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# HEARTBEAT

OCTOBER 2023

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



**Despair to Hope**  
**Work of the Spirit**  
**Freed from Slavery**

*Photo: Pa Kep*

# HEARTBEAT

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# Despair to

# Hope!



*By Asia Area Director Eric and Superintendent Daniel*

Imagine living without hope in a remote Cambodian village. Now imagine attending worship Sunday morning at a local Free Methodist Church. You might hear Sister Gne as she stands to testify to the power of God in her life.

*For a long time, I have had terrible headaches. They would never leave me. They were severe, and I could not get relief. But Jesus saved me from this and so much else!*

*Before I knew Jesus, my life seemed hopeless. Even in my youth, I had no father, no chance to study, and our family was very poor. I dreamed of a marriage that would rescue me from hopelessness, but my life did not improve even after marriage. It became worse. To my heartbreak, my husband had an affair, and we were in near-constant conflict. Eventually, we divorced, leaving me as a single mother with four children.*

*In addition to trying to care for our family as a single parent, I was responsible for the care of my elderly mother. Again, life was hard and hopeless, and my headaches became even worse. I tried many different medications, visited many doctors, and tried traditional medicine. I worshiped ancestors and earth spirits. But all left me empty and without hope. I felt helpless.*

*One day my brother, who had become a Christian, helped me to come to a church. There I met a pastor who prayed for me. Other brothers and sisters from the fellowship prayed for me regularly, and I began to feel better. I heard the gospel and trusted Jesus as my Lord and Savior.*

*Today I am filled with hope in Jesus! I have brothers and sisters in Christ as my extended family, and I no longer feel alone. I was baptized in July of 2022, and I happily participate in my local church in the province and city when I visit.*

From despair to hope! This is how Sister Gne describes her transformation.

Thousands of villages in Cambodia have no local church. Superintendent Daniel and the Cambodian Free Methodist Church have a vision to bring a gospel witness to hundreds of remote villages. You can help them by praying and by giving generously here: <https://fmchr.ch/FMWM-Cambodia>



# Participating Together in the *Work of the Spirit*

*By Asia Area Director Eric with Superintendent Pa Kep*

Kyaw Aung is an example of one who realized his spiritual needs when his physical needs were met. This often happens through the generosity and kindness expressed through the Bishops' Crisis Response Fund (BCRF). FMWM-Asia values partnerships like this, built within the generosity of the FMC-USA.

Superintendent Pa Kep shares Kyaw Aung's story. Kyaw Aung was born into a Buddhist family. Like most in Creative Access-MR, Kyaw Aung held a strong belief in Buddhism. By trade, he has been a mason, crafting images of the Buddha for worship and assisting in constructing several pagodas. Idols are kept in most Buddhist households. Daily offerings of fruit are made in these home shrines. According to Pa Kep, Kyaw Aung also sold idols for peoples' homes.

Kyaw Aung was performing his worship one morning when he began thinking about the nature of the gods he had made with his hands. *Are these real? Do they have any ability to hear my prayers? Can they save lives?* A sinking feeling crept in and brought trouble and unrest to his mind.

It was not long before Kyaw Aung lost his joy in worshipping the idols in his home. He had a growing awareness of the lack of peace in his life. Kyaw Aung wondered: *Might there*

*be a God somewhere who could hear, a God who is able to save?* In December 2021, he attended a gathering in his community. The gathering was associated with Christmas. Invited by a neighbor, he went to receive a gift of rice, but in the end, Kyaw Aung received so much more.



During the gathering, Kyaw Aung heard the good news about Jesus and the love of the Father. Through the true meaning of Christmas – the gift of God's Son, Jesus, he found the God for whom he had longed! Eager to learn more about Jesus, he asked for more information, received one handout and met a Free Methodist pastor.

It was not long before the Holy Spirit began moving in Kyaw Aung's heart. He was drawn deeply to the teachings of Jesus found in the Bible. Pastor Ni, our FM pastor, helped Kyaw Aung surrender to Jesus in October

2022, and soon after, he was baptized.

