

Good Friday afternoon, New South Family. Welcome to the 47<sup>th</sup> edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending June 5, 2020.

-----**The Critical**-----

## Announcements

- 1) Annual Conference 2020 Update:** The New South BOA meets this evening to receive, discuss and vote on the pertinent business of the conference. Following this, all will receive the final paperwork about appointments, officers, etc.
- 2) Resources Regarding Reopening Your Church:** Since there are many states and localities involved in our conference, and many different approaches to worship and size of congregations, my best counsel to you is to follow your state and local guidelines for your worship gatherings. I would be especially careful of the very destructive division that disagreement about this issue is causing. Work toward minimizing and preventing that as much as possible.
- 3) A Word on the Racial Tensions of our Nation:**

Dear New South Family,

I'd ask you to please take some time and pray for our nation. If you've seen the news reports, you know that the death of George Floyd has brought the racial tensions in our nation once again strongly to the fore.

As the body of Christ, we unequivocally stand against racism in any form and we stand in defense of all persons of all colors who have experienced prejudice and violence simply because of the color of their skin. We stand with the African American community today as, from what can be seen and known, George Floyd was brutally mistreated and certainly did not deserve to die.

As the body of Christ, we also stand against chaos and theft and rage, and certainly against those who would take this situation and try to use it toward un-Christlike ends, which, again, from what can be seen and known, is happening in our nation. We stand with the vast majority of law enforcement in our country who are merely trying to do their increasingly difficult job of keeping peace and enforcing the law.

What's happening in our nation in these days reminds us that, while a vocal and engaged Christian response is warranted, the only thing that will truly save our culture is the transformative and healing presence of Christ and His Spirit. It is Christ alone who transforms prejudice and hatred into acceptance and love, and it is Christ alone who empowers those who have been legitimately mistreated to genuinely love even their enemies.

Just before Christmas, the eastern area Free Methodist conference superintendents and spouses met in Charleston, SC for a few days to plan and, frankly, get to know each other and our new Bishop, Keith Cowart. Included in time was a meeting with the leaders of the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church – that is the church where nine parishoners were killed back in 2015 while they attended a Bible study.

Our (all-white) leadership team spent over 2 ½ hours with the AME church historians in honest, open conversation. They had never heard of the Free Methodist denomination and were very pleased to hear of our existence and historic stand against slavery and every other form of oppression and diminishing of human life, regardless of skin color.

When the question was asked, “How might you suggest that the typical church improve race relations?” this is, in essence, the answer they gave: “Treat people of color the same as you treat other white people...on a personal level.”

This group of African-American Christian brothers and sisters, who suffered an enormous attack of racial hatred, were quick to communicate that they don't want or need the help or pity of white people. They don't want to be “felt sorry for.” They don't want to be anyone's “project.” They simply want to be treated, personally, as equals...as friends and people, which means, to initiate conversation with them the same as you would with persons of our own skin color, to presume the best of them, to invite them into our world, our neighborhoods, our circle of friends, and our churches.

To them, it was all quite simple, and they felt that, nearly always, our efforts would be well received and reciprocated, if not immediately, eventually. But it was made clear that the initiative really needed to come from us. Due to the past and present racial tensions in our nation, those who at least seem to hold the power and the majority have to make the move if we're to get anywhere with reconciliation.

What does that mean for you and me when we're at the store? At a restaurant? On the sidewalk?

Like so many things in life, the path for large-scale transformation begins with person to person relationships. But that takes intentionality on all of our parts. Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples – if you love one another.” (John 13:35) The expression of love requires intentionality.

May the Lord find us all, regardless of the color of our skin, to be people who, in the power of His Spirit, take that initiative to open doors, cross barriers and love – becoming the peacemakers God designed His people to be.

**Church of the Week:** Please keep Chris and Deb Carlyle in your prayers as they work to plant a church in the south Charlotte (NC) area.

### **Conference / Superintendent's Calendar** (all times eastern; in-person schedule subject to COVID restrictions)

June 5:	BOA Zoom, 7:00p – Conference Business
June 8:	ABS (Area Bishop and Superintendents) Zoom, 3:00p
June 11:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
June 13 and 20:	FM History and Polity – Gallatin FMC, 9:00a
July 19-26:	NSC Kids and Teen Camp (half the week kids, half teens) – pending restrictions
August 9-11:	ABS Zoom, 3:00p
August 13:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
August 21:	BOA Zoom, 7:00p
August 25-28:	Starting Strong for new pastors - Indianapolis
August 29:	NSC Adjourned Sitting / Ordination – Wilmore (Proposed)
September 10:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
September 11-13:	NSC Family Camp – pending restrictions
September 23-25:	New Room Conference, Nashville, TN
October 6-8:	Global Overseer's Team, Indianapolis
October 16:	DL Meeting – Wilmore, 2:00p
October 16:	BOA Meeting – Wilmore, 6:00p
October 17:	MEG / MAC Meeting – Wilmore, 8:00a
November 12:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
December 10:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
March 19:	DL Meeting – Wilmore, 2:00p
March 19:	BOA Meeting – Wilmore, 6:00p
March 20:	MEG/MAC – Wilmore, 8:00a

And now...

