

Happy Friday, New South Family!
Welcome to the 91st edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending April 30, 2021.

Announcements

1) First, Some Annual Conference Details:

A) New South Annual Conference Logistics 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 complete notebooks will be out soon, but the agenda / draft schedule is below, as well as the listing for housing nearby. Note that this happens to be, unfortunately, the same weekend as Asbury Seminary graduation and also our local high school graduation, so rooms may be difficult super-close to Wilmore. Plan now to attend.

While inside, we will be wearing masks while moving and while singing, but they may be removed at other times. We'll sit in a distanced fashion around tables during business sessions. Visitors and family welcome, especially for the ordination service. We will be livestreaming the ordination service, but not the business sessions.

B) Annual Conference Reports – If you are a reporting entity to the NSC and would like your organization's document / report included in the conference materials booklet, please submit those to [Charlie Fiskeaux before May 7 by clicking here](#).

C) Memorials At Annual Conference Each year at Annual Conference, we take a moment and honor those from our churches who have passed on to Christ throughout the past year. Since we did not really do this last year, we'll honor those this year who have died since May 1, 2019. If you'd like those names included in the conference booklet, please submit the name and church affiliation to [Charlie Fiskeaux before May 7 by clicking here](#).

D) Delegates Names / Contact Information Needed Please submit your delegate's (or delegates') name, address, phone number and e-mail address to Charlie Fiskeaux ASAP for this year's annual conference. [You can do that via e-mail by clicking here](#). A blank fillable form for delegate credentials can be found attached / below.

2) Local Church Annual Reports The World Ministry Center has not yet sent the annual / statistical report to local churches. I've promised you that for several weeks, but so far, they've not released it. I'll certainly pass it along when they do, so again, you haven't missed it. 😊

Resources

1. Global Prayer and Praise Guide – Attached please find the missions prayer guide for May.

2. Impact Middle East Vacation Bible School Mission Resources - Impact Middle East has produced a series of videos and projects that could be used to bring a missions emphasis to the VBS or children's ministries or your churches. Details are attached / below.

Articles

1) Not An Article, but a Prayer Request: We should be in prayer for Christian schools in our nation, and especially those who stand for orthodox Christian views of sexuality and marriage. They are absolutely under attack, from without and from within. Faculty and student groups are pushing the homosexual agenda even in what we'd call Biblical schools.

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

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

[The Latest Issue of the Free Methodist Foundation Financial Newsletter](#)

[The Latest Issue of the FM Pastors and Leaders' Newsletter](#)

New South Conference Calendar

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

May / June Birthdays

Mark Driskill, May 12
Roberta Zent, May 12
Tim Huff, May 17
Scott Clark, June 4
Joy Ireland, June 11

James Demaray, June 19
Sarah Baldwin, June 21
Jan Coleman, June 24
Sharon Bryson, June 27

*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 we at Wilmore welcome Bishop Linda Adams on Sunday morning. In the meantime, I'll be working toward my next message series, which I believe will be centered on the resurrected Christ.

Quote: "You can't go back and make a new start, but you can start right now and make a brand new ending."
~ James Sherman, 1982

Joke(s): A theology student, when writing a term paper, accidentally wrote "God will take away our quilt," and his spell checker couldn't help. When the professor caught it, he wrote in response: "That's OK. He promised to send us a comforter."

Optimist: noun. A person who starts gathering his/her stuff when the pastor says, "In conclusion. . ."

Blessings on your worship this weekend!

D-

May, 2021 Global Prayer & Praise Guide



Saturday, May 1 - Phyllis Sortor sends this picture giving an example of life's reality for many women in **Nigeria**, but she writes, "I want to thank God for His amazing favor and provision in all areas of the work in Nigeria. Over and over, we have stopped and acknowledged that only God could have changed our stories the way He has, only God could have answered this or that prayer, only God could have kept us safe on the roads through many hours of travel, only God could have provided exactly the people and circumstances we needed all along the way. To Him be all glory and praise forever and ever, Amen!" God has marvelously used Phyllis particularly with Fulani women and children. Many of these families, whose nomadic lifestyle has made their lives difficult, are now receiving medical care, schooling and the gospel thanks to Phyllis' leadership.



