

# FREEDOM CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

*Newsletter*

JANUARY 2026

# FREEDOM CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

## STUDENT MINISTRY

Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

## CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Thursdays at 6:15 p.m.

Worship Service

EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 A.M.

Nursery & Children's Activities

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK

Hi friends,

Happy New Year to each of you! I hope and pray that 2026 will be a year of blessing, joy, peace, and favor for you and your family.

As I reflect on the year that just ended, I am amazed by how much God has blessed Freedom Church International in the past year. We began 2025 with new campuses of Freedom Church being launched in Agenebode and Benin City in Edo state, Nigeria. Now, one year later, both of those churches have land, water wells, and new church buildings... and each campus is running over 200 people in their Sunday attendance!



PASTOR MARK PRICE

Our Lagos 2 church was told by the landlord in early 2025 that they would need to give up their building in the coming months. God has provided land in a good location (so rare!) for the Lagos 2 campus, and a water well has been dug. By late January, a new church building should be completed there. That is three pieces of property acquired, three new water wells dug, and three new buildings built in 2025. Only God could do that.

Now as we begin 2026, two new campuses of Freedom Church International have just been officially inaugurated. A satellite of our Lagos 1 campus has been meeting in rented space and is now running 75-80 people on Sundays. We are now officially launching this as our Lagos 3 campus. And in Kogi state, about an hour north of our Idah campuses, a new group of Freedom Church pioneers, on December 7<sup>th</sup>, began meeting in the Itobe (ee-toe-bay) community in a borrowed school facility. This brings us to a current total of nine Freedom Church International campuses in Nigeria, plus the home campus in Fairhope. **In exactly five and a half years, God has grown our little church in Fairhope, Alabama from one campus and congregation to a total of TEN campuses and thriving congregations!!** God has done this. But it has been your prayers, your faith, and your generous gifts which have made this possible. So, thank you for believing God and doing your part.

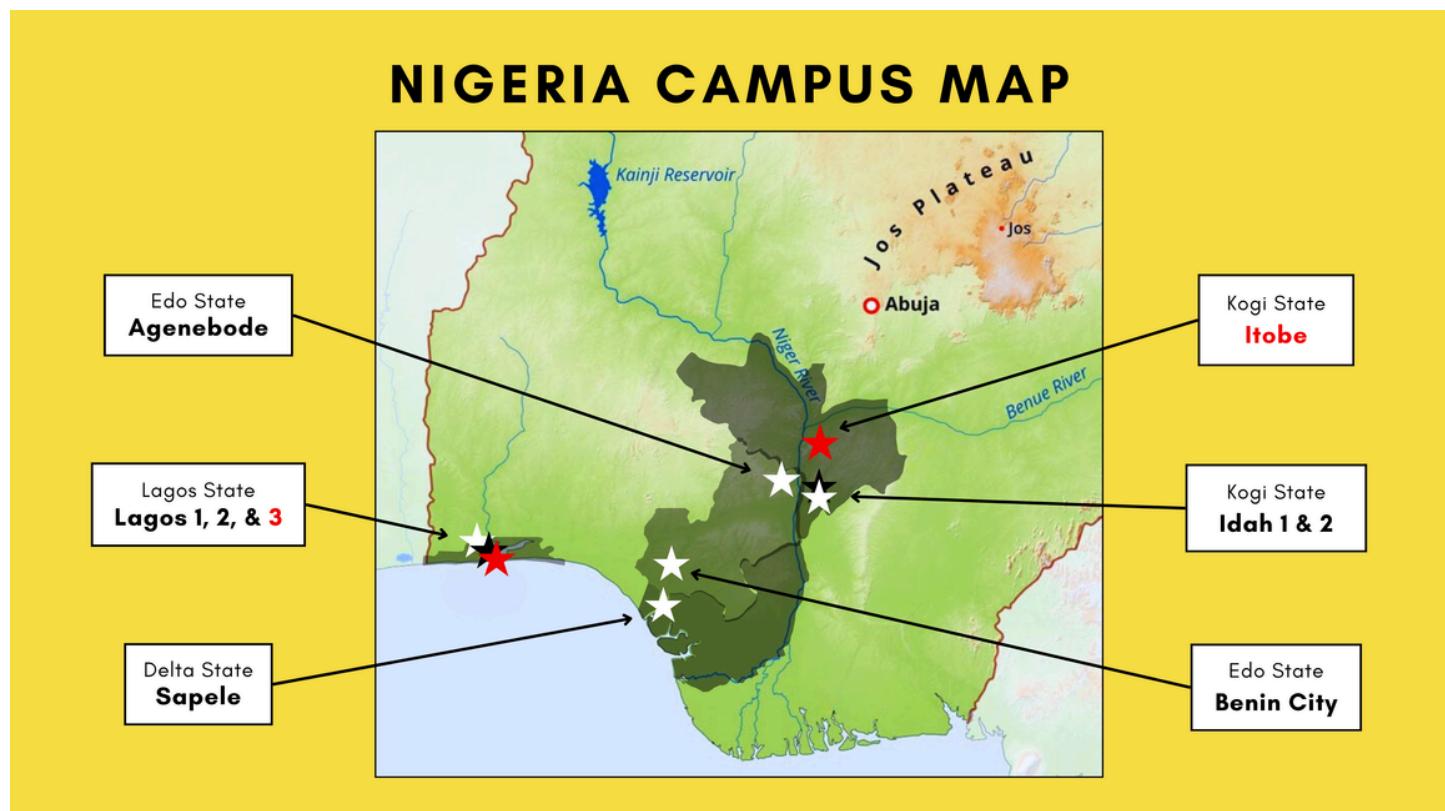
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## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK CONTINUED...

