

Happy Friday, New South Family. Welcome to the 78th edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending January 29, 2021.

-----**Announcements and Resources**-----

## Announcements

- 1) **The Latest Issue of Light and Life Weekly Magazine** [is available here.](#)
- 2) **Training in Swahili** The New York / New Jersey Metro Ministry Training Center is pleased to begin a new online cohort for theological and pastoral formation that will be taught directly in Swahili (and other African languages as needed) via Zoom. The tentative course schedule and enrollment form is attached / below. For more information, email [chris.pulice@acts1224churches.com](mailto:chris.pulice@acts1224churches.com) or text/call 540-241-7021.
- 3) **All Conference Candidates, Elders and Deacons, and appointed Licensed Pastors** should have received via e-mail a fillable annual report form, to be turned in to me by January 31.
- 4) **The Global Prayer and Praise Guide** for February is attached / below.
- 5) **A Note About Annual Conference AC** for us is scheduled for May 21 – 22. At the moment, our Bishops are trying to decide whether or not in-person conference events should be encouraged / held. Of course, the situation changes week to week, so we will not likely know for sure about how conference will take place for a month or more. Just the same, please note the May date on your calendar.
- 6) **A Note About First Free Methodist Church in Smyrna (TN)** – Due to several factors (Covid, attendance, pastoral change, etc.) the good people remaining who have remained at the church have chosen that it's time for the church to close. The final service will be held on February 7. Pastor Ryan and Halle will be moving to Georgia to pastor a church there and we wish them all the very best. The Smyrna facility will still host two churches, however: the Agape Fellowship FMC will continue in the facility, as will Grace Fellowship – a Baptist church who uses the space. Please pray for Ryan and Halle, for these two fellowships that remain in the facility, and for the few, faithful Smyrna folk, who tried very hard but will now seek another local church connection.
- 7) **The Newest Free Methodist History Update** – From the Marston Memorial Historical Center at Free Methodist World Ministry Center [can be viewed by clicking here.](#)

## February / March Birthdays

Kendall, Terri – Feb 4  
Wilbanks, Reed – Feb 8  
Wheeler, Bobby- Feb 10  
Cook, Dean – Feb 24  
Diddle, Annette – Feb 29

Kidwell, Brian – March 1  
Hale, Myrna – March 11  
Fiskeaux, Charlie – March 14  
Wittenberg, Christopher – March 21  
Ryan, Roger – March 27

## This Week's Passage, Quote and Joke

**Passage:** Continuing in our series, "A Time For..." this Sunday I look at one of the events that caused Jesus to cry – as told by Luke in chapter 19 of his gospel.

**Quote:** *"Great tranquility of heart is his who cares for neither praise nor blame."* ~ Thomas a Kempis

**Joke:**

OK, the cartoon below says, "Pastors," but the reality is that that word could be replaced with "Teachers, Parents, Small-Business Owners, Managers, Restaurant Workers, School Children," and many others.



Blessings on your worship this weekend!

D-

## February, 2021 Global Prayer & Praise Guide



*Monday, February 1* - Phyllis Sortor sends this picture from **Nigeria** sharing her praise and excitement over this brand-new yellow school bus that had just arrived and will carry children who live too far from the primary school at the City of Refuge to walk. She says, “This week a welder will install three long benches on either side and down the middle of the bed, high side rails and a canvas top! Then we’re good to go!” May every child seek the truth of Jesus!



*Tuesday, February 2* - Rodrigo and Tonya Rosado have begun participating via Zoom with the Buenos Aires church where they hope to be living by April. Rodrigo has had the chance to preach, and they rejoice in the ability to join in worship on two continents and in four languages –English and Spanish and even Japanese since the church in **Buenos Aires** was started by the Japanese Brazilian church for Japanese speakers in Argentina. They continue to participate in the Arabic church plant in Dearborn, MI. Tonya writes, “How blessed to have had such a beautiful

glimpse into the heart of God for all people, nations, and tongues!”



