

Happy Friday, New South Family. Welcome to the 87th edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending April 2, 2021.

## **Announcements**

- 1) **Local Church Annual Reports** The World Ministry Center is re-configuring the normal annual / statistical report to better accommodate our past year due to Covid. Those should be released in the next week or two. You haven't missed it. 😊
- 2) **New South Annual Conference** Annual Conference is scheduled for May 21 – 22, essentially noon Friday to noon Saturday, at Wilmore FMC. Business sessions from noon to 5:00p on Friday, and 8:00a to noon on Saturday and the ordination service at 7:00p on Friday evening. The schedule will be coming soon, but plan now to attend.
- 3) **Spring Conference Women's Retreat:** April 9-11, Murphy, North Carolina. Please note the flyer attached / below.
- 4) **A Prayer Request from the Sauders, FM Missionaries in the Philippines:**

*Dear friends and family,*

*It has been one year now since we have written a special prayer update. Last March, we began the quarantine/lockdown here in Manila. Who would have guessed it would still be with us a year later? We have seen the destruction and horrors that have come from this pandemic. It has been quite difficult for us to see our own family members and friends in the U.S. get COVID and go through that experience. One of our previous pastors and mentor is still in the hospital after months of it. As some of you know, the Philippines was doing better, but with the introduction of the new strain of COVID in Manila, our number of cases skyrocketed almost overnight. Since Manila is considered the most densely-populated city in the world, it has proven very difficult to keep this from spreading. We have been seeing approximately 10,000 new cases per day in the Metro Manila area. This past week, Manila has recently had to go back to a severe quarantine/lockdown. This means, for our children who have not been allowed to be in public for over a year, they are no longer allowed to go outside of the house. It also means we now have a 6:00 pm curfew. We're not asking you to feel sorry for us. We're asking you to pray.*

*We are doing ok. We're being safe and staying home, as mandated by the government. We have many friends who now have COVID and are recovering in quarantine centers. We're trying to help them as we can from a distance. We're asking the Lord to do a miracle. We're asking for the number of cases to decrease and end. We're praying for the many sick people in Metro Manila. Many are dying. As of now, vaccines are only available for front liners and not to the public yet. We know that the U.S. is slowly getting better and we rejoice in that. We have been praying as well. And now we're asking for you to pray for the Philippines. Thank you very much!*

*Please join us in prayer and ask your friends and family to pray for the Philippines, as we now have the highest number of new cases in Southeast Asia.*

*Please also continue to pray for Myanmar. We are praying for complete peace.*

*All our love, The Sauder Family (Matt, Christine, Chloe, Libby, and Abbie)*

## **Resources**

1. **Worship Tech** A class for Live-streaming technologies offered in Nashville by The Contemporary Music Center is available. Details attached / below.
2. **Leadership In Tumultuous Times Video Series** The conference superintendents from Bishop Cowart's area have been creating these video discussion / training sessions from a few months now. We have completed three so far. Simply click on the title below. (The first one is a little over an hour, but the next two are shorter!)

#1 – Title: [Self-Differentiated Leadership](#)

#2 – Title: [Responding to Reactivity](#)

#3 – Title: [Managing the Herd Mentality](#)

**3. Wabash Institute** Below you will find registration information for the Wabash Institute Spring Semester 2021. Class size is limited, so register as soon as possible. Cost: \$100.00 per class. Questions? Contact Judy Kinnick, Office Manager/MEG Coordinator - Wabash Conference of the Free Methodist Church. Cell: 317-442-1631

**Homiletics:** Professor: Rev. Dr. John Lane

This class will meet via Zoom on Monday evenings for 7 weeks beginning Monday, April 19, 2021. The first class, on Monday, April 19, will meet from 5-7 p.m. (ET) All other classes will meet from 7-9 p.m. (ET)

[Click here to register for Homiletics - Preaching](#)

**Genesis, An Old Testament Bible Course:** Professor: Rev. Russ Veldman

This class will meet via Zoom on Saturdays for 7 weeks beginning Saturday, April 17, 2021.

Time: 10:00 am - 12 noon (ET)

[Click here to register for Genesis, an Old Testament Bible Course](#)

**4. NSC Free Methodist History and Polity Class** – We have had to re-schedule this class for the following dates.

This class meets the requirement for ordination in the FMCusa, and costs \$150.00. If you're interested, [please e-mail the professor, Dr. Craig Saunders.](#)

The class will be held in Wilmore, but will also offer a Zoom / video component.

