

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

6/11/2025

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

June 11, 2025

Table of Contents

Meeting date and Location	3
Present	3
Meeting Called to Order	3
Devotions	3
Agenda Approval.....	3
Approval of Minutes	3
Director's Report.....	3
Updates from Administration	4
Personal Support.....	4
Missio Nexus	4
Child Safety Principles Network (CSPN)	4
Zach/Carey Ritland.....	4
Brazil.....	4
Steve and Glenda Kvale	5
Jon Nelson	5
Michael Rokenbrodt	5
Jonni Sliver	5
Andrew and Alexis Olson	6
Paul and Becky Abel	6
Pastor Silvio.....	6
Luther and Vardhini	7
Chile	7
Paraguay.....	8
Approve Expenses.....	8
Election of World Mission Board Officers.....	8
Next meeting.....	8
Adjournment.....	8

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

June 11, 2025

Meeting date and Location

Meeting at the Mission House during the 2025 AFLC Annual Conference hosted by the ARC, June 11, 2025 - 8am

Present

Pr. Earl Korhonen, Wanda Jacobson, Pr. Craig Johnson, Ken Sletten, Pr. David Johnson, Pr. Jerry Nelson, Sam Quanbeck, Pr. Ray Ballman

Meeting Called to Order

Pr. Craig Johnson

Devotions

Ken Sletten – Amos 8:11-14 God's judgment on the people. The Word is removed to satisfy their spiritual hunger for growth. We have what others lack – and it should humble us...and drive us to reach the lost.

Agenda Approval

202516 MSC MR/SQ to accept the agenda

Approval of Minutes

February 27 -28, 2025

Pg. 6 Remove the name Laura Lee Finstrom (first paragraph under Brazil). We also discussed what should and shouldn't be included in the minutes which are gleaned from personal conversations...especially in terms of personnel issues. Redactions for publication were discussed.

Pg. 5 Second paragraph

"Switzerland on the way back from Uganda"

Pg. 10 First paragraph

"Practice not required" and "approval not permission" and "Annual conference rather than Association". Strike "the board can't simply declare an interest..."

Setell

"Jonathan not Jonathon" Unverzagt

202517 MSC SQ/KS to accept the minutes from 2/27-28

Director's Report

SLQ 6-11-25

- Brief devotional from I Timothy 1:15-16
- Upcoming travel overview

Missionary Schedules

20250611 – 3 Motion made to approve Matthew and Ednay furlough (Mark, Jerry)

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

June 11, 2025

20250611-4 Motion made to accept director's report (Ken, Mark)

Updates from Administration

- Pr. Earl reviewed updates since the previous meeting
 - Now a part of the Child Safety Protection Network – review document by Sept 1
 - Potential to hire Andrew Abel for updated videos from Paraguay and Brazil – shortened format desired (60 seconds) for the purpose of displaying during church service announcements
 - Missionary pipeline graphic to be introduced during conference report

Personal Support

- End of June is a good time to assess Zach and Carey's support and whether they will be able to ship out near the end of August. A decision needs to be made after the Annual Conference on the designated date to purchase tickets.

Missio Nexus

- Potential to join Missio Nexus, annual membership is \$1000, would be beneficial with a discount for the Missio Nexus conference

202518 MSC JN/MR to give Pr. Earl authority to become a member of the Missio Nexus network if it is advantageous financially to attend the conference.

Child Safety Principles Network (CSPN)

- Mark and Pr. Earl shared some details of the Child Safety Principles and Practice document. They are seeking feedback from the board to update this accordingly for our use.

Zach/Carey Ritland

- Traveling is going well. 13 churches visited – 40 churches scheduled. Good newsletter. Personal support is going well...and growing. Spanish studies are going well. Time in Colorado went well – it was helpful. Their debrief program informs and strengthens their pre-mission efforts. They found the whole experience to be helpful and instructive. They talked extensively about burnout, exhaustion, and overload in ministry. It helped them understand they will not be alone if they struggle with some of these emotions. They have also done significant personal study of some cultural issues they will be experiencing. They have purchased some property near the church, but don't have plans for it at this point. A place to live hasn't been identified yet. Pr. Craig reminded the group that the Ritland's will be commissioned at the 6/12 service. Mark prayed for Zach and Carey as we closed our time with them.

