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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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**Mobilizing and Uniting
Transformational Community
Freedom in Bolivia**



Mobilizing and Uniting

*By Katherine Sandoval,
Latin American CCP Team Member, and Beth Gómez*



There are three general conferences in Latin America: Haiti, Brazil and the Dominican Republic. Each has its own vision, mission and government, and consequently only has a fraternal relationship with the Latin American Area. The relationship with Brazil first began to change when Venezuelans immigrated to Brazil and began opening houses of peace, a strategy of the Community Church Planting (CCP) movement. Because of this reality, Latin American multiplication team members began advising and supporting the work in Brazil. Now, the movement is growing within another general conference.

In 2013, members of the Free Methodist General Conference in the Dominican Republic (DR) received a promise from God. He promised to expand their ministry and unite their country with what He was doing in the rest of the Latin American Area. The young people in the Dominican Republic began praying in earnest and waiting for God's timing.



In 2019, on a family vacation to Colombia, Pastor Audy Martinez met Pastor John Jairo Leal, who shared with him about the CCP movement. Audy was impressed by how local churches employed this simple but biblical strategy and saw real growth. He shared the vision with his church, which began to pray for the movement.

Then, in March 2024, Audy took a small delegation of youth and another pastor to the first Latin American Youth Summit. At the summit, he met Dr. Ricardo Gómez, who explained the strategy and connected him with Pastor Alí León, a CCP mentor. Alí's first step was to offer a virtual Disciples Multiplying Disciples (DMD) training to 30 members of two Dominican churches. Then, in November, Alí went to the Dominican Republic, where he provided additional training to the group of 30 and shared the vision with another group of pastors and leaders.

Today, Pastor Audy reports there are already 14 houses of peace meeting in the DR, but they are not satisfied. They believe God's promise was for something greater and know He is always faithful to His Word. So, they continue to pray and share the vision, training laypeople to share the story of what God has done in their lives so that others might believe. In the process, God is uniting the vision of the Latin American Area and the Dominican Republic.

Living in Transformational *Community*



By Thad Roller, Latin America Area Assistant Director and Colombia Mission District Leader

As we sat together in the conference room for the Strategic Planning Retreat, we realized in reverent gratitude that almost everything God was doing in our midst was new. Flipchart sheets compiled during the week lined the walls, each one capturing a small part of the big story newly playing out in our midst. The 1,116 houses of peace, the 1,200-plus leaders in ministerial formation, and the 90 community transformation initiatives are all new.

Even the leaders are new. Not one person on the Latin American leadership team has been in their role for more than six years! Sarah (Latin American ICCM coordinator), Pedro (newest member of the coaching team) and Sofia (leader of the financial team) have only been serving for a year. Jazmin just stepped in as the Set Free Movement coordinator in Latin America eight months ago. Just a few years ago, the effective mentor for leaders in Uruguay and Argentina was an unbelieving physical education teacher. The director of communications started life in a broken home but was practically adopted by missionaries.

Throughout the week, we spent time praying, listening and sharing the stories of how God is powerfully moving

in the 19 countries where the team works – from Mexico to Argentina. A single mother came to Christ due to her child's participation in the *Raices* discipleship program. A Chilean woman was saved, discipled and encouraged to lead her own house of peace and is completing her 19th ministry formation course in route to potential pastoral ordination. A Free Methodist church in Bolivia helped foil a human-trafficking ring.

The retreat helped us move from “team” to “community.” Specifically, our goal was to become a “discerning community,” a group of leaders who develop and deepen personal and corporate spiritual practices to help us perceive where the Lord is at work and to partner with Him more effectively in that space.

Our shared vision is to participate with God in the restoration of Latin

America. This vision is our heartbeat, our driving passion. But it is more; it is also our shared story visible in the lives of our leaders, plastered on flipchart papers, and shared in written and spoken testimonies from the field. God is bringing about His restoration in the region; these fresh new stories are a testament to the movement of God.





