



Why do we need to engage in missions?

A Message from Pastor Solomon Yadessa

All humanity has fallen into sin. When we read John 3:16, we understand how serious God is about taking action to express His endless love toward humanity by sending His only begotten Son to save us. His love was so serious and our salvation so costly. He reached out to humanity when humanity didn't have any alternative. God acted out of mercy so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. This act of mercy has to be known to all humans so they can be saved. They have to hear the Good News of their salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

What does this have to do with missions, then? The hearing part is what makes mission compulsory. In Romans 10:14-15 we read: *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? **And how can they hear without someone preaching to them** (emphasis added)? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"* Our neighbors need to hear the saving Word of God. Somebody has to bring that good news to them. And that is where mission takes place.

Near our churches in Dallas are thousands of people who have not heard the way of salvation through Christ. In the Vickery Meadows apartments are more than 35,000 people who have come from 110 different nations. Most of these people have not heard the Gospel. We have been working hard to reach out to the people in this community. We have baptized and confirmed many. But still we have a long way to go because in Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

So, my friends, I want you to be courageous in going to the nations, one person at a time. Your presence and interactions impact others, because Christ's Spirit is with you as He promised. We thank you all for your prayers and your involvement in the Multi-Ethnic Ministry of North Texas as we reach out to refugees and immigrants and minister to their spiritual, physical, social, and emotional needs. May the Lord continue to bless you as you support MEMNT and help make a difference in the lives of the people being served.



Francine's journey from Rwanda to the USA

My name is Francine Mwizeranama, and I have been a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Karibu fellowship since 2017. Originally I am from Rwanda, but I came to the USA four years ago through a refugee resettlement program. I lived in Rwanda until I married my husband who came from the Democratic Republic of Congo to escape genocide. Together we moved to Uganda when another wave of genocide started in Rwanda. We stayed in the refugee program for 12 years while waiting for permanent resettlement elsewhere. Fortunately, we got the opportunity to come to the USA with our five children.

It has been more than three years since we started coming to Karibu for worship at Our Redeemer. We enjoy Karibu fellowship and worship through the Multi-Ethnic Ministry, where we have met people from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the home country of my husband. The ministry takes care of our family members by providing us with spiritual services and with help in times of need. Pastor Solomon

Yadessa brings gifts from the ministry and tells us that the church takes care of us. Recently he came with one member of Our Redeemer and visited us.

All seven of my children were baptized at Our Redeemer and two of them were confirmed there. My children enjoyed coming to church every Sunday for worship until the pandemic made it difficult. The Saturday program has been a very good program for our children by giving them the opportunity to get out of the apartment complex and play in fellowship in a safe environment.

Currently I am expecting my eighth child, and I ask your prayers in this journey. As I have no blood relatives here, I value the love and fellowship I enjoy through the church and ministry. Thank you for the love and care you give us as a church.



Family pizza nights

Before the pandemic, Saturday night fellowship had become one of the highlights of MEMNT's ministry. Around 30 children would be driven to the church by many volunteers, and after play and Bible study, the night would end with a meal enjoyed together. Many Saturday nights pizza was on the menu and was always a hit. With the uncertainty of when more gatherings like this will be able to take place, the ministry recently sent notes of encouragement and gift cards so that those who were served through the Saturday night fellowship could enjoy a family pizza night.



Volunteer Spotlight: Mary Afsharirad

When did you first meet Pastor Solomon Yadessa and learn about the Multi-Ethnic Ministry of North Texas?

I first met Pastor Yadessa when he and his family joined Faith Lutheran of Plano.

How have you and other members of Faith Lutheran become involved in the MEMNT?

We have tried to build a connection between the MEMNT and Faith's Lutheran Women's Missionary League group, Women of Faith. We have supported MEMNT fundraising events, including a shoe drive for the children, a Christmas angel tree, and a Christmas in July event. We have also donated funds as we are able.

Last Christmas we coordinated with the Binky Patrol North Texas Chapter to donate a beautiful handmade blanket for each MEMNT child. Faith's youth group

and their sponsors hosted a Saturday program at Our Redeemer in Dallas and it was very well received.

Also, Pastor Woelmer of Faith has a farm and periodically invites the children over to see the chickens and goats and to swim in the pool. These adventures are so much fun and well received.

As Martin Luther said, "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does."

How would you describe your experience with the MEMNT?

I wanted to get involved in a mission experience. Being involved, even in a small way, and working with Pastor Yadessa and the ministry has been a positive experience. God is providing the mission field right here in our own backyard. It is wonderful to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with different cultures and nationalities.

What are your hopes for the future of this ministry?

That the MEMNT continues to grow, that the participants become catechized, active members at established Lutheran Church Missouri Synod churches in the DFW area, and that they will be welcomed into these churches.

I do not want to be part of establishing separate LCMS churches divided by ethnicity and culture. I want to work toward integration of all LCMS Lutherans into established churches where we can learn and grow from each other. I realize this is not easy, but we are one body in Christ and our churches should be also.

In addition, I look forward to serving on the advisory board and building a better communication link between Our Redeemer and Faith Lutheran in support of the wonderful outreach of the Multi-Ethnic Ministry of North Texas.

Ministry activity highlights

COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines have changed the way that the MEMNT is able to serve right now, but even in these challenging times God has blessed Pastor Yadessa and volunteers with opportunities to care for our neighbors.



In early May, volunteers put together activity bags to help keep children occupied during the lockdown. The bags included art supplies, games, bubbles, balls, Frisbees, and puzzles. Volunteers also provided financial assistance to several families.



Pastor serves Holy Communion to a woman who is 97 years old. Pastor also visited a new mother and delivered some gifts and diapers.



Pastor welcomes Alexis, a new member of the Karibu fellowship. Alexis is from the Congo.



Volunteers help load furniture donated to the ministry. Deliveries were made to three families.

