

Reaching Immigrants in North Texas

Multi-Ethnic Ministry of North Texas

Holy Scripture tells us, God, our Savior, *desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4)*. Multi-Ethnic Ministry of North Texas is reaching out to immigrant and refugee communities of North Texas to share this saving knowledge with them.

The ministry was started in July 2017 and is a partnership of the Texas District and the congregations of Faith, Plano, and Our Redeemer, Dallas.

The mission field is now in our own backyard. It is estimated that there are about 135,000 foreign-born people living in Vickery Meadow, an ethnically-diverse neighborhood in Dallas. Some of them are from Ethiopia, Oromo, Congo, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Many of them come in order to escape persecution.

This ministry is also working with Faith, Plano by coordinating ESL classes for the communities in that area. Currently people from Syria, China, El Salvador, Philistine, Ethiopia and Mexico are attending the classes.

A church plant in Fort Worth has opened in Fort Worth for the Anyuak-speaking Ethiopians. Rev/Dr. Yadessa, who leads Multi-Ethnic Ministry of North Texas, communicates the Gospel to them in Amharic, which is a common Ethiopian national language. St. Paul, Fort Worth is preparing to host this new plant.

Multi-Ethnic Ministry is helping meet spiritual, physical, and social needs. In addition to Word and Sacrament ministry, the ministry helps individuals get drivers licenses and needed items like diapers, clothes and household items; and provides transportation to hospitals and clinics, and tutors for students. One of their vital activities is bringing children to Our Redeemer Lutheran, Dallas on Saturday morning for an opportunity to play in a safe place outside or in the gym then have Bible lessons and lunch. The ministry is increasing its activities with more involvement of members of the sister congregations.

Since the inception of Multi-Ethnic Ministry much has been done, but there is still much to do. However, one worker there says: "It's a joyful ministry!" We pray for its continued success working for the Lord.

Pastor Yadessa and the Advisory Board members in Faith and Our Redeemer were joyful when LWML approved the grant application they submitted.

Pastor Yadessa can be reached at syadessa@gmail.com

All glory be to God.