

Report on the NEEMA COMMUNITY CHURCH (N.C.D.)

Neema Community Church started from a group of 7 people who met for fellowship in an apartment. Later, it grew to a fellowship that was recognized by the Heartland presbytery. It was through the faithfulness of God and the spiritual guidance and support from Rev. Tom Are and Rev. Dwight Tawney of Village church that the organizing pastor Rev. David Nzioka was able to steer the church to where it is now.

Neema is an Immigrant Church and for your information, many immigrants, especially those coming as refugees, can be characterized as reluctant immigrants. Given the right conditions, they would rather go back to their countries of origin. The reason is simple: they are born and raised in a certain environment, then, all of a sudden, they are forced to leave their mother land and seek refuge in another country, far away from home. These immigrants continue to provide financial support to their friends and relatives in their home countries while attempting to learn a new language, go to school and secure a living-wage job. It is really a challenging adventure.

Neema Community Church (NCD) meets at the Village church facility on 99th and Mission road. What started as a group of people has now grown to be a missional church with a lot of potential. For the few years that this Swahili/English speaking congregation has been in existence, people's lives have been touched and changed. Several people have received Jesus as their personal savior, and many have found a place where they can give themselves to serve God.

The Neema family continues to experience energetic growth both spiritually and in numbers. We have been able to reach people of other cultures as well, which gives an indication of becoming a multicultural church in future. We are doing all we could to accommodate other people since they are joining us.

Over the last few months, the church has witnessed tremendous numerical growth. In November 2009, we received 24 members. On February 21, this year, 22 people joined Neema as members. We have several waiting to join, with now an average attendance of 100-120 every Sunday, with more coming. For us, this is the Lord's doing and we would request for your prayers to stand firm as we witness in Kansas City.

Neema attracts a lot of people and this leads to some excitement. The excitement generated by our activities and way of worship raises the level of our people's expectations and hence the challenge to be more vigorous in our operations and offering service. Members would like to see more programs and services in place immediately. Currently, we are prayerfully looking for funds so as to be able to secure another worshipping space preferably in Olathe where over 70% of our members reside. We have \$85,000 set aside for a building and the church is planning to do a fund raising to realize this dream of securing a church building. We would highly welcome and appreciate any donations towards this endeavor.

As much as there are challenges with the establishment and bringing up of immigrant churches, there are opportunities which come as part of the package. An immigrant church can be vital in meeting the needs of a specific community to start with. As its mission spreads, it leads to educating the neighbors what a different time of worship can look like and how God can use people regardless of their status. The presence of an immigrant ministry can easily lead to the start of a multicultural congregation comprising of different peoples ethnically, racially and culturally. This makes worship very enriching in the racial ethnic congregation. It becomes a church where people get to experience God in different ways, make people appreciative of others' diversity and difference and worship together as children of God. Neema has risen to the occasion, and by faith we will move on knowing that our destiny is the destiny of God.

Thank you all for your prayers and support. Let us never get tired as we labor in the Lord's vineyard.

Rev. David Nzioka
Pastor, Neema Community Church