Dates / Times:

April 9-10 - Friday - 6:00p - 9:00p / Sat – 8:00a – 4:00p

April 23-24 - Friday 6:00p - 9:00p / Sat – 8:00a – 4:00p

May 1 - Saturday 8:00a – 3:00p

## Articles

**1. Ten Things I Never Want to Get Good At** by Dan Britton, Voices, Thursday, April 01, 2021

“The temptation of the age is to look good without being good.” — Brennan Manning

Over the past year, we have witnessed key Christian leaders and pastors' moral failures get exposed. It happens every year, but it feels like the Church has taken a huge hit more recently. Leaders who have personally impacted me through their teachings and writings are no longer in ministry. Every time I learn about what was happening behind the scenes, my heart breaks for the leader, their family, their organization and for the body of Christ. We all suffer when someone falls.

I'll never forget a moment that happened while I was having lunch with a donor. A close Christian business partner had betrayed him. Putting his finger to his chest to show his heartfelt statement, he said, “If you ever screw up, I'm leaving the faith! You're the only real Christian I know.” It sent chills down my spine. He was so discouraged with Christians not being real. He longed for genuine followers of Christ in his life.

I love FCA's Values (Integrity, Serving, Teamwork and Excellence). They're all incredible, and we order them for a reason. We start with Integrity because it is our cornerstone value. I love the way Alan K. Simpson puts it, “If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters.” For me, integrity has become my foundation. It guides me to be the leader God has called me to be every day. The world is longing for real Christians full of integrity. This takes moving from duplicity to authenticity. When we do, integrity wins every single time.

Unfortunately, we can all fall into the trap of living by the “look without being” principle. This occurs when we value behavior over being. Performance-based living drives us to look good without being good. We want the appearance, and we don’t care about the reality. The goal is to impress others from a distance, but if they get up close, they will see no transformation in our lives. Looking without being is plain old hypocrisy. Jesus used strong language about this:

*"You're hopeless, you religion scholars and Pharisees! Frauds! You burnish the surface of your cups and bowls so they sparkle in the sun, while the insides are maggoty with your greed and gluttony. Stupid Pharisee! Scour the insides, and then the gleaming surface will mean something. You're hopeless, you religion scholars and Pharisees! Frauds! You're like manicured grave plots, grass clipped and the flowers bright, but six feet down it's all rotting bones and worm-eaten flesh. People look at you and think you're saints, but beneath the skin you're total frauds."* — Matthew 23:26-28 (The Message)

We all have “looking without being” gaps in different areas of our lives:

- I want to look healthy without being healthy.
- I want to look committed without being committed.
- I want to look intelligent without being intelligent.
- I want to look friendly without being friendly.
- I want to look holy without being holy.

After playing over 45 years of competitive sports at every level, I never had a coach instruct me on how to not be good at something. Instead, my coaches always accentuated the positive, they helped me “get good” at my position by doing the right things. In our culture today, nobody wants to confess that they aren’t good at something. However, there is wisdom in creating a “never-get-good-at” list. It brings clarity to what we should focus on. When I look at significant principles through a different filter, God can reveal His truth.

I have developed a list of 10 things I never want to get good at. If I get good at these things, I will fail at living in Christ. These things will make me a fake, a fraud. They serve as a constant reminder to passionately pursue Jesus daily.

10 Things I Never Want To Get Good At:

- Learning without Transformation
- Repenting without Brokenness
- Leading without Humility
- Giving without Sacrifice
- Speaking without Blessing
- Praying without Listening
- Worship without Passion
- Loving without Commitment
- Dreaming without Action
- Living without Jesus

This entire list fits perfectly into one simple thing: Stop Faking It. As believers of Christ, we should aim to impact others through a life that shines from the inside out, a life full of integrity. Others are watching and wanting to know if Christians who pursue Jesus are the real deal. No more looking without being!

“Being” beats “appearing” every single time. We impact from up close, not from distance. Someone once said, “Your theology is what you are when the talking stops and the action starts.” As Christians, we should commit to being walking, talking, living examples of what God Almighty can do in and through us.

“Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian.” — D.L. Moody

## 2. The Holiest Week by Paul Kengor

For Christians, Holy Week truly is the most holy week of the year. Or at least it should be. The only period of comparable significance is Christmas, which the secular culture celebrates as one day but is really a season of 12 days. Holy Week is actually the consummation of what began with the birth of Christ—a birth only and ultimately fulfilled through Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. The life of Jesus Christ starts with Christmas but finds eternal birth (and hope) in the resurrection.

As Fulton Sheen put it in his *The Life of Christ*, Jesus Christ was the only person whose birth and death were preannounced. It's in the Garden of Gethsemane, the dark pivot point between the hosannas of Palm Sunday and the sorrows of Good Friday, that Christ in agony accepts that difficult fate—that is, the will of the Father: "Thy will be done."

Holy Week every year retakes Christians through the path of that agonizing journey, the Via Crucis. The daily readings in the Lectionary re-witness the moments of Christ's Way of the Cross. The readings are profound, whether the prophetic Old Testament selections from Isaiah and the Psalms to the extended Passion narratives of the New Testament covered on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. In these, the faithful observe their Redeemer consistently subjected to great injustices (all the greater given who He truly is): by the Sanhedrin, by the high priest, by Pontius Pilate, by false witnesses, by Judas' betrayal and even by Peter denying him three times. The son of God even feels abandoned by his Father: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

There's no greater love than to give one's life for one's friends. But imagine giving one's life for one's enemies. More so, imagine history's only perfect One giving His life for all imperfect ones.

And so, it starts with Palm Sunday, as Christ enters Jerusalem to cheers of "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Within mere days, the crowds' voice turns completely, mocking him, spitting on him, pleading instead to exchange a murderer for Christ ("Give us Barabbas!"), shouting "crucify him!" as he is scourged and fitted with a crown of thorns. Just days earlier, crowds hailed him as a hero, begging him to heal them, watching in awe as he did miracles, welcoming him into their homes.

All of this precedes the epic moment of the expiration of Christ, the long-awaited "One" who John the Baptist foretold as "the Lamb of God" who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus died at the very hour when the Passover lambs were being slaughtered in the Temple. The son of God was the purest and most undefiled Lamb, sacrificed to death without a bone broken, pouring out of his side blood and water as the Roman soldier pierced him.

By Good Friday, as darkness comes over the whole land, the erstwhile hero expires in an ignominious death on a cross between two thieves.

Each year, these readings never cease to stir the soul. My kids will attest to their embarrassment as I shake my head in the pew and express out loud (probably too loud) my astonishment at the grave injustices that Christ went through in the hours leading to him being nailed and lanced. "This is the son of God," I'll say, "look at how human beings treated him!" I tell my kids: "If humans would do this to the son of God, do not expect to be treated any better."

Think of the long line of awful things human beings have done to one another since the day Christ was nailed to the cross—from feeding Christians to lions to the horrors of the Holocaust to the killing fields of Cambodia to the collapse of the Twin Towers, to every rape, lynching, Gulag, Pitesti, Camp 22, Auschwitz, to the countless abused children, to the scourge of abortion, etc., etc. We could go on and on with man's inhumanity to man. But again, if they'd do it to the son of God, don't expect any better.

The entire Passion experience recounted every year is a morality tale that speaks to us at so many levels. It gives meaning to Christ's suffering and to our suffering. As for that meaning, Jesus Christ had a tough message for his followers for the ages to come: To follow Him, they must pick up the cross daily. They, too, cannot avoid suffering in this world. The Christian life is a cross; it is a sacrifice. No week better reminds us than Holy Week.

And alas, though the week is filled with sorrow, we must above all remember how it ends. Even as we share in Christ's agony, including that cold Saturday when he was placed in the tomb, the week ends with hope. It's a hope harder to find in our secular culture today, where sin seems to have so saturated everything.

And yet, as G. K. Chesterton said, hope is about having hope when things seem hopeless. The hope of the Resurrection, the culmination of Holy Week, is what this week is all about.

## **Regular Free Methodist Newsletters / Communications** (click the links below)

The April Global Prayer Guide is attached / below.

