



the Vine institute

Grapevine

press

cultivating leaders in Christ

1.2 Edition

Fall 2010

What you don't have to declare in customs

by Kay Rudd

Working in one's home country as a missionary involves many of the same resources and skill sets required overseas. That has been Jack's and my experience returning to Salt Lake City to set up a new home here and begin a new work among international people. This year has been a transition to life back in the USA, waiting on God to give us His vision. What a thrill it was to receive a call from Tom McClenahan inviting us to join the team at *The Vine Institute*. We had spoken so often of the opportunities to do mission work among the changing ethnic communities of SLC, that it seemed a natural transition for us.

"Is working at home legitimate mission work in the global sense?" When

I reflect on the changing demographics of the Salt Lake Valley, I must declare a resounding, "YES!" How do we respond to the increase in the numbers of foreign born? What paradigm shifts must occur in my life if I am to know them? Am I living like a missionary in the same way I adapted my life to a new one overseas? These questions challenge and inspire me.

Looking to Scripture for an example, I was reminded of Peter in Acts 10. I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men who fear him from every nation. I am challenged to think differently about the Kingdom of God. Do I reflect God's heart for all those foreign born people who now find they call this place their home?

(continued on the back)

Cluster2: LAUNCH!

by David Rowe

Tilling new ground can feel a bit edgy—a kind of excitement mixed with apprehension. How well and how

soon will a group of strangers warm up to one another? This cluster group of leaders has a Vietnamese refugee, an African American, a Japanese American, and



three Anglo Americans, including me. As Cluster2 gathered for the opening session, this group proved talkative beyond expectation. Woodrow has become seasoned in the Lord through extensive experience in prison ministry. Mike told about currently transitioning from a lifetime of construction work to a new life as assistant pastor in his church, specializing in inter-generational family ministry. Kay told about her move from a long career developing schools on the Islands of Vanuatu to this multi-cultural ministry with *The Vine Institute*. Bob is a pharmacist who has also done extensive career ministry/mission work. Mark described his calling to pastoral ministry among his people, a calling that has developed over several years during which God made it clear that he "can't do anything else." He currently serves a robust Vietnamese Baptist congregation—and it may become, the Lord willing, a multi-cultural Christian community.

By the end of the evening, great bonding had happened, excitement prevailed, and one student voiced the comment, "This is going to be a great course!"

Leadership in Word and in Deed

Pastor France Davis of Calvary Baptist Church in Salt Lake City is a busy man. He also is a congregational and community leader who values effective and trustworthy leaders in his congregation. So it was a great encouragement, when after two men from his congregation finished *The Vine Institute's* spring course, Rev. Davis said, "My two students seem to have reaped great benefits and are looking forward to what is to come. I pray you can continue to move forward and help with the practical training of the ministers striving to be ready to do ministry here. We are encouraging our students to continue



and get as much as possible done." But that is only half of it! One aspect of this Christian Leadership training program, about which we are so passionate, is to match participants with prayer partners who will walk with them in this growth process. Pastor Davis recently informed us, "I will be meeting and praying with Rob on a weekly basis." So in addition to encouraging these emerging leaders to participate in the courses, Pastor Davis values this leadership training enough to commit himself to walk alongside the students.

This September, Pastor Davis welcomed a new *Vine Institute* peer learning group that began meeting in his church facility, to enable us to "continue to move forward." Pastor Davis and his congregation match their words with their actions!



Don't ask the question if you don't want to know the answer

In serving our community and keeping true to our vision—networking the Christian community for effective leadership—we must listen to the leaders who are serving within the immigrant and refugee communities. What is God already doing, and how can we help activate and encourage the assets present in our community?

To enable listening, *The Vine Institute*, in collaboration with *All Nations Transformational Network*, hosted two luncheons to connect leaders in Salt Lake who are currently serving other cultures. Two questions were asked: What has been your most meaningful experience in multi-cultural ministry? What do you think people need to know to be effective in multi-cultural ministry? We were incredibly inspired with the insights of the leaders representing the Adventure-Liberty Park, Calvary Chapel Salt Lake, Discovery Christian Community, The Fellowship-Sandy, First Christian Reformed Church, Lutheran Social Services of Utah, Salt Lake Christian Center, Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church, and New Pilgrim Baptist Church.

In these conversations, we heard an enthusiastic desire to network, learn, and be encouraged by others serving other cultures. So in response, this November we will host another luncheon to give additional opportunity for networking. Also, look for a "Festival of Cultures" in early December—a time to honor and spotlight Christian refugee and immigrant groups with opportunities to share their unique foods, arts and crafts, and performance arts in worship; while the American Christian community gets to know and appreciate their international siblings in Christ. And early next year a workshop will be offered. For more details, visit www.vine-institute.org.

Together we will sharpen our awareness of the needs and issues facing the international population, and enable everyone to serve more faithfully and with greater understanding.



For those wanting understanding of the refugee communities, you may consider the International Conference, January 28 & 29, 2011 hosted by Utah Refugees Service Office. [refugee.utah.gov]

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Do I have any responsibility to them? What does that look like? It isn't pity, but encouragement and faith to follow God during difficult times of resettlement.

We care for local immigrants and refugees the same as missionaries in a foreign land. Whatever strategies or skills I have developed working cross-culturally continue to be needed here. There is mission work to be done right here at home. . . . I must be a missionary and work just as diligently as if I were overseas.

www.vine-institute.org
801.581.1900

One aspect of the Vine Institute is to facilitate small multi-culturally mixed peer groups. Register online!

Office address: 2150 Foothill Drive, SLC
[call for appointment]

Mailing address: PO Box 2096
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2096


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salt lake theological seminary
P.O. Box 2096
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2096

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