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HEARTBEAT

DECEMBER 2022

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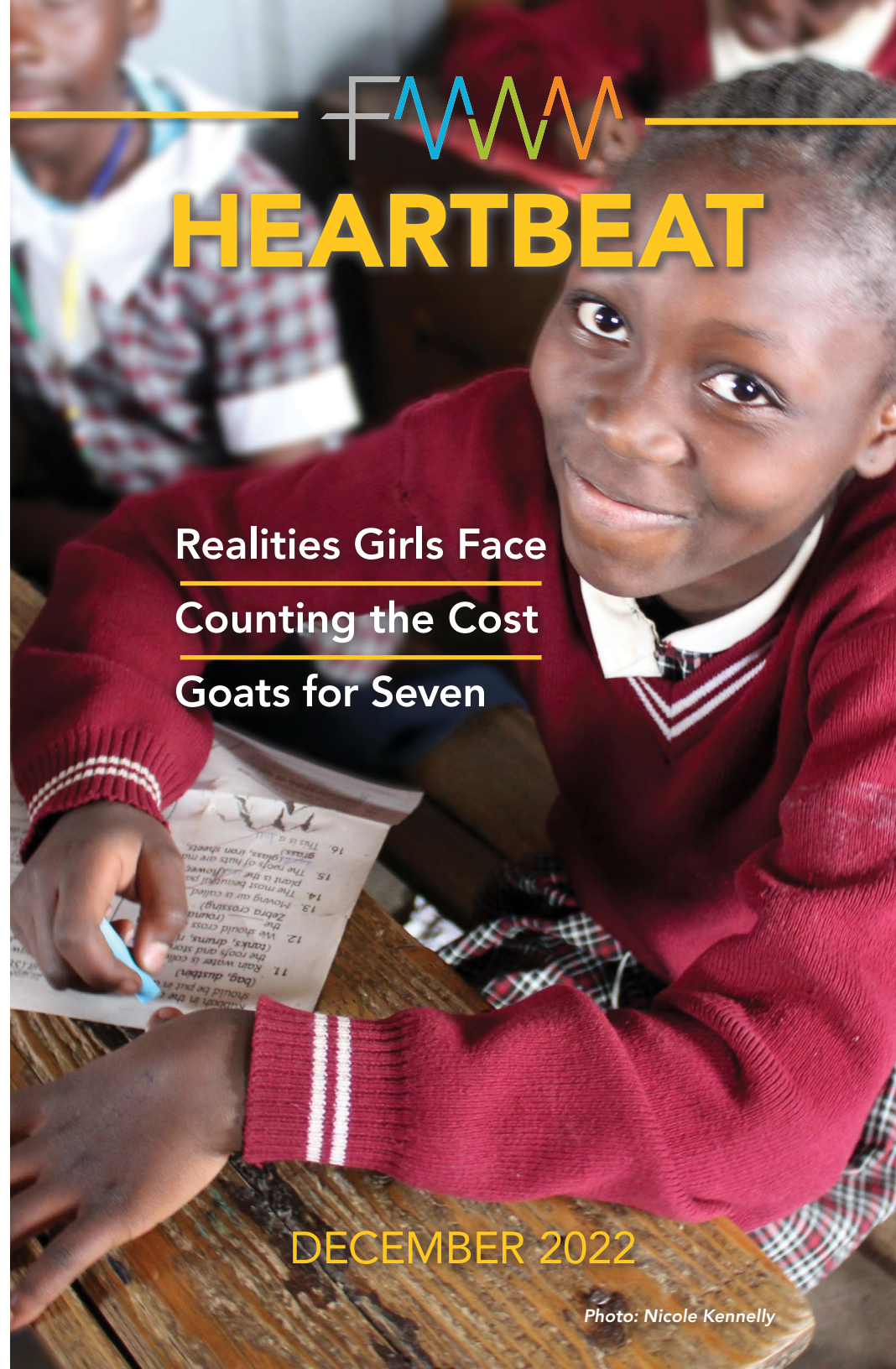
PUBLICATIONS AGREEMENT NO. 40716549
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Free Methodist World Missions makes disciples by **mobilizing the global church and empowering international leaders**
to **establish transformational churches.**

