



the Vine institute

Grapevine

press

cultivating leaders in Christ

1st Edition

Spring 2010

What is the Vine Institute?

The Vine Institute is Salt Lake Theological Seminary's new vision of cultivating leaders in Christ. It is a network of Christian individuals, churches, and organizations serving together under Jesus, the Master Gardener and the Vine, to cultivate godly and effective leaders in Christ who will promote healthy church communities in a culturally diverse and collaborative Body of Christ.

Why are you doing this?

The need for mature and effective Christian leaders in this region is still urgent. Each year more than 1,000 refugees and thousands more immigrants arrive and leadership training has

during that week at the next session). Most of the learning takes place as participants actively work out their plans, experiencing God as He brings about "Kingdom change" in their lives, as well as in their families, churches and communities. Each student is supported through the process by a prayer partner/mentor, who may be a pastor or another seasoned leader in the Christian community.



What courses are in the program?

We are still designing and developing the curriculum using both existing and new materials. We anticipate three courses a

year each of three years plus a capstone project in the fourth year. Subjects will include "Caring for God's People", "Stewardship in God's World," "Communicating God's Word," "Serving God in Work

been identified as the single most significant factor in their successful resettlement. Thus an opportunity exists to encourage those leaders who are Christians alongside those who are American born and leaders in their churches.



and Worship," and "Healthy Relationships by God's Grace."

How can I participate?

If you would like to be a member of a learning group, we are taking applications for this fall. If you are a pastor or leader of a Christian organization and would like to know how this program might serve in your community, please contact us at tmcclellanhan@vine-institute.org or 801.581.1900. We also welcome donations or sponsors for students.

How are leaders trained?

Courses are offered on various subjects of Christian faith, leadership, and community. Each week a cluster (the group of learners) moves through a fourfold cycle of reflecting (on a biblical theme), planning (writing goals with an action plan, prayed for with at least one other person), working (implementing the plan during the week), and reporting (sharing what happened with the implementation

Cluster One of the Vine Training: A Snapshot

by David Rowe

Monday, April 19th, we all ascended the blue staircase to the front entry of Salt Lake City's Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga in Utah (blue is a signature color for Wesleyans in Tonga). After registration paperwork we made our way up another flight of stairs to the upper room where the training sessions are being held (a great spot for Holy Spirit encounters, I mused hopefully). "We all" included Tongans Anitoni ("Tony") and Tipiloma ("Tip"), African Americans Herbert and Rob, Cambodians Bori and Patrick, and me (Anglo American). Bori holds great concern for his church's need to pass the baton of leadership from first generation refugees to second generation members

Besides rolling up his sleeves for intensive construction service on a new Cambodian church building, he serves as young men's

group leader for the "FROGS"—acronym for "Fully Reliant on God's Spirit" (the women's group, by the way, is called the "Lilies"). Bori holds great concern for his church's need to pass the baton of leadership from first generation refugees to



Bori Ly

second generation members. The most crucial part of this need, he says, is for "more knowledgeable teachers, especially

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Meet the Team

Tom McClenahan, director, served as faculty and Academic Dean of SLTS for 25 years; he is also a member of the interim pastoral ministry team for First Christian Reformed Church in Salt Lake City.

Dave Rowe, learning cluster facilitator, has been a missionary in Utah for 35 years under Missions Door, working the past 19 with SLTS as faculty and Dean of Spiritual Life; he is the author of *I (Heart) Mormons* and an elder and worship leader at Grace Baptist Church in Bountiful.

Liz Micka, operations manager, worked in SLTS administration for the last seven years and has continued to volunteer through our transition; she serves at The Adventure, a Four Square church.

Steve Shogren, financial officer, has served SLTS since 2005. Contributing his experience in finance, records, and management. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant.

Kay & Jack Rudd of World Outreach International are planning to join us this summer with 15 years of experience in developing education and leadership training among Christians in the South Pacific; Kay is a graduate of SLTS' Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies program and they serve as elders at The Fellowship, a non-denominational congregation.

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5*



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in English." The Vine training is strategically designed to meet this kind of need; still, I found myself fretting a bit over how well it would actually work. Despite my frets, the Spirit has really made this diverse group of emerging Christian leaders work together beautifully! We have studied biblical teaching on God's power to effect Kingdom changes in our families, churches and communities through us, and all of us (yes, including me, the facilitator) prayerfully set goals and action plans to be agents of such changes during the next week. In the second session we gave our reports and found God had really been busy—in a family reconciliation, a spiritual breakthrough in prayer among new choir members, a long-delayed submission of a proposal for change in a church education program, and more! I find all of us around the table on the edge of our seats to see what changes the Spirit will make through us next.



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