

Free Methodist Window to the World March 2007

Scripture: For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer. *1 Peter 3:12*

Missions Report: “*The Forgotten Church*,” by Ken Myers, Mexico

The FM church in Acopilco, a community of around 10,000 people on the outskirts of Mexico City, had been without a pastor for some time. Leaders from other FM churches in Mexico would occasionally visit the church, the only protestant church in that small town, to hold services. Most often, however, no services were conducted.

During their visit to Mexico, I took several leaders from the Columbia River Conference to the Acopilco church, which they affectionately referred to as “the forgotten church.” There we met with a member of the church, Rosita, who had always remained faithful in spite of not having a pastor. We told her how some churches in the U.S. had been praying for her church, “the forgotten church,” asking God to supply them with a pastor. Rosita began to cry. She was touched that people so far away, who had never even met them, were praying for their little church. She went on to tell us, through her tears of emotion and joy, that God had heard their prayers. He had sent them a new pastor, Pastora Maria Eugenia. Rosita asked us to tell everyone that God had remembered the Acopilco Free Methodist Church, that it was no longer “the forgotten church.” I think we all had tears in our eyes before she finished her story. We were all so blessed, and the people of the Acopilco were greatly encouraged to know that others were praying for them. Thank you for praying!

Action Steps:

*Observe World Day of Prayer, March 4, by praying for the ministry of the Free Methodist Church around the world. A World Day of Prayer service or a week-long prayer emphasis, with specific requests, can be found at www.fmwm.org (click on *Pray* at the top of the home page).

*Use FMWM resources to help your church to be a praying church.

- Weekly Missions Hotline prayer update (<http://www.fmwm.org/pray/hotline.php>)
- *World Mission People* magazine prayer calendar
- Missionary bulletin inserts (available on missionary pages at www.fmwm.org or 1-800-342-5531, ext. 240)
- Praying for the worldwide Free Methodist Church, missionaries and the world (http://www.fmwm.org/cms_media/files/prayer.resources.pdf)
- Helping Children Pray (http://www.fmwm.org/cms_media/files/helping.children.prayer.pdf)

*Other helpful prayer resources include:

- *Operation World* by Johnstone and Mandryk
- *Window on the World* by Spraggett.

*Links to web prayer resources include:

- www.gmi.org/ow/ (Operation World on-line)
- www.24-7prayer.com/ow/ (Prayer Guide to Every Nation)
- www.peoplegroups.org or www.joshuaproject.net (people groups)

*Create a prayer wall in your church or home. Post specific missionary, FM ministry and world prayer needs. Allow individuals, if they so desire, to write out and post their prayers on behalf of these needs.

*Conduct a prayer service using different stations in a room to represent different missionary, FM ministry and world prayer needs. Use a banner, poster or object to represent the prayer focus. Allow individuals or pairs to move from station to station, praying for those requests. Or have a representative at each table to serve as a group leader for that prayer focus.

*Ask existing prayer groups to adopt and pray regularly for a missionary or country supported by your church.

*Use a regular plan to pray for worldwide needs: Sunday – pray for evangelism, Monday – pray for the national church, national workers and international missionaries, Tuesday – pray for FM missionaries and MKs, Wednesday – pray for a specific country where the FM Church has ministry, Thursday – pray for U.S. missions leadership on the local, conference and denominational levels, Friday – pray for FM compassionate ministries, Saturday – pray for missions funding: missionary support, country ministry budgets, special projects.