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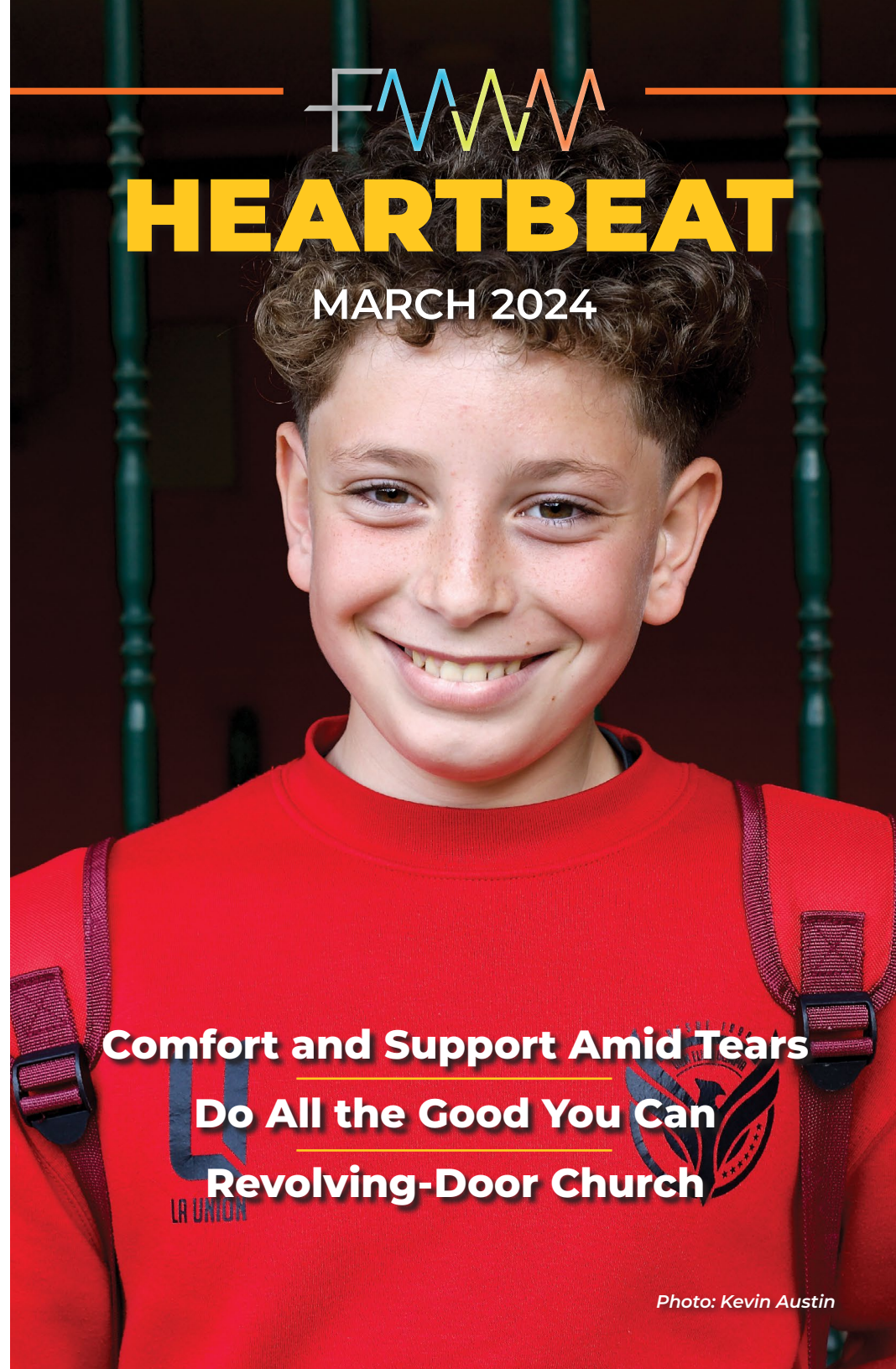
HEARTBEAT

MARCH 2024

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



Comfort and Support Amid Tears
Do All the Good You Can
Revolving-Door Church

Photo: Kevin Austin

Comfort and Support Amid Tears

By Misha and Lena Petrochenko

It is impossible to get used to war in your country – death, pain and tears seem never to end. War is violent, painful and destructive, taking innocent lives away. Today, Ukrainians are wounded. The scars will always remind us of those we owe our lives to.