## -----The Important----- Resources, Articles and Attachments

- 1) **A Good Leadership Resource** for leading through times of crisis, by Linda Prince, is attached below.
- 2) **The Latest Global Prayer and Praise Guide** is below. Thank you to the NSC World Mission Promoter, Lois Huff, for creating these.
- 3) **The Latest Edition of the Light and Life Magazine** our denominational magazine, [can be found via digital flip-book, by clicking here](#). This month's theme is racial unity – a timely topic.
- 4) **SEED – The Free Methodist International Micro-enterprise Ministry** has published an update for our use in our “annual conferences.” [I pass it along to you here](#).
- 5) **World-wide Online VBS:** If you are missing a summertime VBS, then you may want to check out this world-wide, online VBS opportunity. There will puppeteers, magicians and storytellers presenting the Gospel to kids all over the world! You can choose your dates - either June 22-25 or June 29-July 2. [Click here for the website and description](#).
- 6) **An Interesting, Historical Article, *Astronauts, Riots, and Pandemics: 2020 vs. 1969***, about the days in which we live can be found below.
- 7) **Teamwork** – accomplishing something together that we can't do on our own. It seems to me that this is really one thing that the Church ought to be known for. Want a great example of working together as a team? [Check this out](#).
- 8) **Missionaries to Portugal Eduardo and Cindi Angelo** are now selling their books on Amazon – most in Portuguese but some in English. All proceeds benefit missions in Guinea Bissau in West Africa. [Click here to reach their store](#).

### Job Openings

At this point, I know that we will have four pastoral openings in conference churches over the summer. I am also conducting interviews with potential pastors. Please keep this process in your prayers – that the Lord would provide shepherds for His flock.

Remember too that [if you click here](#), you will find job opening listings at FMC Human Resources.

### June Birthdays (\*that we know of)

Joy Ireland – June 11

Ryan Bigham – June 14

Burnie Reynolds – June 18

James Demaray – June 19

\*I would love to know the birthdays of all those related to the NSC who receive this communique – pastors, elders, delegates, special friends, etc. Please send month and day to Timothy at [newsouthconference@gmail.com](mailto:newsouthconference@gmail.com)

## This Week's Passage, Quote and Joke

**Passage:** This week, I've been looking at Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper as His way of helping us to remember who He is and who we are in Him. I've used the 1 Corinthians 11 passage, and Paul's repeating of Jesus' institution.

**Quote:** "The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement where I go to God in prayer with tears and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'" - Billy Graham

**Joke:** A middle-aged woman has a heart attack and is taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she has a near death experience. During that experience she sees God and asks if this is it. God says no and explains that she has another 30 years to live.

Upon her recovery she decides to just stay in the hospital and have a face lift, liposuction, breast augmentation, tummy tuck, etc. She even has someone come in and change her hair color. She figures since she's got another 30 years she might as well make the most of it.

She walks out of the hospital after the last operation and is killed by an ambulance speeding by. She arrives in front of God and complains, "I thought you said I had another 30 years."

God replies, "I didn't recognize you."

Blessings on your worship this weekend!

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# Leading Well...



## During a Crisis

*by Linda P. Prince*

May 9, 2020

# The Steps you take matter

*As does the order in which you take them*

## On Hitting the Wall

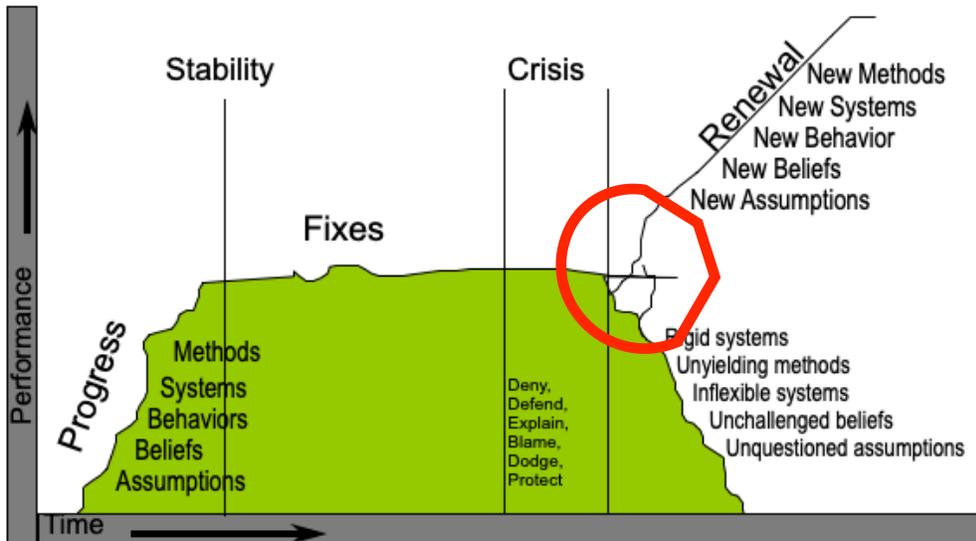
Every lasting organization, experiences times of crisis. A crisis is merely when what we used to do no longer works. The reasons are external. We didn't cause them. Sometimes we see them coming. Sometimes we don't. When they happen suddenly, we consider the change a "pop-up wall." Those of you leading during the time of the Corona Virus are trying to navigate around a pop-up wall.



