

Join us for

**Sunday Morning  
Worship Service  
at 10 a.m.**



**FREEDOM**  
CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

Loving God. Loving People. Serving the World.

## January 2024 Special Dates

January 1 – Happy New Year!  
Jan. 1-4 – Small group off week  
Jan. 7-10 – Small groups resume  
Jan. 14 – Baptismal service  
Jan. 15 – MLK Holiday  
Jan. 21 – Connection Class (4:00)  
Jan. 23-29 – Nigeria Team trip

**"...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom." - 2 Corinthians 3:17**

### Pastor Mark's Remarks

Hi Friends,

As we end one year and begin another, I have been reflecting on what has happened in 2023 and where we are as we begin 2024. I feel a deep sense of both gratitude to God for what He has done through Freedom Church International and optimism about the future.

We began 2023 with Freedom Church having four campuses. We begin 2024 with six healthy, growing congregations in six locations on two continents! And we concluded 2023 with Freedom's first-ever "Mega-Conference" at our Idah 1 campus in Nigeria. In that week of meetings, the Spirit of God moved powerfully with many people being saved and with many others being miraculously healed or set free! And in January, I am thrilled to finally be leading a small team of leaders to Nigeria to meet with numerous leaders from all five of our Nigerian campuses and to lead in a series of revival meetings in Lagos (January 23-29). Please be in prayer with me for a fruitful time of ministry that week.

In 2023, we were able to add two excellent new members to our ministry leadership team. In June, Faith Chatten became our first-ever, full-time Worship and Young Adults Pastor, and she is doing an outstanding job in both roles! Worship seems to get sweeter and richer each week, and what a joy to see a young adult group formed this past fall and to see the growth of our church, particularly in the area of younger adults and families. Also, in October, we added Joanna Sides to our team in the role of Assimilation and Communications. Joanna strengthens so many different areas of our church with her broad skill set and can-do attitude!

We added three new adult small groups in 2023, along with an additional Sunday Kids' World class for younger elementary-age children, led by Caroline Keener. At this time, we have more of our church involved in small groups than ever before. Also, we are excited to add another new adult small group in the Rainbow Plantation Park in January, led by Anne Carr and Carolyn Dolan (and meeting in Pam Herweyer's home).

Since the arrival of the pandemic, international mission trips simply have not worked out for us. But in December, Eileen Creek was able to lead a strong team from Freedom to Guatemala for a week working with Mary Purvis and the Guatemala Landing Zone team. All reports are that it was a fantastic and fruitful week of ministry. Great job, team!

As we begin a new year of ministry in 2024, I want you to join me in seeking to do two things: 1.) Pray fervently, like this is all up to God. 2.) Serve and give just as fervently, as if it's all up to us! As we each do our part, God will be faithful to do His part, and we will see the most fruitful year yet in 2024, to the glory of God!

Happy New Year!  
Mark

### Church-Wide Bible Reading Plan

January 1-6  
*Matthew 1-6*

January 7-13  
*Matthew 7-13*

January 14-20  
*Matthew 14-20*

January 21-27  
*Matthew 21-27*

January 28-Feb. 3  
*Matthew 28*  
*Romans 1-6*

# Church-Wide Bible Reading Plan 2024



Few habits have the power to change us as much as reading the Bible daily. As we begin a new year, why not join us in our church-wide daily Bible reading plan which will take us, one chapter per day, through the entire New Testament and through parts of the Old Testament? You can pick up your copies of the 2024 reading plan on the foyer table. You may also access the plan on the church's website, [www.myfreedomchurch.net](http://www.myfreedomchurch.net).



## 2023 Giving Statements and 2024 Budget Plan



Thank you for helping to extend the reach of Freedom Church International through your financial support this past year! Giving statements for 2023 will be mailed out in late January. If your address changed during 2023, please let us know so that we can pass your current information on to our bookkeeper. Also, copies of Freedom's Income and Expenses Report for 2023, along with the 2024 budget, will be available in the foyer later in January.

## Celebrate Recovery News

For nearly three years, John Ruka has invested countless hours leading our Celebrate Recovery Ministry. In January, John will step down from his role as Recovery Pastor and CR leader to follow God's leading to another ministry role at Freedom. Please help me in expressing our deep appreciation to John for his tireless service these past three years in Celebrate Recovery!



In John's absence, we are very blessed to have John and Salley Beck returning to the senior leadership roles in Celebrate Recovery. These two veteran leaders bring a wealth of experience and passion to this vital ministry area of Freedom Church, and we are very grateful to God for both John and Salley!

Listen to Us on [YouTube](#)

# Guatemala Missions

In December 2023, a team of 9 people led by Freedom Church members spent 9 days in Guatemala serving beside Missionary Mary Purvis. The Freedom team included Eileen Kreek, Karen Wingert, Heather Ball, Deborah Ristaneo, Michelle & Johnny Williamson, Beverly McDonald, Elise Russo, and Nick Marley.



The team participated in the youth group Christmas Party for 50 youth, leading games and providing prizes for winners and losers. They also participated in the Christmas Party for AMABA, Mary's board of volunteer directors - special highlights were having a snowball fight with large cotton balls and praying for an AMABA member who was instantly healed.

The team visited a daily feeding program and shared God's love with many children and elderly people who were hungry, not only for food, but also for affection. They were able to visit the Government Malnutrition Recuperation Center, where they donated two walkers, formula, a breast pump, toys, and many baby clothes.



Finally, the team helped distribute gallon ziplock-bag Christmas gifts in 4 different neighborhoods - a total of 1,638 gift bags were given! The most exciting location was an hour long drive away, up a rocky, curvy, mountain road. The children of that village had never before received Christmas gifts.

Gratitude is extended to the many Freedom Church members who supported the team with prayers and donations. A special thanks goes to Gail Fujiwara (who did a marvelous job of keeping up communication between the team and church members), and also to Joanna Sides and Chris Perry (who provided our airport transportation at very inconvenient hours). From each of the Guatemala Team members, a HUGE "Thank You"!



## Kid's World News

WOW! Our kids did an amazing job with the song they sang in church for Christmas! It really blessed my heart! A big thank you to Carol Fisher for working with the kids each Sunday.



**VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!** Our preschool is growing and we need volunteers. We only ask you to commit to one Sunday every 6 weeks, so please be in prayer about serving in this ministry. Your help would be a great blessing for our church! Happy New Year!

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

*- Ephesians 2:10*

## Tech Resources

### LOVE FREEDOM WORSHIP SONGS?

Freedom Church has a Spotify account that has all the songs you hear every Sunday! We want you to be familiar with all our worship songs when you come to church so that you are free to worship. You can jam out in the car, at home, working out, on a walk, or wherever! Check it out [HERE](#) or scan this QR code.

To scan a QR code, open the photos app on your phone and *hover* over the QR Code, then click on the link that shows.



### Online Giving

Did you know you can tithe online? If you would like to give in a digital form, please click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code.



### Sermon Series

If you're going to miss a week due to the holidays, be sure to check out Pastor Mark's sermon by clicking [HERE](#).