Ukrainians have been living in an “unreal” reality and walking with Jesus on the water for two years of full-scale war. And yet, an incredible God walks the streets of ruin and gathers us under His wings as we continue to live and serve for the sake of God and His kingdom!

Because the ugly war has destroyed not only houses but also many families, we need each other to share the grief. God has called us to be supportive, share the pain of loss, show His endless love and be with broken ones.

For nearly 10 years, since Russia first occupied the Eastern regions of Ukraine, we as a church have been serving the widows and moms of fallen

soldiers. We share their loss and pain. During the full-scale war, we continue to do the same. In 2023, we started the Volunteer Center, a place of support for military families and victims of the war. Our center has become a blessed place of comfort and support for many families, a safe space where people feel loved.

We lead the support groups, celebrate holidays, make crafts, do puzzles, read the Bible together and pray. We talk a lot, cry, hug and sometimes sit in silence. God is there, and He knows the pain of loss. Through ordinary people, He hugs every widow and mom. He allows us to touch the wounded hearts, to embrace them with love, and to make their burden a little lighter.

One mother of a fallen hero shared, “Since my son’s death, I have been going through horrible pain. But here I am among women like me with the same pain. I thank God that during the storm, He sent His people who support and love us. It helps me to move ahead from grief to sadness. I



would say, light sadness ... because our children are warriors of light.”

Christ strengthens us in our struggles and shows His incredible miracles and extraordinary love. Caring for each other, saying kind words and being a light of hope for somebody is a tremendous privilege. And in the darkness, we all pray our love will not become cold.

Misha and Lena Petrochenko are Free Methodist leaders in Ukraine.

Do All the Good You Can

By Abi Santana

Around 22 children and teenagers receive weekly educational support at the Mosaico Learning Center, a missional extension of the church in Madrid, Spain. It brings God's life-changing love in words and deeds, serving the local community, especially the vulnerable and forgotten ethnic groups. The center is a place of peace, grace and love. Children and young people receive educational support but also hope. They begin to understand they have value and have been created for more. At the same time, we connect with parents and wider family members. We love being the hands and feet of Jesus in this community.

Let me tell you about Mateo, a 6-year-old boy struggling with reading skills. Because of his challenges with reading and the fact he is from a different ethnic background, his mother was worried his peers would ostracize him and he would not fulfill the requirements to continue on to the next grade. The team at Mosaico welcomed and embraced Mateo. By helping him with his reading skills, they brought hope and a future. Mateo not only remarkably improved his reading skills but also passed to the second grade. The Ministry of Mosaico has impacted his life and his family's life. Mateo continues attending Mosaico, and we pray his confidence will grow.

Stories like this inspire us to believe the gospel of Jesus not only transforms the heart and soul of a person but also brings a holistic change to every human being, giving hope and a future. Every person matters.

Our partnership with the Set Free Movement network



in Europe also allows us to defend the vulnerable. We provide awareness and education on prevention, making young people and families aware of new technologies used by those who disregard human life to accomplish evil purposes.

We exist to know and to make known the life-changing love of God. John Wesley said:

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Wesley's statement echoes the teachings of the New Testament and the example of the first disciples. This moves us to do what we do, and it is the foundation of Mosaico.



By Mike Long

Most pastors despise the idea of a ministry where members come and go but rarely stay. Yet, God has blessed the Free Methodist Church “Anagenesis” (rebirth) in Thessaloniki, Greece, with such a ministry. Another Greek pastor in Thessaloniki recently questioned me, “How do you do it? To me, it would be impossible.”