Sunday, May 2 - Patricio Alvial looked for and found people of peace while walking in the streets of a city in southern **Chile**. As both a pastor in and the superintendent of the Chilean conference, he needed to replace his vehicle, and God provided. More importantly, God provided this time of street ministry. Chile remains under a state of emergency through next month requiring creative means of ministry.



Monday, May 3 - This from an Impact **Middle East** leader: Praise the Lord we were able to help a family start a small business today in the refugee camp where they live –made possible through the gift of a believer who owns a local business here. This Yazidi family has been through a lot. The brother is taking care of 4 orphans (his nephews) as ISIS killed his brother in 2014. He is married and has 3 kids besides taking care of a mentally disabled sister. It is so good to be able to put a smile on the faces of people in desperate need. It reminds me of James 1:27, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress . . ."



Tuesday, May 4 - A women's ministry in **Liberia** called Throne of Grace FMC reached out to several drug addicts in their community. After attending church and being served a meal, no one heard from them for nearly 5 months. Then one of them returned and gave his life to Jesus.



May he be nurtured and disciplined! Rufus Kahn is the national leader of the Liberian work which is now a provisional annual conference started in 1998 and originally overseen by the Nigerian FMC. Now Rev. Kahn is planning to expand the work into neighboring Sierra Leone.



Wednesday, May 5 - Last month's **Europe**-wide zoom worship and prayer service focused on raising up and developing new leaders; a vision for the post-Covid church; and the fight against injustice on behalf of refugees, the marginalized and those caught in modern-day human slavery. Missionary to Hungary, Katie Winckles reported, "The Holy Spirit gave unity, facilitated translations, and moved through music, message and prayer –and the technology worked!"



Thursday, May 6 - From **Nigeria** Phyllis Sortor writes, 'This is what it looks like when twelve people and one very large dog set off to live in the bush for three months! We're going to Ogun State to build a school, guest-house, teachers' quarters and clinic! Pray for us please: three drivers, two police, one

cook, two masons, two carpenters, Phyllis and another man they'll pick up on the way!

Friday, May 7 - These prayer requests from Eduardo and Cindi Angelo, career missionaries in **Portugal**: the new converts who are coming to Christ as they need discipleship and God's grace as they grow in their faith; more cell leaders, pastors and missionaries to help the work as it grows; Cindi's health and well-being as she has sleep apnea and has to sleep with an uncomfortable device; Pastor Rito Mandé in Guinea Bissau and Moisés and Jacione Susa in São Tomé & Príncipe –both works overseen by the Portugal FMC; pastors and their congregations in the Lisbon and Corroios churches.



Saturday, May 8 - Chris and Yuko Wilkins served in Cambodia prior to becoming career missionaries in **Japan**. Here they pose with Cambodia's national leader, Daniel Saar, as he celebrates his birthday. The Wilkins plan to spend this summer here in the US saying their last trip home was 4 years ago. Relatives may have a hard time even recognizing their growing sons, Caleb and Corey. God bless this family!



Sunday, May 9 - ICCM is partnering with the FMC in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** developing farm projects that provide nutrition for school children –particularly guardian families of orphaned children– and getting income when animals can be sold. For now the project is small, but it is growing. Bukavu hosts a chicken project; Baraka has chickens and goats; and Nzizi is a bigger farm raising goats, pigs and fish.



Monday, May 10 - From the **Latin America** Area Director Ricardo Gomez: Months in quarantine gave us the opportunity to serve the area better when a team of 6 mentors began working to assist mission district leaders and conference superintendents with implementing Community Church Planting and Pastoral Formation in their respective areas. The Kingdom of God is expanding in Latin American and neither the coronavirus nor the gates of hell can prevail against it!



Tuesday, May 11 - Olivia and Gage Sevigny treasure our prayers as they minister in Africa. They arrived in **Rwanda** in January, spent a month in language study in Kigali and have arrived at Kibogora. Olivia is a nurse and works at the hospital. Gabe is an engineer and can assist with construction and serve at the guest house. Here they are as they arrive at Kibogora.



