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HEARTBEAT

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Free Methodist World Missions makes disciples by mobilizing the global church and empowering international leaders to establish transformational churches.



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Faithfulness and Success
The Pure Farm
Gospel Impact



Photo: Kevin Austin

FAITHFULNESS AND *Success*

By Kevin Austin

Here is a trick question: Which is more important, faithfulness or success?

On a recent journey to Europe, I pondered and struggled with this question. We are all amazed at what is happening in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Last February, 161 people were baptized in Cambodia; in the past five years, the Free Methodist Church in Thailand grew from 12 to 1,608 members and from 1 to 14 churches. In Latin America, 8,500 have accepted Christ, and more than 1,750 have been baptized in the last three years. And in the Middle East, house churches are being planted almost faster than we can count. Wow! Praise God!

Wilmore, Kentucky, captured our attention for several weeks. We were in awe. We long for the outpouring of the Spirit like that into our lives and churches.

I thought about these things as I walked through the empty cathedrals of Europe and bumped into young people partying in church squares at night. I had agonizing conversations with godly, called, gifted church leaders whose hearts are broken for the lost, the lonely and the oppressed.

Our response is to give attention to results. We are drawn to the wonder. We give to success. But don't all people matter? Even those in the graveyards of Christianity? Don't our struggling church plants in places like Hungary and Spain deserve our attention, support, encouragement and financial support? God is present in Europe, but it looks different from other places.

Both faithfulness and success matter. Faithfulness gives people like Larry and Katie Winckles the power to stay the course on the field for 23 years. How do we define success? What do we count? These are important questions. I call 23 years of dogged, persistent, sacrificial work success. Larry and Katie are not flashy people. There is no show. However, God is present in their lives and work, and we should be in awe of their perseverance and faithfulness just as much as we are amazed by the outpourings in Kentucky, Cambodia, Thailand, Colombia, the Middle East and elsewhere.

God is calling all people in all places.
Faithfulness and success are interchangeable.
Let us embrace both.
Join us in praying for Europe!

THE PURE FARM Impact in

Bulgaria



By Dee Dee Galloway, missionary to Bulgaria

People were hungry and needed access to healthy, clean food. The needs of the Kyustendil, Bulgaria, community were communicated to us, missionaries Chance and Dee Dee Galloway, by a local Bulgarian, Stanimir Zahariev. Seeing the need and knowing the rich and plentiful soil in the region became an obvious bridge to providing for the needs.

The Pure Farm was birthed in 2018. By 2020, four greenhouses had been added, allowing increased yield. Then came the global pandemic. The COVID-19 lockdown made access to food even more scarce. The Pure Farm allowed us to feed 26 communities during that time.

We have watched God continue to grow the farm. With the help of FM churches, a tractor was donated in 2021. Tractor attachments were added in 2022 and 2023.

Our holistic approach to ministry equips individuals to experience God's provision and power in their lives. The Pure Farm project focuses on feeding the community with the fruits of our labor. Moreover, we empower individuals by teaching the skill of farming and hard, prosperous work to promote self-sufficiency. Our mission is to provide meals

as we fellowship with one another, growing and living in love. As we build strong relationships in the community, we help families living in extreme poverty find hope in Jesus. In 2020, the Feeding Program impacted over 450 families throughout Bulgaria.

The Pure Farm is an organic and environmentally conscious farm led by Stanimir Zahariev. We grow fresh, organic fruits and vegetables to supply those in need as we invest in the nationals and feed the hungry. As we meet the need, we present the gospel. We are the hands and feet of Jesus with the mission of serving others.

Our goals are to bring food and training consistently and to perpetually add more land projects in all the regions where we are engaged.

Many lives have been impacted by the Pure Farm project, thanks to Jesus' love and provision and the volunteers' hard work and dedication.

Join us in praying for fruitful harvest from the Pure Farm and fruitful harvest for the Kingdom!

