



Urban Ministry Associates Herald

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In my more than three decades of ministry as a member of the LCMS, I have made it my goal to understand the mission context of North America. But understanding the context means I also study the mission practice of the LCMS.

The LCMS, as a denomination, may disagree on practice matters; however, the LCMS is known to approve of mission goals that do not even seem to be realistic in her national conventions, such as a goal to plant 300 congregations a year. The question for me would have been, where will we get the 300 planters? The simple arithmetic says that you need 300 planters to plant 300 congregations. The point is that it does not matter how unrealistic the goal is; that the church in convention agreed to adopt such an audacious goal is a powerful demonstration of our unity when it comes to proclaiming the Gospel to all people.

To proclaim the Gospel to all people groups, the diversity of gifts the Lord so lavishly blesses our church is to be utilized. The Lord does not give away his skills without any purpose. On the contrary, He demands mutual accountability of the priesthood of believers to employ the diversity of the gifts for the sake of His mission.

I am incredibly blessed to be part of districts and synod that has the mission of God as the guiding post for our life together. In Hebrews 10:24-25, we read, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” When we come together for grace-filled conversations, we spur each other to stand firm in our faith and do good work. We challenge each other to do more and better. We encourage one another not to give up but to stand up for what is proper.

Urban Ministry Associates International’s mission is to support urban ministry movements by coaching, training, and mutual accountability through strategic development. When the world around us works hard to segregate us by ethnicity, class, gender ... etc., the church is a force to counter it with the uniting power of the Gospel. When human desires would pull us to focus on me, mine, and my kind, the Gospel challenge us to think, “pant ta ethne.” That is “Synod” at its best! Urban Ministry Associates has national and international foci.

- **Local Work:** I will be available to work with urban congregations, networks, and church planters at the national level for coaching, training, and mutually accountable relationships.

- International Work: I have begun working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea to translate the Book of Concord, develop theological materials to answer contemporary Eritrean questions, and help strengthen the theological education for continuing education for current pastors and development of new pastors and church leaders.

As I embark on this worthy ministry, I covet your prayers. I would also appreciate your financial support. Every little gift helps advance the Gospel locally and internationally.

Your partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Yohannes Mengsteab, PhD
Urban Ministry Associates International

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Church Planter Candidates

The Lord is raising gifted church planters to reach out to more people in the DFW metro area:

Ministry to Eritrean Americans:

The Lord has led Pastor Rehoboth Beyene, an experienced church planter with a massive following on social media, to join our mission team in the DFW area. Pastor Beyene and his family live in Great Britain, and he is pastoring a large congregation. I have connected him with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Great Britain to join the Lutheran Church before he joins our team sometime next year. He is very well associated with Eritreans in Texas and around the world. Undoubtedly, he will be an essential addition to our team.

Ministry to Muslims:

Pastor Yohannes Tewelde, an ordained Presbyterian pastor, immigrated to the USA this year and landed in Dallas. He was connected to our ministry through Yrgalem Ketema, our Muslim women's ministry leader.

Pastor Tewelde was trained at the seminary in Egypt and is fluent in classic Arabic. He served in Egypt for almost two decades and has proven very effective in reaching out to Muslims, more than 28 Muslim converts through his ministry in Egypt, who are

now sent as evangelists around the world. He is joining our ministry and will become a member of the LCMS through Colloquy.

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