

Happy Friday, New South Family. Welcome to the 63rd edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending October 4, 2020.

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

## Announcements

**1) Please Keep the Superintendent Search Team** in your prayers. The team, made up of myself, Bishop Cowart, Kasey Puckett, Scott Clark and Reed Wilbanks.

**2) From The FM World Ministry Center:** “I am pleased to announce that Rev. Keith Tanita was elected as superintendent at the Pacific Coast Japanese virtual annual conference on Saturday, September 26, 2020. Rev. Tanita has been a pastor, church planter and assistant superintendent in the Pacific Coast Japanese Conference. We pray God’s blessing on Keith and Lisa and the family as they transition into this new role.

I also want to express appreciation to outgoing superintendent Jason Garcia. Jason’s 6-year tenure as Pacific Coast Japanese Conference Superintendent was marked by growth and expansion in the conference. Jason will continue to work for Pacific Coast Japanese Conference as a consultant.” - Matthew H. Whitehead, Bishop

**Church of the Week:** Let’s keep the Pastors Al Buckta and Harry Rogers, along with New Life FMC in Scottsville (KY) in our prayers this week.

**Eagle Ridge Retreat Center Update:** First impressions are so important! Many thanks to Michael Signs (son of former caretakers Dale and Shirley Signs) for his recent overhaul of the entrance to Eagle Ridge. Mike did major repairs and repainting of the ERRC sign, and also upgraded the surrounding landscape. Mike was generous to donate his time, and most of the cost of supplies for this much needed upgrade. Thanks so much for giving some love to Eagle Ridge Retreat Center! If you would like to donate to ERRC, please mail your check to: Eagle Ridge Retreat Center 8744 Barren River Road Bowling Green, KY 42101

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

October 7-8:	Superintendent’s Leadership Team (SLT) - Zoom
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
June 17-20:	NSC Family Camp – Eagle Ridge (tentative dates)

And now...

-----**The Important**-----

## Resources

**1) October Global Prayer and Praise Guide Attached** Unity is a precious commodity that pleases God. Thankfully, whatever other differences we may have, we can unite in prayer as we remember the Free Methodist Church around the world. As you pray, perhaps the Holy Spirit will also move your heart to

encourage someone serving Jesus in a difficult place with an email letting him/her/them know you are praying. Years ago, when on tour for Oakdale Christian Academy, a godly man told me that he prayed for Oakdale every day. What a blessing! Obviously, I never forgot those encouraging words. May God bless you as you pray! – Lois Huff

## Job Openings

At this point, we have two churches who need pastors: Greeneville (TN) and Harriman (TN) 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.

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

7 – Ray Gill  
12 – Timothy Thomas  
13 – Lynne Fuller  
15 – Andrea Tinsley  
16 – Craig Saunders  
24 – Diane Munoz

\*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:** With our World Mission Week over, I'm returning to the series, "Jesus, Provocateur," taking a look at the fishermen's response to Jesus' call in Mark 1.

**Quote:** "I have rightfully no other business each day but to do God's work as a servant, constantly regarding His pleasure. May I have grace to live above every human motive, simply with God and to God." — Henry Martyn

**Joke:**



Blessings on your worship this weekend!

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## October, 2020 Global Prayer & Praise Guide



*Thursday, October 1* - Zsuzsa McNamara, pictured here, is an ordained FM elder in **Hungary** with a passion to bless these children in an orphanage in Gyor, Hungary. They are playing a game called Szociopoly aimed at teaching how to budget by going through a month in the life of a poor family. Hard life decisions and ethical dilemmas make the game interesting but very difficult. Zsuzsa believes that poverty and a lack of education lead into trafficking. May God protect and rescue each one!



*Friday, October 2* - Corey and Connie Persing serve in **Thailand**, which is currently open for international travel for "special" foreigners with proper visas. Being there for the last 6 months, they were concerned about finding a legal way to stay in country and now thank God for providing. Recently, they have been able to connect with a number of churches, ICCM projects and have made numerous video calls with southeast Asia leaders. They are thankful for good health and are also changing from VISA Voyagers to either associate or extended term missionaries, which will require an increased budget. May God provide.



*Saturday, October 3* - Chad and Sarah Anderson and girls returned to the US for a short time as Chad's father passed away, but are now back in **Hungary** thankful for the many ways their church in Gyor has been able to serve as the country relaxes restrictions. Weekly worship, fruitful prayer times, baby dedication, encouraging young mothers through MOPS and working with a CMC are an exciting part of the diverse community in Gyor as they seek to share and reveal God's love.