*Wednesday, February 3* - Cindi Angelo sent this text to me from their home in **Portugal** on January 24 after she and Eduardo had tested positive for COVID. I responded with, “Are you feeling any better?” and received this, “Sometimes yes sometimes no. . .but it’s going to be 15 days since we had the first symptoms. Your prayers are making a difference!” May this experience equip them even better to serve the Kingdom!



*Thursday, February 4* - Dr. Gabriel Lamah, a medical doctor and pastor, leads the work that began in 2012 in **Guinea**. He also coordinates church planting. This church found an available house where they could meet, but it belonged to someone of another faith. At first they didn’t use instruments uncertain if the owner would approve. Then sensing the Lord wanted them to use instruments,

they did. After a month, the landlord came and told them their presence was a blessing. Amen!



*Friday, February 5* - Did you know? In 2006, Seth VanTifflin was working as a teacher's asst. and a reserve police officer when he accepted an invitation to join a VISA IMPACT team in Thailand and Myanmar. During that trip God called him to full-time service as a missionary. On future trips he became friends and a ministry partner with Pastor Pa Kep, Myanmar's supt., and a few years later married Hlawn Hlawn, Pa Kep's sister. Hlawn Hlawn and Pa Kep's father, Rev. Dr. F. Tial Kung, founded the FMC in Myanmar in the early 1980's. The Van Tifflins were appointed as career missionaries to Asia in 2015 and are currently in the US praying for an interview date regarding Hlawn Hlawn's citizenship status. She has been studying and is more than ready! Together they have started the nonprofit, *In Better Hands*, to care for orphans and widows in **Southeast Asia**. Their sons are Jason (1<sup>st</sup> grade) and Noah.



*Saturday, February 6* - SEED (Sustainable Empowerment through Economic Development) continues to help create livelihoods by helping groups make products that people need. They are working with gifted women in the Faraja Widows group at the Kibera Slum in Nairobi, **Kenya** helping them earn a livelihood by sewing reusable period underwear. Some will be covered by donations and given to girls connected to ICCM. They will sell some to Kenyan women who have higher incomes while SEED helps them set up a sustainable business model.



*Sunday, February 7* - This Free Methodist Church in Amman, **Jordan**, continues to reach out to the large refugee population while building up the body of Christ under Pastor Rami's leadership. Last month a new Free Methodist Church was launched in this country. Thank God for a place in that area of the world where Christians are allowed to meet. The Sharayhas have 4 children.



*Monday, February 8* - In spite of all the challenges of 2020, sponsored children in **Haiti** were able to receive their uniforms and school supplies for the new year. While schools were closed, ICCM-Haiti worked –persisting through political turmoil, strikes, gas shortages and rising food costs. Schools reopened in November, and some directors were able to come to the ICCM office in Port-au-Prince; other schools needed to have deliveries, which was accomplished mainly on Sundays when travel is safer. Their promise: *Thus far the Lord has helped us.* 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 7:12



*Tuesday, February 9* - Last month David Lopez was appointed as the Community Church Planting director for all of **Latin America**. A native of Venezuela, David led someone to Christ when he was only 12 years old. Later fruitful ministry led to his being asked to oversee church planting in Lima, Peru, the 4<sup>th</sup> largest metro area in Latin America. Now with 500 leaders-in-training in Latin America, who are in turn training over one thousand other leaders, may God continue to bless David as he takes on this responsibility. If you did not receive the beautiful email introducing him and his family, I'd be happy to forward it to you upon request.



*Wednesday, February 10* - ICCM thanks everyone who donated to the **Extend Your Table Fund** in 2020. They received \$12,000 more than their goal of \$100,000. Sponsored children and their families surely are thankful and healthier.



*Thursday, February 11* - Some of the Crouse family (J.R., Becky, Marissa, and Alena) did contract COVID while doing missions remotely from their home in South Dayton, New York. Marissa was able to return to university last month as the rest of the family made plans to resume service in **Ecuador**. Thankful for digital connections in Latin America, they praise the Lord that the FMC was able to reach out in creative and effective

ways last year when in-person contacts were strictly limited. God wonderfully blessed the planting of new house churches and brought about the salvation of multiple new believers.



