

the Vine institute Grapevine press

God's Kingdom without Borders

3.2 Edition

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Mission Accomplished: Glory to God!

By TOM McCLENAHAN AND DAVE ROWE

At the heart of *The Vine Institute's* mission are weekly courses where peer learning groups read, discuss and reflect on Scripture, then pray and encourage one another. We call these small groups "clusters." Until the day each course begins, we pray for the right multicultural mixes that are so enriching. We wonder how God will orchestrate the scheduling and who will be connected in important kingdom relationships. This fall we are overjoyed to report *the largest new enrollment ever at The Vine Institute!* One new cluster in Salt Lake and one in Ogden!

Ogden was a surprise. Last spring, a Board member told us about his strong desire to help us teach in Ogden where he lives, 30 miles north of Salt Lake City. This summer a pastor in Ogden heard of this possibility and offered the use of his church facility. God brought the opportunity to the attention of three couples and the course was soon off to a great start 30 miles north. The new cluster enjoys learning together and gleaning from their rich heritages. A Japanese-American brings strong teaching and ministry gifts to the table with his extensive experience as a missionary in Cote d'Ivoire. One participating couple – former Mormons—have compelling transition stories as well as keen insights into the local culture. Another participant, raised Hindu, immigrated here



from India and in the process began following Jesus.

Meanwhile in Salt Lake City, God gathered another diverse group—African-American, white American, Canadian, Nepali, and Samoan.. The Samoan pastor had been thinking about taking this course for a year. When he first heard about the opportunity, he was overwhelmed with the work

of leading his congregation in the purchase and remodel of a building for their worship and community life. Now God has convinced him that his priority was to shift from building the church facility, to building the people of God, and this group would help him do so.

Another member of the Salt Lake cluster, a Nepali refugee, arrived in the U.S. merely three months ago. Having come to follow Jesus in his homeland, he now must adapt to the vastly different life and challenges of resettlement in Utah. After the first lesson, focused on God's transforming power in our world and lives, he shared that God led him to set aside 30 minutes each morning and evening to seek God in prayer. He had been focused on survival needs. Within days of his new prayer commitment, acquaintances and relatives, who had been chastising him for his Christian faith, were calling to ask him to pray for them when

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Hidden Treasures of the Kingdom Discovering & Connecting

By KAY RUDD

The next time you contemplate planning a mission project or sending a team overseas, think about contacting *The Vine Institute* to help you connect with that specific ethnic group who live locally. Throughout the Wasatch front we are blessed to have churches from many different ethnic backgrounds.

We are all parts of one body placed together by God, able to work together so there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

1 Cor. 12:25

A local Vietnamese church contacted another local church that had worked in Vietnam recently. They are beginning to discuss their respective trips with one another. Although their ministry focus seems different, we at *The Vine* believe they can enhance one another's vision and broaden the effectiveness of their efforts to the same people groups.

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Citizens without Borders New BLOG by Dave Rowe

To reach more people and provide enriching dialogue for those interested in intercultural ministry, we started a blog called Citizens without Borders. You can access the blog from our *Vine Institute* webpage (www.vine-institute.org) or from our Facebook page.

This blog offers an intercultural life and ministry forum where issues and questions can be raised, best practices described, God's actions among the diverse groups in the body of Christ reported, and more. For example, some topics (archived for you on the website) have included the following: an examination of the legitimate amount of God-and-country patriotism for a Christian; a discussion of whether the Olympic Games are healthy in a kingdom-of-God sense or just another Tower-of-Babel exercise; focus on the extent to which your church's worship agenda and style may be intercultural; and an interchange on whether or not we (especially in the Anglo

churches) "think glocal" in our church practices so that we engage global as well as local neighbors for the sake of Christ. You'll note we have a few ground rules, as most blogs do, like requesting that participants use only Christ-honoring language, refrain from advertising, stay on topic, and avoid rambling or pugnacity.

We designed the blog for conversation, for online interaction. Please check it out for yourself and please comment! 


www.vine-institute.org/events/news

Subscribe to Citizens Without Borders. To subscribe: go to www.vine-institute.org enter your email address to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

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What a beautiful example of the body of Christ as described in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. We are all parts of one body combined together by God, able to work together so there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other (25). These contacts and relationships, which have begun in our cluster groups, have also transferred to youth groups. Young people have had times of multicultural interaction among Cambodian, Vietnamese, Tongan, Anglo and Hispanic youth playing, singing and sharing together. What a good place for church families to begin to weave relationships with different members of the body of Christ. 



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they were sick. Three Nepali refugees from Bhutan are taking this course together in order to be better equipped to shepherd the steadily growing flock of refugees God has called them to pastor.

We delight in the way God has created these two new clusters. Rejoice with us! 