Photo: Jose Carlos Rojas Monzón/Pixabay



Photo: Jean Martineau/Pixabay

Freedom in *Bolivia*

By Jazmin Castillo, Set Free Coordinator for Latin America, in conjunction with Beth Gómez

Two years ago, the transformational church pillar of the Latin American Area began sponsoring “Freedom Week” to create awareness of modern-day slavery and to begin initiatives to combat trafficking. Area-wide programming in the first year inspired more churches to join in “Freedom Week” activities in the second year and start their own programs.

The Free Methodist (FM) Church in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, invited local police to give a workshop about the *Alerta Juliana* (similar to the Amber Alert used in the USA). Police explained how this alert system is becoming increasingly necessary in Bolivia because, within five years, the confirmed cases of human trafficking of Bolivian citizens have nearly doubled, and over 54% of the rescued victims have been minors. The police also taught participants how to initiate and use the alert system.

Four months later, Juan*, the 14-year-old grandson of one of the Santa Cruz church members, was

kidnapped on his way home from school. The news was devastating, but the family knew what to do because of the *Alerta Juliana* workshop. An immediate alert was issued, spreading the information to the community and authorities. Thanks to their quick action and the use of this tool, within 24 hours Juan was found and rescued. This incident and Juan’s recovery helped officials uncover a human-trafficking ring and rescue several girls who, like Juan, were on the verge of being illegally smuggled into Chile.

We thank the Lord for the many ways the Free Methodist Church in Latin America participates with God in the restoration of the region and actively seeks love-driven justice through initiatives that bring about community transformation for the glory of God.

**Name changed for security reasons.*

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MAY PRAYER GUIDE

01 > Thursday | Burundi

Pray for the expansion of the Sowers of Hope Agricultural Program, which is having a significant impact in Burundi.

02 > Friday | FMWM

Pray for Deb Miller as she leads the implementation of new solutions to improve communication and access to resources for our missionary team. **Birthday: Deb Miller (Director of Operations and Innovative Initiatives)**

03 > Saturday | Asia

Mark and Lena teach courses as part of the Gethsemane Leadership Training (GLT) modules. Pray for these classes, especially those held via Zoom, and for those who translate the teaching. **Birthday: Mark**

04 > Sunday | Costa Rica

Pray each leader and believer in the Costa Rican church will experience a genuine revival, strengthening their relationship with God and their impact in their community.

05 > Monday | South Sudan

Pray for peace in this nation and God's protection and encouragement for the believers and churches.

06 > Tuesday | Hungary

As the Budapest fellowship and the Győr fellowship give positive witness to the gospel in their communities, pray trust will be established and lives transformed by the power of Christ.

07 > Wednesday | Middle East

Praise the Lord for stories of physical healing! Pray God will continue to reveal Himself to those of the "majority background" as they come to know Jesus as Healer.

08 > Thursday | Latin America

Ricardo and Beth Gómez's two children, Julianna and Jonathan, are attending college in the U.S. Pray for their spiritual and physical health and growth during this stage of life. **Birthday: Beth Gómez**

09 > Friday | Taiwan

Intercede for unity among churches as they collaborate in evangelism and discipleship efforts across the island.

10 > Saturday | Latin America

Thank the Lord for the continued growth in children's discipleship throughout the region as more churches use the *Raices* (Roots) curriculum. Pray the Holy Spirit will use these young disciples as evangelists and prayer warriors. **Birthday: Kay Stotts Godoy**

11 > Sunday | Global

Thank the Lord for our team of missionary care couples. Pray they will know how to effectively provide care and offer spiritual, emotional and relational encouragement for the missionary team.

Birthday: Sylvia Brown (U.S.-Based Partner)

12 > Monday | Creative Access-LO

Pray for a breakthrough in the FM work in Creative Access-LO: for growth, expansion and collaboration.

13 > Tuesday | Peru

Pray God will give wisdom and discernment to the mission district leader, Pastor Alí León, allowing him to develop strategies to strengthen the work in Peru. Pray seeds of God's peace will be sown in each community where the FMC is present.