OBEDIENCE

+

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

=

GOSPEL IMPACT

By Cathy Alford, missionary to Spain



In October 2020, I was bored on a Friday night, casually watching “Mediterranean Living” on HGTV. I jokingly texted my adult children, expressing the idea of moving to Spain. Little did I know that the following morning, I would receive confirmation from the Lord. He was calling me to leave behind my established coaching practice, family, church and community to embark on a new journey in a foreign land with few acquaintances, uncertain demand for my professional skills and no knowledge of the language.

My participation in the 2018 “We Love Spain Cycling Tour” gave me a glimpse into the Mosaico Cultural Center and the missionary work in the European region. It inspired me to begin the application process to become a VISA Voyager missionary with Free Methodist World Missions. After completing the process and obtaining a Spanish visa, I boarded a plane to Spain, accompanied by five large suitcases and my faithful dog, Penny Lane.

The first year was challenging, adapting to cultural differences, navigating language barriers and being separated from my family. Although moments of fear and uncertainty crept in, there was a deep sense of peace, knowing God had called me for a specific purpose and He would be by my side.

Through this journey, I have come to recognize how God also equips individuals with professional skills to contribute to missions. My role now involves providing leadership coaching and development to European missionaries and leadership teams in Europe. We begin by using the Gallup CliftonStrengths® assessment to understand each person's unique strengths, fostering collaboration and forming diverse teams. Additionally, the European teams have access to workshops on Emotional Intelligence, Myers-Briggs, Conflict Resolution, Difficult Conversations and Wellness. It has been an incredible privilege to serve individuals in Spain, Bulgaria, Greece, Belgium and the Canary Islands over the past 17 months.

Before this assignment, I had yet to fully grasp how professional skills could enhance missionaries' effectiveness in their communities.

My prayer and intention are to use my skill set and calling to support and serve the European team, making a lasting impact on others for the gospel's sake.

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SEPTEMBER PRAYER GUIDE

01 > **Friday** | Sierra Leone

Pray for the formation of a few partnerships with U.S. churches that can help provide financial support and encouragement for this young Free Methodist work.

02 > **Saturday** | Hungary

Pray for open doors into new communities. Ask God to call new leaders and co-workers from within Hungary and from abroad.

03 > **Sunday** | Southeast Asia

Ask the Father to give wisdom and guidance to Seth and Hlawn Hlawn Van Tifflin in the coming year as they lead In Better Hands and serve as part of the Asia missionary team. Pray for open doors to serve others around them.

Birthday: Seth Van Tifflin

04 > **Monday** | Bahamas

The Southeast Region Conference gives oversight to one church in Nassau. Pray for healthy connections. Pray new leaders might be identified.

05 > **Tuesday** | Middle East

Unprecedented numbers from the majority religious background are coming to faith in Christ. Thank the Lord! Foreign workers are free to work with churches ministering to refugees. Pray the Holy Spirit will continue to use the displacement of people to bring a great increase in the Kingdom.

06 > **Wednesday** | Thailand

In 2018, missionaries Jason and Wendi began the process of adopting a little girl from an Asian creative access country. This process was delayed due to pandemic restrictions. They may be able to complete the adoption in September. Pray for the Lord's timing and provision. **Birthday: Jason**

07 > **Thursday** | Togo

Pray for a rural FM church in the Fazao area in northern Togo. This church has a ministry to about 160 children. Ask God to give wisdom and provide resources.

08 > **Friday** | Spain

Pray for new leaders to be called and equipped to engage their communities. Pray for wisdom to find ways to approach and present the gospel to a generation and culture skeptical of Christianity.

09 > **Saturday** | São Tomé and Príncipe

Pray for God's provisions. The church in São Tomé is growing. Pray for the purchase of land and construction of a church building. Also, ask God to provide a suitable vehicle to replace the Souza's current car.

Birthday: Moises Souza (International Missionary)

10 > **Sunday** | Guatemala

Join the church in Guatemala as they pray for the restoration of families and marriages. Pray the Lord will open pathways of effective ministry to families.

11 > **Monday** | Iraq

An Impact Middle East leader in Iraq is disciplining young people. Through sports ministry, he is developing relationships that are opening doors for him to share the love of Christ. Pray for this developing sports ministry.

12 > **Tuesday** | Mali

Pray the Lord will call more local leaders who have a passion for church planting and are willing to be trained.

