

# Jim & Jenny Hodgson - Ministry Update

July 2023

[www.oakhills.edu/church-ministries](http://www.oakhills.edu/church-ministries)

[jimhodgson@oakhills.edu](mailto:jimhodgson@oakhills.edu)



Dear Family & Friends,

Jenny & I hope that each of you are doing well this summer! I turned 60 last month & we enjoyed camping with our family, including some time together on a friend's pontoon. We're thankful to be healthy & for the health of our family, and to be able to continue serving the Lord together. Jenny completed 20 years on staff for OHCC (21 for me) this spring, & continues serving as our college Registrar. We celebrated our Oak Hills 2023 Graduates in May, enjoyed our Women's Breakaway conference in June ([www.oakhills.edu/church-ministries/conferences](http://www.oakhills.edu/church-ministries/conferences)), have our Camp ministry in full summer mode ([www.campoakhills.org](http://www.campoakhills.org)), have begun our new 6 month semester in our Rural Certificate program, & are enjoying watching the beautiful growing season of summer!

We are often reminded by the Lord how fragile life can be with the passing of some dear family & friends in the last year, while others face serious medical challenges. Jenny has led Bemidji's GriefShare ([www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)) ministry for 10 years as a volunteer, which continues to be a great Gospel opportunity to help those in deep need, pointing them to Jesus as the God of all comfort (2 Cor. 1:3-7).

The Lord continues to bless our Church Ministries work with pastors, ministry leaders, & community leaders. Here are some highlights from the last 6 months, & some plans we're trusting Him for in the near future.

Our team had the privilege to partner again with the Evangelical Covenant NW Conference leaders to provide the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Rural Impact Leadership Conference" in Alexandria, MN back in March ([www.ruralimpact.church](http://www.ruralimpact.church)), along with providing ongoing rural ministry webinars throughout the year. Consider joining us for next spring's 2024 conference, even online. At this spring's conference I hosted a seminar panel on "Rural Mental Health & the Church", which is impacting rural communities even more than metro areas. Please check out these two resources for your own use: "988" ([www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988](http://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988)) & "Living Works" ([www.livingworks.net](http://www.livingworks.net)). The "988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline" has now been available nationally for a year, and is a simple phone # that we all should memorize (see attached flier for your home,



business, or church). If you would like access to more training for your community on mental health & suicide prevention, please contact me about it.

