

Free Methodist World Missions
PO Box 57710
Indianapolis, IN 46251
800-342-5531

To opt out of the print version of HEARTBEAT and receive an email prompt for the mobile-friendly version, go to fmchr.ch/mheartbeat

Or visit the web version at www.fmwm.org and select the Heartbeat link.



HEARTBEAT

AUGUST 2023

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT INDIANAPOLIS, IN, AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.

PUBLICATIONS AGREEMENT NO. 4-0716549
STATION A, P.O. BOX 54
WINDSOR, ON N9A 6J5 CANADA
EMAIL: CPCRETURNS@WDSMAIL.COM

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



HEARTBEAT

AUGUST 2023

**African Leaders Converge
New Church, New Generation
Big Steps in Malawi**

AFRICAN LEADERS *Converge*

By Hendrik Smidderks and Kaylene Smidderks

Leaders from 12 African countries came together in Togo in February 2023 for a week of fellowship, training and planning. They came from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. This gathering brought together our best indigenous leaders for a powerful time of spiritual renewal.

During the first session, country leaders had the opportunity to share what God is doing in their region. Some reports were inspiring, others challenging, and others were difficult to hear as some leaders shared anecdotes of suffering and persecution. We praise God for our African leaders serving with love and humility in extremely difficult circumstances. As these difficult stories were told, many voices were praising God for His great mercy.

A group of guests from the U.S. joined our African leaders. Among the guests was Dr. Elisée Ouoba, associate professor of biblical studies at Spring Arbor University. Dr. Ouoba led the morning devotions, focusing on scripture's unsung heroes. He was an excellent resource for biblical understanding, language skills and multicultural experience.

The Rev. Mike Reynen and the Rev. Glenn Lorenz cast a vision for a three-pillared approach to ministry in Africa:

- Multiply committed disciples.
- Develop healthy leaders.
- Empower transformational churches.

The Rev. Aaron Wells presented on the pillar of "Multiplying Committed Disciples," sharing his passion and experience in church planting. Many leaders were inspired to dream and apply the teaching in their context. There was a shared sense that the Holy Spirit was moving and igniting new endeavors.

The Rev. Glenn Lorenz presented on the pillar of "Developing Healthy Leaders," focusing on ministerial preparation and explaining the ordination process. He also led a workshop on using technology to communicate and coordinate between our African leaders. Leaders received mobile tools to use both for work and encouraging one another.

Lauren Chudnovsky and the Rev. Hendrik Smidderks presented on "Empowering Transformational Churches." Lauren shared her experience in Burundi, and Hendrik shared his experience in Mozambique. Both gave practical action steps and stories of other Free Methodist churches engaging in their communities.

The Lomé Free Methodist Church hosted Sunday worship under the leadership of the Rev. Dosseh Takpale. In the afternoon, the entire group visited the Wesley Missionary Institute (WMI). Although still under development, this school is functioning to train Africans as missionaries to reach new countries and areas in Africa.

Praise the Lord for this powerful week of equipping and encouraging the leaders of FMWM in Africa. Join us in continued prayer for the effectiveness, encouragement and perseverance of these faithful leaders as they work toward expanding God's kingdom in Africa.





Mbare, Zimbabwe NEW CHURCH, NEW GENERATION

By Sabastine Muzvidziwa and Kaylene Smidderks

The Free Methodist Church in Zimbabwe is actively engaged in planting new churches and reaching people for Christ. Pastor Tsitsi Majoko is a church planter in the Ralph Jacob district of the Zimbabwe Free Methodist Church. The newest church plant is in Mbare, a suburb of Harare, the capital city. Mbare was established simultaneously with Harare in 1890. The Mbare neighborhood has a large population characterized by high unemployment, low income, poverty and high crime.

This new church plant meets in Pastor Majoko's house, which she uses as the church plant's launch point. Her prayer and hopes are to see greater evangelism and new churches in the 12 suburbs of Harare. The flow of migration from rural villages to urban cities contributes to rapid population growth in the suburbs, making the suburbs a great mission field.

Pastor Majoko is honoring the command of the Great Commission:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28: 19-20, NIV).

When it comes to church planting, Pastor Majoko believes these elements are crucial:

- Locate a friendly house.
- Locate friendly people where you will be accepted.
- Establish from this center and spread outward.

Pastor Majoko has a sister who lives with her. Her sister has seven grandchildren living in or close to Mbare who are instrumental in inviting new people. God is using children to grow His kingdom!

