

Multi-ethnic Ministry News

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*Go therefore and make
disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 28:19



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Reaching out to all nations

By Pastor Solomon Yadessa

Mission happens when a person with the love of God reaches out to another, builds a relationship, and shares the saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. God sent His only begotten Son to this world to save us from eternal damnation. Jesus walked with people, talked to them, ate with them, taught them, healed them, and fed them. He died on the cross for our salvation, was buried and rose from the dead, and promised us the same.

Saturday program committee chair Tara Hickman nurturing relationships with some of the children being served by the ministry.

When we want to share the Gospel, we follow the example of Jesus and do as He commanded us: make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them.

Senait Gonfa, my wife and a ministry volunteer, goes to Dallas every Saturday to spend time with young African immigrant children, many from the Vickery Meadow apartment area. She helps drive them to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. She recently started braiding the girls' hair while she talks to them. The girls love and appreciate it because paying someone to braid their hair is too expensive. They sign up to take turns.

*We love because
He first loved us.
1 John 4:19*



The Multi-ethnic Ministry News is a publication of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Multi-ethnic Ministry of North Texas.

Mission

Make disciples of all nations by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and ministering to the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of new Americans.

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Robert Kolster, David Walther,
Pastor Yadessa

Saturday program committee

Tara Hickman, chair
Curtis Bryant, Jean Howard,
Rachel Walther, Pastor Yadessa

Senait also loves this time because she can get the full attention of each girl. She advises them about life and listens to their joys, sorrows, and needs.

This is just one example of reaching out to all nations. You seek contact with one person at a time, build a relationship with them, and share the love of God by meeting their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. It may seem scary to reach out to strangers or people around us (e.g., neighbors, barbers, co-workers, waitresses, gym members), but when you do it with the intention of sharing the Gospel, Jesus will facilitate for us. He promises to be with us always, even unto the end of the world.

To learn more about reaching out to others, contact me at



Ministry volunteer Senait Gonfa braiding hair, listening, and advising.

syadessa@gmail.com or 214.326.5969. Also, watch for announcements about an upcoming evangelism forum where we will share experiences and Biblical insights about on how to meet strangers, build relationships, and love and serve your neighbors.

2018 ORLC Ministry recap

Thanks be to God for the work He has done this year through Our Redeemer's Multi-ethnic Ministry! And thanks to the many people who have so generously given time, talent, and treasure. Some 2018 highlights:

- In May a multi-ethnic ministry advisory board was formed.
- Since July more than 25 people have provided meals and served at the Saturday program.
- Many volunteers have helped with transportation, taught English, taken the children shopping, provided tutoring and music lessons, made financial contributions, and donated clothing, home, and personal care items.
- In August money was raised to purchase new school shoes.
- Coats and warm clothing were collected in October and November.
- In December Christmas gifts were donated.
- A committee was formed to help Pastor Yadessa develop and coordinate the Saturday program.
- 10 children have been baptized.
- 3 new churches have been planted.
- 4 youth are preparing for confirmation.
- 80 adults and children are currently reached weekly through Sunday worship, Bible study, Sunday school and the Saturday program.

Ministry plants three more churches in DFW

Since the original church plants at Faith in Plano and Our Redeemer in Dallas, the Multi-ethnic Ministry of North Texas has started three new church plants affiliated with St. Paul in Fort Worth, Bethel in Dallas, and one that splits time between Faith and Our Redeemer.



The church plant at St. Paul in Fort Worth was the result of a connection made through a family in Our Redeemer's Karibu group, and it serves the Anyuak ethnic group from Ethiopia. St. Paul gives them space for worship and fellowship. Pastor Yadessa travels there twice a month to conduct worship services. Faith in Plano provided Christmas gifts for the Anyuak children and shared the love of Jesus. St. Paul members, elders, and pastors have shown the Anyuak group great hospitality, and we praise the Lord for this.

At Bethel in Dallas a church plant was started when a Rwandese church sought partnership with a Lutheran church. Bethel is providing confirmation class for the leadership of the Rwandese church and will continue to mentor them.

The Mekane Yesus church plant splits time between Faith in Plano and Our Redeemer in Dallas. The group worships in Amharic.

