

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

NEW ROOTS MINISTRY

LET'S BLOSSOM WHERE WE ARE PLANTED

As I was in a men's Bible study with some friends of my church, a friend spoke of a missionary in Africa who came to his home during vacation. This missionary seemed to give everything he had to being a missionary; he did not own a house nor a car, and he was single, so it was like he could be “married” to the Church. My friend felt humbled that this missionary was much more like Jesus than he was.



Laurent and his wife, Andjelani

First, I told my friend that nobody, as human beings, can be just like Jesus. There was only one Jesus, one perfect Son of God, and one Savior. Instead, we can only be ourselves. But, as redeemed people in Jesus, we can seek to be the best version of ourselves. The missionary, as a redeemed person in Jesus, spends all of his resources---

money, time, energy---in Africa sharing about Jesus. I told my friend, who is a hardworking, wealthy farmer to do all he can to share about God and to help others. That probably includes at least researching Gospel ministry around the world, being informed, praying for God's work, and supporting ministry. The missionary does not have much money like my friend, so the financial support of my friend is vital. And, the missionary and others need our prayers. Another thing my friend can do is to be involved in Gospel ministry in the area he lives and within his church.

Now, this does not mean my friend should not possibly become a missionary in another country. But often, we already have circumstances---spouse and family, a lack of experience and education, health concerns---that prevent us from being a missionary in another country. In essence, we might best serve the Kingdom of God by blossoming beautifully where we are at. And if that is in the US, where we have

We 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.

many resources available---money, electricity and internet, ability to travel---we have a good vantage point from which to make a big difference.

As many of you have come from other countries, two more benefits are your personal understanding of other countries and your connections within other countries. Recently, Pastor Laurent talked to me →



Victor Pugach

about the war in his home country of Democratic Republic of Congo. As refugees were rushing to Burundi, with little protection from the weather, he felt a burden to help. He and I are communicating with the Congolese, Burundi, and Rwandan churches in Sioux Falls, to see if we can work together at making a difference for those in that region of Africa who are suffering.

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia in 2022, Pastor Victor Pugach and his church, House of God Church (formerly First Slavik Church), have been supporting churches in western Ukraine, which have been receiving many refugees from areas of Ukraine that have been evacuated because of the war. They are doing what they can from this special vantage point of being in the US.

As well, House of God Church, which has mostly

Ukrainian, as well as some Russian, immigrants since the early 1990s, has been training many teenagers and young adults to go and serve as missionaries in Africa. Wow, they came to the US from Ukraine and Russia, and now some are serving in Africa. I recently had a meal with the Tamang family. About ten years ago, they came from Nepal and India. They worked at Smithfield Foods and they led one of the Nepali churches. Two years ago, they



Eating with the Tamang family

moved near St. Paul, Minnesota, to plant a church among the Nepali people there. Wow, they came to the US for a new life and opportunities. Some of that

"new life" included dedicating themselves to sharing the Gospel among Nepali people in this region, most of whom are Hindu and Buddhist.

As you seek to empower the people of your churches to blossom where they are now planted---in the US, and to serve God most effectively, I encourage you to check out this webpage I have developed:

www.PeaceWithinReach.com/Ambassador-Challenge.

Maybe it can be a helpful tool as you seek to inspire your people to be the ambassadors of Christ that he calls us to be.

I am so honored to serve our God with you, my colleagues. 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

Fred Wilgenburg, Director & Pastor

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