

N E W S L E T T E R

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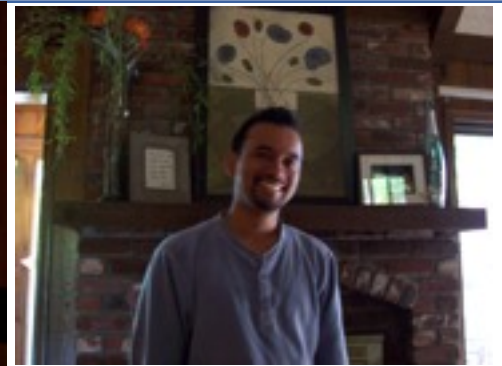
MINISTRY ON THE EAST COAST WITH RUSSIAN AND ETHIOPIAN PASTORS

In April of this year, I was asked by General Council and the newly formed Slavic District to facilitate a two day workshop in Philadelphia, PA for Russian, Ukrainian, and Ethiopian pastors. Twenty-two pastors are well on their way to becoming credentialed ministers with the AG because of our time together. Language challenges were faced head-on through the use of an interpreters. The pastors came from New York City, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and parts of the mid-west. Ministry in Jesus' Name and in the power of the Holy Spirit, always brings us closer to Jesus and His plans for our lives. The opportunity and call for each member of the church is to bless, empower, and encourage one another to be more like Jesus, and therefore becoming effective disciples. Nearly 40% of AG churches across America now worship in languages other than english. While many are 'blending' english into their services, their cultures remain intact. We should never feel threatened by this, but look at the opportunity to grow, learn, and continue to become the multi/ethnic/cultural community of the Spirit. The church is, as an author titled his book, "The answer to the race problem". Jesus embraced diversity throughout his ministry. Our culture desperately needs to see this fleshed and lived out.



Nearly 6 million Slavic immigrants now call America home. Many are Pentecostal believers who have suffered years of persecution. I am honored to call many of them my 'friends.' Don't be afraid to make new friends!

A DREAM FULFILLED..



Well, I finally did it! I earned by Doctor of Ministry degree!

No, I did not purchase it on-line, but steadily (slowly mostly) finished all requirements. I walked through the line in Springfield on Saturday, May 1.

It was a very long journey, beginning several years ago. We all have twists and turns in life that detour us for a while, but God in His Sovereign Love always guides us through those difficult times, and gently leads us back to the old paths, well trodden and shared by many before us.

I cannot say enough about my love and admiration for the ethnic pastors and churches that contributed to my research and project. At times I had to ask some very deep and personal questions about culture and various changes that are challenging ethnic faith communities. Yet I was always shown respect, courtesy, and honesty.

My special thanks to Pastor Matai Waqavesi and the congregation of Arena Fijian AG, Sacramento, CA. My project focused on a tool called Appreciative Inquiry. AI is designed to focus on the best of one's church life, ministry, and outreach. Vinaka Vaka Levu Talatala!



beautiful country of Thailand. Rev. Anapughp (and his wife) serves as the General Superintendent of the AG of Thailand. He is presently pastoring a church of nearly 1,000 members in the capital city of Bangkok. He also received his D.Min.

Pictured above to the right, is a former student from the Fiji Islands. On my way back to Southern California, I stopped in Kansas City to visit with Ferdi and his family.

Ferdi was born in the Philippines, raised in Saipan, studied in Fiji, and now lives in Kansas City. Our world today is so interconnected! It does indeed create endless

"Better to have a weak faith in a Strong object, than to have a strong faith in a weak object". Tom Keller

and creative and Spirit empowered opportunities to touch the world.

I want to remind you today that God is Strong! "WHO HE IS" is much more important than who I think I am! Detours and unexpected challenges are not a problem for our Loving and Faithful Father!

Thank you so very much for your prayers, cards of appreciation, and your continued financial support. We cannot think 'locally' as we

once did; 'glocal' is more appropriate. While I live in Southern California now, my ministry extends far beyond it's borders. Together, we are the

'glocal' people of God. May the Lord Bless you and keep you, and my He make His face to shine upon YOU". Russ