



## Missions Hotline

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

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Free Methodist World Missions is committed to serve Free Methodists as together we make disciples among the peoples of the world. The Free Methodist Church has ministry in 82 world areas.

### *Top News*

**Nigeria:** The Nigerian judge ruled in favor of the FM Church on Mon., May 18, in the court case involving Hope Academy, the church and mission property. An injunction was declared against the former, now expelled, pastor and his three accomplices. Arrests are to be carried out Wed., May 20. Please pray that all four arrests happen with no incidents or problems, and the damage and corruption by this man be restored. Pray the church becomes stronger in faith and integrity. Hope Academy, an International Child Care Ministries sponsored school serving hundreds of children and their families, is located in the south central region of Nigeria.

**Malawi:** Malawi will hold presidential and parliamentary elections today, Tues., May 19. Ryan and Jen Willson report there is a strong possibility of demonstrations and other civil disturbances surrounding election activities, especially in urban areas (such as where they live on the Bible School campus). One of the voting locations is the primary school right next door to the Willsons. Pray for safety and God's will to be done.

### *Africa*

**Democratic Republic of Congo:** Linda Stryker has requested prayer for the Katanga Annual Conference meeting Thurs., May 21 to Sat., May 23 at Kalemie. Bishop Joshua W'Elongo, his wife and two other church leaders are on their way there by boat on Lake Tanganyika. It is not a simple trip, Linda explains, "Weather can be bad and create many problems. Getting back is usually more difficult. The boats coming from that direction are not as regular. Last year the bishop and his team were stranded for several weeks and ended up walking many miles to try to catch a boat. His next annual conference is two weeks later so he really needs the travel to work out well." Elections are being held at all seven annual conferences. Pray the delegates will make wise choices during the elections and as they look to the future in other aspects of ministry.

**Malawi:** Dzaleka Camp, which was once a prison in the 1980s, is now home to more than 10,000 refugees from Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is also home to a Free Methodist church. Recently Ryan Willson shared the morning message at the church, where four languages are spoken. The sermon was translated from English to Chichewa, then into Swahili. "It was clear that the Holy Spirit was helping the translators and me," writes Ryan, "since five people made new commitments to the Lord."

Pray for Pastor Pascal Mbabajende as he leads this congregation, and ask the Lord to meet the people's needs. They have no land to farm and are not able to leave the camp without a day pass. It is illegal for them to set up a business in town, so they are forced to find work or set up some kind of business within the camp's confines. The congregation also does not have any resources (no hymnals, no Bible study materials, and very few have Bibles) in Swahili, the common language for most of the people. Pray for God's blessing and provision.

### ***Asia***

In March 2009, the Free Methodist Church was officially organized in Vietnam. FM ministry in this country began through Barnabas, a Vietnamese refugee living in the U.S. Building a relationship with the Living Water FMC in Dalton, OH, Barnabas was sent from the church to Asia. There he planted a Vietnamese church in Taipei, Taiwan, while following up with contacts in his homeland. Meetings and training with these contacts resulted in the birth of the Free Methodist Church in Vietnam with four ordained elders, six conference ministerial candidates, and 66 churches with more than 3,000 members. Pray for this new church and its leaders. Vietnam veterans who are interested in bringing spiritual healing to Vietnam may contact David and Joanie Crane at [joanielcrane@hotmail.com](mailto:joanielcrane@hotmail.com) or 765.342.9316.

### ***Missions Family***

**Health:** Pray Pat Cruce's mother, Alice Craven, will continue to make a quick recovery following a slight stroke. Pat and her husband, Garry, serve in Peru.

**Missionary Kids:** Pray for Stephen Dunn, son of Scott and Paula (Romania), who will be taking two important tests in May and June. Both tests are related to college preparation. Stephen is a high school junior.

**Day of Fasting and Prayer:** Executive Director Dr. Art Brown encourages you to join missions organizations who are spending one day a month in prayer and fasting. The third Wednesday of each month has been suggested, making tomorrow Wed., May 20, the next proposed day to fast and pray as a proactive response to the challenging financial environment. Consider encouraging your church to participate in this focused time of prayer.

### ***Europe***

**Romania:** A group of teens and young adults has recently responded to God's call to start a new church in Arad, report Scott and Paula Dunn. The group calls themselves "Adoram," which is Hebrew for "The Lord is Exalted." Scott is serving as a teacher and coach for them. "Working with this enthusiastic group has been a great encouragement," writes Scott. "As is typical with new churches, they are full of questions, eager to learn, and eager to make a difference for Jesus." Please pray for Adoram's development and for Scott's ministry among them.

### ***Latin America***

**Peru:** Pray for the interdenominational health and evangelism conference that is taking place this week through Sat., May 23 in Peru. Garry and Pat Cruce have helped to organize and host this event.

**Chile:** Pray as Beth Gomez (missionary to Latin America) prepares to lead a session Fri., May 30, at a retreat for pastor's wives in Chillan, Chile.

### ***Middle East***

**Iraq:** There were nearly 90 adults and 25 children attending the first public meeting in the new building in Dohuk, northern Iraq. About 10 of the adults were guests, including the mayor, who addressed the congregation. "We are all encouraged by the spiritual fervor of the people," writes one leader, "and their sense of ownership in the building and ministry." The leaders also ask for prayer. A local mullah has already started a petition to close the church. He is trying to get the signatures of neighbors. Pray for God's favor in this situation.

### ***Mobilization***

What does it take to be a missionary? We're searching for believers who are missional and who participate in gift-oriented ministry in their local congregations. Passion for the glory of God and those outside the family of faith cannot simply be "turned on" once a person arrives in a foreign country ... if you don't have it here, you likely won't have it there. Pray for future missionaries, that God will compel them to develop their gifts now for maximum kingdom impact. Does God want to use you to share His good news with the world? To contact us, e-mail [ExploreMissions@gmail.com](mailto:ExploreMissions@gmail.com).

### ***VISA Ministries***

Kenny Martin and Jack Eldred represented Men's Ministries International last week in Guatemala. Praise God for the help they were to Superintendent Gregory Otzoy as they conducted a Free Methodist Pastors Equipping & Resourcing Conference.

Norman Edwards, First FMC, Seattle, WA, and Robert Wayne Clugston, Calvin Presbyterian Church, WA, travel to Burundi May 19-26. They will meet with staff at Hope Africa University and Burundi Educational Ministry.

The Columbus FMC, IN, is sending a construction team to Venezuela May 20 to June 2. Harry Wampler is the team leader.

Marv DeVisser and Tim and Keri Innes, Spring Arbor FMC, MI, travel to Peru May 23 to June 3. They will work with JR Crouse on various projects.

VISA Ministries - PO Box 535002, Indianapolis, IN 46253-5002 - [visa@fmcna.org](mailto:visa@fmcna.org) - 800-342-5531

### ***Current Newsletters***

Check the FMWM Web site for recent newsletters from the following missionaries:

Garry & Pat Cruce, Peru

Scott & Paula Dunn, Romania

Don & Kathy Williams, Thailand

Jim & Deb Wilson, Philippines

Larry & Katie Winckles, Hungary

This link takes you directly to the [Missionary Web Pages](#) listing.

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