### "...EMPOWERING PASTORS & LEADERS OF CHURCHES WITH MOSTLY IMMIGRANTS, WHO ARE REACHING THE WORLD!"

## **NEW ROOTS MINISTRY**

# FOR BETTER RESPONSES, PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES

Like me, do you sometimes preach and teach to the people in your church that we are to share our faith with others, including unbelievers? Keep doing that! While we carry and represent the best news in the world for every single person—the Gospel, statistics show that over 60% of Iesus-followers have not communicated about their faith with an unbeliever in the last 6 months. For better results, and for more response from your people, 1) be an example, and 2) provide opportunities.

### Be An Example:

It does not work well to preach/teach to your people that they should do something, if you do not do it yourself. This does not mean that you need to be the most spiritually-gifted person at evangelism. In fact, some of the people in your church may become better evangelists than you. But to get them active in evangelism, rather than only preach/teach about evangelism, it is also important that you do it.

At New Roots Ministry, we offer a 5-hour training in evangelism called, Everyday-Ambassador Practicum. Read about it by scrolling down on this page:

http://sfnewroots.com/ourministries/. This training includes Bible study, writing personal testimonies, learning to share the Gospel, and then practicing in the neighborhoods. We can do a workshop for you, or we are happy to share with you our curriculum. However, if your church goes through the training, it is important for you as a leader to be involved in the practice.

Also, as we encourage our people to share their Good News, to speak on a spirituallevel with people, remember that it may be more challenging for them to begin



these conversations, than for us who are pastors. As pastors, people are expecting that we will speak spiritually We have a Scholarship & Grant Fund for 1) immigrant students in university & tech schools, and for 2) immigrant-led ministries. Please ask for more information.

We continually offer Timothy Leadership Training. If people in your church are interested in this program that equips people for Christian leadership, please let them know.

We offer free driver training for immigrant American adults. Please let people know.

with them. For people who do not have that "label," it may be necessary for them to be more thoughtful in how they begin these conversations.  $\rightarrow$ 

Acknowledge that to them, and be patient with them.

As we speak spiritually as Jesus-followers more often, it becomes part of our natural conversation. Then, many more people will hear, and truly our cities, our societies, and the world will be tremendously impacted for good.

### Offer Opportunities:

What is most rewarding, and where you will see good results, is when you and your church provide your people with discipleship and evangelism opportunities. You cannot do it all yourself; you do not have time, and you and I do not have all of the spiritual gifts. For this reason, be looking for opportunities, and then help your people to step into those opportunities. Here are some examples: 1) My friend was an unbeliever and he was good at playing keyboard. A pastor of a church welcomed him to help their worship team as their music ministry was weak. The worship team welcomed my friend, even as an unbeliever, to play music with them. They

showed appreciation to him, he kept hearing about God, and then they invited him to a spiritual retreat. At the retreat, he committed his life to Jesus. My friend became a pastor, and has now served for 35+ years among southeast Asian people in Sioux City, many of whom have come out of Buddhism to



know Jesus! 2) New Roots
Ministry has hired a liaison
who helps immigrants learn
English, helps them fill out
applications, and helps them
to shop in stores.
Interestingly, all of the people
helped by our liaison are
Muslim. The English-reading
curriculum that we use is
called "Understanding the
Story." It is stories from the
Bible, including about the
Gospel. We give our friends
options on what to discuss.

Most of them want us to use

"Understanding the Story."
Our liaison needs more help, so we offer this discipleship and evangelism opportunity for other Christians to step up and be God's ambassadors in these situations.



We also offer drivertraining for immigrants. Many of the students are unbelievers, and we look for volunteers to help with this. Often, strong friendships develop, prayers are appreciated, and faith can be shared.

It is fun, and fulfilling, when the people of the Church together offer evangelism and discipleship. Churches then grow, and we can celebrate together!

If you ever want to visit over coffee, tea, or a meal, please let me know. That is always of interest to me.

--- Fred Wilgenburg

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