



the *Vine* institute
Grapevine
 press
 God's Kingdom without Borders

4.1 Edition

March 2013

Owning the Story of "My People"

By DAVE ROWE

[Citizens without Borders BLOG at www.vine-institute.org]

Recently a circle of Christians comprised of Anglos and Bhutanese Nepali met to explore sharing facilities. One of the refugee men told us the story of their migration. It went something like this: A few generations ago the government of Nepal relocated 42 families from their homeland to help invigorate the culture and economy of Bhutan; these few families in time grew to be a population of 100,000; they maintained their own culture, including their Hindu religion, in this foreign land with its culture dominated by Buddhism; the Nepalīs, who had never been accepted into the Bhutanese society, then became a threat to the government because of the potential force of their numbers; as a result there was oppression and persecution of these foreigners until they fled for their lives back to Nepal and other places, and landed in refugee camps;

from there many settled in the U.S.; in Salt Lake City we have about 2,000 of these refugees, still predominantly Hindu, including a single band of Jesus-followers that has formed a church of nearly 100 people.

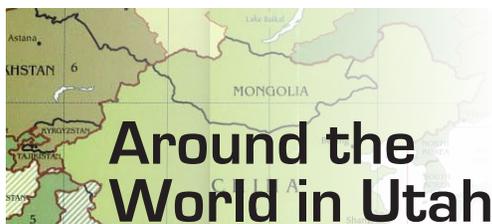
I found my attention riveted to this story because it sounded like an oral version of the story of Exodus! Wouldn't you agree? Both Moses and God had owned the Exodus account as the story of "my people." It became crucial to the Israelite people's identity. Can you recall the story of your own people, your roots, and see how it impacted you? I began thinking about my own roots: the Rowe family comes from Wales, where the lore is full of the hard lives of Welsh miners; the miners would spontaneously break into song as they came out of the mines black-faced and walked the streets to their homes; they became world-renowned for their strong voices; today, my wife often says I sing too loud and I recall that when the director of a local theater chose me



Binod Biswa with new friends

to play the title role in "The Mikado" he asked about my ancestry and commented "Well, that's where the strong voice comes from—Welsh ancestors!" I love to sing and love Celtic music particularly, and clearly there's a story of "my people" behind who I am.

Such a story is not an accident of history but an action of Providence—God's gift to our lives! What's the story of your people and how are you connected to it? 



Around the World in Utah

By TOM McCLENAHAN

Last September God called two lay leaders to join the Vine's "Caring for God's People" course. Their hearts were burdened to care for people in the Anglo American Salt Lake City church where they were involved. Together with ministry leaders of Samoan, Bhutanese Nepali, and



Tom McClehan

African American congregations, the women participated in what one person called "a ferocious practical training." By the end of the course they heard another call: to train small group leaders in their congregation in the basic caring-listening-visiting skills they had just learned. The pastoral staff agreed and a Saturday morning workshop was planned. When asked how it had gone, they reported, "God showed up in a powerful way! Our executive pastor was at the training and was moved to tears. He said, 'We know that we're called to love people but we didn't know how. This is just what we needed. You've taught us a simple and tangible way to love.' All in all, a day filled with God-sightings and blessings galore!"

The day after hearing this report of what God is doing in Salt Lake City, I read a report from a group of leaders in Mongolia who

recently completed the same course. It struck me that this training, developed in the 1990s by Kenyan pastors to equip pastors and lay leaders in Africa, is making a difference from Ulaanbaatar to the Ukraine...from Africa to Asia to America. Now Utah Christians are learning with and from Christians around the world to join the God who cares in showing care to others. The words of Jesus, the good shepherd who cares for the sheep, are coming to life: "everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice...builds...on the rock." (Matthew 7:24) 

Courses starting this spring:
 Caring for God's People
 Biblical Preaching
 Serving God in Work & Worship
 Family & Community

(go to www.vine-institute.org for more information)

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER
 On this day we are all praying
WITH the world as we pray
FOR the world.
MAY 19, 2013

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor, Chief or Servant?

By KAY RUDD



Pastor Uamuli Su'a

In most churches of the Pacific islands, pastors receive the same honor and respect which is due to the village chief. At ceremonies and feasts they are treated like royalty. They receive special recognition, being

served separately and before others. Some people find attraction to the ministry for the position and authority it brings rather than by hearing the call of God. Pastor Uamuli Su'a, pastor of the Samoan Congregational Christian Church and a participant in a Vine cluster, recently shared his attempts to reflect a different style of leadership, replacing the image of the island pastor as chief in his own congregation with a different one, that of a servant leader.

The transition presents challenges for those in the church, with their expectations of him as one who should be served.

We may want to follow Pastor Uamuli's example and reflect on the role of pastors in

our own cultures. How do pastors among our own peoples see their role? How do others see pastors or Christian leaders? What expectations do we have?

The picture we see of Christ in Philipians 2:5-8 clearly reflects the leader as a servant. Pastor Uamuli's challenge calls us all to serve with the right heart, to humble ourselves as Christ did.



GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER

May 19, 2013
5:30 PM
Come & pray with one voice!!

1090 South State Street, Salt Lake City
(Calvary Baptist Church)

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Half-day conference for churches desiring to have more awareness & local resources on issues of child protection.

Saturday, April 20, 2013

9:00am - 1:00pm *conference & lunch*
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