Unlike this photo - steering around the wall is a far better option than plowing through. Steering around requires attentiveness, skill, timing and agility. Steering around a literal wall requires skill. Steering around a global change wall, requires skill.

In the past two decades, I have helped countless organizations steer around walls. We are often the second person they call. By the time we are engaged, they have been trying for a while without success. The number one mistake we find is not necessarily in what they have tried but when.

## Process of How Organizational and Individual Paradigms Evolve



Adapted from Freedom Foundation Model

This chart was created by the Freedom Foundation. It shows two important things. First, how to know when you are in a crisis. When people go into deny, blame, dodge, or protect... you are in a crisis. With the Corona Virus lock down we have certainly seen dodge and protect in a literal sense. People have their families hunkered down in their homes - protect. When we go out we are dodging and weaving to walk the grocery aisle without coming near another human. Many crisis do not have such visible signs but this one certainly does.

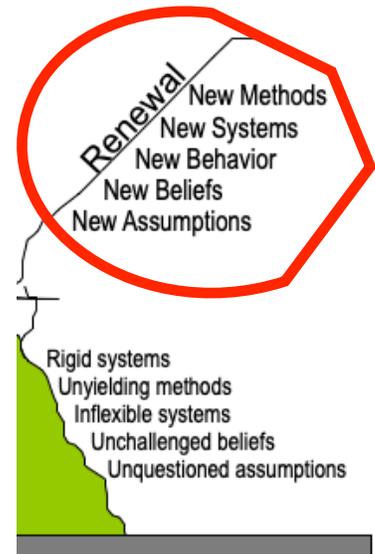
### **So, what are we to do as leaders when we experience a wall?**

Increase communication ten fold and make it as personal as possible. You will know you have communicated enough when people stop showing up, tuning in. Whether you like Trump and Pence or hate them or something in between, the daily briefings from the Task Force was the right thing to do. The same is true for your organization. People need to hear from you frequently and directly - even if it is only for 3 minutes or one paragraph.

Sometimes with a crisis there is a time of immediate action to keep everyone safe. If the building is on fire, by all means get everyone out. Once this stage is over....

### **The fastest, safest way round a wall.**

The number one mistake people make when trying to lead through a crisis - is throwing new systems and methods at the crisis. In other words, let's keep doing everything we have always done but just find a new way. In corporate settings this takes on several forms. For example, we find companies who have tried moving the boxes on the org. chart several times, or they have purchased new technology.



Inside a recent international client company, I was listening to multiple people complain about how poorly they did at managing purchased materials. I asked, “What about a bar code system?” The response was, “Oh we bought one of those.”

“Great. Well, did it work?”

“Uh no. I think it’s still in a box, somewhere.”

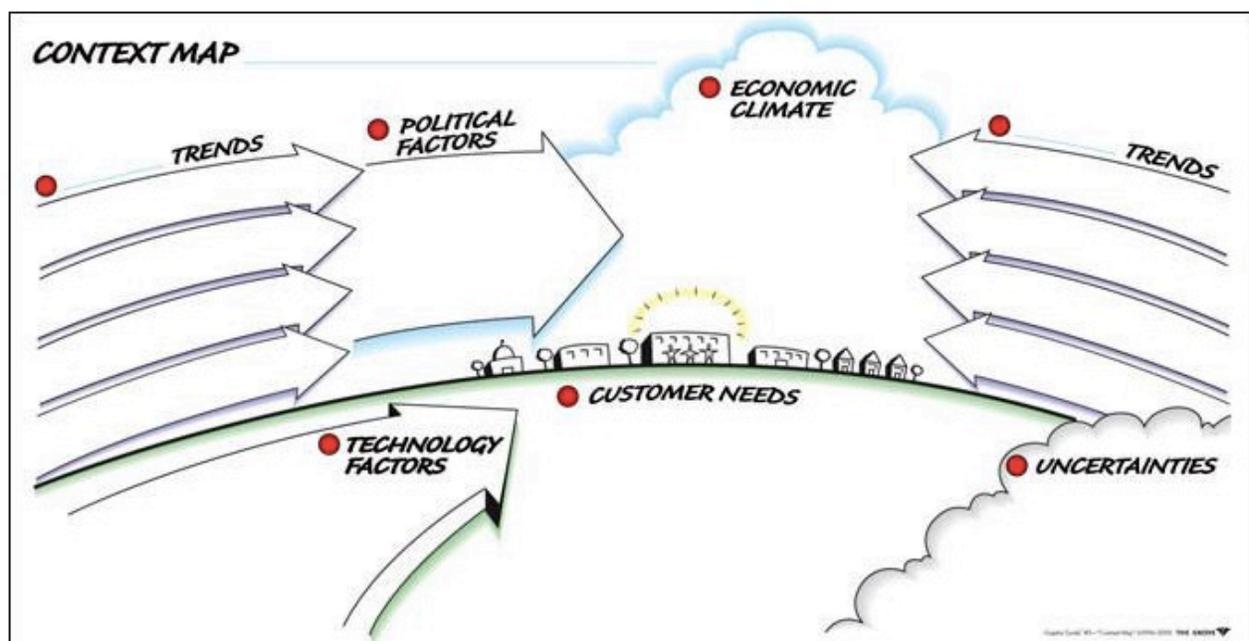
Trying to bring about change by throwing new systems at the some old way of doing things is a waste. And, for the record “zoom” is merely a new system. It is fine for the short term but will not result in RENEWAL.

