

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

6/12/2024

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

June 12, 2024

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Meeting date and location

The World Mission Board met at the AFLC Headquarters, June 12, 2024 at 8am

Present

Pr. Earl Korhonen, Wanda Jacobson, Pr. Craig Johnson, Bill Sheldon, Dr. Lyle Mattson, Ken Sletten, Pr. David Johnson, Pr. Jerry Nelson

Meeting Called to Order

Pr. Craig Johnson called the meeting to order

Devotions

Heb. 12:1-2 – Dr. Lyle - Encumbrances – Luke 10 (the Good Samaritan) Goals, schedule, money, belief, and biases all put aside to help the victim.

Agenda Approval

202419 MSC BS/JN to accept the Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Minutes reviewed from February 22-23, 2024 meeting

Page 9: last line spelling correction – Jinja

April Minutes:

Page 3: Strike line “Brent stated an application has been submitted to MTI as a mission Trainer.”

202420 MSC LM/BS to accept corrected minutes from February

Director’s Report

- Opened with a devotional from Ps.1.
- Travel plans shared
- Some vacation time to come in August
- We reviewed the various Home and Furlough periods:
 - One correction: Ruby will be 95, not 90

Administration

Updates:

- International Student Scholarship Fund
 - Reinhard will be attending a school in India, but hopes to come to AFLTS fall of 2025
- The world still needs missionaries
- We discussed the completion of the Wisconsin Mission House Tax-Exempt Status
- Brazil Properties
- Becky Abel sent an email updating the status of various properties currently in the keeping of AFLC Brazil

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- Pr. Earl referenced President Iran and Janisley Goes' visit
- Audit in process – down payment submitted
- All Journey Mission documents have been updated from previous discussions

Madison Greven

Submitted her resignation. She has been offered (and has accepted) a new position helping build the AA and BA program at FLBC. She will begin there on Aug. 1. Names as possible successors have been given to Wanda. Madison updated the various areas that have increased and improved during her time in the World Mission office. She also encouraged the ongoing use of personal and video visits with local congregations in numerous ways. Increasing the visibility of WM is critical at the individual and congregational level.

Shelby Greven

Will begin part-time this summer, but she still has one semester at Northwestern this fall. She can up her hours in the fall to 20 hours per week, and then move to full-time after her graduation. She will remain hourly rather than salary. She will also be involved in some Journey Mission participation.

202421 MSC JN/KS to hire Shelby Greven as part-time to an eventual fulltime position.

Personal Support Update

Personal Support balance sheets were discussed by Wanda, and evaluated by the WMB. Numbers are looking good and accounts are healthy for the most part. Personal Support is doing wonderfully, though the general budget may be lagging somewhat.

Future Missionaries

- Justo and Patricia Pillman are interested in serving for another 2-3 years with AFLC World Missions. They will accompany Pr. Earl to Brazil/Paraguay.
- Zach and Carey Ritland – app in process. Interested in Paraguay.
- Ignacio (Nacho) and Kaetlyn Davalos – interested in beginning 2026-27. Possibly to Ecuador. This would require an approval from the general conference to move into Ecuador.
- Other missionaries are possible. Discussions ongoing with others – including a couple currently attending the Bethany Global University. (Hoping to attend FLS in fall of 2025)

Compliance with Federal Labor Laws – July 1, 2024 and Jan 1, 2025

The WMB discussed a few of the new laws coming down the pike in upcoming months and years. Several exemptions are included in the new laws for clergy. The WMB needs to be aware of these new labor laws.

Networking with LBIM

On May 29th, Jon Nelson, Pr. Earl and Joan visited the World Mission department of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren. This was a valuable time of networking and instruction about missionary care. There was discussion of developing better missionary care and support for our own workers.

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Brazil

Updates were discussed, but no new motions made concerning Jonathan and Tamba Abel, Jonni Sliver, and Paul and Becky Abel.

Paraguay

Matthew has identified a nearby ministry possibility. Zach and Carey Ritland are in process. They may be possible helpers for the Abels.

India

- Dr. Anand Kumar is Vardhini's brother. The WMB will meet with him at 4pm.
- Mr. Stanley Rufus Medikonda is from the AFLC-India. Will be attending the AFLC annual conference.
- Reinhard and Sheeba continue ministry in India – through music and preaching, and Sheba's homeopathic medical practice.
- Theological Training in India. Pr. Earl will be going, but requested another pastor to attend as well. January 2025 is open, while January 2026 shows President Micah Hjermstad and Ps. Earl Korhonen to attend.

Uganda

Mission Accomplished!

Michael Rokenbrodt

He shared about his upcoming ministry and drama schedule. He will be in Uganda from early Sept to early January. Michael brought the Board up to date on the current status of NGO/CBO options. We also spoke of several projects brought to the board for approval. Michael read of several recent testimonies from one of the local churches. Time was spent discussing Michael's visa application and his schedule as a part-time missionary to Uganda.

202422 MSC BS/JN to declare Michael as the National Director of Ambassador Institute of Uganda.

202423 MSC BS/KS for the approval of a special project involving Bibles and teachers guides for Uganda - \$2,400.

Pastor Micah Hjermstad

We were visited by Pr. Micah (AFLC President) and the group discussed a couple issues on his desk – including the current needs for the development department. After Pr. Micah's presentation, a time of Q & A resulted concerning the issues he addressed.

Nate and Rhoda Jore

Nate and Rhoda greeted and thanked the WMB for their support and encouragement through the many years of their service. They explained the process of seeking God's direction for their

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coming years of ministry. They expressed sadness at their leaving Uganda, but their excitement in moving forward in local mission work. They brought the WMB up to date on their move from AFLC World Missions, to International Orality Institute, and their ongoing outreach to foreign peoples in the Minneapolis area, and beyond. They discussed the process of closing one season of ministry in Uganda (departures and good-byes), and the beginning of another (new position and new home).