Initially, the Mbare church plant started with a primary population of children ages 1 to 12. Now, most attendees are between the ages of 5 and 12. A typical service includes reading scripture, memorizing Bible verses, and studying and learning about salvation and repentance. Pray for the growth and discipleship of this young church and its young members. Pray they will learn to share their faith with their family and friends.

The Free Methodist Church of Zimbabwe continues to share the gospel and grow the Kingdom for Christ. Pray for the expansion of the Kingdom in Zimbabwe.

Follow FMWM Africa here: Instagram: [fmwm_africa](#) Facebook: [FMWM Africa](#)



Big Steps in Malawi

By Kaylene Smidderks

The Free Methodist Church (FMC) in Malawi is taking active steps toward achieving general conference status. Under the leadership of Bishop Matt Whitehead, the three annual conferences in Malawi agreed to form a Provisional General Conference Study Committee. The Northern Conference is under the leadership of Superintendent Japhet Msyani, the Central Conference is under the leadership of Superintendent Ronald Chinkonde, and the Southern Conference is under the leadership of Superintendent Goodson Phiri.

The new study committee is comprised of a clergy member and a lay member from each annual conference. Bishop Whitehead is the chairperson of the study committee, and Superintendent Goodson Phiri is the vice-chair.

The committee met for the first time in May 2023 in the region of the Southern Conference. This meeting provided an opportunity for training, planning and inviting the Lord to lead the FMC in Malawi. The gathering was considered

a success, and committee members sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit was guiding and empowering.

During the coming year, the committee will travel to other regions and continue the work of calling the church forward. There is growing excitement and many preparations as the church anticipates being under the full leadership of Malawians. Leaders, both clergy and lay, are making great sacrifices and strides to work together for the Lord.

In August 2023, Bishop Matt Whitehead will travel back to Malawi to hold annual conferences and assist the study committee. The Rev. Hendrik and Kaylene Smidderks will join Bishop Whitehead for this trip to assist as needed.

Please pray for the Free Methodist Churches and the leadership in Malawi as they take these formative steps to build a stronger presence for the kingdom of God. Pray for Bishop Whitehead and his team as they walk alongside the church in Malawi during these exciting times.



Vol. 5 No. 8 AUGUST 2023

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.

Printed in the USA – Copyright 2023

All Scripture quotations take from the New International Version unless otherwise indicated.



AUGUST PRAYER GUIDE

01 > **Tuesday** | **Creative Access Asia-HK**

Join the FM Church in this country as they pray for more missionaries to be sent out from their annual conference.

02 > **Wednesday** | **Belgium**

Pray for the development of effective programs and ministries to reach the hearts and minds of the youth in Belgium.

03 > **Thursday** | **Uruguay**

Daniela DaCunha works with Community Church Planting teams in Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia. Ask the Father to give her wisdom, direction and protection in her work.

Birthday: Daniella DaCunha (International Missionary)

04 > **Friday** | **Iraq**

Pray for a generation of wounded healers, young women who have experienced horrific trauma and are now helping others discover the same healing through faith in Christ.

05 > **Saturday** | **Rwanda**

Pray for improvements to the resuscitation care at Kibogora Hospital. Missionaries Rachel and Emmanuel Nzungize received teaching materials from the U.S. and hope to have all the staff trained soon. **Birthday: Emmanuel Nzungize**

06 > **Sunday** | **Creative Access Asia-PN**

The FMC is ministering to children through informal tutoring, caring for children in the brick-making yards and homeless children living in the slums. Pray the compassion they experience will reveal the love of Christ Jesus to them.

07 > **Monday** | **Democratic Republic of Congo**

Pray for the timely delivery of urgently needed medical equipment and components for solar upgrades at Nundu Hospital. Arrival by August 22 will allow a team to complete the solar project in September.

08 > **Tuesday** | **Bulgaria**

Pray there will be an abundant harvest from the Pure Farm this year, allowing the church to provide food for many in need. **Birthday: Dee Dee Galloway**

09 > **Wednesday** | **Colombia**

Pray for new leaders beginning the pastoral formation process. More than 80 people in Colombia are actively preparing for ministry through pastoral formation classes.

10 > **Thursday** | **Middle East**

Use Proverbs 3:5-6 to pray for our leaders in the Middle East. Pray they will trust the Lord wholeheartedly and not depend on their own understanding. As they seek God's will, ask the Father to make clear the paths they should take as they share the gospel in a challenging context.