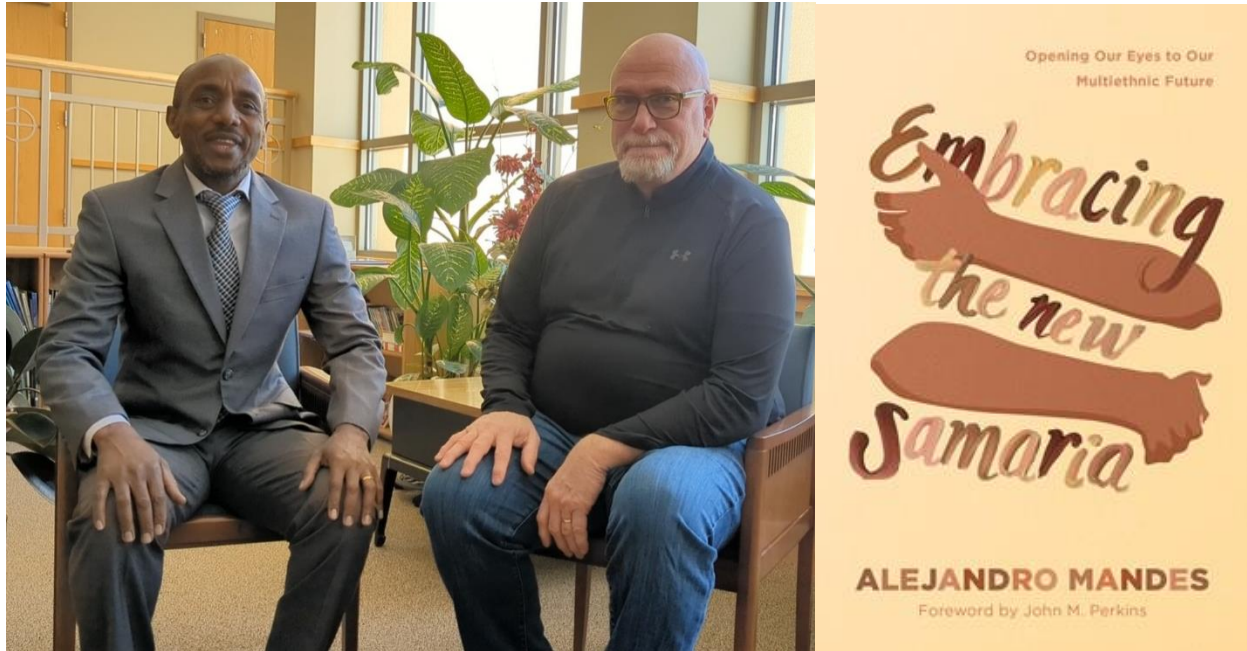


Our “Rural Certificate” online program continues to thrive with 12 current students ([www.oakhills.edu/church-ministries/rural-certificate](http://www.oakhills.edu/church-ministries/rural-certificate)). These adult learners are all working full-time, caring for their families at whatever their stage of life is, serving in their home churches, and are full-time students. They’re very busy & such a joy to be friends with! New applicants are able to join this program at the beginning of any 6 month semester, with the next entry point being in January 2024 (see attached RC program flier/class schedule). I’m leading our current 2 month summer class on Evangelism & Disciple-Making, with several special guests joining us including Bruce Dick of “Evangelism Shift” ([www.evangelismshiftusa.com](http://www.evangelismshiftusa.com)) & Jeff Clark from the “Rural Matters Institute” at Wheaton College ([www.wheatonbillygraham.com/rural](http://www.wheatonbillygraham.com/rural)).

Our Native ministry team has begun planning for our 3rd “United in Christ 2024” conference to be held at the Bemidji EFC on July 18-20, 2024 ([www.centerforindianministries.org](http://www.centerforindianministries.org)). Please mark your calendars for this North American ministry conference, pray for our team’s preparation, & consider coming to join us. Any opportunity to see how the Gospel applies to all nations or ethnos is a wonderful experience (Acts 1:8)!

Another tough issue facing our rural areas is the growing labor shortage, & we believe that this matters to the Lord as well (Colossians 1:19-20/3:17). In the last year the Lord has led my brother Dan, an international agri-business leader, to develop a new company – “WorkForce Hope” ([www.workforcehope.com](http://www.workforcehope.com)) to address this issue through legal immigration. Our family farm background makes both of us aware of the need for good help, especially at peak times like harvest. Also, we’re becoming increasingly aware of the various human global crises & the desire of some people to find a safer place to legally work & raise their families. Please consider the urgent need to become a Supporter to help Ukrainians & Latin Americans gain safety in the U.S. & fortify our workforce ([www.workforcehope.com/supporter](http://www.workforcehope.com/supporter)). Jenny & I have already

become Humanitarian Parolee supporters through Workforce Hope, & have been able to each help 15 people in this process without any legal or financial responsibility placed upon us for them. The picture below is of my brother Dan & our friend Pastor Evariste Busanga of Redeemed Covenant Church in Fargo, one of our Rural Certificate students, & now a leader with Workforce Hope. Alex Mandes, author of “Embracing the New Samaria” ([www.navpress.com](http://www.navpress.com)) is also now part of their company’s leadership team.



We thank the Lord & you for His provision of my missionary support in the past year & are trusting Him for the future. Thank you so much for your encouragement, prayers, & support! We hope some of these ministry resources will be a help to you & your connections, & have attached my Regional Ministry Events Calendar, as well.

In Christ,

Jim & Jenny Hodgson

Director of Church & Community Relations

Oak Hills Christian College/Fellowship

1600 Oak Hills Rd - Bemidji, MN 56601

[jimhodgson@oakhills.edu](mailto:jimhodgson@oakhills.edu)

[www.oakhills.edu/church-ministries](http://www.oakhills.edu/church-ministries)

[www.oakhills.edu/give](http://www.oakhills.edu/give)

218-556-6277 (cell)

218-751-8670 (office)

---