[This Week's Issue of the Light and Life Magazine](#)

[This Week's Free Methodist Foundation Financial Newsletter](#)

[SEED Newsletter / Update](#)

## **New South Conference Calendar**

April 9-10	History and Polity Zoom Class Begins
May 21-22	NSC Annual Conference – Wilmore
June 17-20	NSC Family Camp
June 21-27	NSC Teen Camp
June 28-July 2	NSC Kids Camp

## **April Birthdays**

Anderson, Neil – April 19

Ritter, Joe – April 22

\*I'd love to know your birthday, so the conference can send you an expensive present...or maybe just a "Happy Birthday" wish. If yours is not listed, [please e-mail it to me](#).

## **This Week's Passage, Quote and Joke**

**Passage:** This Sunday I'll be looking at John's account of the resurrection, and what happened there at the empty tomb of Jesus.

**Quote:** "Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand." ~ Augustine

**Joke:** An annual competition is held by the New York Times to see who can create the best original play on words. Below are this year's submissions:

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.

I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.

I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

Police were summoned to a day-care center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory, but it was never fully developed.

When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.

Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

When chemists die, they barium.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

Blessings on your worship this special weekend!

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## TECH SURVIVAL TRAINING

# LIVE STREAMING FOR CHURCHES

DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

The LIVE STREAMING FOR CHURCHES course is designed to help small to mid-size churches improve their “live streaming” services. But it’s also intended to connect **pastors** and **technical staff/volunteers**, away from the pressures of a worship service, so they can work more effectively towards the goal of communicating God’s word with excellence. On those Sunday mornings when theology and technology collide, it’s usually miscommunication or misunderstanding that causes the breakdown. When pastors and technical staff/volunteers set aside time to learn more about each other’s worlds, the entire church body is strengthened. Enroll today for this highly personalized, unique experience.

### TOPICS

#### STREAMING EXPLAINED

How streaming is different from television in technology and practice

#### A LAB EXPERIENCE

Physically connect hardware together to understand how it works

#### OBS, WIRECAST, ONESTREAM, TWITCH, etc....

Choosing a hardware/software platform that is best of you

#### “WE ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES”

Answers to your specific problems best for you

#### EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A forensic analysis of your setup

#### SLIDES

Creating content that is compelling and doing it quickly

#### ONLINE WORSHIP

The good, the bad and the ugly

#### SOUL-CARE FOR TECHS

Using people resources wisely

#### SHINY NEW THINGS

Avoiding wasteful spending while maintaining quality

### DETAILS

- Session starts with Monday lunch
- Experiential classes each morning and afternoon
- Free lunches every day
- Free time in the evenings to explore Nashville (recommended activities)
- Free accommodations in Brentwood Apartment complex right across street; complimentary access to health club and swimming pool
- Session ends with live show on Thursday evening
- All sessions in-person

(This is an in-person, experiential course that brings all participants together in the same physical space. Those persons whose health condition makes them more vulnerable to the Covid-19 virus are advised not to attend.)

**COST: \$599.00**

Free lunches  
Free accommodations  
Free software (\$100.00 value)

For two decades, the **Contemporary Music Center** has been preparing students for careers in the entertainment industry as Christ-followers

## April, 2021 Global Prayer & Praise Guide



*Thursday, April 1* - From **Latin America** Area Director Ricardo Gomez and wife, Beth: We've decided to continue the tradition started last year by hosting Semana Santa sin Fronteras (Holy Week without Borders) online again. We will offer evening devotions from Palm Sunday through Friday. An area-wide prayer call on Saturday will be followed by an on-line united service of celebration and praise on Resurrection Sunday. Those churches already meeting together will have the option to watch it all together.



*Friday, April 2* - As Area Director Mike Reynen traveled to **West Africa** last month, a cancellation on his itinerary gave the opportunity to meet with **Liberia** Supt., Rufus Kahn and 4 Liberian leaders to discuss places for new church plants. From this one day of redeeming the time, the vision is being prayed over knowing that eagerness and commitment when led by the Holy Spirit will bear fruit. Mike asks, "Would you pray with us for more partners to support community church planting and training at Wesley Missionary Institute?"



*Saturday, April 3* - In case you missed this post from Phyllis Sortor- Schools for Africa in **Nigeria**: I see God's Hand in miracles without number. Yesterday at this work site we ran out of water as we were pouring concrete floors in the four new classrooms and one new office. The man from whom we buy water was not around, and the borehole had run dry. We were on a tight schedule to finish so school could resume. Then the skies darkened, thunder and lightening shattered the atmosphere, the heavens opened and torrential RAIN FELL for the first time this year! We placed empty paint cans and buckets in strategic places and had all the water we needed!