So what is the best order of steps? In order to bring about renewal, we must go all the way back to assumptions and work our way up from there. The above chart shows the steps circled in red.

Determining the new assumptions does not need to take a lot of time. In fact a gathering (6 feet apart) of ten people who are forward thinkers and you will have captured 98% of what you need inside of 2 hours.

Here is the tool we use to capture new assumptions. It is called a Context Map. It requires a facilitator and the right people in the room, that's all. It is, however, essential. With a massive change, many of your programs, processes, procedures will be obsolete or lack meaning. They were started when the world was different. They mattered then. They may or may not matter now. It is essential to question the old assumptions and create a list of new and more accurate assumptions.

Sample of a blank context map.



*Product distributed by the Grove Store*

The headers on this can and should be adapted to the organization. For example, a church has parishioners or members vs. customers and a town has citizens.... You will notice, two of the headers are already blank. In the current climate, coming out of the lockdown, it will be essential to capture social/cultural trends. People's habits will be different post lock down than they were before. People are going to:

- travel less
- spend less
- hug less
- dress differently

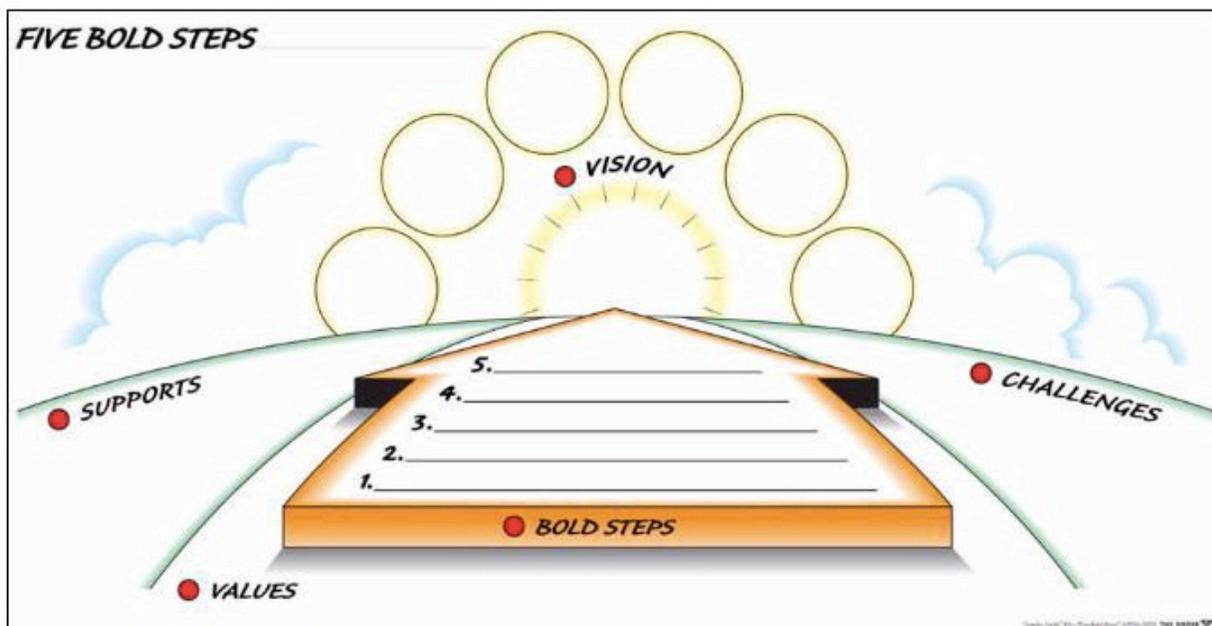
- have and exhibit varied levels of fear
- believe the media or not
- 

Once the new assumptions are captured, they need to be communicated to everyone in a leadership role. They can even be distributed in draft form with, “What did we miss?”