Wednesday, May 12 - Gene and Minori Hall serve in **Japan** plus Gene teaches Servant Leadership classes to FM pastors in southeast Asia. Minori teaches Japanese at the Christian Academy of Japan. When the state of emergency was temporarily lifted, they were able to worship in person for the first time since late last year and also celebrate Minori's parents' 59th wedding anniversary at a beautiful spot where they enjoyed both sea and mountains. Daughter Mika graduates college this spring while working full-time plus doing an internship. May she have physical, emotional and spiritual stamina while seeking God's will for the next step in her life!



Thursday, May 13 - Rodrigo and Tanya Rosado completed Missions Training International in March which emphasized the ability to choose the posture with which they would enter the inevitable disorientation due to culture shock. Their goal as they wait for permission to travel: to be so saturated in the Spirit and settled into Jesus that they are truly ready to enter ministry in **Argentina**.



Friday, May 14 - This from an Impact **Middle East** leader --She was a young, polite woman who always looked sad. She had never shared or prayed in the house church and always left quickly when the meeting was over until the day we shared the story of Jacob. She told us how she had an arranged marriage when she was only 13 to a man 26 years her senior. Still a child who only wanted to go to school and play, her life became like that of a slave. After 10 years, the man died leaving her with 3 children. Her future was dark, and she confessed she made many wrong choices, but then she accepted Jesus and began to trust Him. Through the story of Jacob she shared how God told her, "Your past has been redeemed. Your present is in my hands, and I will be with you forever."



Saturday, May 15 - Over 50 years of missionary investment in **Haiti** is bearing fruit as this island country became a General Conference in 2015. This has not been without struggle as over the years earthquakes and hurricanes destroyed schools and churches; however many have been rebuilt stronger and in better locations. ICCM serves nearly 7,000 children as many churches have a primary school, and FMC Haiti has 9 secondary schools. A Bible school, Haiti Providence University and Dessalines Rural Health Program and Hospital serve thousands. A decline in judicial effectiveness often contributes to violence in the streets and a continued unstable economy, but the church is making a difference under the leadership of Bishop Eliodor Devariste.



Sunday, May 16 - Gerald Coates, Director of Global Church Advocacy, writes, "The 2020 pandemic did not derail our efforts. We adjusted methods to meet the challenges. Online training systems in the infancy of development were suddenly and effectively deployed. Church planting continued to increase. The physical needs of the poor were prioritized, and the international FMC community responded." 2020 giving to FM World Missions: \$13,336,185!



Monday, May 17 - Josh Fajardo is the European area director and after receiving good results from PCR tests, he and his wife, Susy, were able to travel to **Greece** last month to reconnect with Mike and Maria Long(right) who lead the church in Thessaloniki. Here, Susy boards a motorcycle with Maria to visit a few church families. Prayer requests for the church in Thessaloniki include raising up leaders from every language group as the church ministers to at least 10 different nationalities. May the newly baptized believers from the Middle East be disciplined, and may those Muslims who do not know Jesus have their hearts softened to hear and receive the gospel.



Tuesday, May 18 - Josh and Susy Fajardo (left) did an exploratory trip to **Albania** meeting here with Genti and Irona in Korçë. They ask for



prayer as they seek the Lord's leading for open doors there and in other Albanian cities.



Wednesday, May 19 - Al and Diane Mellinger just celebrated 15 years of missionary service in **the Balkans**. The last two years has seen them handing over the leadership to nationals who are stepping up to take the gospel to their own people and also to others in surrounding countries. Now the Mellingers believe they have done what they were sent to Europe to do. Now, they are answering God's call to develop economic programs to support the families in the church plants there, and they are expanding this mission to other missionaries/groups. This summer they transition to working with Mission Igniter out of the Southern Michigan Conference of the FMC.



Thursday, May 20 - These prayer requests come from the **Middle East** where the pandemic is still present. Many meetings in Egypt have had to stop because coronavirus cases and deaths are on the rise, and many have been exposed. Also, in Iraq cases are on the rise again. In Jordan, oxygen is in short supply, but they are thankful for the donation of assistance funds. Bassam, an IME leader in Egypt, is improving from his bout with COVID. An Iraqi leader has returned to her home country to help with many members of her family who have COVID, and her father is not expected to live. May the God of all comfort and provision help and heal.



