



the *Vine* institute

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God's Kingdom without Borders

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“Caring for God’s People” by Tupaloma Pu’pua

Caring for God’s People is the first of a series of courses offered by *The Vine Institute* as part of its development of diverse church leaders. In 2014, I went through the program and received my *Certificate in Christian Leadership*. For the past three years, it has been a wonderful blessing to draw on my training as a new pastor for the Tongan-American Free Wesleyan Church of Salt Lake City.

As the courses started up again in September, and due to the need and high

students were eager to learn. They had a hunger and thirst for the Word of God. They wanted to serve and care for their communities, for God’s people. The class consisted of refugees from Burma, South Sudan, and a minister from a local Baptist Church.

English is a second language for some of the students. In fact, some have lessons in English and their native tongue. The class has not only helped them learn more about God’s love and compassion, but it’s an opportunity for them to learn English. At the



Peter Asiamah, *The Vine Institute Director*



demand, I received a call from the Director, Dr. Peter Asiamah, asking if I was available to help facilitate a course this fall: the number of enrollees had doubled and a second class was needed. At first, I was a little hesitant to add another commitment to my already busy schedule, so I asked Dr. Asiamah to give me the weekend to pray about it.

Well, God answered my prayer rather quickly. By Monday evening, I found myself in the “Caring for God’s People” course. I immediately felt the Spirit move me in a way that was so clear that I knew I was where God wanted me to be. I did not see it as another commitment, but rather as a place for me to fill my cup with the abundance of God’s love and grace.

The following week I started and the

end of our first meeting, one of the students asked, “Can you please talk slower?” It was great reminder of how sometimes things can be taken for granted and how important it is to know those whom we are serving. This ties back to what it really means to “Care for God’s People.”

With just a few weeks into the course, I have come to realize God called me back to *The Vine*, so that He could bless me. It wasn’t me coming to bless the students, as I had originally thought. The stories and experiences these students have shared and their love for God and unwavering faith through some of the most difficult of circumstances have truly enriched my life. They are a wonderful example of God’s grace and they are showing me what it truly means to “Care for God’s People.”



God’s Call

by Rev. Dr. Peter Asiamah

It is my great honor to share with you what the Lord, through your love and partnership, has been doing in the Intermountain West to reach out to ethnic church leaders and empower them to strengthen churches. We appreciate your understanding and involvement in the vision of *The Vine Institute*. Your sacrificial financial and prayer partnership is key for this great harvest. Thank you and God bless you!

By Spring of 2018 *The Vine Institute* will have graduated 18 diverse leaders with a *Certificate in Christian Leadership* from our *Leadership Program*. They are from different tribes of Burma (also known as Myanmar), Cambodia, Colombia, DR Congo, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tonga, USA, and Vietnam. Our practical multicultural program takes most students four years of study to graduate. In January we will facilitate our 100th course!!!

The Vine Institute is a training hub for *Timothy Leadership Training Institute* (TLTI). This year seven Spanish-speaking multicultural leaders have completed their Master Training Certificate from the TLTI and now they will be able to facilitate in

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What's in your Style? by Kay Rudd



It seemed we traveled to another country when over 30 participants from 10 different nations and churches gathered to learn more about *Effective Servant Leadership* during a seminar led by Karl Mueller (*DAI Canada Director & Senior Consultant for Diaspora Ministries*). So alike and so different, yet all with the same desire to serve their churches and communities wisely by surrendering honor and power and equipping others.

We discussed worldview and culture. We learned to recognize four different leadership styles and to discover our own style as we talked about the strengths and weakness of each style in relation to

others styles. It was a wonderful and fun time of learning together. At the end of the seminar one of the leaders shared: his paradigm of leadership had changed since his culture was not accustomed to leaders serving but to be served; now he will immediately put into practice this new realization. One of the female leaders told the group that through the study of leadership styles, she now understood her husband for the first time! We feel thankful for our partnership with DAI and the additional resources we receive from them as they assist us in continuing to strengthen leaders and churches.



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Spanish. TLTI is one of our partners, supplying us with some curriculum along so much other support.

Our heart's desire through equipping leaders is to see diverse Christian leaders demonstrating and reproducing God's truth in their families, churches and communities. The opportunities and the needs are pressing. Ethnic church leaders—refugees, immigrants, and Anglo-Americans—are ready to be trained to plant churches and lead ministries. It takes many to answer God's call. Our glocal neighbors—people from across the globe now living locally—bring the blessings of God's kingdom.

While God has opened up a door the exciting part is that you will be able to personally share in this ministry. First, pray! We need prayers that God will supply the needs of the mission. Would you consider supporting us with a donation? This year we had to reduce our staff salary by half and First Congregational Church graciously reduced our rent to make it possible to continue this essential ministry We look forward to answer God's call and do the work together.