*Sunday, October 4* - Lamek Ndichaye (center front) is the chairman of the board for Evert Bible College in **Tanzania**. Here he welcomes some of the students as they begin the college's 4<sup>th</sup> session. Session 5 is scheduled for January 2021, and Thom and Sherry Cahill (right) hope to participate in person if traveling is safe and funding requirements have been met.



*Monday, October 5* - Why is this ICCM sponsored young man beaming? The gift box he received at the Comité del Pueblo FMC in Quito, **Ecuador** was exactly what he had prayed for—a real hammer, nails, wrench, etc. The humble home where he lives with his single mom needed repairs, and he had told his mom, "With the necessary supplies I will learn how to repair things and use those skills to help others." ICCM Regional Coordinator in Latin America Kay Stotts writes, "Think how much God loves David – to orchestrate such a miracle!"





*Tuesday, October 6* - The church in **Kurdistan** thanks God for the way he has called this family to Himself. The husband faced persecution in Syria because his background was Christian. They moved to Lebanon where the family was then persecuted because of their Syrian background. After 2 years they moved to Kurdistan in northern Iraq looking for a better future, but by then tension in the family was growing with many quarrels and temptations. Then the wife came to know Jesus and changed so much that she was able to share her faith with her husband. Praise God that he also accepted Jesus, they have become members of the church, their daughter leads worship, and the family is always willing to help.



*Wednesday, October 7* - August was missions month for the **Philippine** General Conference. Special events planned all month included a special celebration of the 160th anniversary of the Free Methodist Church. The youth and young adults of the Northern Philippine Conference planned a joint online focus on missions and asked Jill Land to be the speaker. The theme, "Together we kneel, together we heal," based on Phil 2:10 shaped her emphasis that all believers are to minister to others for the sake of the Gospel whether at home, at work, or in another country. After Jill spoke, the festivities continued as the organizers found creative ways to incorporate fun activities into an online event with an international costume contest, word scramble of country names, and a photoshop picture contest.



*Thursday, October 8* - The Mosaic Cultural Center is a missional bridge to the Rivas Vaciamadrid community, the 15th most populated city in the Madrid, **Spain** metropolitan area. Most who live there would not consider going to a church, but with the center's emphasis on the community's interests, we pray for their goal to share the good news of the gospel through culture, after-school tutoring and life-skill training for young adults. The community also borders one of the largest slums in Europe where ministry there will also be a priority.



*Friday, October 9* - Evergreen Fellowship is an outreach ministry of Tim and Lily Kinkead's church in **Taiwan**. Here the group demonstrates the joy they found in doing art therapy. Now the Kinkeads ask prayer for a teachers' fellowship group recently started as well as their ongoing nursing home ministry. They also praise the Lord that Tim's cancer number has had a significant drop to 0.07!



*Saturday, October 10* - Phyllis Sortor writes that she plans to return to **Nigeria** soon to open this new school, the River of Life Christian Primary School on the Bobi Grazing Reserve. With 300+ children of both farmers and Fulani herdsmen, it will be the largest with Schools for Africa so far.



*Sunday, October 11* - The owner of this little house in **Kenya** writes, "The house, we have been building it for 8 years now. Finally, it is done after a long struggle. By the way, the roof of my house is courtesy of a Tumaini Women Kenya loan that I took in 2016. God bless Tumaini Women Kenya and God bless you for your prayers!" Here one can see the value of loans in long term personal projects made possible by TWK!



*Monday, October 12* - Larry and Katie Winckles continue as career missionaries in **Hungary** where they have served for 20 years. They rejoice in the safe and healthy arrival of their grandson, Harvey Andrew, born on August 30. Now each of their mothers have turned 90 with increasingly fragile health. They ask prayer for direction in how to support them and find ways to provide the needed care as they return to Budapest. May we remember to pray for our missionaries' families.



*Tuesday, October 13* - Funds from ICCM purchased 5 hens for a family in **Brazil**. All but one hen died, but the surviving hen has produced all the chickens pictured here. ICCM special projects also has a general animal fund such as a goat project in **Burundi** and a piggery in **Thailand**. Generous ICCM supporters are a blessing to the Beyond Sponsorship work. Extra funds have also provided needed supplies to multiple ICCM families during the pandemic.