Friday, May 21 - In many second and third world countries, pastors receive only minimal wages or none at all. Sponsoring a pastor's child through ICCM covers school uniforms and fees as well as supplying supplemental food. This allows these pastors to focus on their ministry knowing their children are being cared for. Many pray daily for their sponsors as they thank God for them. Ten per cent of ICCM's 13,000 sponsored children are FM pastor's children.



Saturday, May 22 - Students at the Wesley Missionary Institute in **Togo** have started a new semester. Here the director, Dosseh Takpale, rejoices in the beautiful new classroom space. Students will study such courses as Missions History, New Testament Survey, Sanctification, Leadership, and Evangelism. May each student gain deep insight and working knowledge in these courses. Note: staff and students at Oakdale Christian Academy in Jackson, Kentucky are partnering with the support of both this school and the Togo FMC. Dosseh's daughter, Elisha, is a student at Oakdale.

Sunday, May 23 - A traditional Yazidi midwife who delivered thousands of babies was well known in her community. Then ISIS invaded her town, and she was forced to flee. A **Middle East** Impact worker met her in a refugee camp where she had been living since 2014. Healthcare laws no longer allowed her to deliver babies, yet women kept coming to visit her. What was she doing to help them? She showed the IME worker a black pouch in her waistband. Next, she carefully took out two gold rings with colorful thread attached to them. After kissing them, she explained that she rubs the rings on various parts of the body to get rid of pain. The rings are amulets, given to her by a Sheikh from her faith. Please join in praying that the Yazidi community would encounter Jesus, the only One Who can bring true healing and freedom.



Monday, May 24 - Seth and Hlawn Hlawn VanTifflin serve in **southeast Asia** leading an NGO called In Better Hands established to care for children at high risk of being trafficked. Hlawn Hlawn is Country 'M's national leader's sister. Please continue praying for her USA citizenship. The website is suggesting they may hear some good news soon about an interview date. We also pray for the 55 million people in Myanmar that are enduring violence and uncertainty since the military coup in February. The Van Tifflins are currently in the US. Sons are Jason and Noah.



Tuesday, May 25 - Latin America has seen 1 out of the 3 worldwide deaths from the pandemic, and many Community Church Planting network leaders there contracted it. In **Peru**, where the death rate rose a staggering 118%, 2 out of 3 CCP leaders had covid. One of them was Oscar Luis, a highly fruitful leader who has planted 29 Houses of Peace. Although he is now fully recovered, Oscar's symptoms were so severe in January that he was hospitalized due to dangerously low oxygen levels. Yet, even while recovering in the hospital he sent out a text that read, "I have a few more days here until my oxygen level returns to normal. I am making progress and keep doing my breathing exercises -- but above all I am filling myself with God and am passionate to begin planting more houses of peace."



Wednesday, May 26 - Missionary Kyle Leon writes from **Costa Rica** how the obstacles created by Covid-19 have turned into ministry opportunities. Pastoral training classes doubled when they moved to an online format allowing more people in different areas of the country to connect. After their local church met for a time online, they so missed the personal connection that they began meeting in their carport which was not only cramped, but difficult since they had no place for childcare. They moved to the beach

where attendance doubled. Denis says, "We hang out and fellowship after the service. It has been the most natural form of church I have ever experienced and the most welcoming to newcomers."



Thursday, May 27 - Missionaries Corey and Connie Persing assist national leaders in southeast Asia and are based in **Thailand** where membership nearly doubled in the last year. Two new churches have started and 3 church plants are in process –and this during the pandemic! Here the Pastor Joseph of Chiang Mai church stands with the 3 teens he just baptized.



