



The Vine Institute

Grapevine press

God's Kingdom without Borders

5.3 Edition

November 2014

Transitioning into God's Vision

by Rev. Dr. Peter Asiamah

Jesus said He is the vine and we are branches.

I love *The Vine Institute* and its vision of reaching out and empowering the various cultures within the Body of Christ. I have not regretted accepting the position of Associate Director. My transition as an Associate Director at *The Vine Institute* has been a wonderful experience.

The Director and Staff, together with the Board, are exercising great maturity in helping me to transition gradually. During the Open House following our *Worship without Borders* program last month, I received a very warm welcome by the Board of *The Vine* and all the ethnic church leaders present. I appreciate their love, guidance and acceptance as they walk me through the transition process.

The medium of communication has been something I am gradually working

on. At *The Vine Institute*, we use emails and Dropbox for communication, so at the beginning it was difficult for me. I used to check my emails only in the evenings and now I have to check them twice a day.

I enjoy the atmosphere and the culture of friendliness and teamwork along with the grace of taking care of each other. At any staff meeting we have, Tom will ask a question, "What is on your plate?" That signifies to me a sense of belonging as a family and a strong bonding.

By the grace of God, I have been given the opportunity to facilitate a *Caring for God's People* course with people from different countries. I am also chairing the planning committee of a summit that *The Vine Institute* and *Ethnic America Network*



are planning next spring May 23, 2015.

This has all been a learning experience in the area of administration, inter-personal relationships and conceptualization. **I know it is the will of God for me to be part of *The Vine Institute* to help carry out the vision of Cultivating a healthy intercultural/multicultural Body of Christ by Connecting, Celebrating and Equipping.**

I am engrafted into *The Vine* by the grace of God. ☺

Operation Ogden

by David Rowe

God seems to be up to something in Ogden: expanding the diversity of Ogden area churches! At October's breakfast gathering of multicultural church leaders, held at *First Baptist Church*, special guest Alfred Murillo talked about the *Dream Center* and kindred ministries. He found good reasons to shift the gravitational locus of his outreach to needy, resettled people groups from Salt Lake City to the Ogden area. Hispanic



peoples show a dramatic influx, there's a very significant African American population, and a great number of refugees and immigrants have settled there. We at *The Vine Institute* believe God intends to gather some of these various churches for great Kingdom of God impact. We find ourselves listening hard for needs we can serve: we hope to support the Ogden area churches by training leaders and holding more multicultural celebrations and/or worship events. We want to be in step with what the Spirit is doing up there!

Refugees Are Not Cowboys

by Tom McClenahan

A class member drives up in a high-class rider pickup. He dons boots, a big belt buckle and a ten-gallon hat. He is the last of four Burmese church leaders, three Sudanese church leaders, a Colombian, a Mexican-American, a Ghanaian church planter, and one Anglo American to arrive for the next lesson of *Caring for God's People*. Listening to each other's reports of last week's action plans, two things emerge: first, the man with the cowboy hat is a soft-spoken, humble man; second, two classmates are feeling stymied in implementing their plans because the senior leader in their congregation has not

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Nothing Wasted in God's Economy

by Kay Rudd

H ave you noticed that God doesn't waste anything in our lives? In response to the growing Hispanic population in Salt Lake City, *The Vine* now offers a course in Spanish. Pastor Ricardo Flores (originally of El Salvador) facilitates the course for thirteen participants and I am assist him using the Spanish I studied in college! God continually provides opportunities to use our resources and experiences....nothing is wasted in his economy. Our times together are exciting and challenging. Thankfully God's grace is sufficient as He helps me carefully listen to reports and attempt to respond in a language I learned so many years ago.



(continued from page 1, *Not Cowboys*)
explicitly given permission to visit people on behalf of the church. And they will not undermine that leader's role, even when a need is evident.

Christian refugees are not go-it-alone cowboys. They are sheep who have learned the value of faithful following. The next week, after the instructor alerts the senior leader, the junior leaders excitedly report a visit with a mother of six whose husband has left her. They listened to her, encouraged her, and prayed with her. This report was shared through tears of joy. These leaders are tender undershepherds.



ATTENTION: New Schedule for Christian Leaders!

Beginning June 2015 *Caring for God's People* and successive courses will be offered in a new format—one-week intensive classes every three months. If this schedule fits better with yours, or for more information, contact Tom at tmcc@vine-institute.org or 801-581-1900.

Discover Hidden Treasures
God's Multicultural Gifts to the Intermountain West

Save the Dates

May 23, 2015 One-day summit
May 24, 2015 Global Day of Prayer

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