**Then what?**

First, in times of rapid change, one cannot create “strategic” or “long range” plans. Still, planning is essential. It takes on two time points. First, you will need a 90 day plan. Ninety days is long enough to get through the worst of it and captures when you will need to begin doing things differently - based on the new reality.

Here is a simple planning template for a 90 day plan (there are other options with more detail) but the objective is to capture what we want the outcome to be. If the move around the wall is successful, brilliant, flawless and dare I say enjoyable, what does that look like. Remember it is a 90 day plan. We are not building Rome just moving around the wall.



Product distributed by the Grove Store

The second timeframe is to create a fuzzier, less focused longer term list of expectations. For example, if you are a US drug manufacturer with operations in China, you may want to get ready or start packing.

### **Stop/Start...**

Organizations never have white space, aka room to add anything. Therefore, in order to do the new things that need to be done, we must also consider what we will stop doing. So, the next step is to ask, “Given the new reality, and the 90 day vision —what do we need to stop doing and start doing differently?”

Some things you have been doing, will need to stop. Continuing them during the crisis can even send the message of being out of touch, clueless, tone deaf... in light of the new reality.

The question of, “Given the new reality, what do we need to stop doing and start doing differently?” will also need to be asked at various levels of the organization.

What you stop doing will be as important as what you start doing differently.

And remember, this is not a time for mere fixes. That time has passed. Just finding new ways to do old things will not suffice. It is a new day. Your eternal mission has not changed but how you go about it — must.

### **In Closing**

“Change happens slowly and then all at once.”

My friends, we are living in a season of “all at once.” Let’s lead well as we make our way around the wall.

## Re: Leading Through a Crisis

1 message

Linda Prince <lindaprince@mindspring.com>

Mon, May 25, 2020 at 7:44 AM

To: "William M. Johnson" <wmjohnson@faithventuresonline.com>

Bill,

Yes, please share it. I would be honored. I communicate with a variety of leaders and as I watched them enter into the crisis, the contrast was amazing. Some knew what to do and they pivoted quickly. Others were like deer in the headlights or scurrying around busily trying to hold it together and keep doing the same things they've always done - only differently.

What struck me is that in places where they face change on a regular basis, they were more agile. Where they only see it once every 50-100 years - not so much.

Also, here are a few bullet points on how to communicate during a crisis:

1. Increase the frequency, even if you don't know anything new today, show up and say nothing's changed.
2. When people don't get enough information, they make it up. What they make up is usually far worse than reality.
3. You will have spokespersons. If people are not hearing from you - others will appoint themselves
4. You will know they are getting enough information when they quit showing up (clicking on...)
5. Communicate the problem BEFORE communicating the solution or possible solutions. People need TIME to grapple with the problem before they can swallow solutions. Defining the problem is merely communicating what we have and what we want. For example with a church, one would say, "We have an empty building. It is dark and silent. We are looking for a way to fill it with the joy of the Lord once again. That will only come when you are present. Our challenge is to fill it safely...."

State the problem (difference between "have and want") and give people time to understand the problem. For example on reopening the economy, the President started talking about the need, "the problem" before it was time to talk about solutions.

6. With EVERY message - lead with the heart, follow with the head. A couple of sentences that are personal makes it real. Leaders tend to go into "just the facts" bullet point mode in a crisis - and people need the opposite. They need the facts but need to hear something from the heart first. Otherwise it is like reading the statistics on mortality at a funeral.

Side note: Of all the notes from Airlines and rental cars companies I've received - United nailed it. I'll forward their letter as an example.

7. Also, never give people a message of fear without a message of hope. Both must be in every communication.

My final thought is about leadership style during a crisis. During a crisis, one person has to be in charge. "Shared Leadership," doesn't work during a crisis. One can use a team of resources as advisors but the buck has to stop somewhere, otherwise precious time is lost during the chaos.

May these nuggets of wisdom from years of helping leaders navigate change - help all who read them during these unprecedented times.

Blessings, Linda

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## June, 2020 Global Prayer & Praise Guide



*Monday, June 1* - Rodrigo and Tonya Rosado continue to wait on the Lord's direction and timing for full-time missionary service since the Greek government has denied their visas. They are thankful that before quarantine happened they were able to rent a home giving them space to unpack and rest as they wait out the quarantine in Dearborn, Michigan. Rodrigo has a job where he can work from home. Dearborn being the Arab capital here in the US, Rodrigo is excited to be learning some Arabic from coworkers.