Brazil

The board discussed some of the issues with SETELL and the school/seminary in that area of Brazil. Some improvements have been implemented, while other areas remain unchanged.

Steve and Glenda Kvale

They shared their updates on how things are going with Wycliffe. Glenda began with thanks for the AFLC. Things are going well and moving forward. Some family challenges can be a point of prayer for the board. She also brought us up to speed on some personal needs and information. She referenced some progress points for the sign-language ministry through Wycliffe. Their recent email included some additional facts and prayer points via internet links. Supporters and churches are welcome to print these documents. Steve discussed the number of deaf translations currently underway and how many remain to be completed. He also shared how his work in IT is benefiting the ministry of Wycliffe. This information enables clarity, empowerment, and function within the challenge of Bible translation. Steve also shared some insights about the role of AI in the process of Bible translation.

Ken prayed for Steve and Glenda as we closed our time with them.

Jon Nelson

Shared his itinerary of the Journey Mission trips. He spoke of several students in the mission “pipeline” who have participated in classes and on trips. There have been some adjustments needed for their Mexico trips, but they will work with the new guidelines. He is now finished with his LB seminary classes and can put his full attention on the AFLC classes and trips.

Jerry prayed for Jon as we closed our time with him.

Michael Rokenbrodt

Shared his itinerary for the next few months. He also shared his plans for returning to Uganda and some of the concerns he will address upon his return. Michael spoke of his long-term vision for the Uganda area, where they need ongoing encouragement and support in the “Genesis” stage of development. He spoke of the leadership in place as established, but needing to “flex their leadership muscles.” He spoke of the need for male leadership to come alongside the women who are currently carrying most of the ministry. The WM Board asked Michael several questions regarding the needs and challenges of the work in Uganda. Michael shared that there is some tension between the current emphasis on house-churches and a possible move towards buying property for an established church. Michael will spend time in Geneva after his time in Uganda.

David prayed for Michael as we closed our time with him.

Jonni Sliver

Shared about the blessings of furlough and deputations – several stories were included in her review of her time back and her work in Brazil. The Miriam home is transitioning from a home for children of all ages to a home for children through 12 years of age. She shared several situations leading up to this need for alteration. Some involvement of staff will continue as

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

June 11, 2025

children “age out” of the Miriam Home ministry. Jonni shared some observations on the school's status. She also shared some of her own personal health challenges – but she feels they are manageable...not controlling. She views her work in the home as continuing with a few limitations and alterations. A prayer request was shared for clarity and wisdom in presenting a Scriptural seminar on moral issues. (life, sexuality, abortion, etc.)

Mark prayed for Jonni as we closed our time with her.

Andrew and Alexis Olson

Andrew reviewed the translation process and the framework of the “They Need The Bible” ministry. He explained how they have traveled and developed relationships with other translators around the world (specifically Indonesia, etc.). Andrew explained some of the priorities of the trip to Indonesia (assessments for future trips, protections for translators, etc.). He also shared some of the work of evangelism going on in Japan. Andrew spoke of Addy, a graphic artist, who is working on several translation projects. He also explained some of the financial challenges the ministry has faced, but these have lessened in recent months. He explained that his health has improved and remains strong. Andrew explained how the vision for translation has/is expanding from John 3:16 to greater sections of Scripture. He explained how their relationship with Lutheran Bible Translators is strong, coordinated, and expanding.

Ken prayed for Andrew as we closed our time with him.

Paul and Becky Abel

They shared of their return and the beginnings of this time of furlough. Administration of the work in Brazil has been partially transferred. However, this has been changed with a new emphasis on including leaders other than the “missionaries” on the board. This “passing of the baton” was required to transfer oversight of the work. The choice was either to sell (not practical) or to redefine (which is being done). “The Mission” was formed to implement this transfer. A new constitution has been drawn up to reinforce this alteration. Paul was voted into the position of President of “the Mission,” while Becky was voted in as the Treasurer. Each of these is a 3-year term – so though their active ministry may be reduced as time goes on, their participation in the overall ministry will continue for at least 3 years. They also shared some of the challenges associated with this transition process, particularly in relation to properties. They will be in the US until the beginning of December (12/8) and then return to Brazil. Some time was spent on evaluating the overall ministry of Brazil (SETELL, Miriam Home, churches, The Mission, etc.). A request for ongoing prayer was made for the general ministry happening in Brazil, including relationships and administration.

