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HEARTBEAT

JULY 2023

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Free Methodist World Missions makes disciples by mobilizing the global church and empowering international leaders to establish transformational churches.



HEARTBEAT

JULY 2023

One Woman's Journey
The Cost of Following
Partnering for the Kingdom

Photo: Unsplash-Zana-pq



One Woman's *Journey* to Belief

By An Impact Middle East Leader

Photo: Unsplash-Zana-pq

My name is Nina.* I was born in Iraq, but in 2014 ISIS attacked our village. The entire village, including my family, became refugees. We moved from place to place with no clothing or possessions — and often little food.

Finally, we began living in a refugee camp. My siblings and I joined the school. I dreamed of one day helping my people and encouraging women to know their value.

In 2016 I entered college to study psychology. One day, I met a friend to work on something for a class. It was just the two of us in the classroom, and he began to tell me about Jesus. My only knowledge of Jesus was of His miraculous birth, but my friend told me many things. I loved hearing that Jesus calls the weary and those in need and gives them rest. It was as if everything I ever wanted and dreamed of was in this person — Jesus.

I kept these words about Jesus in my heart. When COVID came, my classes were canceled, and I returned home. My sister had begun watching a YouTube channel that shared about Jesus, and the Lord spoke to both of us. I told my sister about the Jesus stories my friend had shared. We continued to learn more by watching Christian movies and videos.

When I went away again to do my college research, I met a friend who gave me a Bible and other Christian materials. He encouraged me to keep searching.

In 2020 I received my graduate certificate and attended church for the first time, where Pastor “K” prayed for and baptized me.

My experience finding Jesus was unlike many friends who had seen Christ in their dreams; I did not. But one day, while preparing breakfast, I heard a voice asking me, “What do you want?” No one else was there. I realized it was Christ speaking to me. I answered, “I want You.” A few days later while looking at the sky, I saw Christ in the clouds with two people next to Him, then a cross and then a lamb. This confirmed my belief in Jesus and my desire to serve Him.

My sister and I began praying for our parents. God prepared a time for us to share what we knew about Jesus and how He died for us because He loves us. Our parents believed and stopped persecuting us. A year later, our brother became a believer.

Today, my whole family believes in Jesus, and our house is a small church open to everyone.

I have had the opportunity to lead many people to Jesus and now work with an Impact Middle East leader.

God's hand was with me, caring for and revealing Himself to me. Praise Him!

**Nina is a name used to protect the individual.*

The Cost of *Following*

By Dr. Dale

Often, we serve God in our communities and churches without any thought to our safety or the danger we could encounter just by sharing the message of Jesus Christ. This is not the case in many areas of the Middle East.

One worker, Mike*, was called to go into a very violent area — one well known for its links to some of Islam's most radical elements and terrorist nation-states. Because of the dangerous culture, there are no churches in this area.

Mike was in a major city outside of the violent area and began talking with a young man in his 20s from the violent area. This young man was searching. Mike and the young man began having planned meetings every couple of weeks, which continued for a long time.

Eventually, the young man accepted Jesus Christ and began to share with some of his friends and family. His faith in Christ and openness to share could have resulted in his being killed. It is a dishonor to convert to

Christianity, and the killing of Christians is accepted. But he continued to share.

Soon about nine people gathered in the young man's home, so our leader, Mike, began to make regular trips to this home to train, encourage and disciple this small group. (These nine are the only believers in this violent village.)

Mike has been shot at, and once, several bullets struck his car at a checkpoint. He had to hide in a bunker. Every time Mike goes to this area, he is risking his life.

Will he go again? Yes, the danger will not stop him from sharing the gospel because he is called. Mike does not see himself living in danger. Instead, he sees himself called to bring Jesus to a dark area.

Light going into the darkness. Praise the Lord!

**Mike is a name used to protect the individual.*



Photo: Unsplash-Waleed Zeki



Partnering for the Sake of the Kingdom

By Dr. Dale

The global church and the FMC-USA are better as we partner for the sake of the Kingdom. We are also better and more effective as the work of Free Methodist World Missions (FMWM) partners with other movements and organizations for the cause of Christ. Partnerships are essential and valuable in the Middle East. In this region, Christianity makes up a small fraction of the population, and often governments are not welcoming to the church.

Egypt is one of the countries with few Christians. Many denominations and organizations combine efforts to spread the name of Jesus in a place where the vast majority are of another religion. Early this year, an event was held at the Free Methodist Bible Seminary in Assuit, Egypt.

The weeklong gathering was for young leaders interested in starting house churches. One young leader, age 16, presented a wonderful lesson on leadership multiplication! This group of young people learned how to start a group,

identify different personalities in a group, and pray for and discern a person of peace. (Read Luke 10.)



Young leaders from the Free Methodist Church, the Coptic Church and the Catholic Church participated in this training. All sessions were led by the FMWM Middle East Area Director, a country leader and several participants. The event will result in dozens of house churches in areas without exposure to the gospel.

Church Planting and Development funds are vital to the work of FMWM, and the use of these funds enables events like these to flourish. Your financial and prayer investment in the Kingdom has multiplying effects. Please continue to pray for this group of young leaders who are called to bring Jesus into dark and challenging places!

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JULY PRAYER GUIDE

01 > Saturday | Third Culture Kids

Pray for Wendy Lorenz and a team caring for and equipping families by providing resources, encouragement and educational support for the children of our missionaries.

Birthday: Wendy Lorenz

02 > Sunday | Ecuador

Ecuador has experienced difficult sociopolitical situations in recent months. Pray for God to bring peace to the nation and use His church to offer rest and hope.

03 > Monday | Kenya

A team of people from across the U.S. will travel to Kenya with Vickie Reynen in August to engage in various ministry opportunities, including facilitating a conference for women. Pray for their preparations.