*Friday, February 12* - Continue to pray for women in **Middle East refugee camps**. Many became ISIS sex slaves, watched family members be killed and lost track of others in their families. As they wait for resettlement or some glimmer of hope in their future, may they hear and accept the Good News that Jesus died for them and is the source of true hope. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send workers who will share with them hope in Jesus, freedom from the trauma of their past and comfort as they mourn. The One Who gives beauty for ashes is doing this for some. May it increase to the many!



*Saturday, February 13* - Phil and Debra Gilmore began serving in **Spain** in early 2020. As they reviewed last year, they are thankful for the sale of their home in California and storage for keepsakes, their residence visa in Spain and for their new home there with room for guests. They are developing friendships with Spaniards and praying for their salvation. Phil is writing curriculum for his ongoing classes in church leadership. Debra is training missionaries in how to raise support and coordinating short-term missions trips.



*Sunday, February 14* - Pa Kep, leader in **Myanmar**, praises God for continued baptisms as people come to faith in Jesus. He writes, "We may have been in lockdown, but the Holy Spirit is always working for the salvation of the people. . . I want to thank you for your prayers and support which are such a great blessing for our ministry. I appreciate your faithfulness in continuing to support us even in this difficult time of pandemic. Thank you again for food assistance. It is 'Manna' for us. In this way our people have been able to make it through the difficult year of 2020."



*Monday, February 15* - Let us pray earnestly for God to provide the support needed for these, His servants, who are currently doing partnership building here in the US. Some of us can also give as God leads and provides: Jason & Wendi-Asia, Shane & Katie Jewell-Colombia, Erin Kingsley-Hungary, Darin & Jill Land-Asia, Morgan-Asia, Rodrigo & Tanya Rosado-Argentina, Rich & Laurie Sheriff-Chile, Andrea Tinsley-Colombia, Seth & Hlawn Hlawn Van Tifflin-Thailand.



*Tuesday, February 16* - The Wesley Missionary Institute in **Togo** is now a reality! Eleven students arrived last month to begin their 18-month session before being sent out as national missionaries to the unreached in West Africa. Rev. Dosseh Takpale and Rev. Assah, both from Togo, are the first instructors. Students spontaneously began teaching each other French or English so they can live together in real community 'speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart [their hearts] to the Lord, Ephesians 5:19.



*Wednesday, February 17* - Pastor Hiuberth Zapata (front right) is the mission district leader for **Nicaragua** and El Salvador. Besides the pandemic, in 2020 Nicaragua experienced political persecution from the Sandinista communist government and deep economic crises from two hurricanes. Yet the church was able to strengthen its 19 Houses of Peace and enroll 40 students in the Pastoral

Formation Program. Many families were assisted with clothing, medicine, food and housing repairs. He and his wife Sandra will complete their term as international missionaries in Nicaragua and El Salvador in October of this year. May the Holy Spirit prepare the right person to replace them.



*Thursday, February 18* - For 19 years this family has been an important part of the church where Tim and Lily Kinkead serve in **Taiwan**. Now the church is sending them off with a blessing to attend a church much closer to their

home. The Kinkeads praise God for a man named Larry who was recently baptized. They had been working with him for nearly a year. God answered as Larry has stopped drinking, faithfully attends church and is doing daily devotions. A lady named Vanessa shared how the Lord is healing her serious numbness from which her doctor said there is no recovery, but as she relied on God's Word, feeling is returning. Another lady named Sue testified that she had been running from God for 20 years, but she has now become a believer.



*Friday, February 19* - Matheus Gonçalves, a young man sent from the Portugal FMC to serve a short term in **São Tomé** says, “This morning I was teaching another class on the second day of worship seminar for leaders and ministers from various churches. This afternoon we started a new stage, giving music, dance and theater lessons to the youth.”