*Wednesday, October 14* - The FMC began work in **Sierra Leone** in 2018, formally opening in 2019. Rev. Mbawa and this congregation are putting together their first structure in the coming days. May it be a house of worship where all feel welcomed.



*Thursday, October 15* - Mike and Andrea Green (back of photo) serve in **Uruguay** and are working closely with national leaders, Pastors Sebastian and Vanesa who are currently attending or leading 80% of the established house churches. May the Holy Spirit help them identify leaders in each group so that they have more time to focus on training and strategy.



*Friday, October 16* - God is moving in the ‘**N**’ **country in Asia**. Recently, in a remote area a new church was planted along with new believers, baptisms and children being dedicated. The laws of men do not stop the work of God. They make strong believers who are willing to even lay down their lives for their faith. Those of us with freedom to proclaim Christ in the public square can also hold up these brothers and sisters in prayer!



*Saturday, October 17* - Cida Matos grew up in Brazil, but has now served the FMC in **Portugal** for 20 years. She asks, “Has it been difficult?” and says, “Certainly. Many times, I have thought of going back, but the certainty of my calling and the conviction that God wants me here have given me the strength to continue and press on toward the goal.” She adds, “In these past 20 years I have experienced the care, goodness, and faithfulness of God. For this reason, I praise Him with all my heart.” Cida is an ordained elder, helps cast vision for the Portugal FMC, has served as a pastor, teaches in their seminary, and is now in charge of overseeing the church’s 15 cell groups.



*Sunday, October 18* - SEED trunk shows have the potential to do very well now as people begin to think about Christmas. Products made by artisans around the world help provide sustainable economies for widows, the disabled, displaced persons due to war or persecution, and many others who simply do not have the funds to meet their basic needs. SEED also helps churches in low income communities reach out with micro-enterprise ministries that make sense in their area. Some of SEED's partnering artisan groups pay for their children's school fees with monies earned from SEED's orders. SEED pays fair trade wages to all artisan groups and seeks to use natural materials and best practices. The SEED team is led by Rose Brewer.



*Monday, October 19* - Dan and Hope Owsley are career missionaries in **Brazil**. They write, “Although schools will continue to be closed ‘til the end of the year, we have not lacked opportunities to preach and teach online. Dan has taught theology and Bible, and last month Hope taught Theology of John Wesley. With online classes many more students from all over Brazil have been able to attend. Although we have felt hampered in ministry with social distancing, we have discovered that God has no limits to what He can do, and we thank Him for

helping us adapt. He has opened doors for us to minister to people in our building, and we've been meeting online weekly for discipleship with believers from other cities in Brazil. God is doing a great work and we are privileged to have a front row seat.”



*Tuesday, October 20* - Although **Latin America** has been hit hard with multiple corona virus cases, this leader in the ‘**V**’ **country** has seen exponential growth of house churches as people are hungry for God. This feeding ministry in the small town of Durazno, **Uruguay**, has led to the start of 10 new house churches.





*Wednesday, October 21-* This Impact **Middle East** leader is praising God that because of the government closing down the churches during the pandemic, the people have seen how good it is to meet in house churches. Now, even though the churches are allowed to be open for up to 25 people, many are saying to the pastors, “Please come to the house church,” welcoming the gospel, the preaching and the fellowship in this way.



*Thursday, October 22 -* Sent by FMC Portugal to **Sao Tomé**, an island off the west coast of Africa, Moises and Jacione Souza have begun their 3<sup>rd</sup> year as missionaries there. Last month, Moises was invited to participate in the Heraldos da Salvation program carried out by the Evangelical Alliance of São Tomé e Príncipe on National Radio, which airs every Tuesday and Thursday evening. In August, he and Jacione were ordained as FM elders while visiting their home country of Portugal. Faithful leaders of the FMC they have established in Sao Tomé carried on the work while they were gone.

*Friday, October 23 -* Beth Gomez writes from **Latin America**: In order to succeed, pastors have had to basically reinvent themselves and the way they serve their communities. For many, this implies even higher levels of stress, more hours of work and a loss of contact with those whom they serve. Some were on the brink of burn-out. So the Pastoral Care team organized and invited all conference and district leaders and all pastors and spouses to a special seminar called "Healthy Rhythms in the Midst of the Pandemic." Prayers for Beth’s husband, Area Director Ricardo Gomez, as he does all of the fall 2020 annual meetings via Zoom. Also, a few weeks ago Ricardo and Bishop Adams led a time of accountability and prayer with leaders in 16 Latin American countries.