And the growth and blessings have certainly not been limited to our Nigerian campuses. At the Fairhope campus, we have seen God add so many new people to our family in 2025. And in case you haven't noticed, we are getting younger! God has added more young adults and younger families than ever to our church family in the past year, and we celebrate this growth.

I am so encouraged and excited about where God is taking us in 2026 and beyond. And I am so glad that we get to share this journey together!

You Are Loved,  
Pastor Mark



## A CALL TO SERVE

Helping Families in Need

Scripture reminds us of **our calling to care for widows and the fatherless**, and one of the most impactful ways we can live that out is by sharing the gifts God has already placed in our hands. Whether it's your time, your skills, or your resources, what you have to offer can be a lifeline to someone in need.

Simple acts- like repairing a leaky faucet, changing a car's oil, or helping with household projects- can become powerful expressions of God's love. **These small but meaningful gestures bring hope, comfort, and practical support to families navigating life without a husband or father.** When we serve in love, we remind others they are not alone- and that the Church is here to help carry the load.

If you feel called to serve, or if your family could use help, please **reach out to Bob Shotlander** at [shotsy80@hotmail.com](mailto:shotsy80@hotmail.com) or call (251) 367-3166. Let's be the hands and feet of Christ, together.

## CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Thursdays at 6:15 pm

At Freedom Church International, we believe that everyone is recovering from something. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery ministry for anyone struggling with hurts, habits, or addictions of any kind. It is a safe place to find community, encouragement, and freedom from the issues that are controlling your life or the life of someone you love.

We hope you will join us on **Thursday nights from 6:15-8:30 pm** in the Grace Room. *Dinner and childcare are provided.*

## END-OF-YEAR STATEMENTS

Available Online Starting in January

Starting this year, annual giving statements for contributions to Freedom Church International will also be available online in Church Center. Please be sure to **notify us if your mailing or email address have changed** recently. You can do this by stopping by the Welcome Desk in the lobby or by logging in to the Church Center app and updating your profile.

If you have questions about your statement or getting set up in Church Center, feel free to reach out to Joanna at [Joanna@myfreedomchurch.net](mailto:Joanna@myfreedomchurch.net). Thank you for your faithful support of God's church!



# CALENDAR

January

**01**  
THUR

NEW YEAR'S DAY  
Have a safe and happy holiday.

**1-11**

SMALL GROUPS OFF  
Holiday break happening...

**12**  
MON

SMALL GROUPS RESUME  
Welcome back to your group!

**18**  
SUN

LEADERS' MEETING  
Core Team & Small Grp Ldrs 3:30-5:00

**19**  
MON

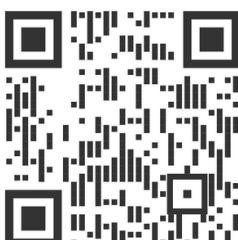
MLK HOLIDAY  
Recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**25**  
SUN