In Europe, church ministries are typically small, with the same members and families for decades. They are challenged to find next-generation leaders. Anagenesis ministry has seen hundreds come to faith, experience baptism and then move on to other countries – Germany, Holland and England. There, they are growing in their faith.

Anagenesis has become a landing spot for refugees from Muslim countries. This calling to serve refugees is both an honor and a ministry challenge. We face the challenges of languages, cultures and misinformation. But what a privilege and responsibility to often be the first church a Muslim has ever attended!

One interesting situation concerned the asylum appeal of a beautiful family from Iran who were marvelously saved, baptized and disciplined in Anagenesis from 2019 to 2022. Their asylum request was rejected twice, and they felt cursed because the Greek officials questioned their conversions and doubted the legitimacy of the FM Church Anagenesis. At their initial asylum interview, they were asked, “Why did you convert to Christianity?” They answered that they found “love and forgiveness at Anagenesis Church through Jesus Christ.” What government officials reject and sometimes devalue, God raises. Iranians are converting in masses for such love and forgiveness.

Anagenesis Church strives to be a ministry that goes after the one lost sheep of one hundred.

Mike Long is an ordained elder in the Free Methodist Church and a missionary to Greece.

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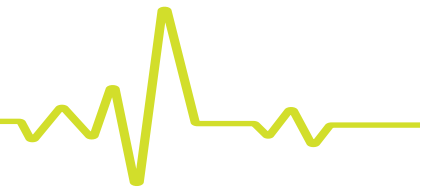
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All Scripture quotations take from the New International Version unless otherwise indicated.





MARCH PRAYER GUIDE

01 > **Friday** | **Belgium**

Pray the Holy Spirit will begin to move in the lives of young people and university students, opening new church-planting opportunities.

02 > **Saturday** | **Argentina**

Pray for the development of lay leaders and God's call for some to pastoral ministry. Ask the Father to provide for the pastors who are entirely bi-vocational.

03 > **Sunday** | **Middle East**

Pray for those being persecuted in their communities because of their faith in Jesus. Ask God to give strength and courage to individuals and families struggling to share their faith with family and friends.

04 > **Monday** | **Southeast Asia**

Pray for new international missionaries Helri and Samantha. Ask the Father to provide strong partnerships and a clear direction for their deployment in Southeast Asia.

05 > **Tuesday** | **Africa**

Pray for Glenn Lorenz as he works to mobilize new workers for the harvest field in Africa. **Birthday: Glenn Lorenz**

06 > **Wednesday** | **Europe**

The Europe area hosts a pastoral formation event March 6-9, "Living From the Inside Out: Live-Giving Holiness." Pray for the two keynote speakers as they share, the Rev. Jerry Coleman from the Francis Asbury Society and Bishop Keith Cowart.

07 > **Thursday** | **Creative Access-X Occidente District**

Pray for God's direction and provision for the functioning and sustainability of this district's health clinic and shelters.

08 > **Friday** | **Democratic Republic of Congo**

Ask the Father to bring peace in North and South Kivu (the eastern region of the DRC). Pray all the militants will put down their arms to build healthy communities.

09 > **Saturday** | **Bulgaria**

Ask the Father to give Chance Galloway continued health, strength and wisdom in navigating all decisions related to ministry and family.

10 > **Sunday** | **Asia**

Ask the Father to give Asia Area Director Eric Spirit-guided wisdom and discernment for the many decisions he makes that have implications across the area. Pray for meaningful and fruitful encounters and the courage to follow through with each of them. **Birthdays: Chance Galloway (Bulgaria), Scott Edinger (Africa) and Eric Spangler (Asia)**

11 > **Monday** | **Thailand**

Jason and Wendi welcomed their newly adopted daughter into their home in late November. Please pray everyone in the family will bond well with her and that they will find a new rhythm in the family life and ministry. **Birthday: Wendi**

12 > **Tuesday** | **ICCM**

ICCM in Ethiopia has started a printing business and a sewing center. Pray for these projects as they come alongside the ICCM schools providing printed textbooks and uniforms.

