

“...EMPOWERING PASTORS & LEADERS OF CHURCHES WITH MOSTLY NEW AMERICANS, WHO ARE REACHING THE WORLD!”

NEW ROOTS MINISTRY

LET'S ROLL!

I think much about the motto, “roll with it.” I did not get that from the book, *Let's Roll*, but reading about it inspired me. The author is the widow of Todd Beamer, who died on September 11, 2001—“9/11”—in a field in Pennsylvania. On an airplane being flown by terrorists, Todd Beamer and other passengers heard that the plan of the terrorists was to crash the airplane into the White House or the US Capitol building. They overpowered the terrorists enough to fly the airplane into the ground. Todd Beamer's last words to a few other passengers were: “Are you ready? Okay. Let's roll!”

Much of ministry, business, and life, can succeed as we **roll with it**. New Roots Ministry has been privileged to provide chaplaincy services to Smithfield Foods for nearly fifteen years. That company has rolled with it for over 150

years as John Morrell & Company, when its founders came from England to the US in 1871. It has been in Sioux Falls since 1909, always as one of the biggest employers. Imagine the market and price swings, the labor- and union-challenges, and the corporate and political headwinds it has faced. Still, it continues strong. The many leaders of John Morrell & Company/Smithfield Foods have thought through how to **roll with it** over the many years.

Honestly, I would give myself an average grade—maybe a “C”—when it comes to rolling with it, though I have become more mature as I have become older. There have been many times in my 23-year Gospel ministry career—16 years at Center of Hope and 7 years at New Roots Ministry—when I have been tired, and anxious, and wanting change, but the opportunities were not there. So, here I am, at New→→



Picture by Lee Cannon on Flickr.

We offer Driver Training for new American adults, so they can get their driver's license. If somebody needs this, please inform them.

We continually offer Timothy Leadership Training. If people in your church may be interested in this good program for becoming equipped as Christian leaders, please let me know.

Everyday-Ambassador Practicum is a one-afternoon-workshop to learn to express our personal God-stories, and interact with those who don't know Him. Check out www.sfnewroots.com/our-ministries

Roots Ministry, and we are getting along well. Much thanks to God for His grace and counsel, and to my wife for her patience and love.

How are you at **rolling with it** in your life and in Gospel ministry? Like on the streets of Sioux Falls, where there are pot holes and detours, we may need to adjust our church's speed and direction at times. Are you willing to do that?

During some seasons, driving on the roads is smooth, steady, and easy. Ministry can be that way also, but with the needs of God's Kingdom being big, do you and your church's leaders think and pray about how those roads can get more traffic—more people who are living in darkness to come to Jesus' light?

Sioux Falls is growing fast, so it seems to always need more lanes for traffic. Does your church have any extra resources—time, talents, money, people—so your ministry can be expanded, and so more people can experience God's peace and light?

In **rolling with it**, let's be inspired by those who began Gospel ministry. Jesus went through huge ups and downs to offer salvation to people. He stayed on track and he finished strong—"raised to the right hand of God..." (Acts 2:33). As people were leaving him, Jesus asked his twelve disciples, "you do not want to leave too, do you?" Peter replied, as he stayed rolling with Jesus, even though it was dangerous, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life..."

(John 6:67-69). Other people of God with very challenging roads in their lives, like Ruth and Esther, received courage and strength from God to roll through hardship and danger, and they finished well—Ruth was an immigrant who became part of the family-line of Jesus. Esther became a queen who liberated God's people.

May God bless you as you roll on, through the valleys and canyons, through the meadows and deserts, and up to snow-covered mountaintops!

It would be my pleasure to have coffee and food and to hear about your journey. If you are interested, please let me know—(605)376-6330.

---Fred Wilgenburg

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