Thanks to the five host churches, the LCMS Texas District, the Texas LWML, and Peace Lutheran in Texarkana for their work and financial support.

Senait Gonfa visits with some of the Anyuak women.

The Anyuak choir sings at the Christmas celebration.

Sandi Groupe mentors the Anyuak women and teaches them English.

A large group gathers for the Anyuak Christmas celebration.



Our Redeemer Ministry Board & Committee

Have ministry questions? What help getting involved? Ask a board or committee member!



Board members: David Walther, Robert Kolster, Janet Koechel, Jennifer Bedell, Ron Schuldt, Pastor Yadessa.

Saturday program committee members: Rachel Walther, Curtis Bryant, Jean Howard, Tara Hickman, Pastor Yadessa (not pictured).



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are many opportunities to love and serve our neighbors through this ministry. Please contact Pastor Yadessa @ 214.326.5969, Ron Schuldt @ 214.762.7206, or Tara Hickman (for meal sign up) @ 214.202.6246 if you would like to help with these or other needs.

Write or design newsletter articles and web content.

Be a life skills, career, or education mentor.

Drive families to/from church on Sunday mornings.

Provide a meal for the Saturday program.

Drive children to/from the Saturday program.

Drive people to/from medical and other appointments.

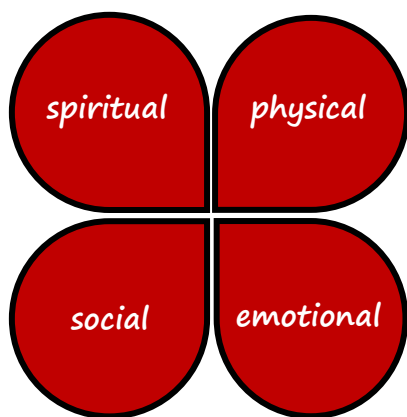
Teach English or be a conversation partner.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Here are **some** of the events we have planned for 2019:

- ▶ Permanent donation box and a regularly updated list of urgently needed items.
- ▶ Weekly Saturday youth program
- ▶ March/April needed items and volunteers drive
- ▶ July/August school shoe drive
- ▶ October/November winter coat and clothing drive
- ▶ December Christmas gift angel tree
- ▶ Evangelism and volunteer training opportunities



How we serve

Fun fact: People being served by this ministry come from many nations, including: China, Ethiopia, Syria, Rwanda, DR Congo, Turkey, Iraq, Palestine, Mexico, and El Salvador.



Thousands of new Americans have immigrated to north Texas. Many fled war, genocide, and refugee camps. Upon arrival they are faced with learning to navigate life in a very unfamiliar place, often without knowing English and with very few resources.

As Christ commanded us, we proclaim His saving grace and minister to the spiritual, physical, social, and emotional needs of His people, our brothers and sisters in Him.

- Sharing God's Word through personal witness, Bible study at 11 on Fridays, and Sunday worship opportunities in English and Swahili.
- Baptizing and preparing for confirmation.
- Providing food, clothing, home and personal care items, and emergency assistance.
- Identifying services to provide support.
- Assisting with applications, job interview preparation, driver's licenses, etc.
- Teaching classes such as English, music, and catechism, and tutoring.
- Transporting for worship, the Saturday program, and medical and other appointments.
- Spending time together, mentoring, practicing English, playing, enjoying activities, befriending.

Volunteers sharing food, offering friendship, and helping with homework.



**“Don’t miss this
experience. You’ll want
to come back!”**

Spotlight on the **Saturday Program**

**Some of the
Saturday
program children
and volunteers
on a quick break
from fellowship
and activities in
Our Redeemer’s
gymnasium.**



What

Every Saturday from 5-7 p.m. at Our Redeemer this program provides a safe place for children to learn, play, and enjoy a meal.

Who

Currently 25-30 children are being served each week. Many adults and youth sign up to volunteer each week.

How

We rely on volunteers to:

- help transport the children to and from Our Redeemer
- provide a meal
- supervise and spend time with the children during tutoring, play or while leading an activity



For more information about the Saturday program or to volunteer to provide a meal, provide transportation, spend time with the children, or lead an activity, please contact Saturday Program Committee Chair Tara Hickman @ 214.202.6246.