. Since she was 9 years old, Melke remembers having vivid dreams of God speaking to her, and of seeing Jesus in the sky. Since that time, Melke is keenly perceptive to God's presence. Years ago, as she was pregnant with their 4th and youngest child, and she was working in a large factory, there was an ammonia leak that sickened a number of employees, including Melke. She remembers the day before, —>



## NEW ROOTS MINISTRY

season. As I reflected last month, my personal spiritual experiences have not been as dramatic as those of some of my friends. At times I have envied their experiences, but I do best when I praise God for His saving work in each of us, however it might look.



We recently introduced Chadrack to Bjorn, a pastor of many years who leads Sioux Falls Healing Rooms.



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Alex & Melke, after a worship service with me, at which she spoke.

feeling moved to sing “Hallelujah” over and over, and then that night having an odd dream—she was floating

in the sky and a large man with a stick was trying to hit her down, but he couldn’t. On the day of the ammonia leak, Melke was in her locker room at break time, reading Isaiah 60:18, when the ammonia came upon her. She became unconscious and was brought to the hospital. The attending doctor said that the effects of the ammonia could cause her unborn baby to die. Not long after, her son was born healthy, so they named him, Misgna, meaning “thanks to God” in Amharic, their first language.

**What is New Roots Ministry?**  
It’s “a springboard for new Americans & their churches.” This is done through workplace chaplaincy (we provide chaplaincy at Smithfield Foods & we train & place bi-lingual chaplains on commercial farms), through Timothy Leadership Training, through hosting special educational events, through empowering new American pastors, leaders, and their churches, through offering unique Service Opportunities—serve in, or visit, stores owned by new Americans, then hear their stories, through helping people navigate the American system and achieve their goals, like education, and through driver training for new Americans.

Fred Wilgenburg  
Director & Pastor  
1915 E 8th St, Suite 104  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103  
phone: (605) 376-6330  
sfnewroots@gmail.com  
[www.sfnewroots.com](http://www.sfnewroots.com)

[Facebook.com/SFNewRoots](https://www.facebook.com/SFNewRoots)

Key for Melke has been to be actively aware of God’s presence. She has a notepad and pen next to her bed, jotting down Scripture passages that come to her in dreams, and which she then reads in the morning. Also helpful is praying together each night with Alex, for their children, for others, and for themselves as partners with God in His kingdom.

Kamaleshan is my friend in the Andhra Pradesh region of India. We talk every other week on Facebook video chat. Kamaleshan and his wife, Pavani, have been pastoring for about 8 years. They now have 3 growing churches within the small villages where they reside, each with between 30—120 people attending.

While Kamaleshan has always been a Jesus-follower, Pavani, like 90% of the people of the church, was Hindu, before coming to Jesus. About 10% of the people are former Muslims. For my DMin studies, as I need questionnaires/surveys filled out, Kamaleshan and Pavani have translated the questionnaire into their Telegu language and are having their people do the questionnaire. I am amazed by the consistent testimonies of them—they came to Jesus as their pastor continually visited them where they lived, respectfully prayed for whatever they needed, welcomed them to the church, and then patiently waited for God to answer the prayers, which He has been doing. I appreciate Kamaleshan’s and Pavani’s basic (simple, but not easy as it takes much effort and time) approach to Gospel ministry, and the awesome results that God is naturally (super-naturally?) producing. *(If you would ever want to communicate with Kamaleshan, that would be his pleasure. Just let me know.)*



Pavani and Kamaleshan at one of the 3 churches they lead.

I hope you have been blessed by these stories. May God grant you and your loved ones peace, joy, and fulfillment this Christmas season!