

Urban Advocacy Update – Summer 2017

Strengthening the church to respond to global need in the local context of Buffalo



Pastor Yoshua Bashizi has served **Mission of Christ Wesleyan church** since August 2015. Pastor Byaombe and Furaha Swedy began to assist with the congregation in August 2016. District Superintendent Joey Jennings commissioned church leaders May 14, 2017 with a message from Matthew 20- **“whoever wishes to be great among you, must be your servant.”**

Roger, the youngest leader, works with children.

Houghton College Buffalo students graduate and celebrate!



Houghton College Graduation May 13, 2017

Practice hospitality? The Greek word for hospitality, “*philoxenia*,” means “love for strangers.” Scripture communicates countercultural values, as Hebrews 13:1-2 (The Message) says, “*Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it’s needed. Why some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it.*” Abraham, a sojourner, welcomed and offered hospitality to messengers who brought the message of Isaac, the child of promise. Had he not offered hospitality, Abraham would have missed the LORD’s messengers.



Unfortunately, instead of following Abraham, the father of our faith, the church sometimes acquiesces to the cultural norm of xenophobia- fear for people unfamiliar to us. Jesus himself, though, identifies with the stranger when he says, (Matthew 25:35), “*I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*” Whether we think of serving the stranger as bearing the hint of angelic visitants or the very presence of the Lord himself, true hospitality is a high and holy call. The church, as the Body of Christ can offer reconciliation. Yes, with hospitality. We can begin by meeting a neighbor or entering new immigrant communities to befriend a refugee, asylum seeker or other newcomer. **-Steve & Ruth Strand**

Possible New Partnerships-



Carmelo and Jeanette Peña

“*Restaurados para Restaurar*”
←“*Restored to Restore*”

Buffalo Myanmar Mission >



Pastor Thong Hu (right)



Ready to volunteer? City Life for urban youth, is ready to receive mentors for weekly ministry or persons who serve by providing a meal, re-building garden beds, or other team projects. Contact Rod McCallum (rmccallum@yfcmail.org)

Please note new address for gifts to Urban Advocacy - checks (“WNY District”)

Kim Pecora, District Treasurer
2289 Langford Rd
North Collins, NY 14111

online: wnydistrict.com