

Te Cuento...

...The Story Inside

Zero zeros

It's been a year now that I've been privileged to serve the church from this office. And it has been a delight! I suppose the first year is always wonderful, I don't know, I've never done this before. All I can tell you is what I've experienced.

I hope our churches treat everyone the way Yvonne and I have been treated these past 12 months. Everyone's been kind and welcoming. Doesn't that tell us something about the Free Methodist Church? I think it's revealing that we're not consumed with complaints and problems. We don't seem to be suspicious about our leaders. I suspect this is a part of what God is doing among us.

Another observation I'd make is that we're eager for God to move among us. Eager enough to let go of our own pet peeves and denominational desires to pay attention to God.



No More Zeros

As I write this I'm sitting on a bus outside the subway in Washington DC. There are many individuals all around me. I'm not sure if they're all Christians. I'd like to think so, but perhaps not. I'm particularly doubtful about the man brandishing a length of pipe. Which reminds me: I do have one little thing I'd like to suggest. It really is such an obvious thing that I'm embarrassed to mention it. But here it is: I'm asking that we have zero churches this year report zero converts. Maybe you've been bashful, or didn't want to toot your own horn. I don't know why some haven't reported converts, but I'd like to see every church "go and make disciples this year," at least one.

Well, if you hate my idea that's Okay, I'm not going to be heavy-handed about it. But a lot of people need Jesus in their today and their tomorrow. Wouldn't it be cool if zero churches reported zero converts? Maybe one church could even reach the man with the pipe.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you by leading us toward "freshness" and zero zeros.

¿Hay Disciplina en tu vida?

Me refiero al Libro de Disciplina. Ahora tenemos a nuestra disposición la edición 2007, en Español. No quiero exagerar, pero es un buen libro y todo pastor Metodista Libre debe tener uno. La edición 2007 tiene completamente nuevo los capítulos 3 y 7, y la primera parte del capítulo 6, aparte de otras modificaciones menores. Pídalo en la Wesleyan Publishing House. Cuesta \$12.95.

Noticias de la Red Latina

¿Sabías tu que estás en Redado? Sí, tu perteneces a la Red Latina de la Iglesia Metodista Libre. La Red es una forma de conectar a los pastores y miembros Metodistas Libres de habla hispana en los Estados Unidos. Así que dos veces al año los representantes regionales se reúnen para dialogar y avanzar la causa de Cristo entre nosotros.

En su última reunión la Red Latina eligió a un nuevo presidente, el pastor Juan Córdoba. También hemos propuesto escribir un libro en español por año (de los libros básicos que necesitamos) e intentar unas celebraciones a nivel regional.

From:
Bishop David Roller

Check your math before turning in your homework:

- > 72 churches in the East didn't record any adult converts last year.
- > I'm sure there are good reasons...
- > It's not all about numbers, but it does seem like there should be somebody coming to Jesus through our homework in a whole year.



Te Cuento/Story is a bimestrial letter from Bishop David Roller to those who minister.

A Culture of Rapid Kingdom Expansion

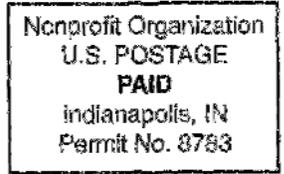
We can't expand the Kingdom, but it can expand...as God draws the cherished missing into the Kingdom.

We're all tired of programs and strategies for trying to do something that only God can do: Powerfully demonstrate the Kingdom so the cherished missing will believe and enter.

But we also have a part to play. We are to be the kind of people among whom God might be pleased to work — a people who demonstrate the kingdom by our love for those in the kingdom and for those still outside.



Free Methodist Church of North America
 Bishop David Roller
 P.O. Box 535002
 Indianapolis, IN 46253-5002



Do-it-Yourself Deity

Make your own god? It's easier than you might think. Just close your eyes and imagine a gentle grandfather. Now put a red cap on him, a white beard and — voila! You've got him.

The other solution, awkward though it may be, would be to uncover God, rather than inventing him. This would involve the unfortunate possibility that He might inconvenience us, or worse yet, draw us into His bigger plans. That's why most people today are opting to "do-it-yourself." Here are a couple of helpful suggestions if you decide to invent your own god:



Perfect Deity-brings you stuff, then splits

1) Believe that all roads lead to him. Invent a god so bland he makes tofu seem like chipotle sauce. Can't offend this guy. Don't even put in rules against stuff that seems pretty obvious. This is a slippery-slope, my friends. Once you accept even one little rule from god, the next thing you know you'll have "commandments" and "commissions" and you'll be wearing long sleeves on really hot days.

2) Invent him with no agenda, desires, or good ideas. Invent him so that nothing in your lifestyle needs to change. Why go around making life difficult for yourself? Make him in your image, only chubbier.

Good luck with your project!

From:
Bishop David Roller

My blog address :
<http://www.fmcna.typepad.com/roller/>

E-mail: droller4@aol.com
Phone: 443-725-5912

Schedule August to October, 2008

AUGUST

2-9 Wellspring camp in England
 13-18 Pastors' training in Chile
 23 Meeting with Central Africans in Maryland
 30-31 New Jersey

SEPTEMBER

5-7 Board of Bishops in Indy
 8-10 Starting Strong in Indy
 11-13 Consultation of Overseers
 15-21 Trip to Cuba (government approved)
 22 Roberts Wesleyan College chapel
 25-28 Asbury Seminary Board

OCTOBER

Sept 30– Oct 2 Haiti
 3-4 Mustering of the Men in Kentucky
 7-9 Rancho Betania Board in Mexico
 13-15 Board of Bishops in Indy
 16-18 Board of Administration in Indy
 19-21 Pittsburgh Pastors' retreat