*Tuesday, June 2* - Susy Fajardo has served in **Spain** for 15 years. Married to Josh, the European area director, Suzy is the director of the Mosaico Cultural Centre created to be a missional bridge to the Rivas Vaciamadrid community, a suburb of Madrid. Although it is made up of mostly middle and upper-middle professionals with good town planning, parks, and facilities, it is only a few blocks away from the largest shanty town in Southern Europe where over 8,000 Moroccans, Eastern Europeans, Latin Americans and Spanish Romani live in extreme poverty and is a hot spot for gang violence and drugs. Now the Mosaico center will be a bridge in new initiatives undertaken by the Set Free/Mosaico partnership.



*Wednesday, June 3* - Samwel Jonas Ludendela, a student at Ewart Bible College in **Tanzania**, shares the gospel and this testimony: I thank God my parents have brought me in a God-fearing way with all my siblings. I accepted Jesus Christ ...when I was very young...But, unfortunately, after that, I returned back from going to the church...spent my life with paganism friends, and my life became very bad! When I...met Alfred Conrad, who invited me to church, I agreed. The pastor offered to pray for those who had backslidden. The word of God preached had touched me, so I went and knelt for prayers...I began witnessing to my friends, and the pastor told me that I was doing evangelism work. Later I was directed to help some teaching Sunday school, and eventually, I felt from my heart to join a Bible school for further study with the goal of helping people with the "Gospel." It is now almost 11 years I am still a member of the Free Methodist church under pastor Conrad. (Sent by Thom and Sherry Cahill who are eager to have sufficient funding to serve at Ewart.)

*Thursday, June 4* - Impact **Middle East** met 'O' while helping those in need due to the corona virus. Her grown children had left home, her husband was involved with another woman, and she felt she had nothing to live for. Yet she began to help give out food. As she listened to others tell about challenges the coronavirus had brought to their lives, something gave her hope and she asked about starting a prayer group at her house. She said, "I want to ask the Lord to help me forgive my husband and children for what they have done to me." Now God has used the corona virus disaster to restore her marriage and bless her neighbors.



*Friday, June 5* - Rose Brewer directs the SEED team helping artisans **around the world** bring restoration to their communities. Most of SEED's artisans are mothers, and Rose believes that when women gain income, the money is more likely to be spent on nutrition, medicine and housing; consequently their children are healthier. God is answering the prayers of these mothers to provide for their families.



*Saturday, June 6* - Praise God that government rules were lifted so that ICCM could deliver much-needed food in **Rwanda** to schools that had been closed since



March 22. Families of 322 children sang and praised God saying they were also going to share this blessing with their neighbors.



*Sunday, June 7* - Tumaini Women of **Kenya** are so grateful for the funds from US donors towards an emergency relief fund during this time of quarantine. Food distribution has blessed many in multiple groups. Some of the responses: "This situation has changed my life and how I see God. I hope that this is going to be a permanent change in my personal life. I trust God more." "God is the permanent solution to all world problems." "I have realized that family is a great blessing from God." "I have learned that staying close to God makes me feel safe even in a crisis. In the middle of a storm, Jesus still reigns!"

"This is God sent. It has come at the right time. It is an answered prayer, a miracle from heaven." "What I can say is, God blesses big and wide! Thanks so much!"



*Monday, June 8* - This year's high school seniors will remember a year different from any other, but Carmen Clemente's parents (David and Sarah, missionaries in **Taiwan**) are thankful that her ceremony at Morrison Academy in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, as of this writing, was still scheduled for May 30. Here she presents her Senior Capstone project -- a documentary about the lives of migrant fisherman in Taiwan. Carmen has been accepted at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky where she plans to study media communications.



*Tuesday, June 9* - Rich and Laurie Sherrif have been preparing to fulfill God's call to full-time missionary service in **Chile**. However in late February Laurie had an abnormal mammogram with the diagnosis of an aggressive, but also localized form of cancer. On March 19th Laurie underwent surgery, and although Rich's retirement from his Stateside job will be delayed, they see no reason why their future plans will not include serving in Chile since Laurie's prognosis is excellent --not to mention the perfect timing of God's plan as the quarantine would have delayed plans for

partnership building. Rich says they are in the midst of a "Celebration of Hope," the name they are giving their ministry and their newsletter.



*Wednesday, June 10* - Sylvia Nyiri is a local ministerial candidate in the Győr FMC in **Hungary** and part of the local leadership team. Lead pastors are Gerry McNamara and Chadwick Anderson. Gerry and his wife Kati are missionaries from Ireland and Chadwick and Sarah are a recent addition from the US. The church has English-language worship services, Bible studies, a university student group, Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) ministry, service to the poor and ministry to orphans --all of which they are eager to resume as soon as the Hungarian government allows.



*Thursday, June 11* - Called to a ministry of hospitality to university students, Matt and Christine Sauder serve in Manila, **Philippines**. Shayne is a first-year university student and the first student to join the Sauders' ministry group. Under quarantine, they have been doing weekly Zoom meetings with her after she flew home to Mindanao in southern Philippines where her father is an FM pastor. The Sauders believe Shane will be a great asset to their ministry as she is a student leader. Sauder daughters are Chloe, Libby and Abby.