September 5	Puerto Rico
October 3	Nicaragua/El Salvador
October 10	Costa Rica
October 17	360 (Costa Rica)
October 31	Honduras
November 21	Argentina/Uruguay
November 28	Chile

zoom 



*Saturday, October 24 -* Missionary to Bulgaria, Al Mellinger is excited to announce the opening of another mall store here in the US to sell products that help people not only in Bulgaria, but around the world. This one in Lansing, Michigan, was scheduled to open October 1 and plans to be open through the holidays. He asks: Please pray for this as we want to expose more folks to the products that we carry and the stories behind them. The more we sell the more folks we help. The location is amazing – facing center court and right next to the food court!



*Sunday, October 25 -* Before Phyllis Sortor was scheduled to return to **Nigeria** early this month, she went shopping for an airplane to use for Schools for Africa. The long story still has no certain ending, but it began with a small, crippled boy named Salihu, dirty, covered with scabies, hopeless and alone, and his American sponsor, Orlo Andrew, who opened the door

to the possibility of mission aviation in Nigeria! She says, “We must never underestimate the value of each and every human being in our great God’s Master Plan!” –Anyone interested in the full email, let me know.



*Monday, October 26* - ICCM shares this from Pastora Maria Elena in **Argentina**: Generally, children do not like "pot food," meals with meat, vegetables, dressings, and a hot broth full of flavor, which makes this a special meal for cold days. But now, pot food has become a favorite. Children come very excited to receive their daily portion which is accompanied by the love each child needs and the nutrients they require. We are very happy to have the ability of serving this work of God. Let us have courage, He sustains us, He will take care of us and He "will be with us, every day to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).



*Tuesday, October 27* - Eduardo and Cindi Angelos' congregation in Corroios, a Lisbon, **Portugal** suburb, was just beginning to renovate this larger rental building when the government shut down the country. As soon as they were able to leave their homes, the church

went to work with a will, and now worship in this lovely space. Here they meet for a conference called Awake Impact.



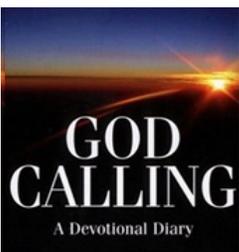
*Wednesday, October 28* - Prayers today for MK's, missionary kids! Here, missionaries to Thailand, Keith & Jenna Battleson, hold a birthday party/sleepover for Solomon and older brother Roman also enjoying the fun. Some missionaries are grandparents, some have children in university, some are eager to find the balance on the field between ministry and family. So can you connect the names, Andrew, Isabela, Carmen, Nasia, Alan, Juliana, Corey, Chloe, Ben, or Zoe with their parents?



*Thursday, October 29* - Pastora Mercedes Reynosa superintends the FMC in **Puerto Rico**. As a young pastor from the neighboring island of the Dominican Republic, she was appointed to a small church in San Juan, Puerto Rico's capital. Now it has become one of the largest and most vibrant FMCs in Latin America and has mothered most of the other churches that compose the Puerto Rican Conference of 7 churches and well over 600 members.



*Friday, October 30* - Missionary to **Japan**, Chris Wilkins, posts this picture of a Zoom meeting of the All Asia FM prayer meeting with a devotional by the FMC bishop of Japan, Hiromichi Oshima. A creative access missionary who is currently working from the US instead of in the 'C' country –closed to them now– shared how being able to hear the Asian leaders pray in these meetings (now that he can join them), was truly awesome.



*Saturday, October 31* - A lady in a **Middle East** fellowship was sick more than she was well with such severe muscle pain that she rarely attended church. One day she could hardly speak or even breathe. Her daughter asked some friends to come and visit, and after one lady prayed with her, she left the book, *God Calling*. She began to feel God's power in her body as her friend prayed, and later she read these words in the book, 'If you call Jesus, He will come and visit you.' She prayed, "Lord, come and do something for me," and she felt God's arms around her and a voice saying, "You are My beloved daughter. Get up!" She was healed so dramatically that her doctor couldn't understand what had happened; so she shared her story with him and returned to praise the Lord in church.