04 > Tuesday | Creative Access Asia-CA

Pray the Lord will use Randy and Jessica to point students, neighbors and friends to the One Who loves them and offers them peace and hope.

05 > Wednesday | Spain

Pray for the church in Rivas and the pastoral family. Ask the Father to bless them, protect them and give them strength for the work of the Kingdom. **Birthday: Susy Fajardo, Randy (Creative Access/Affiliate)**

06 > Thursday | Middle East

Pray for men, women and children of the majority religious background to experience God's grace and find salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Ask God to help them recognize it is not through their efforts but is a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8).

07 > Friday | FMWM

Pray for the FMWM office team as they finish preparations for the U.S. General Conference later this month.

Birthday: Jan Coates (FMWM Communications Coordinator)

08 > Saturday | Creative Access Asia

Adam and Rebecca work in a context exceedingly hostile to the gospel. Pray for their discernment as they look for doors open to the gospel. **Birthday: Adam**

09 > Sunday | ICCM

ICCM study centers in Chile provide meals, interactive Bible lessons, fellowship, games, homework assistance, and the opportunity for children to develop and use their gifts and talents. Today, pray for the kingdom impact of these study centers.

10 > Monday | Costa Rica

As the Costa Rican church implements the Roots curriculum for children, pray for the effective and lifelong spiritual effects on the lives of Costa Rican children.

11 > Tuesday | Creative Access Asia / Africa

Creative Access Asia: Pray for Mark and Lena as they partner in leadership development through training and discipling leaders in countries throughout Southeast Asia. **Birthday: Lena**

Africa: Pray for those who would wholeheartedly respond to God's call to serve as FM missionaries in Africa.

Birthday: Natasha Edinger

12 > Wednesday | Ghana

The Canadian General Conference oversees a provisional annual conference in Ghana. Pray for effective training and discipleship to equip passionate and motivated leaders.

13 > Thursday | Creative Access Asia-IA

An indigenous group in this country was formally affiliated with the Free Methodist Church in May. Pray for missionary David Clemente as he continues to come alongside them to encourage and train. **Birthday: David Clemente**

14 > Friday | Malta

Praise the Lord for new FM work in Malta. Pray for the beginning stages of a house church and for James and Esther, the couple helping to launch the work.

15 > Saturday | Brazil

In 2022 a church-planting training base started in São Paulo through a partnership with the Free Methodist seminary. Pray many churches will be planted because of this base.

16 > Sunday | Egypt

Thank the Lord for young leaders in Egypt who are preparing to plant churches in areas without a gospel witness.

17 > Monday | Ivory Coast

The church in Ivory Coast will move to mission district status in 2023. Pray they will be fruitful in the years ahead as they develop their missional focus.

18 > Tuesday | Creative Access Asia / Japan

Creative Access Asia: Pray for unity and Christlikeness among believers. Pray against spiritual attacks of divisiveness and persecution. **Birthday: Scott**

Japan: Pray God will give Minori Hall wisdom as she reaches out to her immediate neighborhood where there are many needs. Ask the Lord to give her spiritual resources with which to bless others. **Birthday: Minori Hall**

19 > Wednesday | France

Praise the Lord for the ordination of Pastor Joel Louidor in the spring. Pray for him as he pastors and leads the Haitian church in Cergy (Paris).

20 > Thursday | Uganda

Pray for the development of leadership structures and unity among leaders as they work toward integrating work initiated by two general conferences.

21 > Friday | Paraguay / Philippines

Paraguay: Juan Carlos Rodriguez and Yaneth Aguirre are international missionaries. Pray for their visa process in Paraguay. Also, pray for their upcoming workshops on transformational churches and mentoring.

Birthday: Yaneth Aguirre

Philippines: Pray for international missionaries Alan and Ammabelle Bacus as they help initiate church planting through campus ministries in the Ilocos region of the Philippines. **Birthday: Ammabelle Bacus**

22 > Saturday | Thailand

In the first four months of this year, more than 80 people came to faith in Christ. Thank the Lord! Pray God will continue to pour out His spirit in Thailand!

23 > Sunday | Set Free Movement

Thu is the new Set Free regional leader on the mainland of Southeast Asia. Pray for her as she begins this role by researching and identifying what trafficking vulnerabilities are prominent in the region and what organizations are addressing the problems.

24 > Monday | Global

The FMC-USA General Conference begins tomorrow. National leaders from around the world will participate. Pray for healthy and meaningful partnerships and connections during this week.

25 > Tuesday | Middle East

Pray for Joanne and other leaders of the Whole Woman Initiative as they make plans for expansion through a health education video project.

26 > Wednesday | Ukraine

As the war continues, it becomes increasingly difficult to discern how to best help those who are displaced. Ask the Father to give wisdom to government and ministry leaders.

27 > Thursday | Panama

New Free Methodist work is beginning in Panama, centered near Panama City. Pray for this new work as they focus on planting churches that multiply disciples, developing leaders and reproducing transformational churches.

28 > Friday | Creative Access Asia-NP

Praise the Lord! In May the FMC in this country became a full annual conference. Seventeen elders were ordained. Pray for the continued expansion of the church here.

29 > Saturday | South Africa

Pray this established general conference will have a renewed passion for the lost and a vision to reach new provinces with the gospel.

30 > Sunday | Honduras

As the church develops, pray the FM values and mission will become part of the DNA of every pastor, leader and church in Honduras.

31 > Monday | Middle East

While persecution remains a threat, satellite TV and internet ministries are helping spread the gospel in the region. Pray the Father will continue to work through these avenues to bring many to faith in Christ.

“Some of us are senders and some are goers. Neither is more important than the other. Neither is possible without the other.”

– David Sills, *The Missionary Call*