

Urban Advocacy

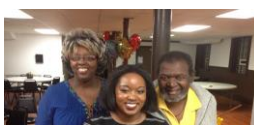
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WINTER 2017

Mission of Christ, a church of African Swahili speakers, has been welcomed into the Wesleyan Church. ***Hear the Choir. Pray as Pastor Yoshua balances care for a growing congregation, social service, and study.***



Eastern Hills Church refurbished the House of Grace playground. Pastor Cap's children surprised him at an appreciation event:



City Life for urban youth will launch in 2017. Leaders Rod and Meghan McCallum request that we ***"ask God to motivate Christians in the Buffalo-Niagara Region to volunteer as YFC leaders."***

At **Jericho Road Community Health Center**, we offer spiritual care: [PBS News](#).

-Steve & Ruth Strand

Pastor Ray Bakke ministers in Chicago and has done diplomatic work in Iran and Iraq. During a visit to Buffalo, he spoke on Matthew 1 and 2. He observed that since Jesus was born east of the Mediterranean, in a family who fled to Egypt from a tyrannical ruler's rampage, we might aptly say:

"Jesus was an Asian baby who became an African refugee."



Many in Buffalo readily see Jesus this way. Fall semester, 55 young adults studied at **Houghton College Buffalo**. Full of aspirations, they have penetrating questions. Ruth teaches "Literature of the Bible" and Steve, "History of Christianity." ***Please pray for students who want to better understand the world. Pray for second year student internships for "work readiness."***



Three students appear in ["I Am a Refugee"](#) which debuted at "Faithful Presence," a preliminary General Conference event. [Buffalo News](#) gave the college front-page coverage. [WBFO](#) interviewed.

[ONLINE GIVING](#)

TRUE GREATNESS

Didn't Jesus say to be truly great means to be "servant of all"?

Anthony Casey, a broadcast moderator for The Wesleyan Church's General Conference, has written on the church's moral vision. The 19th c. Wesleyan Methodist Connection began as a radical abolitionist movement; it sowed seeds of suffrage for women's rights. Founders believed in universal **equality of all human beings**, made in God's image. Their civil disobedience against the cultural tide of racial injustice served the underground railroad. They planted Freedom Hill Church in the south. ***In sharp contrast***, Wesleyans of the Civil Rights era in the 1960s saw established law as right and sadly failed to speak out in solidarity for justice and equality. **Which vision will we choose today?**



"Faithful presence" was echoed at the national [Multi-Ethnic Church Ministry Conference](#). Our call is still to disrupt injustice, as servants of all.