

The Vine Institute asks

Respond to God's Call



I am Gregory Lu, and I have six brothers and three sisters. I was born in a small village in the country of Burma. I loved my big family and my beautiful village. In the east of the village we had a church, in the middle we had a school, and in the west side we had a big river. I lived in the beautiful village until I was 13.

From 1988 to 1991 the Burmese military came and burned the village, as well as all the other villages in that area. They came and burned all the villages again and again, three times, and after that all the people in those villages were moved and separated to other places. The last time the Burmese military came they killed my older brother. My parents moved to a town in 1991. All my brothers and sisters followed them, but my parents wanted me to follow my uncle to a refugee camp. He did not have any kids and I could help him. There was no news about my parents and brothers and sisters until, after 15 years, I could contact them, and I found my father had passed away.

I lived in a refugee camp for 17 years. Life in the refugee camp was very strict. No one could go outside the camp. Every day, every week, every month and every year, everybody had to stay in the camp. The national authority and police did not let the people in the camp go outside. I never will forget my life in the refugee camp. But the Lord our God provided a high school and a Bible college in the camp. By the grace of God, I finished high school and graduated Bible College there. I met my wife in the refugee camp also.

I never thought I could come to America, but nobody knows God's plan. Through the resettlement program the US started in 2005, God opened doors for Karen refugees. In 2012 my family and I, by the grace of God, got the opportunity to come to Salt Lake City as refugees. Now around 1,000 Karen refugees are in SLC. I had been living in SLC for a year when my Karen people chose me to be a helper, as a pastor of the Karen Baptist Church. From 2013 until now I have been their pastor.

I came to America with my wife and two kids. Now I have three more kids. They are all fine kids and they are all girls. It is a big blessing from the Lord our God. Thank you so much for the blessing and opportunity to share about my experiences. This is a true story of me.

Gregory Lu studies at the Vine Institute, and has led many Christian leaders from his community to the Vine Institute for training as well.

In the last decade the ethnic landscape has changed in Utah and the Intermountain West. Our population of refugees and immigrants has grown significantly. Many of these new arrivals come from a Christian heritage and desire to spiritually care for their people. Gregory is called by God to lead his people. He as well as other ethnic church leaders are ready to be trained to plant churches in their heart languages.

Seeing this need *The Vine Institute* began over 10 years ago out of the *Salt Lake Theological Seminary*. The Vine staff's teaching knowledge and cross-cultural experience both locally and abroad give us specialized ability to meet the need.

As God brings the world to our doorstep, *The Vine Institute* simply desires to join God's agenda—faithfully, biblically and prayerfully—as He builds His kingdom without borders in our midst.

the Vine institute
God's Kingdom without Borders

The mission of The Vine Institute is equipping diverse Christian leaders to strengthen churches.

IMPACT in UTAH

In 2019 *The Vine Institute* will have graduated 25 diverse leaders from America, different tribes of Burma (aka Myanmar), Cambodia, Colombia, DR Congo, Sudan, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uduk, Tonga, and Vietnam with a Certificate in Christian Leadership.

The Vine Institute will celebrate with 14 Spanish speaking multi-cultural leaders who have completed their Master Training from the *Timothy Institute Leadership Training (TILT)*.

Our Old Testament, New Testament And Dynamics of Ministry in Utah curriculum are now in Spanish and is a resource with TILT to be available all over the world.

We have hosted the diverse collaboration of *Global Day of Prayer* event for the last ten years.

Gatherings give leaders opportunity to make connections that encourage one another and share resources.

How we meet the challenge?

The Vine Leadership Program (English & Spanish)

The practical program consists of 10 courses that incorporate inductive Bible study in multicultural peer-to-peer learning groups.

Continual Leadership Training

Discipleship and seminars that train, encourage, and transform the way leaders lead to impact our communities.

Global Day of Prayer

A local prayer concert celebrating God's diversity orchestrated with a global initiative to pray.

Multicultural Ministry Leaders Gatherings in Salt Lake City/Ogden

Continual networking to create a place of grace where Christian leaders connect and engage ideas and respond to information to develop multi-cultural relationships.

Spanish-speaking leaders found crafting sermons from the Word in Biblical Preaching gave them excitement to share gospel and see how God is working in their community.

A Karen Christian church leader from Burma made many visitations and reconciliations and brought 100 Karen people together.



"Studying the Word with people where humility marks the atmosphere—I'm so enriched by it."
Shaina Galvas



Peter Asiamah, *The Vine Institute* Director

"In 2019 *The Vine Institute* collaborated with and served more than 65 leaders from over 20 churches and 60 ethnicities".

The Vine Institute is uniquely trained to serve and equip the diverse church in Utah. Both Spanish-speaking and refugee churches are growing, and their leaders are asking for much needed training. When we serve one another and God's name is praised, we all win and our communities are blessed. **Healthy church leaders = healthy families = healthy communities.** This great opportunity is NOW. We need your prayers and financial support, and YOU can share in this rewarding endeavor.

Your sacrificial financial and prayer partnership is key for this great harvest in Utah. Please join us in making disciples in all the nations and seeing God's church strongly equipped.

To continue and be sustainable to offer programs to continue the mission we need to raise an additional \$3,800 a month above our existing donations.