*Friday, June 12* - Exciting news from IME pastor, Haney Selah –he and this lovely lady recently became engaged and plan to marry in August or September of this year. She is a Swiss American who grew up in Oregon and has served as a missionary midwife in the **Middle East** with a heart for church planting among the majority population. They plan to live at the Noor Center in northern Iraq working among the many Syrian refugees who need trauma care, life skills and Jesus. Haney says, “God is a good Father Who gives good gifts.”



*Saturday, June 13* - Tim and Lily Kinkead pastor an FMC in **Taiwan**. Tim's recent surgery to remove his thyroid went well, but they found he does have stage 1 thyroid cancer. Prayers as he has started radioactive iodine treatments this month. Here he 'eats' his first meal after surgery. The English fellowship pictured here meets twice a month, and they pray that the Bible stories and pictures impact people for Jesus. Three days a week the church has a Bible club at the junior high school. This church is also mission minded as they help support an orphanage in Myanmar.



*Sunday, June 14* - In mid-May **Hungary** had a gradual relaxation of the shelter-at-home restrictions, and leaders prayed for safely regulating the process. Some newcomers have joined the online prayer group; prayers that the situation helps them recognize their need to depend on God as they look for work. Pictures show the outside and inside of the Budapest Ministry Center where career missionaries Larry and Katie Winckles have served for nearly 20 years. The sign, KOZHELY is a play on words meaning all are welcome or 'common meeting place.'



*Monday, June 15* - Christians from another West African country began planting FM churches in **Mali** in 2017, and the work was formally opened in 2019. A church in the capital city of Bamako seeks to develop pastors and expand this new endeavor in West Africa.





*Tuesday, June 16* - National leaders Misha and Lena Petrochenko serve in Rivne, **Ukraine** amid a variety of crises –not to mention the current pandemic. Recent forest fires and continued armed conflict with Russia on the eastern border give reason to hold onto God’s promises. Nearly 30 years ago the Wenatchee, WA, FMC began sending medical workers to Rivne who served at state-operated children’s camps. The city government eventually requested that the FMC begin a long-term work in Rivne. One successful ministry has seen a number of men go through the

6-month residential program to gain victory over addiction and/or posttraumatic stress disorder after military service. Officially registered as “Beacon of Hope,” the FMC is allowed to carry out religious activities anywhere in Ukraine.



*Wednesday, June 17* - Here the David Lopez family takes communion at home during a virtual Easter worship service with other Christians across Latin America. David and Yeya are national leaders in **Peru** where, during the pandemic, they are learning in a practical way what it means to develop their faith as simply buying food has become complicated as it has for many especially in the mountains where poverty is high. David writes, “Many brothers and sisters have been left without employment and so as a church we

have been helping these families, especially those with children or those with heavy needs so that they can have something to eat. By doing this, we can demonstrate the love of God.”



*Thursday, June 18* - During this pandemic Marie Osborne, who teaches at a seminary in the **Philippines**, has been working with a student from **India** whose research deals with the reintegration of girls who have been rescued from sex trafficking in India to discover how family members, professionals, and the community at large helped and/or hurt the girls in their efforts to start a new life. These findings were then presented to a group of pastors, inviting them to discuss the ways that churches can help girls in this situation and what difficulties they must overcome in order to minister successfully to survivors of sex trafficking. May the church in India be positively and competently engaged in this ministry.



*Friday, June 19* - Seth and Hlawn Hlawn Van Tifflin operate the affiliate FMC partnership, In Better Hands, in **southeast Asia** caring for trafficked and at risk children. While they are in the US this month, they ask prayer for selling their house in Michigan, for Hlawn Hlawn’s success as she files the paperwork for US citizenship, and that they will raise the necessary funds to carry on their work in Asia. Their 2 sons are Jason and Noah.

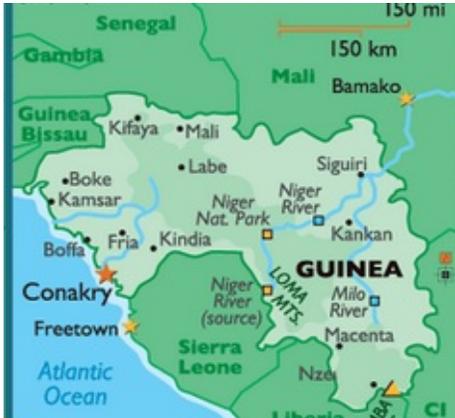


*Saturday, June 20* - Cindi (front) and Eduardo Angelo (far right) at the nearly completed bigger worship facility on May 20, near Lisbon, **Portugal**, where excitement was definitely in the air for not only resuming services May 31, but for doing so in their brand new worship center!