Sam prayed for Paul and Becky as we closed our time with them.

Pastor Silvio

Shared about his work with the Miriam Home. The government has entrusted the Miriam Home with much responsibility. They team up with the Miriam Home, both financially and in caring for the children. Although they are a church, they must cooperate with the laws of the land, and this

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

June 11, 2025

applies to those who are in immoral relationships. Expenses have risen, even though the government helps some. The age limit has been set at 12 years old for both boys and girls. However, there are two other churches that offer programs for 12- to 18-year-old girls and boys. The staff of the Miriam Home has been strong and stable. They have very good staff. A new hire is both Christian and knowledgeable in the law. They have 12 current staff. Their responsibility focuses on their particular community, but there are 100,000 people in the area. The space needs to be remodeled to allow for growth – it actually needs to be expanded. He showed pictures of the possible expansion project and some of the children they care for.

Silvio also works with SETELL, which is currently fairly calm. The past has been challenging, but things have improved somewhat. There is now a working Board at the seminary. A constitution is being developed. Reports are provided monthly, and regular meetings are held. He said he feels less pressure since things have improved. More students are an ongoing need. Online classes are a possible area for growth – especially as they try to reach the outlying areas. More people like staying home – rather than coming to campus. An online presence is being developed to train students, while also requiring some in-person presence at the seminary. Silvio shared extensive thanks for all that the WMB does and has done.

Craig prayed for Silvio as we closed our time with him.

Luther and Vardhini

Luther thanked the AFLC and the board. He said there are currently 56 congregations. Most outreach programs are designed for children and older adults. They preach, pray, and teach for those who are open – it is a big challenge. Luther emphasized the importance of AFLC pastors teaching Lutheran doctrine as they plant churches. Many Christian organizations have been shut down in India. But God is also opening new doors for outreach. They are praying for their opportunities to grow and for support. Sadly, persecution is also growing, and the challenges are significant, even the threat of murder. Medical outreach has opened many doors. Sadly, they have been kicked out of many communities due to pressure and the threat of persecution. Hindu militant groups are a tremendous and real threat. Muslims fight – but Christians don't want violence. They want to win over the Hindu's with love. They preach the Gospel and trust the Holy Spirit to bring conversions. If the people don't respond, they move on.

The repairs to the buildings went well and have significantly improved the situation. Luther also shared the effectiveness of the Bible Women who go out in the communities. Tutorial centers are also going well. Public school instruction is very poor, so they focus on the children in public schools. And tutorial centers are effective in that outreach.

Some personal updates were also shared.

Jerry prayed for Luther and Vardhini as we closed our time with them.

Chile

Pr. Craig brought the WMB up to speed on a conversation he had with the pastor from Chile.

202519 MSC JN/SQ to recommend to the Mission Corporation and the Conference to open Chile as a field of work for the AFLC.

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

June 11, 2025

Paraguay

Matthew Abel requested that the WMB discuss his need for a ministry van. The WMB discussed the various options and the possible precedent for future concerns with other missionaries. Pr. Earl explained the large balance in the Abel personal support account. The WMB decided to create a special project for a ministry van and begin meeting the financial need by releasing personal support money.

202520 MSC DJ/MR to create a special project for a ministry van, while also releasing \$20,000 from Matthew's personal support as seed money for this project.

Meeting Suspended until after the World Mission Corporation Meeting, Friday, June 13, 2025

Meeting Resumes – June 13, 2025

Approve Expenses

202521 MSC KS/JN to cover expenses for the June 11 WMB.

Election of World Mission Board Officers

Jerry Nelson was nominated for Vice Chairman (Ken/David)

202522 MSC MR/SQ to close Vice Chairman nominations and elect Jerry Nelson by unanimous ballot

David Johnson was nominated to continue as Secretary (Jerry/Sam)

202523 MSC JN/KS to close Secretary nominations and elect David Johnson by unanimous ballot

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on October 6, 2025, at 8 am (AFLC World Mission Office).

Adjournment

202524 MSC JN/DJ to adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

David Johnson
Secretary