11 > **Friday** | **Set Free Movement**

The Set Free Movement's "Percent for Freedom" partnership program seeks to partner with businesses that wish to raise awareness of human trafficking by donating a percentage of profits. Pray growing numbers of businesses will partner with Set Free in this way.

12 > **Saturday** | **Creative Access Asia-MR**

Leaders in this country hope to establish a learning center in the country's eastern area. Pray this learning center and additional church plants will bring light into a very dark place.

13 > **Sunday** | **Ecuador**

Thank the Lord for 34 community church plants in Ecuador since 2020. Pray for mission district leader Mariana Mafla as she leads the church-planting efforts.

14 > **Monday** | **Southeast Asia**

Pray for Thom and Sherry Cahill as they continue to assist in recruiting teachers and coordinating modules for the Gethsemane Leadership Training in Southeast Asia. **Birthday: Thom Cahill**

15 > **Tuesday** | **Portugal**

Pray for Santiago and Laysse Magalhães. They have assumed responsibility for leadership of the FMC in Lisbon and serve as pastors for the youth network in Portugal.

16 > **Wednesday** | **Chile**

Pray for Rich and Laurie Sheriff as they continue to develop their language skills. As they practice t with those in their community, ask God to give opportunities to share the gospel. **Birthday: Laurie Sheriff**

17 > Thursday | Thailand

The FMC in Thailand has seen many coming to new faith in Jesus Christ over the past two years. Pray God's Word will continue to expand fruitfully among the Thai people.

Birthday: Corey Persing

18 > Friday | Cameroon

In June, six new elders were ordained at the mission district's annual meeting. Thank the Lord for raising new leaders. Pray for the continued expansion of the Kingdom and the development of new leaders in Cameroon.

19 > Saturday | Middle East

God is bringing hope and healing in a region plagued with turmoil and tragedy. Pray for peace and restoration in this region as God works to transform lives in new places and new ways.

20 > Sunday | Ethiopia

The FMC in Ethiopia is seeing a rapid increase in new church plants. Pray for the continuing training programs for pastors and church planters and the discipleship of the many new believers.

21 > Monday | ICCM

ICCM work in Argentina began in 1995. There are programs in San Andrés de Giles, San Luis, San Javier and Neuquén. Pray for the sponsored children and the families represented by these four programs.

22 > Tuesday | Creative Access Asia-IA

Thank the Lord for new partners in this country who became a provisional annual conference earlier this year. Pray the Holy Spirit will spark renewal and growth in the church there.

23 > Wednesday | Jordan

In this country, Christians are often an oppressed minority. Conversion from the majority religion to Christianity is costly. They risk losing their jobs, reputation and families. Pray for the strength, encouragement and faithfulness of Christians.

24 > Thursday | Greece

In June, the ministry vehicle was swept away in a flash flood. Pray for God's provision for a new vehicle to help Michael and Maria Long continue their refugee ministry.

25 > Friday | Nicaragua

The El Mesias school in Managua is using the *Raices* curriculum with all 512 students, even those in high school. Praise the Lord! Eight high school students received Christ as their Savior at the first session in March. Pray for God's continued work in the lives of children.

26 > Saturday | Senegal

Praise the Lord for newly ordained pastors this year and several others in the ordination process. Pray for the continued growth and maturity of the leadership team in Senegal.

27 > Sunday | Creative Access Europe-P

Pray for the children suffering due to homelessness or overcrowded and underfunded orphanages. Pray for God's love and transforming peace to reach their hearts.

28 > Monday | Creative Access-X

Pray for new groups and churches emerging in the eastern part of this country. Ask God to give David and Ginegda López wisdom as they assist these young fellowships.

Birthday: Ginegda "Yeya" López (International Missionary)

29 > Tuesday | New Zealand

Pray for Pastora Joy and her husband, Phil, as they lead a new church plant in New Zealand. Pray for God's blessing upon this young church as they meet together for discipleship and prayer.

30 > Wednesday | Liberia

Pray God's blessings will overflow for the Ziah Free Methodist Church as they seek to complete their simple church building. This church is located about 900 kilometers from Monrovia, the capital city.

31 > Thursday | Chile

Pray for the Celebration of Hope Church in San Pedro de la Paz, a neighborhood in Concepción. Pray for spiritual growth and renewal in this church where Rich and Laurie Sheriff serve. **Birthday: Rich Sheriff**

"The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become."

– Henry Martyn