

CLEMENTE NEWSLETTER — September 2021

Reflections: “The Light Shows Us the Way”

What would happen if we all come to the light? Everyone will be exposed. Everyone including ourselves. That is scary, right? All of us will see our very own motives for doing things, our personal assumptions about the truth, our individual dreams of what is to come, and many other revelations that we would prefer to be hidden. The good news is that this Light gives life. (See John 1:4-5) Jesus is the Light. He will expose us, but He will also give life. This reality in itself, once accepted and practiced in our daily life, will transform us, every one of us. So, go ahead and invite the Light to shine in your darkness, as John describes it for us in John 1:5. If you say you do not have darkness, then John says you deceive yourself, according to John’s letter in 1 John 1:8. Let us walk in the Light and be transformed. Let us receive the Light, trusting that he will expose us and give us life.

“But those who do what is true come to the light in order that the light may show that what they did was in obedience to God.” (John 3:21. GNB)

Review: Prayer Requests from Asia

Pray for the new FM work in Country-PK, a Muslim country. We are now connected with a leader, Pastor M, who is associated with 33 different local churches in this Asian country. In the next few months, the Asia Leadership Team (ALT), under the leadership of our Asia Area Director, will formulate plans to include these local churches in our Asia network and FM circles of friendship. Pray for wisdom and discernment.

Pray for the new work in Australia, under the leadership of Pastor Emma Agarao. Work started there in Darwin in 2001, but it is only now that FMWM, in partnership with the Philippine General Conference, is supervising the work. Pray for the church planting efforts in several major cities in this country. Pray for more workers in God’s harvest field.

Report: “Unto the Hills”

In the southern hills of Country-NP, our FMC work is located in Raksirang Village and its nearby areas. Please pray for the people of Raksirang Village. We have a dozen or more FM churches there being led by our District Leader, Pastor Gideon. I received a report from Pastor Abraham that “no house is without a sick person.” Please pray for God’s healing. And if the Lord touches your heart, please give to the Bishops’ Crisis Response Fund (BCRF) and your donations will go to those who are in need.

Pastor Gideon and his wife have been suffering from dengue, and this recent bout with Covid is making things worse for this couple. Pray for God’s grace in their lives. Pray as they continue to lead our work in the midst of this pandemic.

A recent donation from BCRF gave our FM members some relief. Last month, Pastor Gideon spearheaded the purchase and distribution of much needed food. Pray for the Christian gospel to spread among the people in Raksirang Village. Pray for God's relief to flow to the village community, including the unchurched and non-FM believers. Pray for God's light to shine brightly.

Also, some of you have given towards the purchase of a motorcycle for our church planters. Praise God for this donation—Pastor Bir is now using his new motorcycle to visit different churches and continue his work as a District Leader. Just last month, he facilitated the baptism of seven new believers. Praise God for his work in Country-NP.

Reconnection: Partnership Building (PB)

I (David) have been visiting local churches in both Illinois and Michigan. What a joy it has been to reconnect with fellow Free Methodists. In most of the church communities I have visited so far, a significant number of members do not know me personally as their missionary. This is a good thing! It shows that these churches are growing! I praise God that the Spirit of our Lord is alive in our churches in the USA.

Request: “A Request from Us to Help Country-NP.”

FMWM-Asia is asking local churches to make an annual commitment to support the Church Planting and Development (CPD) fund for Country-NP. We highly recommend churches make a commitment of \$1890 per year. This amount would support one church planter for one year.

Please contact me (David) for more information. I have a brochure I can send your way for your perusal. I am grateful to those who have already given and made a commitment to support Country-NP CPD. God will multiply your gifts.

Recap: Features from Home

Please continue to pray for safety and God's traveling mercies for David as he visits local churches in Illinois and Michigan.

Praise God for a smooth transition for Carmen in Wilmore and Jacob in Macomb. Carmen has started her sophomore year at Asbury University (Kentucky). In addition to attending classes, she is currently directing the annual Sophomore Musical, which this year is The Little Mermaid. Jacob has started his junior year at Macomb High School. He is preparing for theatre auditions and is enjoying Art class.

Pray for Sarah as she continues her administrative duties with FMWM-Asia as well as our family missionary unit. She misses traveling to churches and visiting our friends and ministry partners, but she is thankful for this time to reconnect with family and old friends as well as get to know new friends in our neighborhood.

Praise God for the good report Sarah's father (John) received at his last checkup. Four years after his initial diagnosis, John's lung cancer has been in remission for a year and a half. We are all so very thankful.

David's PB Schedule For the Fall of 2021

September 19, 2021: South Ewart Community Free Methodist Church, Ewart, MI

Sept. 19th — 5:00 PM: Waypoint Free Methodist Church, Zeeland, MI

September 26, 2021: Cowden Free Methodist Church, Cowden, IL

October 3, 2021: Bethany Free Methodist Church, Bethany, IL

Oct. 3rd — 6:30 PM: Knox Knolls Free Methodist Church, Springfield, IL

October 10, 2021: Emmanuel Free Methodist Church, Alton, IL

October 17, 2021: Caldwell Free Methodist Church, Manton, MI

Oct. 17th — 4:00 PM: Ravenna Free Methodist Church, Ravenna, MI

Oct. 20th — Wednesday P.M.: Evergreen Free Methodist Church, Sheridan, MI

October 24, 2021: River of Life Free Methodist Church, Saranac, MI

Oct. 27th — Wednesday P.M.: Church on The Hill, Free Methodist Church, St. Louis, MI

October 31, 2021: Moundford Free Methodist Church, Decatur, IL

November 7, 2021: Cornerstone Free Methodist Church, Holton, MI

November 14, 2021: Central Michigan Free Methodist Church, Mt. Pleasant, MI

Nov. 14th — 4:00 PM: Millbrook Free Methodist Church, Millbrook, MI

November 21, 2021: Solid Rock Free Methodist Church, Pontoon Beach, IL

Nov. 21st — 4:00 PM: Coffeen Free Methodist Church, Coffeen, IL

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