*Sunday, April 4* - Pray for Zsuzsa, Kati and Sarah as they prepare small Easter packages to drop off for the children and staff at the Children's Home in Győr and for the mothers and children at the Salvation Army shelter in Budapest. They have been further isolated due to the increased restrictions during the current lock down and

need our prayer and encouragement. Also, we are thankful that Zsuzsa and her family have recovered from COVID!

*Monday, April 5* - From the Asia Area Director: What if you begin to see prayer not as your "last line of defense" ("Oh well, all we can do now is pray!") but as your "first line of offense?" (Helpful thought from Craig Groeschel in his latest book) "It has been found that 12 minutes of daily focused prayer over an 8-week period can change the brain to such an extent that it can be measured on a brain scan." - Dr. Caroline Leaf, "Switch On Your Brain" Not to mention that the "effective fervent prayers of a righteous person accomplishes much..." James 5:16b





*Tuesday, April 6* - Larry Winckles, a career missionary to Hungary for over 20 years, has accepted the role of **Associate Director for Europe** working closely with Area Director Josué Fajardo. Larry is also the area administrator for Europe and looks forward to following the Lord's leading as they work for greater expansion in Europe. He and his wife Katie live in Budapest, Hungary. According to *The Exchange* by Ed Stetzer, Europe is a heathen continent with a Christian residue. The depopulation of Syria is one open door having moved half of its people to Western Europe. May we pray for effective ways to reach many people in Europe.



*Wednesday, April 7* - An Impact **Middle East** worker shares this story about a priest he knows quite well. When he asked him for permission to start a house church in his area in Egypt, he not only received it, but the priest also accepted his invitation to attend a house church meeting. The priest who lives very well called the IME worker after the service, which had been in a poor home and shared how the Lord had touched his heart and his body through the Word. Having close fellowship with the people had also changed his thinking. He decided he wanted to live like Jesus – to live simply, to read and apply the Word daily, and to become a friend to these people of God.

*Thursday, April 8* - Next month Ewart Bible College in **Tanzania** plans to teach introductory computer helping students learn how to do research, type up class notes, sermons, wedding and funeral announcements, print out certificates, and much more. It will also give students a leg-up in society. Let's pray that individuals and/or churches will be led to donate toward this project and that the students will be both grateful and quick to learn another way to serve the Lord.



*Friday, April 9* - Testimony from a young woman in **Creative Access Country I**: After being forsaken by my family and the death of my husband, I accepted Jesus in a house prayer meeting. Although my life has many barriers and troubles, God is beside me and meeting my needs. His living Word comforts me daily. I was very sick for 4 years, but now God continues to give me wisdom and strength to be in ministry and also to take care of my two children. By God's grace our church is growing!



*Saturday, April 10* - Casto Rojas wandered into a Free Methodist Church in Maturin, **Venezuela**, a wealthy pediatrician who had it all –except that his personal life was in shambles. He found Jesus that day and in less than 5 years became pastor of a church that was soon ministering to thousands. Adopting the Community Church Planting model, he led the movement in Venezuela that would develop leaders and start multiple Houses of Peace. Although Latin culture often passes leadership from father to son, Casto recognizes leaders regardless of bloodline or gender. A female leader he developed,



Luisa Elena Poleo (right) has replaced him as lead pastor of his first church, one of the largest FMCs in all of Latin America. A Dios Sea la Gloria -To God be the glory!



*Sunday, April 11* - The ministry in the **Asian ‘M’ country** goes on —despite the crisis! One of the new church planters visited several families yesterday, and more new people trusted the Savior! Praise the Lord! The superintendent asks for continued prayer to end the crisis; for courage, peace and more Gospel opportunities; for believers to put on the armor of God, and that the Holy Spirit will ‘cut out’ the evil. As the organization called Prayercast always ends their videos, “Want to change the world? PRAY!”



*Monday, April 12* - Career missionary to the **Balkans**, Al Mellinger writes how their livelihood groups have been able to restart after being suspended for a year due to the pandemic. He believes that helping people help themselves is part of discipleship because they learn the value of not only supporting themselves, but also how to be generous in helping others. Under communism creativity was stifled, but now the joy of making

beautiful things is a gift that enriches not only their budget, but their spirit. We pray for the relaunch groups, for the nationals who are recovering from COVID, and for the newly ordained pastors and national leadership in what has become an annual conference.