13 > **Wednesday** | **Bolivia**

Pray the Lord will open doors to establish a radio station in Bolivia as a tool for sharing the gospel.

14 > **Thursday** | **Angola**

This mission district is under the Brazilian General Conference and has increased to more than 4,700 members. Pray for the continued expansion of the church in Angola as they care for the poor and plant churches.

15 > **Friday** | **Oceania**

Pray for the newly established work in Creative Access-MA and Singapore. Pray the Spirit will bring new believers to the small fellowships and that house churches will multiply.

16 > **Saturday** | **France**

Pray for the continued growth and ministry of the Haitian church in Cergy and the growth of ministry to African immigrants.

17 > **Sunday** | Creative Access-IN

As opposition and persecution increase, pray believers will remain faithful and the church will display the love of Christ in a way that opens the hearts and minds of many to hear the gospel message.

18 > **Monday** | Colombia

Pray specifically for these new places where the Colombian Mission District would like to open or strengthen ministries – Calí, Neccoclí, Puerto Carreño, Valledupar, Uranía and Guajira.

19 > **Tuesday** | Middle East

As conflicts in the Middle East continue, pray the words of Psalms 147:3 for those suffering, asking the Father to heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds.

20 > **Wednesday** | Guinea Bissau

Thank the Lord for the four fellowships in Guinea Bissau and their ministry to children, young people and families. Pray for the successful planting of a church in the southern part of the country.

21 > **Thursday** | Set Free Movement/ Wunders

Wunders hopes to provide menstrual hygiene kits for more than 2,000 young women and girls this year. Pray for the growth of this ministry as they explore expansion into another country.

22 > **Friday** | South Korea

Pray for FMWM-Asia ministry partners working with Voice of the Martyrs-Korea. Pray for believers being discipled and for others who have left the North and are open to hearing the gospel message.

23 > **Saturday** | Nicaragua

Ask God to provide the remainder of the resources needed to purchase land and construct a dedicated middle/high school in Managua.

24 > **Sunday** | Albania

Pray for the new Adventure Center in Korca, Albania. This ministry outreach will organize various outdoor activities and events for all ages. The aim is to establish “affinity groups” that will provide opportunities for open conversations about the gospel.

Birthday: Erjona Bregu (Affiliate Missionary)

25 > **Monday** | Egypt

Continue to pray for house churches across Egypt. Pray for one house church in a drug-infested area of a city. Ask the Father to use this group of believers to bring light into this dark community.

26 > **Tuesday** | Kenya

Ask God to give Bishop Hawkins Mugaya wisdom and clear direction from the Lord as he leads this general conference.

27 > **Wednesday** | Creative Access-MR

Pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Creative Access-MR. Pray for our FMC family in this country; many have been forced to leave their homes or jobs and are often threatened.

28 > **Thursday** | Latin America

Pray for the first area-wide youth conference taking place March 28-31. Ask the Father to work in the hearts of those who attend, making them receptive to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

29 > **Friday** | Spain

Pray for the ministry of the Mosaico Center as they serve vulnerable and forgotten ethnic groups in the Madrid area, offering a place of peace and love and giving new hope.

30 > **Saturday** | Mali

Pray those who have been spiritually awakened will desire to know more about Christ and decide to follow Him, becoming enthusiastic witnesses of the gospel's transforming power.

31 > **Sunday** | Peru

At the annual meeting in January, a new leader was appointed for the mission district in Peru. Ask the Father to give Pastor Ali Jose Leon Grinzato wisdom as he assumes these new responsibilities.

“To desire revival ... and at the same time to neglect (personal) prayer and devotion is to wish one way and walk another.”

– A.W. Tozer