*Saturday, February 20* - Serving in the **Philippines**, Matt and Christine Sauder say they have gotten used to online school. Oldest daughter, Chloe, has enjoyed her first semester online at Faith Academy and has high grades. Matt received all A’s his first semester at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary. He’s enjoying school even if it’s a lot of work since he’s learning so much. Mrs. Mommy is home schooling Libby who loves science and reading. She’s recording her caterpillar’s eating, sleeping, etc. as she waits for it to build its chrysalis and change into a butterfly. Abbie is learning to write some letters and enjoys singing, dancing, and playing with her sisters. Our missionaries’ children also need our prayers.



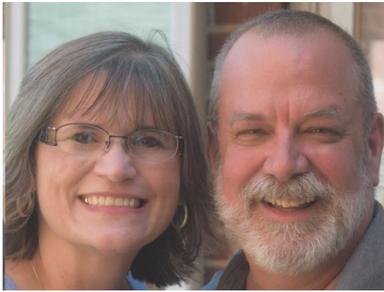
*Sunday, February 21* - Phyllis Sortor reports that the film, *Kednapped Redemption* is due to come out May 31 of this year. News can be found on the website, [KidnappedRedemption.com](http://KidnappedRedemption.com). Christmas in Nigeria was such a happy occasion as Americans, Hausa, Fulani and Yoruba –at least 200 people– celebrated together on December 18. A cow was purchased, butchered and reduced to small chunks of meat in about 3 hours and served with pounded rice Fulani style. She writes, “Such a happy occasion, exemplifying the peace and unity among people of different tribes and languages –our deepest prayer for Nigeria.



*Monday, February 22* - This dedicated lay couple, Misha and Lena Petrochenko, lead the FM work in **Ukraine** where their church is officially registered as Beacon of Hope. The Lighthouse of Hope Rehab Center is seeing success as more than 30 men have gone through the six month residential program getting victory over their addictions or posttraumatic stress disorder while learning about God’s goodness, grace and power. Life in Ukraine is not easy due to poverty and eastern border hostilities.

*Tuesday, February 23* - Even though security issues have turned **the large ‘I’ country in Asia** into a creative access country, God continues to build His kingdom. An exciting 5-year strategy is networking with other ministries to expand an already thriving ministry in spite of the anti-Christian hostile environment and the Covid pandemic that is causing famine and increased poverty. Pray for spiritual and financial resources to carry out the Great Commission!

*Wednesday, February 24* - Springs of Life Academy is an ICCM school in a remote coastal region of **Kenya**. To visit this school by public transport requires several vehicles to have enough passengers for them to be escorted by the Kenya Defense Force due to the risks from wild animals and bandits. As is true in other rural areas of Kenya many elderly women who are caring for their grandchildren want a better life for them, which includes a good education. They are grateful that ICCM is helping fulfill this desire.



*Thursday, February 25* - Rich and Laurie Sheriff are anxious to return to **Chile** having spent time there in 2014. This photo is from their earlier trip. A man who was passing by their service on a bicycle and compelled to stop, came inside and gave his life to Jesus. This inspires the Sheriffs to see the Kingdom of God expand both there and here in the US.



*Friday, February 26* - Thad and Nikki Roller live and minister near Bogotá, **Colombia** where Thad is training, mobilizing and supporting church planters locally and regionally. Nikki's main objective is to infuse the church planting movement with a culture of deep prayer and to connect the U.S. church with the work in Latin America. The Rollers support other local ministries including The Beehive, a home for at-risk girls. They write, "The Colombian church is poised to grow with at least 4 new church planting efforts scheduled, and at least 2 new pastors potentially ready to be ordained by summer. We're praying for many new disciples, leaders and churches, and wouldn't be surprised if the district receives provisional annual conference status this year." Daughters are Lili and Evie.



*Saturday, February 27* - Péter Toth and Zsuzsa McNamara, co-pastors of the FMC in Budapest, **Hungary**, have begun a video series on evangelism and discipleship. May the Holy Spirit speak into the hearts and lives of those who view it inspiring them to grow as disciples who can lead others to faith in Jesus. Peter uses his musical talent for community outreach. Zsuzsa helps lead an on-line ladies' discussion group and is a Set Free advocate.



