

World Mission Board of Directors Meeting

8/30/2022

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August 30, 2022

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Meeting date and Location

The World Missions Board met on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, at 7:00 PM CDT by video via TEAMS.

Present

Attending: Pr. Earl Korhonen, Director; Pr. Craig Johnson, Chairman; Paul Handsaker; Wanda Jacobson; Pr. Todd and Barb Schierkolk; Dr. Lyle Mattson; Pr. Kent Sperry; Pr. David Johnson

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Craig Johnson at 7:08 PM CDT.

Agenda Approval

202219 Meeting agenda presented: moved, seconded, and approved

Todd and Barb Schierkolk

Visited family, including Barb's Mom, Baby Moses, Valley City for a wedding, Amery, Wheatland, and the U.P. to see Tom and family. They will continue their travel to additional churches and family.

They also spoke with their attorney about issues in Mexico. They updated him about the concerns in the ministry and also some family issues, including an update to their will, etc.

The Schierkolks updated the Board about security concerns in Mexico. The whole state is on the do-not-travel list - for the second time. This isn't a significant change for them since they've been on the list for a year and a half. But this list extends the area of caution. They shared examples of the rising danger. The travel warning specifically addressed U.S. citizens as vulnerable to kidnappings (disappearances or narco-converts [think indentured slaves]) or homicides. Drug cartels have been blocking the highways with burning buses or trucks. They then use those areas as checkpoints. Schools remain open, but in some areas, the schools have begun to close and go online. There have been targeted killings but no open gun battles at this point. This could all be part of a military/governmental plan to bring some sense of stability. This would be hopeful. They then shared some ways of measurement for their own personal safety and the possibility of moving on in ministry. Barb added some personal perspectives on the whole security issue.

The violence has impacted the forms and programming as well. Meeting times have begun earlier, while it is light. Bible study continues, but stability and unity have become more critical topics for conversation and study. The faithfulness of God and the assurance of God's presence have also become increasingly necessary in discussions. People still come, especially since meetings are happening during more daytime hours. However, plans have been made in the case of violence while they meet. Personal counseling is possible for Todd and Barb (and they are willing), but the plan is to return on September 17. They wrestle with personal safety concerns, but Mexico is their home. As an aside, Barb said her health remains good and stable.

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The journalists have really paid - 18 killed, with 34 politicians killed. Graft is everywhere. The police are overwhelmed. Paul H closed the interview in prayer for the Schierkolks.

After the Schierkolks' departure from the meeting, the Board discussed the concerns Todd and Barb face but are content that they seem aware of their safety and are open to outside counseling. The Board encourages them to get their "ducks in a row" if they need to withdraw quickly. The Board discussed a possible evacuation plan for the Schierkolks.

Jore's Furlough Request

The Board discussed the need for missionaries to take a furlough each 3-4 years. The Jore's are long past due for theirs. But the furloughs may be anywhere from 6 months to 1 year.

202220 Motion to approve the Jore request for a yearlong furlough request beginning in May 2023.

The Board then discussed the need for clarification as to the duties and ministry of Andrew and Alexis as "house-sitters." The question was asked about the Jore housing allowance issues. Wanda brought clarification to the housing allowance concerns.

Uganda A.I. – Mama Nissi's U.S. Visit

The Board discussed the invitation and speaking schedule of Mama Nissi. The confusion involves the relationship between Ambassador Institute and the Orality Institute. There would be no funding from World Mission - Mama Nissi will fund all expenses herself. Discussion continued regarding the cooperative roles of A.I. and IOI and the possible impact the Nissi situation may have on the Uganda NGO. It was determined that the situation would be watched, and some possible conversation may be necessary with Pr. Kevin Olson and IOI about future interaction. It was also determined that some conversation might be necessary with Michael Rokenbrodt regarding future situations like these.

Ambassador Institute and International Orality Institute

Earl asked for direction. Does the situation with Mama Nissi require correction or clarification of ministry goals? The discussion progressed through the concerns of NGOs in Uganda and how A.I. or IOI may impact this NGO. If the opportunity arises, Pr. Earl may speak to Pr. Kevin about future overlap. Not seen as critical at this time.

Andrew Olson - They Need The Bible

Signature forms have been received and filed. Possible "nepotism" has been addressed concerning Pr. Kevin as acting Treasurer. But Pr. Andrew was aware of the possible concern and had a plan for a replacement of that board member. He stated that it was a necessary, though temporary, personnel situation.

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Spring 2023 Uganda Trip

Discussion regarding Earl and Joan going to Uganda. Kent shared he was willing to go as well - along with his daughter, Grace.

202221 Motion made and seconded that Kent and his daughter Grace join Earl and Joan on the trip to Uganda. Passed. Grants and/or fundraising may be utilized for Kent and Grace. Journey missions may be involved.

Additional Points of Interest

Update on Michael Rokenbrodt status clarified. He is currently attending the AFLC Seminary. He has enough in his account to return to Uganda. He would travel to Uganda from January-May and return for summer.

202222 Motion made and seconded to allow Michael to travel in winter/spring 2023. Passed

Brent Raan requested the use of A.I. to minister in South Sudan. The discussion addressed the need to be church planters and not simply teachers. The discussion progressed regarding the need for church-planting missionaries, who reach lost souls through many means, including A.I. or IOI. It was expressed that expanding to South Sudan as a new work would require the approval of the conference. It was suggested that Brent might need to disciple others (nationals) to return to Sudan.

An Estate gift has been received, the location (savings or invest) of that gift was discussed. A yearlong CD was advised.

The World Mission Board Manual is being completed and will be vetted soon.

Pictures and requests for money have been coming from India. This is the way India missionaries work. Luther continues to make these and similar requests. Decisions on monetary support were tabled at this time.

Next Meeting

All Boards October 3, 2022, World Mission office 7:30 AM breakfast 8 AM meeting start.

Adjourn

202223 Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pr. David Johnson
Secretary