

World Missions Committee Meeting

2/11/2021

World Missions Committee Meeting

February 11, 2021

The World Missions Committee met in Ranch Mirage, CA on February 11, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. Those present were: Kent Sperry, Scott Erickson, Ken Sletten, Steve Deysher, Craig Johnson, Paul Handsaker, Wanda Jacobson, & Earl Korhonen.

Kent Sperry opened with devotions from 1 Corinthians 10:13. We all experience temptation in various forms, but we find the grace of God even there. We're assured that we're not alone in the temptation we experience. It's common to all. And we also find it in the fact that God provides to us a way of escape. We're not destined to succumb to it. And, when we do fail, we have the forgiveness provided by Jesus as we approach him in a spirit of confession and faith.

202101 ***MSC SE/PH to approve the agenda as corrected.***

202102 ***MSC PH/Ken Sletten to approve the minutes as corrected.***

Director's Report

Earl shared with us that his mind keeps going back to Romans 10, and the simple fact that people need to be saved.

He also updated us on his recent travel and presentations, as well as his upcoming travel plans.

He updated us on his progress regarding his doctorate. He hopes to have his major project completed this spring and to graduate this year with a D.Min.

He participated in a discussion, hosted by the Coordinating Committee, regarding funding for the Director of Development. We'll address this later, under Administration.

Finally, he updated us on the furlough plans of the missionaries.

Budget for Budget Analysis Committee

It was noted that we finished 2020 well, even with Covid. The PPP loans helped. But, even without that, we would've ended the year in the black. Our missionary support has also been doing very well.

Due to a large gift to the Coordinating Committee, most of which will go into an endowment to pay the salary of the Director of Development, we no longer need to contribute to that overhead.

202103 ***MSC SD/SE to remove Director of Development overhead from our 2022 budget.***

202104 ***MSC SE/KS to approve the 2022 budget of \$434,000 for World Missions and \$762,000 for personal support.***

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Andrew Olson

We met with Andrew by video. He's currently in Sioux Falls as they await their birth of their third child.

He reports that things are going well with his family in Tanzania. The New Testament project is twenty-seven percent complete. They recently finished the gospel of Luke.

In the past year, there has been a mass exodus of missionaries from Tanzania. They are hoping to return in May. They are also praying that the Lord will raise up others to serve alongside them. Their work permit is up for renewal of April.

He reports that his relationship with LBT has gone well, and he thinks that it's been fruitful. There are, however, some LBT staff from the ELCA with whom he doesn't see eye to eye. LBT does confess a belief in the inerrancy of Scripture. But the possibility of a shift is very real.

When it comes to funding, Andrew and Alexis ended 2020 in the black.

We ended our time in prayer for Andrew, led by Scott.

Visions & Goals

Administration

One-Year Goals

- *Conduct risk assessments on the next visit to each field.*
- *Encourage every missionary to read the book *Global Church Planting*.*
- *Set up a global visit with the missionaries, by video.*
- *If conditions permit, schedule a visit to Uganda in the fall, and India in January.*
- *Reach out to members of the mission corporation*

Three-Year Goals

- Expanding part-time office help to work with promotions, especially in the area of social media
- Revise the Blue Book and the Employee Handbook
- Investigate how to handle cross-cultural ministry opportunities in the U.S.

Five-Year Goals

- Missionaries meet with the director upon return from the field to set goals for their next term.
- Provide ongoing training for those called to church planting in their cultural context.

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Brazil

One-Year Goals

- ***To see the pastors of the AILLB compensated appropriately***
- Encourage a greater understanding of what is meant by the freedom of local congregations.
- Encourage the AILLB to become a world mission sending body by supporting the work of Augusto Fiuri in Switzerland, as well as Matthew and Ednay Abel in Paraguay by prayer.
- Continue to work on unity with the missionaries and president visiting the congregations.
- Encourage SETELL to continue working under the school board as set up in their documents.
- Pray that the Lord will raise up assistance to come alongside the staff and national workers at the Miriam Infant Home.

Three-Year Goals

- Encouraging the AILLB to continue in the establishment of mission department, Home and World.
- Encourage every congregation to prayerfully consider starting a daughter congregation.
- Encourage a connection between the local churches and the Miriam Infant Home.
- Prepare for the potential retirement of three missionaries.