*Sunday, June 21* - Alfredo and Adela lead this house church in **Columbia**. Why is it called a ‘house of peace’? In Matthew 10:13 Jesus sent out disciples saying, “If the home is worthy, let your peace rest on it...” Now a Biblical movement in Latin America looks for ‘people of peace’ who will accept Jesus and open their homes for meetings. Luis and his son Daniel (right) are leaders who are training others as they open houses of peace.



*Monday, June 22* - National Leader of **Guinea**, Dr. Gabriel writes: We salute you in the beautiful and precious Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. At this very hard moment, my country is facing two major crises –post-electoral unrest and COVID-19. The violence is tearing at the social fabric of the country and the church in the Forest Region, known as the most Christian of the four natural regions of Guinea, is experiencing acts of vandalism. With 85% of the country being Muslim, it is always a victim of burning and/or vandalizing places of worship. To limit the spread of COVID-19 the government is limiting travel and requiring confinement. As the population depends on daily wages, this affects everyone by skyrocketing prices of basic necessities.

*Tuesday, June 23* - This from a **creative access couple in Asia**: After months of COVID-19 restrictions, life is returning to normal here with shops reopening. We’ve heard rumors about schools reopening and ask for the kids’ discipline as they continue home schooling. May Ju have wisdom as she leads a team of women in a local business effort. They have paused production like other local businesses, but are still working behind the scenes to rebrand for the US market. We were concerned the coronavirus restrictions might make it hard to renew our visas, but we got them right on time and are so thankful for permission to stay another year. Two of K’s mentoring classes were postponed and we are asking for guidance as to their restart. He has used the extra time to finish his dissertation and asks for the ability to defend it this month.

*Wednesday, June 24* - **Impact Middle East** has been doing ministry for about 9 years in Country X, which after years of war, the health infrastructure has been all but destroyed with millions living in camps with no access to even soap and water and no ability to practice social distancing. Travel restrictions prohibited any ministry there for some time due to the pandemic, but now limited trips have been made to distribute aid and offer encouragement. Some have become believers even during this stressful time plus others have been able to join Zoom meetings for leadership training, which had not been possible in the past. PTL for unexpected blessings!



*Thursday, June 25* - Chris and Yuko Wilkins serve in **Japan** training pastors and believers in an obedience-based discipleship movement. They also have weekly English outreach classes, street ministry, and teach at a local seminary. They praise God that Yuko’s health exam showed she is cancer free and also that their financial support increased enough to put them in the black last month. Kids are Caleb and Corey.



*Friday, June 26* - Community church planters in **Peru**, David and Yeya Lopez send the following prayer requests: \*that God would keep providing for the pastoral families during this financially difficult time \*health and healing for church members in Peru who have COVID19 \*ongoing development of mission and goals during the quarantine \*provision for the many families in the V country of Latin America (David and his family are from that country and have many family members and friends there). Children are Davicito and Valery.



*Saturday, June 27* - Mercedes Reynoso is the superintendent of the Free Methodist work in **Puerto Rico and Antigua**. She asks us to pray that the Lord would give strength to pastors and leaders who not only suffered greatly from hurricane Maria, but now are also enduring multiple effects of the pandemic. May God give them wisdom for the many plans that need to be changed as strategies for low-tech options are being developed.



*Sunday, June 28* - Sanan grew up proud of his ethnicity as a Kurd and was raised in a Muslim family on the eastern border of **Iraqi Kurdistan**. Never satisfied with the answers he got from his religious teachers, he stepped away from that faith and rebelled against his parents. When one of his friends became a believer, Sanan wondered how his friend's life could be so full of joy and peace. At a house fellowship the love of Jesus took hold of his heart when he saw people even loving their enemies. His brother was so angry that Sanan had joined the 'infidels' that he tried to kill him, but the bullet only hit him in the leg. Now Sanan has joined the movement of planting reproducing house churches in one of the hardest areas in the region. May he and those with whom he serves have wisdom, protection and encouragement.



*Monday, June 29* - THRIVE is a discipleship group in **Kenya** started a few years ago by Vickie Reynen, Africa Area Director Mike Reynen's wife. During the pandemic, the leaders have doubled their efforts to be in touch with all the members through phone calls, texts, What'sApp, etc. May the bond between these young women and the girls they are discipling be strengthened even without in-person contact.

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*Tuesday, June 30* - Glenn and Wendy Lorenz are based in **Costa Rica** where Glenn is part of the Pastoral Formation and Community Church Planting Implementation team for Latin America developing systems and materials to train and ordain leaders and to multiply churches. Wendy is an ambassador for Nicaragua and Honduras. Daughter Libby is a student at Spring Arbor U and was able to live with grandparents there during the shut-down. Isaac,

Jakin and Ellia are home-schooled so the pandemic did not affect their education. They say, "We don't do anything by ourselves in Latin America. We work in national and international teams to accomplish large-scale projects to facilitate ministry at the local level."