Realities Girls Face Counting the Cost Goats for Seven

DECEMBER 2022

Photo: Nicole Kennelly





REALITIES *Girls* FACE

By Rachel Kinley and Emily Hlavka Freed



Photos: Nicole Kennelly

The story we encountered was difficult. A student named Yanza raised her hand and shared how an older man had solicited her friends for sex in exchange for the monthly supplies they needed for their periods. We heard this while presenting training in the Mathare school in Nairobi with Yvonne, a leader of Thrive (the Set Free Movement team in Kenya).

Yvonne explained more to our team after we left the school.

The girls see their parents struggling. Most have lost a job in the past couple of years and are living hand to mouth. The students see the dire situation for the family and want to help. As awful as it sounds, it can be tempting to try to obtain pads when men approach them this way so they can stay in school and

help their families. Even if it's a month when the parents can afford supplies, there is so much anxiety about what the future holds. What will next month be like?

Yvonne continued, "I love this partnership between Wunders, ICCM, the Set Free Movement and Thrive. Wunders kits are the tool to take care of this problem. I always feel so great when we present the training and kits. I picture myself in their shoes and see them having a future now."

Yanza's story and stories like hers can be difficult to understand, especially when menstrual health supplies are such an obvious need. Despite the realities girls go through due to period poverty, there is hope.

A Wunders kit will last at least two to three years. For 24-36 months, a girl doesn't have to worry about finding menstrual health supplies or how her family will afford them.

Over the last few months, we received feedback and thank you notes from some of the girls in ICCM schools who have received kits. We are encouraged to know the kits are making a tangible difference in their lives. Each time we distribute kits, we have the distinct privilege of letting young women know they are made in the Image of God and are valued and beloved. Our curriculum also includes culturally specific human-trafficking prevention training. What an honor for us to come alongside these young women in Kenya!

Rachel Kinley is the product developer for Wunders, and Emily Hlavka Freed is the interim director of Wunders

Would you help give a young woman in Kenya dignity and hope for the future?

Give at give.fmcusa.org/donation/df-epseedwunder.

Counting the Cost



Photo: Kevin Austin

By the Rev. Dr. Kevin Austin

I've been listening to *The Journal of John Wesley*. He was chased down, stoned, rejected and condemned. Yet he proclaimed the gospel to all he could. In Acts, we find the disciples were jailed, shipwrecked, and some killed. But they kept going. Jesus died on the cross to bring forgiveness for our sins and heal our shame, enabling us to live abundantly.

Missionary Adoniram Judson wrote,

"There is no success without sacrifice. If you succeed without sacrifice, it is because someone has suffered before you. If you sacrifice without success, it is because someone will succeed after."

Set Free leaders in some countries have been attacked while serving. Consequently, we are careful about using some names and faces. Other Set Free leaders are delivering food and medicine into war-torn parts of Ukraine. Our leaders sacrifice in small and big ways. Sacrifice is what is required.

Christians in China, Vietnam, Pakistan and other places experience great persecution. Some are jailed and beaten. Some lose jobs. Yet they continue proclaiming salvation, hope and healing in Jesus' name.

Sacrificial living is a characteristic of our faith (Luke 9:23, Galatians 6:14). Have we lost this fundamental teaching in our churches?

A few months ago, I was with a church leader who decided to eliminate his church's online streaming. Why? He was deeply troubled by people forsaking the "gathering of the saints" (Hebrews 10:25). There is a theology of leaving comfort and gathering in the name of the Lord as a united, free people. It is countercultural and a great witness to refuse the easy way.

Jesus demands we count the cost. To follow Jesus is not just to believe but to pick up the cross and follow him into suffering and joy. In some inexplicable way, suffering and joy seem to be linked (Matthew 16:24, James 1:2).

Kuntsee and Sopeep, the patriarch and matriarch of Free Methodist work in Cambodia, came out of the Khmer Rouge genocide with vibrancy, resilience and faith in Jesus. They are some of the most joyful, generous people I have ever met. They suffered greatly. They have few earthly possessions yet are earnest Christians. They follow Jesus daily into suffering and joy, and the fruit is a thriving Christian movement in Cambodia.