Five-Year Goals

- See new missionaries partner with Brazilians in church planting.

Paraguay

One-Year Goals

- ***Establishing a foundation for a new congregation***
- ***Identify Matthew's church planting model***

Three-Year Goals

- ***The beginning of a new congregation***
- ***Identifying leaders that can be disciplined***

Five-Year Goals

- Have an established congregation in Paraguay.
- Have leaders in place to assume the ministry of the church
- Encourage AILLB to send a missionary family to come alongside Matthew & Ednay Abel in Paraguay.
- Identify the location of a second church plant

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Europe

One-Year Goals

- The El Shaddai congregation should continue to be encouraged to begin the work of establishing a French speaking sister congregation.

Five-Year Goals

- *Have a missionary or a missionary team in place.*

India

One-Year Goals

- Continue to encourage the AFLC-India to teach the pastors Luther's Small Catechism and the value of using it in their congregations.
- Continue to encourage the AFLC-I to pursue unreached people groups.
- Continue the work of Ambassador Institute in India.
- Continue promoting the sponsorship of the Horeb Home children.

Three-Year Goals

- Have all current pastors complete AI

Five-Year Goals

- Have all AI materials translated into Telugu
- Sending pastors to teach two-week classes for pastors and church leaders

Journey Missions

One-Year Goals

- Short Term Assistants
 - Continue expanding the MAP program to give people an opportunity to serve internationally for extended periods of time.
 - Continue to refine the training curriculum to prepare people for the country in which they are going to minister.
- Mission Trips
 - Continue to develop volunteer trip leaders as needed.
 - Continue to make short term trips feasible for people within our congregations having intergenerational trips and one student mission trip per year and investigate the possibility of trips to other (non-AFLC) fields.

Three-Year Goals

- Investigate the possibility of a trip to Puerto Rico
- Have Jon visiting congregations four times/year.

Five-Year Goals

- Utilize Journey Missions to train pastors/teachers to minister in a cross-cultural setting.

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Mexico

One-Year Goals

- Praying for unity among the Central Mexican Lutheran Church.
- Encourage Milton Flores Sr. and the Central Mexican Lutheran Church to continue to reach out and start congregations in Queretaro, Irapuato and other places.
- Pray for the open hearts of the Mexican people.

Three-Year Goals

- Pray for national leadership for the Jerez congregation.

Five-Year Goals

- ***Pray for and pursue another missionary for Mexico.***

Tanzania

One-Year Goals

- ***Continue to encourage Andrew and Alexis in Tanzania, and provide support as requested***

Three-Year Goals

- ***Missionary Assistants for Tanzania to work alongside Andrew Olson***

Uganda

One-Year Goals

- Continue to place a priority on starting Free and Living Lutheran congregations.
- Brent to take prayer walks through the central market in Gulu
- Raans begin relationship building with the people of Gulu
- Raans to begin language training in Gulu
- Utilize Ambassador Institute as a tool to plant congregations in Uganda.
- Establishment of another congregation in Nabukosi
- Michael to encourage Pastor Alex in Zonal AI leadership

Three-Year Goals

- ***Brent to start a weekly time of Bible study and prayer with a group of young men***
- ***Have someone to come alongside the Raans in Gulu***
- ***Turning leadership of AI completely over to nationals***
- ***Micro-loans to sustain agricultural projects***

Five-Year Goals

- Have an established congregation in Gulu
- Continue to build up the congregations in Nabukosi
- Have an association of congregations that voluntarily work together for such things as training and evangelism

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Ambassador Institute

One-Year Goals

- ***Using AI as a tool to plant free and living Lutheran congregations***
- ***Having AI run completely by nationals in both Uganda and India***

Mongolia

One-Year Goals

- Pastors Haugen and Olson to visit Mongolia when possible
- Establish consistent guest lecturers for the Bible School

202105 ***MSC SD/SE to approve the visions and goals.***

Journey Missions

Jon is currently trying to figure out the best way to conduct the mission trip to Brazil for the Bible College, and also his June Journey Missions trip there. He reports that everything is ready to go for the STAs heading to Brazil.

We talked with Jon about changing the name of the STA program to MAP (Missionary Assistant Program). He likes the idea, primarily because it's self-explanatory.