*Tuesday, April 13* - The Anderson family is finishing their 2 year VISA assignment in Győr, **Hungary**, and if plans remained the same, depart for the US today. With complications from the pandemic, much preparation was necessary and difficult.

May they be protected as they travel, blessed even as they say farewell to dear colleagues, and may their time in Europe have equipped them for even more fruitful pastoral ministry.



*Wednesday, April 14* - Dhaka is the capital and the largest city of **Bangladesh**, a creative access country of the FMC. Dhaka is the ninth- largest city in the world with a population of over 21 million in the Greater Dhaka Area. Over 90% practice Islam. Many are Hindu, but some have come to a living faith!



*Thursday, April 15* - He worked with Mohamed —an open, sincere person and hard worker. One day the man was downcast so the **Impact Middle East** worker asked, “What’s wrong?” The man sighed and in great distress shared that after 6 years of marriage and spending his livelihood on doctors, they still had no children. The worker shared about the Great Physician Who could solve the problem and that Jesus understood his suffering. They prayed together and the man received

Jesus as his Savior. Then they prayed that God would give the couple a child. Within a few months his wife became pregnant. God did not give him A child. He gave them triplets!



*Friday, April 16* - International Missionary to **Ecuador**, Eunice Alvarez, says she is in a time of preparation and transition having moved to a different apartment in February and preparing to return home to Mexico later this year. She continues her on-line training with 25 students some studying the multiplication of leaders and others learning community church planting techniques. Other online classes she's doing are Panorama of the Old Testament and Panorama of the New Testament. She asks for prayer that God keeps showing His grace and power to keep each student encouraged with the desire to keep preparing for service.



*Saturday, April 17* - Gethsemane Leadership Training in **Asia** invests in the lives of emerging leaders moving toward excellence in ministry. While mentors guide candidates through training and oversee their skills development, the mentors learn how to raise up leaders who have character and can develop knowledge and skills for ministry. The plan requires 3 hours per week for 8 weeks. So far leaders from about five countries have been able to join the Zoom meeting with simultaneous translation into multiple languages. The technology is quite new to most

participants, so there have been some challenges, but training nearly 100 leaders is worth it. We also pray for those writing the video scripts and that this training will be effective.



*Sunday, April 18* - Patricio Alvia is the superintendent of the FMC work in **Chile**. After his car was hit, he is in the process of replacing it and needs a loan and guidance regarding traveling arrangements –so important because of visiting the pastors of the Chilean conference, with some at long distances. With the pandemic getting even more serious, he asks for protection and emotional health for the conference as churches have not met in person for over a year. As a pastor and superintendent, may he have healthy rhythms as he cares for his own church plus shepherds the conference.



*Monday, April 19* - In January this Impact Middle East couple trained twenty locals in church planting and spent three days equipping them with tools to reach their communities through evangelism and discipleship. Meeting with the same group for follow-up and accountability, they heard multiple encouraging reports: every single person had started to share the good news with neighbors and friends, three people from the majority faith came to Christ and joined discipleship groups in house churches. One testimony shared how a man with a brain bleed

from a car accident had been given only a 10% chance of recovery. That was before they prayed for a miracle and God healed him. All praise to Jesus!



*Tuesday, April 20* - **Ecuador** is happy to report 31 active community house churches including 5 new ones planted this past quarter. Nearly 50 people have made decisions for relationship with Jesus including this family. The dad didn't find Jesus until his children were grown, but starting a group with his sisters and cousin

opened the door to beginning a group with his own adult children –all in God's timetable.



*Wednesday, April 21* - Ynelitza Sanabria Evans is the Community Church Planning Network leader for the Maturín metropolitan area supervising leaders of 12 networks and 172 houses of peace. Although millions of Venezuelans have emigrated (mostly on foot and among them many believers), God is still providing grace for those who remain, and revival continues across this desperately needy country. Praise God!



*Thursday, April 22* - Dosseh Takpale is the national leader in **Togo**, West Africa and the superintendent of the Wesley Missionary Institute there that opened in January of this year. With one semester now over,

Dosseh writes how the 11 students from 6 countries have learned to do life together particularly as they shared food from their different cultures. Their sending churches are helping support the students with \$20/month for personal needs. How far would that go for us in the USA?



