



the *Vine* institute

# Grapevine

press

God's Kingdom without Borders

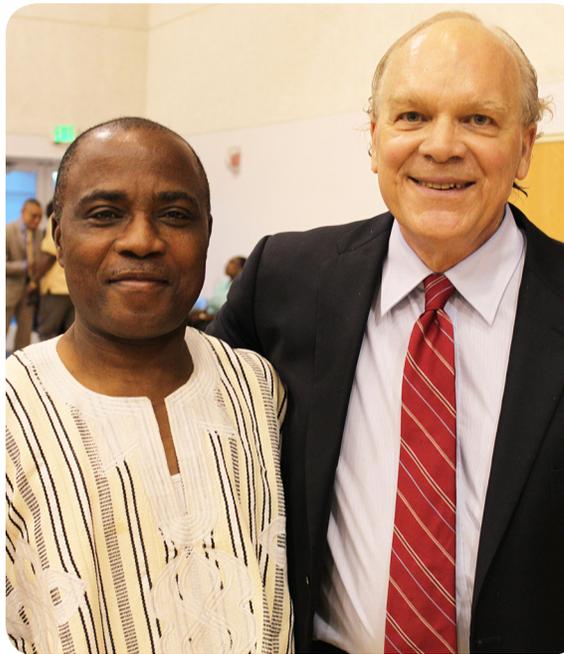
5.2 Edition

July 2014

## Meet Peter Asiamah, Our Associate Director

By TOM McCLENAHAN

**W**isdom is not in one man's head." As a boy, Peter Asiamah heard this adage from his grandmother. When you meet Peter you realize that he has taken it to heart. While short in height, he is tall in character. He does not trumpet his degrees in theology and ministry or his years of training thousands of pastors and church leaders in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. Instead he appreciates the strengths of others and what you hear is his passion that Christian leaders be marked by integrity. So with great thanks to God, *The Vine Institute* welcomes our new Associate Director, Rev. Dr. Peter K. Asiamah.



Clearly God has prepared Peter for this calling. Growing up in the West African nation of Ghana, he was captured by the good news of Jesus as a young man. For fourteen years Peter served as a pastor and as director of a missionary training school, from which students went out to plant 48 churches among unreached tribes in northern Ghana, Burkina Faso and Togo. Then in 2003 God called him to be a missionary in a strange place called Utah. Here he has served as Assistant Pastor at *Miracle Rock International Ministries* in Salt Lake City, helping guide it through a leadership transition from the founding pastor to multiple and

multicultural leadership. Last week Peter facilitated his first group meeting, a diverse group of people planning a conference in our city next year. His leadership was marked by the grace of valuing the participation of all and the wisdom to know when to bring discussion to decision. We are excited that God has called Peter to join the leadership team!

Recent news—that for the first time since early Mormon pioneers quickly outnumbered native Americans, Utah's population is now more than 20% minority—reveals God's prevenient wisdom in calling *The Vine Institute* in 2010 "to cultivate a healthy, intercultural Body of Christ in Utah." It also

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## Global Prayer Day: Incense Rising Before the Throne

By DAVID ROWE

**C**olorful sights of the world's national peoples in their cultural attire! Sounds of many tongues! The passionate "fire" of God's Spirit! Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2014. Again you could almost breathe the air of heaven in the atmosphere during the annual *Global Day of Prayer* in Salt Lake City! With well over 500 very ethnically diverse people, and with heartfelt prayers in over 21 different languages for God to heal and bless the nations of His world, a powerful, fragrant incense arose before the Throne! The prayer leaders—pastors Ricardo Flores from El Salvador and Peter Asiamah from Ghana—ignited our hearts to fervent prayer, many times seeming to raise the roof as we all prayed out loud at once in our various heart languages. One woman, who contributed a prayer in German, told me she found herself so moved she was speechless with awe when the gathering prayed together this way. Special music was provided by a bold, majestic sounding Samoan choir, and also by wonderful prayer "chants" of two South Sudanese tribal



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# Our First Graduation: a feast of joy

By KAY RUDD



differences are valuable resources. According to Dr. Vakalahi, the Tongan community expects to double their number of congregations in the western US as new leaders will be trained at *The Vine Institute*.

During years of studying and learning together, the graduates—Mike Jacobs, Anitoni Ma’u, Tipiloma Pupu’a, Khanh Tong—experienced the benefits of their differences as students each with their own rich cultural heritage. All four now know

the value and availability of others, different from themselves yet one in serving the same God in their various communities.

Yet, no matter what their background, the training encourages all students to lead as servants rather than from a position of power, entitlement, or hierarchy. Following Jesus’ manner of recognizing and serving his dis-

ciples, pastors and leaders washed the feet of the graduates, acknowledging the humble service each one has given to their churches. What a moving demonstration of obeying Jesus’ teaching by serving one another!

After the service, families of the *Tongan Free Wesleyan Church in Utah* provided an abundant feast for everyone to enjoy. The Tongan community embodied “honor others above yourselves” with hospitality so extravagant, almost anyone would be challenged. Many had never seen such a feast. Displayed on a long table were seven roasted pigs surrounded by every kind of seafood and national dish. The story of the woman who generously poured the oil on the feet of Jesus now has a modern context. The community integrated us so well in their customs you couldn’t help but experience the feast as a true Tongan. Laughter and song filled the hall as guests made their way to the microphone provided for comments. And we experienced the reality of the Tongan saying: **Others may eat until they are full; we eat until we are tired.**



What a celebration! *The Vine Institute* held its first graduation recognizing completion of the *Certificate in Christian Leadership*. Heart felt songs of praise and Scripture readings in Tongan, Vietnamese and English were followed by the, Rev. Dr. Viliami Vakalahi’s encouraging words. He challenged us to consider that oneness does not mean sameness and that our

(continued from page 1, *Global Prayer Day*) groups—Dinka and Mabaan.

Now here’s the story you may have missed even if you were there. Before South Sudan independence in 2011, the many tribes were united against a common oppressor.

But since then they have been vying for power among themselves. The largest tribe is the Dinka while the Mabaan is one of the smaller. Even as refugees in another land, it is easy to continue these tensions. Yet at the *Global Day of Prayer*, not only did both of these tribal groups



participate, but a moving moment came when the Mabaan singers in the choir loft stood to begin their prayer chant and then, just behind them, the Dinka

contingent stood in solidarity with (and submission to!) the lead of the Mabaan singers! Gabriel, the Dinka leader, put it beautifully: “We are from many nations, but we are one tribe in Jesus Christ!” Until we all meet at the feet of Jesus, may these experiences keep our hearts aflame with his Spirit!



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(continued from page 1, *Meet Peter Asiamah*) confirms God’s gracious leading in calling seasoned multicultural leader Peter Asiamah to join the staff.

Please pray for us as together we find our way to a new team configuration even as we face the challenge of leadership transition. Otherwise, as another word of African wisdom says, **“When two elephants fight, it is the grass that gets trampled.”**



# Dave Nelson of K2 & First Fruits Fund Offer a Challenge

For 10 years we at K2 have faithfully pursued God’s call to seek the lost in Salt Lake. Recently the pastoral team at *K2 the Church* realized ‘the 99’ also need attention,” reflects Dave Nelson, lead pastor at K2. But there are so many more than the pastoral staff can care for effectively. So Dave and the team have asked *The Vine Institute* to train them and their staff in “Caring for God’s People” because they have seen the impact and effectiveness of the program.

**“Join us in faithfully underwriting The Vine Institute. First Fruits is offering to match every recurring \$100 monthly pledge with another \$1000 one time gift!” - Dave Nelson, pastor, K2 the Church**

When two small group leaders from K2 enrolled in that course, members of the groups they led noticed a transformation—the leaders were listening to and caring about them more deeply, at the heart level. When the two

shared what they had been learning with other small group leaders in a one-day workshop, responses were enthusiastic:

- “I’ve led small groups and Bible studies most of my adult life but I have never had anyone really ask me how I am doing and then pray for me like this.”
- “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.” This training is making a difference at K2 as well as in ethnic congregations around the valley.

Now K2 has partnered with *First Fruits Fund*, a local Christian funding and giving entity, to support *The*



*Vine* and challenges you to join them. The fund will match each increment of recurring \$100/month pledged to *The Vine Institute* with another \$1000 one time gift! You or your church can partner with *First Fruits* to make this effective training available to more leaders and churches throughout Utah. If you have questions about this, contact Tom at [tmcc@vine-institute.org](mailto:tmcc@vine-institute.org) or 801-581-1900. Join with *K2 the Church*, *First Fruits Fund* and *The Vine Institute* as together we work to advance God’s Kingdom in Utah.



# Three Amigos on the Horizon



God is asking us to expand our horizons. For four years we have offered leadership training in English for small, multicultural peer-learning groups three times per year. This fall we will make the same training available for two multicultural groups in English, one for Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters, and 8-12 groups composed of people in one, large, white American congregation. God is stretching us beyond our resources, to look to Him for what we need to do His will.

But God is also expanding our resources—in particular, three newly

trained facilitators of courses. **Pastor Ricardo Flores** is planning to facilitate courses in Spanish for Latino/a church leaders, which he estimates includes as many as 300 churches in the Salt Lake valley! **Pastor Peter Asiamah** is already building relationships with church leaders and potential leaders in ethnic and multicultural congregations around the valley. We expect that the number of new students will more than double this fall! And that’s just our multicultural groups studying in English. Meanwhile, **Mark DiMeglio** will coordinate the development and delivery of “Caring for God’s People” for the staff and ministry team leaders of *K2 the Church*, which may be 50 or more people at one church! These three amigos returned from the training excited about what God had given them, using words like “life-changing!” Now we are seeking your prayers and God’s strength.



**Leadership Training includes:**

- How to care for God’s people
- Learn to steward God’s gifts
- How to preach and teach the Bible in your context
- Impacting Utah’s unique culture
- God’s plan for family & community relationships
- Learning to plan & implement
- Serving God in work & worship
- Old Testament survey
- New Testament survey

**Classes start in September!**

Register online  
[www.vine-institute.org](http://www.vine-institute.org)



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Multicultural Summit May 23, 2015!  
GDOP May 24, 2015!

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**"a great multitude . . . from every nation, tribe, people, and language"**



  
the Vine institute  
God's Kingdom without Borders  
*cultivating a healthy inter-cultural Church*  
The Vine envisions the diverse people of Christ worshipping and working together to glorify God in Utah.

**The Vine Institute** *God's Kingdom without Borders*

**We offer:**

Christian Leadership Training  
*Multicultural Peer-learning*  
Program of 10 courses

Connecting across cultures  
*Relationships Resources*  
Network of Multicultural Ministry leaders

Celebrating as Christ's Family  
*Unity Diversity*  
Pray with one voice on Global Day of Prayer

*"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."  
Revelation 7:9*