Craig closed our time with Jon in prayer.

202106 ***MSC Kent Sperry/Ken Sletten to change the name of the STA program to (MAP) Missionary Assistant Program.***

John and Hannah Lee

John reports that he and Hannah are having a boy. They've purchased tickets to return to Brazil on March 2nd. He's speaking at the mission festival in Thief River Falls this weekend, and will also be sharing in Upsala. We discussed with them also our goals for Brazil.

Paul closed our time with the Lees in prayer.

Bible School Scholarships for Missionary Kids

There's a \$1000 scholarship for missionary kids available through FLBC. We discussed that, instead of providing this scholarship ourselves, as we have in the past, to allow them to manage it and to support them in this.

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202107 ***MSC SE/PH to discontinue the missionary kid scholarship through World Missions, as there are no funds available, and to encourage the use of the scholarship available to them through FLBC.***

SRS Training

We discussed recommending SRS training for each of our missionary families.

Mission House

The congregation in Amery designated their Lenten offerings to replace appliances in the mission house.

The kitchen counter top and sink needs to be replaced. Craig and Earl will work on a letter to the WMF requesting assistance.

202108 ***MSC SD/Ken Sletten to order and install a new counter top, sink, and any other necessary plumbing in the mission house.***

Justo & Patricia Pillman

We met with the Pillmans to see how things are going and what their thoughts are concerning future mission work. They feel that they're rested from their last term in Ecuador, and have felt ready to return to the field for some time. We discussed the possibility of a work in Puerto Rico, although we are yet unable to visit there.

Kent closed our time with the Pillmans in prayer.

Brazil

Jonathan and Tamba are coming home for Michelle's graduation in May. It was communicated to them that they need to get their funding up to required levels before returning in July.

Paraguay

Matthew and Ednay have relocated, and already have a Bible study going in their home.

Switzerland

We'll wait to reinvoke Augusto and Deise to Annual Conference beyond 2021.

India

We'd like to invite Luther and Vhardini to Annual Conference this year, as their daughter lives in the Twin Cities.

Luther is requesting money to repair the roof of the headquarters building in Chirala.

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- 202109 *MSC SD/SE to approve Luther's request of \$3000, taken from the Indian student scholarship fund, to repair the roof at the headquarters building.*
- 202110 *MSC Ken Sletten/SE to add a parsonage in India as a special project in the amount of \$9500, with matching funds from the Indian student scholarship fund.*
- 202111 *MSC KS/PH to invite Luther and Vhardini to Annual Conference this year at headquarters.*

Michael Rokenbrodt

Michael reports that seminary is going well. He also remains active visiting congregations. He remains unable to tell us when he'll be returning to Uganda, as he has a conference related to his camp ministry. His hope, however, is August. But, if he can't get a camp position, he'll return in June. He currently envisions splitting his time between Gulu and Jinja.

Steve closed our time with Michael in prayer.

Puerto Rico

Pastor Hector has stated that we shouldn't come to visit until the end of May at the earliest.

Mexico

Todd's church no longer has their building. They are currently meeting in a garage.

Mongolia

It's still up in the air as to when we'll be able to get anyone over there.

- 202112 *MSC PH/Kent Sperry to provide \$500 for each AFLC pastor who goes to a foreign field to teach, provided there's money in the fund.*

Uganda

Brent and Emily have found a house to rent in Gulu. They're looking into the costs of solar panels.

Bergers returned to the US and just got out of quarantine. We had offered to provide counseling to them. Wanda will talk to them to determine the needs.

Nate and Rhoda plan to send Elijah to the States for the summer.

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Vision for a Legacy Gift

If the Lord were to provide a legacy gift, what would we do with it? A start-up fund for new missionaries? Scholarships for teachers going to foreign fields?

- 202113 ***MSC PH/SD to deny John Lee's housing equalization request.***
- 202114 ***MSC SD/Ken Sletten to permit John Lee to live in our house rent free.***
- 202115 ***MSC PH/SD to approve expenses for this meeting.***
- 202116 ***MSC Kent Sperry/SE to look into restructuring salary and housing allowance for our missionaries.***

Next meeting will be at Annual Conference on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 on campus at 8:00 A.M.

- 202117 ***MSC SE/SD to adjourn.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Kent Sperry