If you have given to the BCRF, the LoveAsia fund or the Creative Access-MR Church Planting and Development (CPD) fund, you have participated in the Holy Spirit's work in Kyaw Aung's life. As a denominational family, we are an amazing example of how we can be better together.





# Freed From Slavery

*By Pastor M, with Asia Area Director Eric*

God is at work in Creative Access-PN, and He is working through the Free Methodist churches there. Hear this story from one of our key leaders, Pastor M.

Praise the Lord for His grace! The Free Methodist Church (FMC) in Creative Access-PN is deeply involved in spreading the good news to slave families, helping them break free from slavery to live a life of dignity. We thank God for His powerful, strong, and compassionate hand stretching out to help us release a slave family by paying off their loans to the brick kiln owner, equivalent to 945 U.S. dollars. This family was facing severe persecution and trouble. I am deeply grateful to my friend, who immediately sold a piece of land and provided the money to release this family in an emergency.

The father in this family is RM, and his wife is H. They have six children, and one of their daughters was a victim of sexual assault by the brick kiln owner. He then married her to a Muslim man without her parents' permission. He also started harassing her mother and attempted to assault her. When the parents raised their voices against the brick kiln owner, he threatened to kill RM and demanded his money back. RM managed to escape and hide, saving his life.

This family had been living in slavery from birth, but now they are free.

We paid the money to the owner and freed this Christian family from slavery. After the husband returned home and was reunited with his family, we arranged a rental house for their accommodation and purchased a rickshaw loader. The rickshaw loader gave RM a business, enabling him to earn money to support the family's needs and expenses. Now they are incredibly happy, free to worship our Lord and live their Christian life in freedom.

Creative Access-PN is a difficult place to share the gospel, and few want to serve there. But our Free Methodist family is touching lives with the gospel of Christ. As followers of Jesus, they believe all are created in the image of God and worthy of the love, dignity and hope offered to them in Christ. Please pray for the transformative work of the FMC in this country.

To help with our work in Creative Access-PN, please give generously here:  
[fmchr.ch/FMWM-PN](http://fmchr.ch/FMWM-PN)

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# OCTOBER PRAYER GUIDE

## 01 > Sunday | Ivory Coast

Praise the Lord! The FMC in Ivory Coast became an official mission district in August of this year. Ask God to give wisdom to all those in positions of leadership and pray for the expansion of the Kingdom in this country.

## 02 > Monday | Albania

Pray for a space to develop a learning center in Korçë where educational and social programs will be used to minister to children from needy families.

## 03 > Tuesday | Bolivia

Pray for the strength and wisdom of the church in the city of Santa Cruz as it ministers to and seeks transformation in the community.

## 04 > Wednesday | Creative Access-P / Latin America

**Creative Access-P:** Pray God's Spirit will move in amazing and miraculous ways to transform this nation.

**Birthday: Tanya (Affiliate Missionary)**

**Latin America:** Ask the Father to help Pastor John Jairo balance ministry and family. Pray for his wisdom in parenting adolescent children so they will be full of faith.

**Birthday: John Jairo Leal (International Missionary)**

## 05 > Thursday | Egypt

Pray for continuing ministry in prisons and recently launched ministry to physically and sexually abused women and girls.

## 06 > Friday | West Africa

In August, the second class of students graduated from the Wesley Missionary Institute. Pray for these graduates as they begin sharing the gospel and establishing churches in new areas throughout West Africa.

## 07 > Saturday | Sweden

Pastor Valentin Sikitoka initiated Free Methodist work in Sweden in 2021. Pray for him as he leads efforts in church planting in Sweden and helps connect diaspora leaders across Europe.

## 08 > Sunday | Costa Rica

Pray for grace and strength as mission district leader Pastor Pedro Flores serves the district, the local church and his family.

## 09 > Monday | Asia

Pray for leaders continuing to be trained in biblical preaching and church-plant mapping. Pray these pastors and leaders will develop a solid understanding of the Scriptures, equipping them for biblical teaching and preaching. **Birthday: Mark Morrison**

## 10 > Tuesday | Middle East

Pray for people in "Searching Groups." These groups are comprised of educated and often affluent members of the "majority background" who gather in cities to discover Who Jesus is.