Brent and Emily Raan

The programs for the kids are going well, with some treatments coming to a close, while others will be ongoing. Home schooling will most likely continue for both. The MTI door has closed. They expressed some of the areas learning that they have seen through this process. They don't have another direction at this point, but continue in prayer. There was discussion about the process of closure in their service. They repeated their request that they serve through the end of the year, and that their time returning to Uganda be extended to 2 months. At this point, they are scheduled for the first week in December to attend the debriefing in Colorado.

John and Hannah Lee

Shared about John's health struggles – and how he is feeling much better. They also shared about their time with Iran, and how much better things seem to be going relationally. John's time away with Iran seems to have created a much healthier relationship with him. Getting away is good for relationships and perspectives. They also shared how their time on furlough has been good for the whole family. John shared how he is looking forward to getting back to teaching (Greek and Paul's prison letters), and then his DRELL time. Time modification is necessary, but ministry will continue. The extra time can help in the completion of some administrative tasks (newsletters, etc).

Andrew and Alexis Olson

Andrew met and discussed three aspects of ministry (relationship, partnership, growth). He shared a sheet of pictures from a VBS in rural Laos. Bringing the gospel to a language of the people is critical. He shared several individual stories of God moving in various fields. Andrew talked about some of the partnerships they have made with other translation works. He included the AFLC amongst the list of partnerships they have made. Income is lagging somewhat, but God is faithful and has provided. They are "sailing against the wind," but are moving forward in the call of God. One prayer request continues, MORE WORKERS." Prayer request was for a co-worker on the border of China (Laos to China). He has disappeared and is feared dead. They are also praying for their contacts in Indonesia.

Steve and Glenda Kvale

Joined us via internet (Teams). They are on loan to Wycliffe Bible Translators. They brought the WMB up to speed on their activities with WBT, as well as some new mission opportunities in the hearing impaired community. Glenda shared of the several times she has been able to assist the translation efforts of WBT, especially to those with hearing concerns. It is a growing area of Bible translation.

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202424 *MSC BS/JN to extend employment time for the Raans through the end of 2024. This will move the resignation date to October 1.*

202425 *MSC LM/KS to approve the Schierkolk furlough from 7/30 to 10/30.*

Dr Anand Kumar - India

Dr. Anand Kumar visited the meeting and ran through the medical and ministry ventures in India. Sometimes special classes are taught to the pastors and workers when teachers/pastors come from outside areas (FLTS, WMB, etc). There are also seminars offered at times when doctors and theological instructors are available. He shared that there are currently about 40 tutorial clinics running. Current political changes have also made ministry/outreach challenging. Where once they held open meetings, now they are unable to do so.

Augusto and Deise Fiuri - Switzerland

Augusto and Deise, Caesar and AnaGloria, and their children attended the WMB meeting. They brought the board up to date on the ministry going on in Geneva. It has been almost 10 years and they feel good about the status of the work there. There are 30 members rising to 45. The average age is middle-aged, with some children. Also some elderly. Augusto is still driving truck, as well as Uber. They know this movement is of God. He opened doors in Geneva, and they have monthly meetings to discuss the way the Gospel is growing in Geneva. The congregation is part of that growth. They meet in a Lutheran sanctuary, though many Christian groups move in small and private locations. Relationships with other pastors have opened doors for ongoing opportunities. There are some challenges, including working on training leaders for future projects and evangelism. They are also working on finding other places for meeting with people from the congregation. They shared the hope of receiving ongoing training from AFLTS. They also shared of their great respect for the AFLC and their foundation in the Scripture. They shared how the overall culture needs the Gospel, and the ministry that AFLC can offer. Open evangelism is discouraged, compared to Brazil. They have had to find new ways to draw people into conversation and to Christ. Women's ministry is a big area of focus right now. They also shared about developing a choir group which would allow them into areas they are normally not allowed. International Fast Day is a general day of worship – in August – and the choir is a possible bridge for that event. There is also talk about a wind-instrument group that can plug into this ministry challenge. Children are also a focus of ministry for the church in Geneva – giving them both the spiritual tools, and the practical instruction for their future. Children get so many influences opposed to Scripture – they need the teaching of Scripture to counter those teachings. Home groups are also a need for their culture. The church is known as a “light in the darkness.” They even brought a lamp for the Mission office to remind us to pray for the work in Geneva.

202426 *MSC DJ/BS to approve the additional Development position with the understanding that the current director will be stepped down in 3 years.*

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The meeting was suspended until after the Annual World Mission Corporation meeting when elections will be held. The Board will then gather to accept the new members, and assign the new chairman and secretary.

Meeting Resumed – Friday June 14, 2024

The World Mission Board meet following the World Mission Corporation meeting, for the purpose of electing officers of the Board. The Vice-Chair and Secretary.

Nominated for Vice-Chair Mr. Ken Sletten.

202427 *MSC LM/DJ to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Ken Sletten as Vice-Chairman.*

Nominated for Secretary Pastor David Johnson

202428 *MSC LM/KS to cast a unanimous ballot to elect David Johnson as Secretary.*

Approve Expenses

202429 *MSC DJ/JN to approve paying full expenses for Board members attending the Annual Conference.*

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 30th, 2024 at the AFLC Headquarter World Mission office. This is followed by the AFLC all boards meeting and Pastor Conference.

Adjournment

202430 *MSC LM/JN to adjourn*

Respectfully Submitted,

David Johnson
Secretary