**Personal Profile**

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Chiyo Shigekawa Palen is the Regional Representative for The Free Methodist Foundation supporting the central region of the Free Methodist Church. She works with Regional Vice President of the central region, Chris DeBacker. The Free Methodist Foundation provides financial services from a Christian stewardship perspective, advancing the Kingdom of God by helping clients manage the resources entrusted to their care.

Chiyo has a great deal of experience in Accounting, Finance and Administration.  In addition to her responsibilities with FMF, she assists the Gateway Conference as a consultant of assisting our Gateway Conference Churches with their financial management systems.  In a similar manner, she has a passion for people and to help them maximize their plans for the benefit of their family and the Kingdom of God.

Chiyo is married to Tim Palen.  Chiyo and Tim were married in our Alton Free Methodist Church.  Chiyo and her husband have five children; four girls and a boy (23) ranging in ages from 25 to 16.

Chiyo loves traveling, hiking (especially in the mountains) and seeing God’s work.  Her Great Grandfather was part of getting the Pacific Coast Japanese Conference of the Free Methodist Church together.

Chiyo graduated from Southern Illinois University with a masters degree in public administration.  She also has a BBA in Human Resource Management from McKendree University.

The following are some ways you might use Chiyo’s services:

* To speak in an adult Sunday school class, and if there is more than one class, perhaps all adult classes could be merged together for her presentation.
* To take a few minutes in the Sunday morning service or bring the message.
* To be the speaker for Sunday morning or evening service.
* To be the special speaker for men's groups, women's groups, young couples, retiree groups, retreats etc., on some aspect of financial planning, stewardship, estate planning and planned giving.

She is available without obligation or fees for private appointments to assist individuals and families in their financial planning, Last Will and Testaments, Trusts, Durable Power of Attorney and Charitable Investments. Payment is required to Christian attorneys **only** when legal documents are needed.

Chiyo is currently accepting appointments and invitations. Please contact her at (618) 889-3229 or toll free at 800-325-8975 x 853.

Our local churches and conference benefit financially from the work of our FMF representative. Our people benefit when they are given assistance with "putting their house in order." This ministry takes our families’ interests to heart, while assisting their interests to support ministries. Our Conference makes this valuable service available to you through The Free Methodist Foundation.