## 11 > Wednesday | Southeast Asia

As Tammy serves, ask God to show her His ways and teach her His paths, giving her hope in Him all year.

**Birthday: Tammy**

## 12 > Thursday | Guinea Conakry

Pray for church plants beginning in four new locations in Guinea. Ask God to prepare the people's hearts to be open to hear and receive the good news. Pray the evangelists will effectually demonstrate the love of Christ.

## 13 > Friday | Ukraine

Country leaders Misha and Lena Petrochenko are currently living outside of Ukraine but continue to oversee the ministry. Ask the Lord to give wisdom and guidance to them and their co-workers inside the country.

## 14 > Saturday | Malawi

The FMC in Malawi is on a path to becoming a provisional general conference. Pray those commissioned to work on this process will do their work well.

## 15 > Sunday | Mexico

Pray for a unifying vision and mission as this provisional general conference adopts the Community Church Planting strategy.

## 16 > Monday | Asia Creative Access

Pray believers will continue to find creative ways to get the Word of God to those living in places where Christianity is severely restricted. **Birthday: Rebecca**

## 17 > Tuesday | Set Free Movement

Pray God will continue using individuals and churches to find strategic ways to protect the vulnerable in their communities.

## 18 > Wednesday | Creative Access Asia-PN

In recent months, Christians have experienced increased persecution. In their suffering, pray they will find perseverance that produces character and hope (Romans 5:2-4).

## 19 > Thursday | Jordan

Pray for teams from one church as they go to hundreds of house churches to pray, disciple and explain Jesus.

## 20 > Friday | Taiwan

The Taiwan Annual Conference is working through the Chinese translation of the Book of Discipline in preparation for application to become a provisional general conference. Pray the committee commissioned with this work will have perseverance, wisdom and sensitivity in producing a Book of Discipline that will serve future generations.

**Birthday: Becca**

## 21 > Saturday | ICCM

Pray for approximately 1,000 pastors' children being sponsored in Burundi. Ask God to continue to pour out His blessing in the pastors' homes.

## 22 > Sunday | Creative Access-CA

Pray for Jessica as she disciples and mentors women in her immediate community.

**Birthday: Jessica (Affiliate Missionary)**

## 23 > Monday | Honduras

Pray for this mission district as it serves the Garifuna people (a marginalized people group) and offers two cafeterias to serve children in need.

## 24 > Tuesday | Republic of Ireland

Pray God will raise up a generation of young people who recognize and respond to His call to Christian service.

## 25 > Wednesday | World Conference

The Free Methodist World Conference begins today in Kigali, Rwanda. Pray those attending will experience the presence of the Spirit as they worship, pray, fellowship and conduct business.

## 26 > Thursday | Nigeria

Leaders are prepared for ministry through the Wesley Evangelical School of Theology (WEST), which has modules twice a year. Pray the students will be effective learners and develop a passion for serving Christ and His church.

## 27 > Friday | Puerto Rico

Pray for Superintendent Mercedes Reynoso as she pastors the largest church, serves as superintendent, and cares for the physical needs of some family members.

## 28 > Saturday | Thailand

Pray for missionary Sherry Cahill as she develops friendships and shares the love of Jesus with those residing in her apartment complex in Chiang Mai. **Birthday: Sherry Cahill**

## 29 > Sunday | Belgium

Multiple outreach events are planned for incoming university students in Leuven. Pray for great connections and the development of returning student leaders.

**Birthday: Eric Casteel (Affiliate Missionary)**

## 30 > Monday | South Sudan

Pray for peace in this country. Pray for the effective ministry of two separate groups affiliated with the Free Methodist Church.

## 31 > Tuesday | Asia Missionary Care

Please pray Mark and Judy Morrison will have insight in developing ways to support the Asia missionary team most effectively. **Birthday: Judi Morrison**

*"God is a God of motion, of movement, and of mission ...*

*Mission is not an activity of the church but an attribute of God.*

*God is a missionary God, Jesus is a missionary Messiah, and the Spirit is a missionary Spirit.*

*Missions is the family business."*

*– Leonard Sweet*