JULY / AUGUST 2023

WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING: Going Above and Beyond

I honestly can't remember the first time I heard talk about the WMO (World Mission Offering). It has gone through several name changes over the years that I have been associated with IM.

For example, in the 1970s and 1980s, it was the "Call-a-thon". Later (in 1989), it became known as the World Missions Offering. The name changes have not altered its purpose, but rather addressed the method of giving or reflected a specific empha-

sis for the gifts received. However, no matter what the tag, it has consistently been focused on providing much-needed resources for the Mission to function properly.



But when I hear "World Missions Offering" today, I have a very clear understanding of what it is and what the focus is.

First, the WMO is a call for all Free Will Baptists to give a special offering to IM on the last Sunday in August. Although this date is set as WMO Sunday, we know that many of our churches choose other more convenient dates, and that is perfectly fine. The main thing is for every Free Will Baptist to seize this opportunity to give a one-time offering *above and beyond their monthly support* to help IM meet its budgetary demands.

three specific categories: **1. PARTNERSHIPS:** We have established wonder-

Second, I know that all monies received are going to

ful partnerships with national churches where we formerly had a strong missionary presence and with other evangelical agencies that have a Free Will Baptist connection and share our passion for the Great Commission.

We work together with our partners in many minis-

tries and each of these demands resources, including finances. We ask that each partner participates in resourcing these collaborative efforts, but the costs are often overwhelming. We want to carry our part of the financial burden. So the funds you give to the WMO help cover these budgetary demands.

2. MISSIONARIES: One of the greatest hurdles

2. MISSIONARIES: One of the greatest hurdles for new missionaries is acquiring the needed funds to launch their fundraising efforts. A follow-up challenge is that once they are on the field, their account sometimes goes into deficit. When you give to the WMO you make it possible for us to give each board-approved missionary seed money to launch their fundraising.

their fundraising. **3. GENERAL FUND:** From an administrative perspective, the General Fund is by far the most difficult account to source. The General Fund covers the daily operational costs such as salaries, utilities, printing promotional materials for missionaries, missionary care, communications with donors, the

printing promotional materials for missionaries, missionary care, communications with donors, the National Association meeting, and much more.

and missionaries' needs are addressed, then then remaining funds are directed to the General Fund.

Quite honestly, the WMO is one of the most com-

In summary, after the partnership budgets are met

prehensive ways for you to give to missions. The WMO is an amazing opportunity to help IM continue to labor with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission!

Commission!

I'll give to the WMO, and I hope you will too: www.

served as missionaries in Ivory Coast (29 years) and France (4 years).



FAMILY HAPPENINGS:

The Chereaus shared they are so thankful for their homeschool year here in the U.S. Their daughter, **Ainhoa**, graduated from kindergarten!



Bradley Mercer, appointed to reach international students in Missouri, got engaged to **Madison Carnes** in May.



David and Myriam Reeves will celebrate their sixth anniversary on July 8 and are expecting a baby boy due in August!

Oliver Bishop participated in his first Kendo (Japanese sword fighting) tournament on June 10.

Grace Carney finished ninth grade. Kelton (third grade) and Katherine (first grade) finished two months of the Japanese school year successfully and will be homeschooling as they return to the States for their Stateside Assignment for the rest of this year.





Both **Jonna Postlewaite** (left) and **Zoe Provow** (right) graduated from fourth grade in Bulgaria on June 15!





PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the World Missions Offering taking place on August 27, or other times that church-



es and individuals plan to give. Pray that many will give generously so that IM missionaries, partnerships, and the many ministries of IM can continue taking the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth.



WMO KIDS' CURRICULUM REACHES TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Many kids have "journeyed to the Ends of the Earth" through the new World Missions Offering Kids' Curriculum! One of the object lessons features "Paul On a Call" where students send a cutout of Paul to a missionary of their choice. Rusty Carney took a photo with "Paul on a Call" they received in Japan from students at a





church in Nashville, Tennessee. What a great way to connect the kids in our churches to missionaries around the world! Download the free five-lesson WMO Kids' curriculum at **iminc.org/wmo.**

CONNECT WITH IM AT THE NAFWB NATIONAL CONVENTION

We look forward to seeing many of you at the National Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina. Stop by our booth to view new and exclusive video footage from our f



video footage from our fields and pick up the latest IM resources. There are so many ways you can engage with us that week, including GPS, meeting missionaries in the booth, special giveaways, and the Wednesday missions service. We hope to connect with you and discuss ways you can be a part of taking the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth!

ETEAM 2023 IMPACTS THE WORLD

ETEAM 2023 had 87 students and 20 leaders serving in ten fields. Thank you for praying for the students, leaders, missionaries, and partners where ETEAMs participated in various outreaches, VBS, and other ministries. Applications for ETEAM and CMP 2024 open on July 17. Encourage high school students and college students in your ministries to apply and pray about how God can use them to take the Gospel around the world! For more information, visit https://iminc.org/go/student-missions.



FOCUS ON MISSIONS WITH THE NEW WMO CALENDAR

We are excited to join you and thousands of others in August as we dedicate each day leading up to the WMO to being focused on the mission God has given us!

As we count down the days



As we could down the days

to WMO Sunday on August 27, we have daily missions-focused activities in a brand new WMO IM calendar. Throughout August, you will learn about different unreached people groups, spend time in prayer, watch corresponding videos, and more. We will share each of these in a blog post at **www.iminc.org/news.**

Download a free copy of the calendar at **www.iminc.org/digital-resources** or request a mailed copy by emailing social@iminc.org.



MEET YOUR MISSIONARIES

Rusty & Brenda Carney (Japan)

"Hello! We are the Carneys. We have three kids—Grace (16), Kelton (8), and Katherine (9), and have been in Japan since 2009. We are currently working with Ken and Judy Bailey at the Kamifukuoka Christ Church (KCC) just outside of Tokyo, Japan. Our church's motto is 'Reaching families to



reach others to reach the world for Christ!' Brenda is involved with our children's and English ministries. She is skilled at spurring others to use their gifts, and a Korean cooking class ministry has begun as a result. She loves people and has been able to connect well with many of the other moms in our children's schools. Rusty is involved in the preaching and teaching ministries at the church and plays the piano for the worship services when needed. Creating the weekly bulletins, establishing an online presence, and prayer ministries also keep him busy. We love to connect with other families through hospitality in our home or through outings. We are praying God will build His church here in Japan!"

The Carneys recently returned for their Stateside Assignment and are seeking support and funding to return to the field. To partner with the Carneys, visit their website: https://iminc.org/im-missionaries/ rusty-brenda-carney

STATESIDE MISSIONARIES

Several IM missionaries are currently on Stateside Assignment raising funds and prayer support. Opportunities to meet and speak with churches and organizations are greatly appreciated. These services inform congregations of each missionary's ministry, so they will know how to specifically pray and partner with them.

Visit iminc.org/our-impact/im-missionaries/ stateside-missionaries to view the full list of Stateside missionaries and their contact information.

> Visit www.iminc.org for the most up-to-date news.









@imincorg

Your partnership in the Gospel yields dividends around the world in lives changed and churches planted. If you would like to discuss ways to see that impact continue long-term, call 1-877-767-7736 for information on Planned Gifts or Estate Planning.