

Clemente Newsletter

April 2022

Reconnection: “Family Break”

Many of you know that Carmen is studying at Asbury University, at Wilmore, Kentucky. Last Spring Break, the three of us, Sarah, Jacob, and myself (David), went down to see her in Kentucky. We visited the Red River Gorge for a time of hiking and appreciating the beauty of this Kentucky gorge.

Have you ever been to the Red River Gorge? Never have been to this gorgeous place? You should come and visit some time. Happy Easter, y’all!!!

Report: “Praying At All Times”

God is working in Asia. Many Filipinos have seen this work and are responding in creative ways. Some of our Free Methodists are going out as English teachers, social workers, agricultural specialists, and other special jobs. While out there working, they also do missions work by sharing the gospel to the people they meet.

So, in response to what God is doing in the Philippines, we want to provide quality cross cultural training for our church workers. I will be in the Philippines this September, together with Dr. Darrell L. Whiteman, to teach and facilitate a Mission Training Conference or MTC2022. Pray with us. The final plans for MTC2022 this September are now set. We still need to raise some financial support for this September event. Pray, and if you sense God’s leading to give towards this 4-day conference, please contact me personally. Each participant will pay a small amount to give value to their participation. Your donation will cover about half of their expenses. I need \$4,000.00 to make this mission training happen. Your gifts will be a great encouragement to the many who are doing missions work amidst their financial challenges. The good news is that there is a matching grant of \$2,000 for MTC2022. Thank you again for your generosity.

There is a growing excitement among the church leaders in the Philippines. One local mobilizer said: “We have never been to, have never had a Mission Conference like this coming September.” Pray for the FMMP (Free Methodist Mission Philippines) leaders as they continue in the final preparations. God is preparing the way. Church leaders, missions mobilizers, and local missionaries are looking forward to participating in this MTC2022.

Review: “Seeing God’s Work”

God is moving in many restricted Asian countries. In Country-IA, an indigenous group is slowly proclaiming God’s love in subtle ways. How do the members do this? The leaders have opened up a small kindergarten school to help indigent families and the education of their children. They also have thriving “business for ministry” projects that augment the income of some pastors. They also provide regular pastoral training on the field for all their local pastors scattered around the island.

I (David) have never met the leaders of this indigenous group from Country-IA before. I have met with their lead pastor on some Zoom meetings. They have invited me to come to their place and see the work for myself. I am thrilled with the idea that this Asian group could become one of our partners in ministry. God’s work continues on.

Requests: “Never Been in the Land Down Under”

Pray for God’s work in Brisbane, Australia. During this Holy Week 2022, our FM leaders are meeting together for prayer and fellowship in this city. Pastora Emma, our church planter in Sydney, reports of one house church gathering together for spiritual encouragement.

I (David) have never been in Australia before. It will certainly be a new experience for me to visit our many Free Methodist groups there. Pray for God's leadership. I am looking forward to a fresh visit from our God in our work in this region.

Reflections: "From a Humble Donkey"

Jesus and his group are approaching Jerusalem. Jesus plans to use a young donkey and ride this animal through the streets of Jerusalem during the festival. So, he gives instruction to his disciples to pick the animal up from a certain location. Jesus says: "Go to the village there ahead of you; as you go in, you will find a colt tied up that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here" (Luke 19:30).

Have you noticed that this colt has never been ridden? Any farmer or cattle rancher knows that this is impossible. But, Jesus has a way of illustrating for us an eternal truth, that God uses a person even if one "has never been" an expert of religious work. Even if you have never had any experience in the field, he can still employ you for his service. All he wants from you is to follow him in humble obedience and worshipful dedication.

In the end, we can say with the people, ""Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Please read Luke 19:28-40 for your reference.)

Recap: "Praying With Faith"

- (1.) Pray for the Missions Training Conference this September 12-16, 2022. Pray for the leaders of the Free Methodist Missions Philippines (FMMP) as they continue to plan for this event.
- (2.) Pray for the church planting efforts in Brisbane, Australia. Pray for the leadership of Pastora Emma.
- (3.) Pray for God's work in Country-IA. Pray that FMWM-Asia will be able to make meaningful connections with God's people among the many indigenous churches in the country.
- (4.) Pray for God to bring new opportunities for his work in the Asian countries of Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and New Zealand. I will share more news about what is happening in these countries in the next newsletter.
- (5.) Pray for the Clemente family, and our exciting life here in Midwest America. Jacob just finished the musical, Wizard of Oz, here at Macomb High School, Illinois.

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You may mail a check to: Free Methodist Church - USA,
PO Box 51710, Indianapolis, IN 46251

Checks should be made out to "Free Methodist Church - USA" with "Clemente MSA" noted in the Memo line.

FMWM will provide you with a receipt as all financial gifts are tax-deductible.

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