As an American serving globally, I wonder, what are we sacrificing for the Kingdom? I hear people moaning and groaning about the government and moral issues in America. I hear people wanting revival. Friends, there will be no revival without sacrifice, surrender and following Jesus earnestly. We need to count the cost.



Photo: Adobe Stock

By An ICCM Creative Access Country Leader

It was a hot, sunny day, and our ministry team was visiting one of the refugee camps outside a major city in a creative access country. The team had received a call informing them about Magda, a woman who was widowed when extremists attacked her peaceful village in 2014. Magda's husband was killed, but she escaped with her seven children. As a result of this trauma, Magda developed type 2 diabetes. She did not work and had no source of income to feed her children.

Informed of the family's needs, ICCM gave a generous gift toward purchasing goats for Magda to start Seven, a microenterprise. The ministry team helped Magda build a shelter for the seven

goats she received, two of which soon gave birth. The ministry provided food packs for the family, goat feed and medications for one year. Now, Magda has 14 goats, several of which are pregnant. She has a flourishing small business selling baby goats and providing for her family.

Animals benefit children and families at ICCM schools and projects in several of the 33 countries served. Animals produce nutritional, educational and economic benefits to children and families in need. Perhaps you and your family or small group would consider giving the gift of an animal to a family as part of your Christmas celebration this year.

Give here: childcareministries.org/specialprojects/#animals

Vol. 5 No. 12 DECEMBER 2022

Publisher: Gerald Coates
Editor: Jan Coates
Copy Editor: Matt Schnepf
Graphic Designer: Beth Winchell
Subscription Manager: Matt Alte

Free Methodist World Missions Heartbeat (ISSN 2380-0283) (Print) is published monthly by Free Methodist World Missions, PO Box 51710, Indianapolis, IN 46251. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN, and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Free Methodist World Missions Heartbeat, PO Box 51710, Indianapolis, IN 46251. Canadian Publication Mail Agreement #40716549

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: Station A, P.O. Box 54, Windsor ON N9A6J5

Email: cpcreturns@wdsmail.com

To be added or removed from the mailing list, or give notifications of address change, contact Matt Alte, (800) 342-5531.

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DECEMBER PRAYER GUIDE

01 ➤ Thursday | Zambia

Pray the development of three strategic ministry centers and educational ministries for children will strengthen the church-community connections.

02 ➤ Friday | Australia

Pray for growing work in Australia as several leaders expand their ministry. Pray also for new contacts being developed in New Zealand.

03 ➤ Saturday | Bulgaria

Join the Bulgarian leaders in praying for ongoing opportunities to train the next generation of leaders in the Balkans.

04 ➤ Sunday | Nicaragua

Praise the Lord for a new well in a rural area of Nicaragua. More than 150 children and their families now have access to clean water. Pray for continued community transformation resulting from improved quality of life.

05 ➤ Monday | Middle East

Joanne is planning some one-day training sessions for local midwives. Pray for these training sessions, the women being trained, and the refugee women they will serve.

06 ➤ Tuesday | Tanzania

Pray the believer's love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so they may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless ... filled with the fruit of righteousness ... to the glory and praise of God (Philippians 1:9-11).

07 ➤ Wednesday | Creative Access Asia

Pray for clear direction as several FM leaders from Southeast Asia cooperate to open ministry in two new creative access countries. Pray for receptivity in these two nations and for leaders to emerge to guide ministry development.

08 ➤ Thursday | Hungary

Pray for missionary Erin Kingsley as she continues her language study. Ask the Lord to lead her to new ministry opportunities as she becomes more comfortable and confident with the language.

Birthday: Erin Kingsley

09 ➤ Friday | Colombia

Pray for Thad Roller as he leads this mission district. Ask the Lord to give wisdom as the district develops new teams and structures.

10 ➤ Saturday | South Korea

Pray for a new FM ministry developing on the Korean peninsula, particularly among new believers not currently associated with a larger church family.