14 > Wednesday | Middle East

Life in the Middle East often seems fragile, as evil and violence persist and peace seems insurmountable. Pray for missional communities of believers living out the grace and truth of Jesus Christ, who declare through word and deed that "Evil is a defeated foe."

15 > Thursday | France

The church in Cergy is primarily composed of Haitian immigrants. Pray church members will find effective ways to witness in their community, reaching more Haitian and African immigrants nearby.

16 > Friday | Ethiopia

A witch doctor came to Christ and gave land to build a small church in the village of Qila. In February, 27 people in the village were baptized. Praise the Lord! Pray for the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit in this village.

17 > Saturday | Asia

Pray for creative evangelism efforts in urban centers to reach professionals, students and families.

18 > Sunday | Democratic Republic of Congo

Pray for the ongoing operations at Nundu Hospital and the provision of needed medications and supplies.

Birthday: Connie Kratzer (U.S.- Based Partner)

19 > Monday | ICCM

ICCM began in Paraguay in March 1983. The ministry there includes sponsorship of the pastor's children and the operation of two schools. Pray these sponsored children will grow to love Jesus with their whole hearts.

20 > Tuesday | Middle East

Pray for many local leaders to be empowered to share the hope of the gospel and proclaim the good news through word, action, and love, resulting in sustainable faith communities where lives are transformed.

21 > Wednesday | Zimbabwe

Pray for reconciliation and solutions for unemployment, health crises and food shortages in a nation struggling with continual turmoil.

22 > Thursday | Latin America

The missionaries from the Latin America Area will gather for a missionary retreat May 24-30. Pray this will be a time of physical and spiritual refreshment as they connect with one another.

23 > Friday | Philippines

Pray for Roger Stone as he continues Bible translation work with the Ayta Ambala and the Ayta Mag-Indi translation teams. Ask the Father to give him wisdom and clear understanding.

Birthday: Roger Stone (Affiliate Missionary)

24 > Saturday | Mexico

Ask the Father to guide and refresh the pastors and leaders attending the Pacifico Annual Conference at Rancho Betania, Mexico.

25 > Sunday | Europe

Cathy Alford returned to the U.S. earlier this year. Pray for her as she continues serving as a U.S.-based partner assisting with training and leadership support for European missionaries and national leaders.

Birthday: Cathy Alford (U.S.-Based Partner)

26 > Monday | Colombia/Fiji

Colombia: Pray God's grace and wisdom for Susana Castro as she leads the processes of pastoral care, mentoring and sabbatical groups in the Latin America Area.

Birthday: Susana Castro (International Missionary)

Fiji: Teresita and Ian are preparing to move from the Philippines to serve in assisting a young Free Methodist ministry in Fiji. Ask the Father to provide the resources needed and help them adapt to a new culture.

Birthday: Ian (International Missionary)

27 > Tuesday | Set Free Movement

The Set Free Movement is celebrating its 15th anniversary. As they continue the fight to end human trafficking, pray God will work through the power of Christ and His church to heal the deep societal and moral issues that are the root cause. **Birthday: Kevin Austin**

28 > Wednesday | Creative Access- BA

Four fellowships are currently a part of the young and developing work in this African country. Pray for Pastor Rebecca as she leads organization, formation and expansion.

29 > Thursday | United Kingdom

Praise the Lord! In March, five new believers were baptized at the Iranian church in Liverpool. Pray for these young believers and this growing work.

30 > Friday | Middle East

Use the words of 1 Corinthians 15:58 as you pray for brothers and sisters in the Middle East who face persecution. Pray they will stand and let nothing move them, giving themselves fully to the work of the Lord because they know their labor in the Lord is not in vain.

31 > Saturday | Dominican Republic

Praise the Lord for 14 new houses of peace in the Dominican Republic this last year. Pray for the FMC as they continue training laypeople to share the story of what God has done in their lives so others might believe.