COMMUNION  
Worship Service 10:00

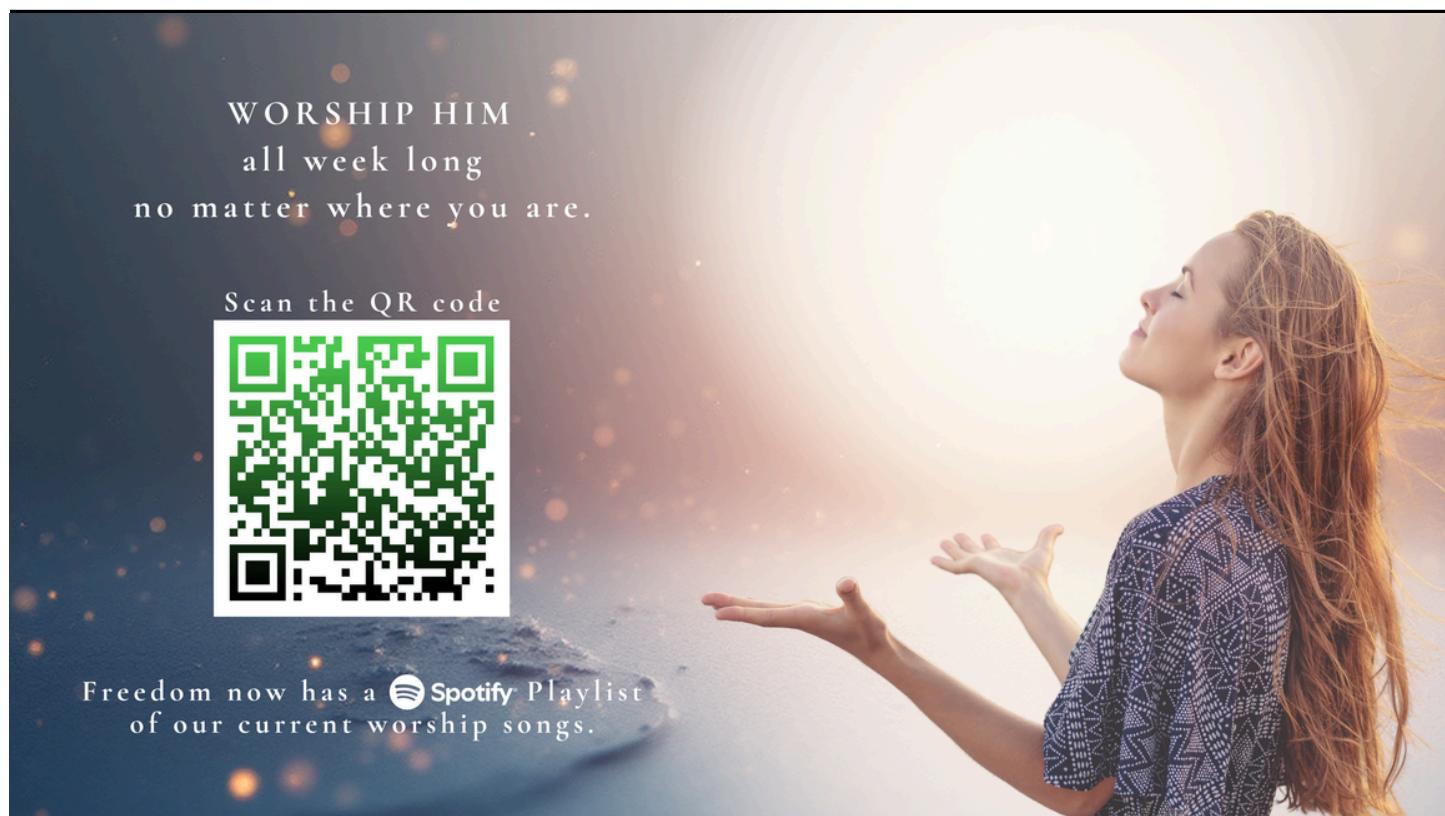
**25**  
SUN

CONNECTION LUNCH  
Grace Room 11:30-1:00



### DIGITAL Giving Options

Did you know that you can tithe online? If you would like to give in a digital form, click or scan the QR code to be directed to our website's Giving page. You can also set up an automatic tithe, helping you stay faithful when life gets busy.



## FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

Support your local food bank.