11 ➤ Sunday | Set Free Movement

Praise God for the New Generation Thrive (NGT) group in Togo! NGT was established in May 2022 and is already meeting with groups of young women providing discipleship, encouragement and education.

12 ➤ Monday | Senegal

Pray for the Holy Spirit's intervention in villages with significant opposition to the gospel. Ask the Father to give great boldness to the pastors who face this hostility.

13 ➤ Tuesday | Fiji

Praise the Lord for the new FM church in Fiji and two additional "preaching points." Pray the gospel will penetrate and reach the people's hearts. Pray for a growing connection with the broader FMC in Asia.

14 ➤ Wednesday | FMWM

Ask the Lord to give Jonathan Eccles wisdom as he works with other FMWM leaders to explore new connections and long-term ministry opportunities around the world. **Birthday: Jonathan Eccles (FMWM Ministry Deployment Coordinator)**

15 ➤ Thursday | Argentina

Join missionary Rodrigo Rosado in praying for his brother Richard who is 30 years old and suffering from cerebral damage caused by a stroke. Ask the Father to encourage and strengthen Richard and the entire family. **Birthday: Rodrigo Rosado**

16 ➤ Friday | Portugal

Pray for the Barnabas project established to provide food and assistance to low-income families and the homeless.

17 ➤ Saturday | Middle East

Pray for the emotional, spiritual and relational health of our leaders in the Middle East. Pray the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard their hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

18 ➤ Sunday | Ethiopia

Superintendent Mekebib Desta has the vision to see a ministry center in Addis Ababa. Pray for the Lord's wisdom and direction in fulfillment of this vision.

19 ➤ Monday | Brazil

Bishop Daniel Abe leads the Nikkei Provisional General Conference. Pray for this general conference as it continues to seek creative opportunities to minister to Japanese and Brazilian communities.

20 ➤ Tuesday | Ukraine

Pray for our leaders' physical, emotional and spiritual strength as they persevere in delivering aid and offering hope after many months of war.

21 ➤ Wednesday | Guatemala

One current ministry involves feeding underprivileged children and teaching them the Word of God. Ask the Father to bless this ministry.

22 ➤ Thursday | Thailand

Pray for the Christmas outreach of the churches in Thailand, and pray the Holy Spirit will speak to the hearts of many during the Christmas season.

Birthday: Connie Persing

23 ➤ Friday | Liberia

Pray for the continued formation of a healthy and vital church in Liberia. Ask the Lord to give wisdom and insight to Superintendent Rufus Kahn as he leads this work.

24 ➤ Saturday | Europe

As people across the continent celebrate Christmas, pray the Holy Spirit will open their hearts and draw them to Jesus Who offers the gift of new life.

25 ➤ Sunday | FMWM Missionary Team

As they celebrate the birth of our Lord, pray each member of the missionary team will experience the presence and peace of Christ anew in their life.

26 ➤ Monday | Asia

Pray for Darin and Jill as they set up and adjust to their new home base in Chiang Mai, Thailand. **Birthday: Jill**

27 ➤ Tuesday | Nigeria

Praise the Lord for reports of prayers being answered, sick people being healed, and people coming to faith in Christ! Pray for ongoing efforts of evangelism and discipleship.

28 ➤ Wednesday | Costa Rica

Ask God to give wisdom to Pastor Pedro Flores as he leads this mission district in Community Church Planting efforts and helps them move toward effective discipleship of children through the *Roots* curriculum.

29 ➤ Thursday | Middle East

In recent months, leaders in one country have faced increasing persecution and intimidation. Pray they will persevere and grow in faith. Ask the Father to transform the hearts of the persecutors.

30 ➤ Friday | ICCM

Praise the Lord for the individuals and groups from 16 countries who sponsor children through ICCM. Continue to pray for more than 800 children still waiting for sponsors.

31 ➤ Saturday | Taiwan

Praise the Lord! Tim Kinkead's thyroid cancer is stable. Continue to pray for his good health. Also, pray for Tim and Lily as they plan to return to the U.S. for partnership building in 2023. **Birthday: Tim Kinkead**

"We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God."

— John Stott