



the *Vine* institute

Grapevine press

God's Kingdom without Borders

Ten Year Edition

November 2020



Graduating Class of Christian Leadership Program 2020

Call to Partnership

by Dr. Peter Asiamah

In this time of division and instability, the need for leaders who can proclaim truth and hope is more critical than ever. I believe that the training, mentoring and application of biblical truth that *The Vine Institute* offers to our local diverse church leaders is increasingly relevant and necessary in Utah.

I would like to express my appreciation to our dear friends, partners and sponsors who help make our ministry possible. Your faithful partnership is yielding a great result in equipping leaders to build healthy churches.

Amidst the challenges of 2020 and the global COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to persevere in our mission of equipping Christian leaders. Our students and faculty have been resilient and faithful to press on. This year we have:

- Transitioned our equipping classes to Zoom meetings
- Graduated five (5) students from different nationalities who are working in church planting in Salt Lake City
- Completed our TENTH year of serving the families, churches, and communities in Utah



Let me share one amazing testimony with you! Just before the pandemic hit the US, one of the pastors studying with us returned to Myanmar

to visit his family. While there, he taught many hours of Bible classes for several hundred pastors, leaders and youth using the lessons he had received here. This feels like an exciting extension of *The Vine Institute* into all the world and makes

(Continued on the back page)

Celebrate Accomplishments

by Kay Rudd

Graduation 2020 was finally celebrated for five students who completed *The Vine Institute* Certificate in Christian Leadership Program last May:

Tan Aung's enthusiasm and devotion to prayer guides him in leading his family, church and community. He has planned many prayer activities and events for his Burmese community. Every one of Tan's projects starts with, "In His grace." His spirit of humility is evidence of His relationship with Christ.

Elizabeth Salgado, a youth leader from Comunidad Cristiana. She used her final Capstone project to teach the youth more about worship and dance. She incorporated biblical lessons and scriptures during their practice times together. During the quarantine, Elizabeth stayed connected and made regular phone calls to encourage her students in their faith.

Mary Flores, is a pastor alongside her husband at Comunidad Cristiana. She completed her studies by developing and sustaining a program of prayer for her church and praying for people at Huntsman

Cancer Institute. Mary succeeded in many of her courses using English only before Spanish translations were available. She persevered to complete her program through many challenges.

Oziel de la Cruz pastors Ciudad de Dios. He appreciates all that he learned through his studies at *The Vine Institute* which have equipped him to lead his church. He started the *Christian Leadership Program* to train his church leaders. Oziel also helped facilitate *The Vine Institute* program in other Spanish-speaking churches.

Sang Te Salai, serves at Utah Myanmar Grace Church. He uses the new truths he has learned in the *Christian Leadership Program* to teach and encourage the community leaders in his church to change and to grow in their walk with God. Last year, Sang visited his homeland and had the opportunity to teach in the local Bible School.

We extend sincere admiration for these dedicated Christian leaders!

Partner with
The Vine Institute
Financially in 2021!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Loving to Learn

The Vine Institute is in partnership with DAI (*Development Associates Institute*) Leadership Ministries Canada and Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon to moderate the Ministry & Organizational Leadership Program which includes four courses. We are thrilled because most of the 20 Christian leaders registered are graduates of *The Vine Institute* who desire to continue learning how to better serve their churches.

Even though earning a certificate from Western Seminary is popular, the assignments to write two papers (five to eight pages long) is daunting. Our students are very successful leaders in their churches and communities, but for most of the students English is their second to fifth language and most have not written or typed in English. Yet their desire for leadership education is very important to them and we don't believe these skills should prevent them from learning to be better leaders.

When we realized that the number of students who would need assistance would be great, we sent out a call for Educational

by Liz Micka

Mentors who will assist students in reaching their goals. We were delighted that 13 mentors volunteered to help the students. Karl Mueller from DAI says the support that *The Vine Institute* is giving the students is simply amazing!

Our first course is on Conflict Management and Transformation. All of us deal with these issues in our churches and communities. Oziel de la Cruz said this course is transforming the way he sees conflict. The course is giving the students a way to manage conflict and work towards reconciliation. The goal is reconciliation, which is the gospel. Giving access to learning this biblical way of reconciliation will so bless their church communities and the entire Body of Christ in Utah.



(Mentor Hans Lu with Khalifa G Uda)

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us so happy to know of the far-reaching impact of our mission to equip leaders.

Would you consider becoming a financial partner of *The Vine Institute*? Our goal is to raise an additional \$25,000

to meet our annual budget. These funds will enable *The Vine Institute* to continue our critical mission of equipping Christian leaders in Utah. These funds will also help us provide scholarships for leaders within ethnic churches that do not have the financial resources for this training.

Please partner with us in seeing the next generation of leaders equipped and flourishing. Now more than ever, we need good leadership, and *The Vine Institute* is positioned to help fulfill that mission.

www.vine-institute.org