Friday, May 28 - Rivas Vaciamadrid is a fast-growing suburb of Madrid, **Spain**. The Mosaic Cultural Center was created to be a missional bridge to this community. Many immigrants living there need advocates to help them with translations, gaining legal papers, and employment. The poorest have even more basic needs as they learn how to survive in a new culture. Children and youth need after-school help to catch up while adults need jobs and life skills training. Although many would never think of going to church, the center looks for opportunities to share the gospel. Julia, pictured here, is always eager to participate, but her enthusiasm belies the struggles she faces at home and at school. Her mom, a single parent, struggles to make ends meet. Like many children in Spain and around the world, classroom disruptions caused by Covid set her back educationally, and when she resumed in-person classes in September she felt underprepared. Mosaico helps bridge that gap!



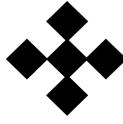
Saturday, May 29 - Pastor Maho (center) is the national leader of FM work in **Ivory Coast** shown here at a training seminar in Togo at Wesley Missionary Institute. Other students' national leaders also came and struggled with the subject of being a 'sending church,' –truly a costly issue. Each country committed to begin providing a small stipend to cover their students' personal needs during their time at the institute. Let us share in their faith that God will provide. Secala and Laure are the husband/wife team from Ivory Coast posing here with Pastor Maho.



Sunday, May 30 - A Yazadi girl who attends an English class at the Christian center in **Iraq** is being raised by her grandparents. She asked her English teacher about someone coming to her home to visit. When the team went, they discovered that she knows the story of Jesus and reads the Bible she received at the center. She said that she feels a great peace when she reads, and she believes that the God of the Bible is different from the gods of other religions. Her grandparents not only listen to her read from the Bible, they are open to learning more about Jesus Christ. Now she wants them and her siblings to know Jesus. May this become a house church that will lead others to the Truth!



Monday, May 31 - **Malaysia** is a country of nearly 32 million over half of whom are Muslims. Most live in urban areas. In 2002 the FMC began a church-in-formation there and now work in both urban and tribal areas. With only 4% evangelical Christian, new believers are often persecuted by their family and/or community. Pray for effective ways to reach those who will listen –who are people of peace! May the Spirit of God, Who gives vision and provision, move mightily in this place strengthening believers and bringing more into the Kingdom!



Children Like These

Five short videos and reproducible handouts
Perfect for VBS or Children's Ministries

access videos and handouts at

<https://www.impactmiddleeast.org/children>



Meet **Nisaf**, a winsome twelve-year-old girl in Kurdistan (northern Iraq). She lives with her family in a refugee camp, along with 8,000 other children and their families, after they fled from ISIS terrorists.

Meet Nisaf



Nisaf is a twelve-year-old girl who lives in a refugee camp in Kurdistan. She is in the sixth grade.

Nisaf Likes To

- play with her friends and her sisters
- help her mom with household chores
- give a bath to her younger sister
- go to the marketplace
- play with dolls
- cook
- play video games on her father's cellphone

Nisaf's Family

- Father
- Mother
- Sister Seeyda (16 years old)
- Twin sisters Warjeen and Warveen (15 years old)
- Brother Wisam (6 years old)
- Sister Mna (6 year old)

Nisaf and her family are Yazidis. Yazidis are very simple people; most are farmers or shepherds. They are also known for producing wonderful honey and animal lard.



Nisaf's Past Home

Nisaf used to live with her family in another part of Iraq — the district of Sinjar. They fled from their home with just the clothes they were wearing when ISIS terrorists attacked their village. The family lived in a very simple mud brick house with very limited electricity. They did not own much furniture. The floor was covered by cloth rags, and they slept on thin mattresses placed on the floor. They ate while sitting on the floor. All their food was fresh from their garden, and they used milk, butter and cheese made from the sheep and goats they owned. The toilet was a hole in the ground, and the family used firewood for heat in the winter.

Nisaf only speaks Kurmanji Kurdish — the Shengali dialect and is currently learning Arabic and English at the Noor Center.

Through **five short videos** Nisaf shows us where she lives and other special places in the camp, including the **Noor Center**. Established by Impact Middle East, the Noor Center creates ways for children to laugh, play, and feel safe again after all the trauma they have experienced in their lives.

Reproducible handouts provide activities and additional information for each of the videos. **Project options** provide ways for children's groups to help children like Nisaf.