13 > **Wednesday** | Brazil

Praise the Lord for the recent growth of the Free Methodist seminary in São Paulo where Dan and Hope Owsley teach. Pray God will continue to provide students who are hungry for Him and that their classes will prepare them for many years of fruitful ministry. **Birthday: Hope Owsley**

14 > **Thursday** | Europe

Pray for ongoing ministry among Arab-speaking immigrants in Europe. Many of these passed through Thessaloniki, Greece, where they became followers of Christ. They are now relocated to various parts of Europe. Pray for those who continue to work to disciple them.

15 > **Friday** | Japan

Pray for a new awakening in Japan. Pray many will lift their eyes beyond the mountains and learn where their true help comes from. Pray for hearts open to hear the good news.

16 > **Saturday** | ICCM

ICCM in Ethiopia is purchasing a printing press. It will be used to print textbooks and other necessary resources for the ICCM schools. Pray it can also become an income-generating source for the ICCM program there.

17 > Sunday | Eswatini

Pray people in this country will abandon their traditional religions and the occult as they hear of Jesus and find freedom in Him.

18 > Monday | Romania

Pray for spiritual receptiveness and open doors for beginning churches and developing transformational ministries across Romania.

19 > Tuesday | Creative Access Asia

Pray for believers in locations that oppose the gospel. Pray they will not give in to fear but will remember God has not given them a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

20 > Wednesday | Argentina

Praise the Lord for new opportunities He is bringing to the ministry at The Harbor in Buenos Aires. Ask God for wisdom to know when and how to engage these opportunities. Pray for the amazing team of seven young leaders being mentored and trained here. **Birthday: Tanya Rosado**

21 > Thursday | Middle East

Believers in the Middle East are the minority in a hostile context. As they disciple their own families, pray their story and example of following Jesus together will be a strong witness of the gospel's transforming power in our relationships.

22 > Friday | Nigeria

The South Central Conference has a new missionary, a graduate of the Wesley Missionary Institute. Pray the Lord will open doors and point him to people of peace in the region where he hopes to start a church.

23 > Saturday | Asia

Pray for open doors for ministry in areas yet unreached by the gospel. Pray specifically for two new developing ministry points in Creative Access-MA and Singapore.

24 > Sunday | Haiti

Gang violence, kidnappings and political instability continue to plague Haiti, creating ongoing security issues and increasing humanitarian concerns. Pray for a miracle of God to transform this nation. **Birthday Dee Ann Snyder**

25 > Monday | United Kingdom

Pray for Free Methodist churches in the U.K. as they work toward strengthening global partnerships with the wider Free Methodist Church.

26 > Tuesday | Set Free Movement

The Set Free Movement has a new resource available to help parents have conversations with their children about human trafficking – “Let’s Talk About Human Trafficking.” Pray God will use this resource in important ways to protect vulnerable children.

27 > Wednesday | FMWM

Pray for Gerry Coates as he collaborates with our bishops, area directors, U.S. superintendents and pastors to help the U.S. and global church work in interdependent relationships for the expansion of the Kingdom.

Birthday: Gerry Coates (Director of Global Engagement)

28 > Thursday | Latin America

A team of leaders in Latin America is reviewing the current pastoral formation curriculum. Pray for this team as they review, update and further develop this curriculum to assist in developing healthy leaders throughout the region.

29 > Friday | Cambodia

Pray for wisdom as leaders work to develop micro-enterprise projects to support pastors and church-planting initiatives in Cambodia.

30 > Saturday | Creative Access-P

Pray the power of the gospel will reach the hearts of leaders and people in this nation.

Birthday: Michael (Affiliate Missionary)

*“Lord, I give up
All my own plans and purposes,
All my own desires and hopes
And accept Thy will for my life.
I give myself, my life, my all,
Utterly to Thee
To be Thine forever.
Fill me and seal me with Thy Holy Spirit
Use me as Thou wilt,
Send me where Thou wilt,
Work out Thy whole will in my life
At any cost,
Now and forever.”*

– Betty Scott Stam, martyred in China in the 1930s