The holiday season is behind us and the struggles of daily life have reappeared, reminding us not only of God's generosity, but also of our calling to serve others in His name. Many families in our community are facing real need this winter, and local food banks are working hard to meet it. Here are just a couple of the food banks in our area:

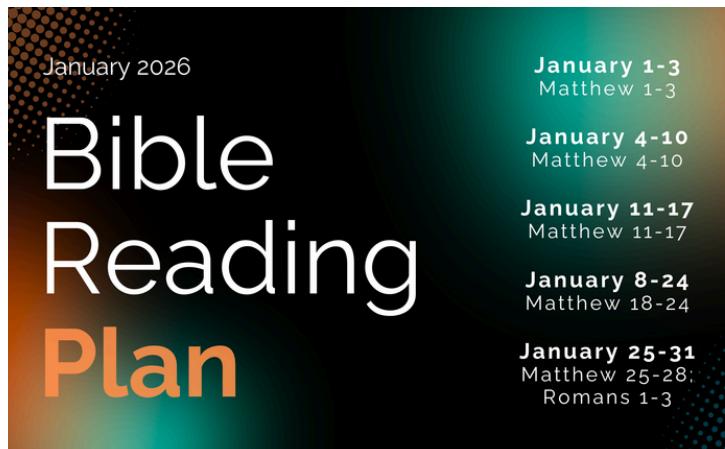
|                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Prodisee Pantry                 | Ecumenical Ministries |
| 9315 Spanish Fort Blvd (Hwy 31) | 566 Fairhope Ave      |
| Spanish Fort, AL 36527          | Fairhope, AL 36532    |

Freedom can make a difference by giving to our local food banks. A few cans, a small donation, or a simple act of kindness can become a powerful expression of Christ's love! Let's make this holiday season one of giving to our neighbors (and strangers) in need.

## BIBLE READING PLAN

2026 Plan Now Available Online [HERE](#)

There are few things more helpful and enriching that we can do in 2026 than to spend time reading God's Word each day. Why not start your new year by joining us daily in Scripture reading and prayer? By spending roughly 5 minutes each day in Scripture reading, we will read the entire New Testament, along with key sections of the Old Testament, in one year. Let's do this together and start the year strong!



## CONNECTION LUNCHEON

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

We are so glad you have been visiting with us and would love to invite you to our upcoming Connection Luncheon, happening January 25th immediately following the morning Worship Service. This gathering is a great opportunity to enjoy a complimentary lunch, meet Pastor Mark and several members of our church staff, and hear more about the vision and ministry direction of our church. Please join us in the Grace Room for a time of food, fellowship, and connection. Childcare is available.



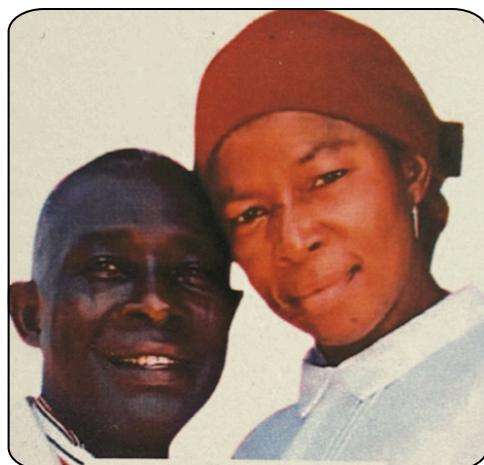
## JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM

Meets Sundays at 9 a.m.

Before the worship service begins, something powerful is already happening in our building... prayer. Each Sunday morning at 9:00 am, our Prayer Team gathers to cover every part of the church in prayer. Together, we walk the halls and lift up the sanctuary, classrooms, volunteers, and every heart that will enter the doors. This team's purpose is simple but mighty: to invite God's presence, protection, and blessing over the entire church campus and every person who serves or attends. If you feel a tug on your heart to intercede for others and to partner with God in this way, we'd love for you to join us. Come a little early on Sunday, meet us at the Kids Counter, and take part in this meaningful ministry! For more information, feel free to reach out to Johnny and Michelle Williamson. Prayer changes everything!

## R E M E M B E R I N G

## Pastor Joel



We mourn the passing of Pastor Joel, who faithfully served as a pastor at our Idah 1 campus. Throughout his ministry, Pastor Joel was committed to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and shepherding those God entrusted to his care. His life and service reflected a devotion to God's calling and a trust in the hope of eternal life through Christ. He is survived by his wife and four children, whom we continue to lift in prayer during this difficult time.

Freedom Church members came together to contribute to Pastor Joel's funeral expenses. This collective act of generosity is a meaningful reflection of Christ's love in action. Their kindness and willingness to support his family during this season are a meaningful reflection of Christ's love in action. We ask that you continue to pray for his family and for the Idah 1 campus, trusting in the comfort, peace, and hope found in Christ as we remember Pastor Joel's life and service.