*Friday, April 23* - The national ICCM coordinator in **Rwanda** is thankful for an ICCM school there that works with children who have special needs like this little boy who recently was able to have corrective leg surgery. Few options are available in Rwanda for these children, but here they are loved, incorporated into a group with other special needs students, and offered opportunities to learn and grow. They experience the fun of playing together, participating in physical education and therapy, making crafts, learning skills like sewing, serving food and dishwashing, and learning to read all according to their abilities. They begin their day with worship and singing, which is often the favorite activity.



*Saturday, April 24* - Cida Matos (right) serves with Eduardo and Cindi Angelo at the FMC in **Portugal**. The extended quarantine there has become disheartening to many, and Cida asks for prayer as the pandemic's effects have made things difficult. She became ill with COVID as did the Angelos, but they are thankful no one had to be hospitalized. They are also thankful that new digital platforms have allowed them to take care of the church and its ministries in spite of the challenges and have even provided some new opportunities.



*Sunday, April 25* - Rose Brewer reports that canceled events during 2020 cost SEED \$50,000 in expected revenue, and some partner groups continue to see a rise in the pandemic. SEED is eager to help where productivity is down, and because of generous donations, they have been able to send 50% more than normal to some groups. Looking forward, they hope to successfully increase large custom orders (like tote bags for conferences & churches) and also find companies that will sell their products. As the FMC serves around the globe with the whole gospel, may SEED's livelihood groups experience God's presence and provision to create ongoing, long-term sustainable business ventures.



*Monday, April 26* - Over 4 and a half billion people live in **Asia** –roughly 60% of the world’s population. The Asia Area Director writes, “Pray for the ongoing, deep spiritual formation of our pastors and leaders across Asia, that they would be intimately connected to the Savior, filled with His Spirit. Pray for new partnerships that are forming to help the gospel take root through the FMC in places like Fiji and New Zealand. Pray for the Father to bring all of the right pieces together. Pray for a harvest of new souls for 2021. Pray for a spirit of unity across the continent. We are better together!”



*Tuesday, April 27* - As the **Impact Middle East** worker, led by the Holy Spirit, preached to the 14 people in the house church, a man in attendance spoke up in front of everyone confessing his sins. “How did anyone know that I was planning to commit adultery yesterday,” he asked. He went on to say, “What should I do? I am a very bad man. I did not know that God can see me. I do not see anything good inside of me. I am full of impurity and sin.” The leader encouraged the man by saying, “Jesus is waiting for you, and He died on the cross to redeem our lives from our sins.” The man prayed for forgiveness asking Jesus to write his name down in heaven. Then he said, “I feel as if a heavy stone was lifted from my heart. I am happy.” So we pray for new believers that they will walk in God’s light and grow in His grace.



*Wednesday, April 28* - In 2012, Africa Area Director Mike Reynen and FMC Togo leader, Dosseh Takpale, met with a Congolese pastor in Guinea’s capital of Conakry. This man had been ministering in **Guinea** for several years, had a Free Methodist background, and was willing to help launch FMC work in Guinea. At the end of 2018 Dr. Gabriel Lamah, a Guinean, was appointed to lead the work forward.



Fellowships in the capital and the forest region plus a clinic and church plant in the far southeast make up the work. We pray for Supt. Gabriel and his wife, who was in the eighth month of her pregnancy in March.



*Thursday, April 29* - Michael and Tanya Mendakoff have served the orphans, the disabled and elderly in Russia since 2003. They ask prayer for transformation in the community and in the hearts of the local people; protection, provision, health and unity for their family; growth in community involvement in the various projects within the orphanages; unity and God's leading in the start of the FMC in Russia. Children are Liana and Peter.



*Friday, April 30* - A 20-year-old woman from a village in Iraq tells how a terrorist organization came to their village and threatened her family. They fled losing their home, car, and all their possessions. Getting a visa to live in Jordan was good, but they knew no one, rent was very expensive and they were not allowed to get work permits. Completing her education to become a

lawyer was now impossible. Then they learned about an **Impact Middle East** church where they were joyfully welcomed. Mother and daughter received jobs at the church, and the family has drawn closer to God. Now she says, “My life, and the lives of my family, have changed so much. Without the support of the church and the church's pastor, I would focus on the past and all that our family has lost. I have learned that every new day is a blessing from God. We must live with joy, helping others, and standing with them in despair.”