*Sunday, February 28* - from Zsuzsa McNamara: The Lord is expanding His ministry in **Hungary** through the Set Free Movement. A new member, Szandra, has joined so we now have 3 Set Free teams. She has organized the Walk for Freedom for several years in Pécs to raise awareness to the issue of human trafficking and was already involved in preventive work in schools and children's homes. Additionally, we have ministry in a women's prison in the Dunaújváros area (see map). Thank you all for your faithfulness in praying.

## Class Calendar 2021-2024

Total Credits 42

Season	Course	Credit	Time Table
2021			
Spring	NT Survey	3	March (time and dates TBD) meeting once a week for 2 hours
Summer	Christian Doctrine	2	June
Fall	OT Survey	3	September (time and dates TBD) meeting once a week for 2 hours
Winter	Free Methodist History and Polity	2	December
2022			
Spring	Community Church Planting	2	March (time and dates TBD)
Summer	Spiritual Formation and Prayer	3	June (time and dates TBD)
Fall	Wesleyan theology I	3	September
Winter	Leading the church in 21 <sup>st</sup> Century (Leadership)	4	December
2023			
Spring	Caring for the Flock (Pastoral Care)	2	March
Summer	Homiletics	3	June
Fall	Christian Family	3	September
Winter	Biblical Hospitality and Encouragement	3	December
2024			
Spring	Inductive Bible Study (Minor Prophets)	4	March
Summer	Wesleyan Theology II	3	June

### Cost:

Recommended tuition for each student is \$65 per credit hour. A minimum of 8 students per cohort is ideal. When this is not possible, churches and/or conferences are encouraged to give an additional Love Offering to help compensate the instructor.

### Vision:

The influx of African Immigrant Kingdom leaders into the USA is a great opportunity for the FMCUSA to advance the Kingdom of Jesus. However, a robust theological and pastoral formation program that is directly taught in native African languages is largely missing. In response to this opportunity and challenge, we seek to multiply the African teaching ministry of the NY/NJ Metro Training Center into Annual Conferences across the USA. As we launch this initiative, we seek to raise \$75,000 over the next three years to mentor a next generation of instructors—"reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Tim 2:2). We invite you to join us in carrying this vision, raising support, and identifying potential candidates whom God is calling to equip the saints through the spiritual gift of teaching.

# Student Registration Form

## Prior Learning Worksheet

Name of person being trained:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Preferred Language for Classes:

Current Church:

Current Conference:

Current Position:

Ordination Status:

Mentor:

Mentor's contact information:

Date of Registration:

Person filling out worksheet:

**Training refers to both formal training such as a College or School and also training in a local church training system. Indicate any training the person has received informal – formal – mentoring - coaching.**

Please indicate which if any subjects the person has been trained in:

A. Local Ministerial Candidate

- History and Polity of the Free Methodist Church (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- Strength Finders Inventory \_\_\_\_\_
- Personality Plus Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

B. Community Church Planting (CCP) Training \_\_\_\_\_

C. Coursework

1. Leading People

- Leading the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century(Leadership) (3)\_\_\_\_\_
- Communication Skills (3)\_\_\_\_\_
- Elective Courses
  - a. Leading Change (2)

2. The Word

- Old Testament Survey (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- New Testament Survey (3)\_\_\_\_\_
- Inductive Bible Study of Acts or Minor Prophets(3)\_\_\_\_\_
- Christian Doctrine (3) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Shepherd God's People

- Homiletics - Preaching (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- Pastoral Care: Caring for the Flock (3) \_\_\_\_\_

C. Following Jesus - Heart

- Spiritual Formation and Prayer (3) \_\_\_\_\_

- Wesleyan Theology (3)\* \_\_\_\_\_
- Wesleyan Theology II (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- Christian Family (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- Biblical Hospitality and Encouragement (3)

D. Other Training or experience the person has had that you believe should be considered:

---

---

---

---

---

Please indicate where and when the person has had the training listed in A-D above.

Place:

Dates:

Trainer or mentor:

Your name:

Contact Information:

Additional Information: