

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

MAY 2024

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

MAY 2024

Champions of God's Peace
Cooking in Solidarity
Continuous Learning



Champions of *God's* Peace

Submitted by the Team for Multiplying Disciples, Groups and Churches

“The Missionary Graveyard” – is the name some use for Uruguay, a small, secular and atheistic country in South America. Many missionaries have left Uruguay frustrated by the hard hearts of the people. However, nothing is impossible for the Lord of the Harvest! God is using Uruguayans to plant His peace in the capital city of Montevideo.

Lucas Silveira is a 21-year-old man who participated on the national triathlon team. Born into a Christian home, Lucas went to church out of habit until he realized his need for Christ at a Christian camp and began to run the race of faith. When the Free Methodist Church Lucas attended in the small town of Durazno embraced the Community Church Planting (CCP) vision, Pastor Sebastián encouraged Lucas to train and participate in God’s multiplication. He is now the

national Community Church Planting (CCP) team leader.

Lucas was born in Montevideo but didn’t know anyone in the city. He and the regional CCP mentor prayerfully chose a city block and began taking prayer walks there. They prayed the Lord would give them an effective entry strategy and introduce them to a person of peace. During this time, they met Donato and God’s answer came through him. Donato played soccer on one of the many fields surrounding the neighborhood park. Lucas and Daniela realized the entrance strategy would be through sports.

Soon Lucas and Donato began to meet on one of the fields with a soccer ball. They invited anyone who was there to play with them. Today, more than 20 young people and teenagers meet there

once a week. They play soccer and have a time of discipleship. God’s transformation in their lives is drawing the attention of their parents. As a result, two families have opened their homes (known as houses of peace in the CCP movement) to host discipleship groups.

Little by little, the dream of planting a church in Montevideo is taking shape. Once a month these houses of peace rent a place where they worship God together. Each person represents a story of a transformed life!

No doubt the Lord of the Harvest is at work in the hardest of hearts inviting common, everyday people like Lucas and Donato to be champions of His peace in Uruguay. He is inviting everyone of us to do the same in our hometowns and neighborhoods.



Cooking in *Solidarity*

By Rev. Tanya Rosado*

Argentina is in the midst of a deteriorating economic situation. Inflation rose more than 175% this past year. Currently, more than 50% of the population lives below the poverty line. Many families are experiencing increased food insecurity as their wages are no longer enough to cover basic dietary needs. Cheaper, less nutritious food is available, but this food is contributing to the estimated 4 million children lacking a healthy diet. Many people depended on a daily meal from local soup kitchens. However, due to the economic crises and new government, many soup kitchens have been closed, and people increasingly find themselves without options.

Seeing this reality, the *Cas de Paz* (House of Peace) leaders Alicia and Tino in Mercedes, Uruguay, decided they needed to do something. Having many connections in the community, they received permission to use a neighborhood community center on Saturday mornings. Each Saturday, members from eight families plus several volunteers come together to cook nutritious meals. When the cooking is complete, they take the meals home to their families to cover the main meal for three days.

In addition, the *Cocina Solidaria* (Solidarity Kitchen) has received a small plot of land for a community garden. There, they plan to grow vegetables to cook with and teach the community how to have personal gardens. In February, only the second month in operation, more than 40 people benefited from the *Cocina Solidaria*! The garden is being established so the first seeds can be planted. Seeing a small *Casa de Paz* providing for physical needs in the community is exciting!

However, this project is bringing even deeper transformation. Young adults ages 18-21 who can't find work are cooking on Saturdays. Where they had felt a burden to their families, they can now contribute. As the community comes together to cook, they help each other with other issues. A young mom was having trouble enrolling her daughter in school and mentioned it in the kitchen. A local school psychologist was part of the cooking team. The connection made between the mom and the school psychologist resulted in this young girl being able to attend school. Through relationship in the kitchen, the community is starting to ask questions about why the program was started and six people have started attending the *Casa de Paz*!

*Tanya Rosado is a missionary to Latin America and Coordinator of Latin America's team Empowering Holistic Transformation

Continuous Learning

A Blessing for God's Church

Submitted by the Developing Healthy Leaders Team

"I don't have time. I don't have money. I'm too old."
These are excuses people often use to stop learning.

Pastora Mariana Mafla, the mission district leader in Ecuador, believes continuous formation is a duty and a necessity for every person in the church. Despite being in her sixties, continuing her education has blessed her spiritually and ministerially.

Mariana enrolled in the "How to Preach the Old Testament" diploma course for three reasons: her obedience to a Free Methodist commitment to pastoral training, a desire for personal growth, and the need to better guide and nourish the congregation and district she leads. She knew she could not give what she did not have.

The course provided her with academic tools to understand theological issues, and the Word of God ministered to her through the learning process. For example, understanding the Law is based on God's character strengthened her identity as a spiritual leader. She acquired tools to develop good sermons and share the Word of God in a relevant way with those she serves. In addition, taking the course connected her with other Latin American leaders with whom she collaborates and who provided vital prayer support for Ecuador during the recent unrest there.

Pastora Mariana inspires and models the importance of continual training in Ecuador. Thanks to her example, two other leaders have completed a diploma course, 19 Ecuadorians are active in CenForME (Latin America's online ministerial training platform), and the district opened a training center being utilized by 16 leaders. Mariana is motivating others to study, even those



resistant in the past, because they can see a positive impact in her life and ministry. Ecuador is experiencing the transformative impact of education because they realize there is always an opportunity for growth.

When people say, "I don't have time. I don't have money. I'm too old." Mariana says, "Ceasing to learn is unhealthy for any child of God!" The blessing is personal, but the church is also blessed when a pastor learns. She says the church must understand the importance of sound, biblical training. She advises, "Train leaders, learn to delegate, and involve the church in allocating resources for ongoing training."

Pray churches in Ecuador will continue to grow as together, pastors, leaders, and members become more passionate about experiencing God's presence through ongoing formation.

Vol. 6 No. 5 MAY 2024

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 2024

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



MAY PRAYER GUIDE

01 > **Wednesday** | **Burundi**

Pray for the educational ministries in Burundi as they prepare Christian leaders and professionals to take the hope of Jesus into their communities – Hope Africa University, the Mweya Theological Institute and Theological Education by Extension.

02 > **Thursday** | **FMWM**

Pray for Deb Miller as she manages administrative and operational details. Thank the Lord for her creativity and love for Christ that inspires, encourages and motivates others.

Birthday: Deb Miller (Director of Operations and Innovative Initiatives)

03 > **Friday** | **Asia Creative Access**

Pray Mark will have productive leadership training and mentoring relationships with emerging leaders. Pray also for deepening relationships and divine appointments as Mark and Lena continue to network globally with Asian countries, helping them collaborate for kingdom expansion.

Birthday: Mark

04 > **Saturday** | **Creative Access-HK**

Today is the annual conference in Creative Access-HK and they will elect a new superintendent. Pray the Holy Spirit will guide this meeting and renew their passion for reaching the lost.

05 > **Sunday** | **Rwanda**

Praise the Lord! The new Emergency Department project for Kibogora Hospital is fully funded. This new space will greatly improve patient care at the hospital. Pray the construction proceeds without delay or difficulty.

06 > **Monday** | **Ukraine**

Pray for leaders Misha and Lena Petrochenko, who returned to Ukraine in March. Ask the Father to grant them wisdom and safety as they minister to hurting people in this war-torn country.

07 > **Tuesday** | **Middle East**

Amid conflicts and persecution, pray believers will not be anxious, but through prayer and thanksgiving, experience the peace of God which transcends all understanding and guards their hearts and minds (Philippians 4:6-7).

08 > **Wednesday** | **Latin America**

Ricardo and Beth Gómez begin a sabbatical today. Pray this will truly be a time of rest, reflection and renewal. Ask God to lead and direct them, giving them fresh energy and focus for ministry.

Birthday: Beth Gómez

09 > **Thursday** | **Creative Access-IA**

Volunteers from the U.S. and the Philippines will assist with an English Camp at a middle school May 10-11. Pray hearts will be open to receive the love of Christ and that, in the future, a church can be planted near this school.

10 > **Friday** | **Latin America**

Thank the Lord for the 800+ children's workers trained to use the *Raices* (Roots) curriculum. Pray the Holy Spirit will empower their preparation and teaching.

Birthday: Kay Stotts Godoy

11 > **Saturday** | **Global**

Pray for wisdom and inspiration for the couples serving in pastoral care for our FMWM missionaries around the world. Pray the Holy Spirit will direct them in knowing when and how best to interact with these individuals and families.

Birthday: Sylvia Brown

12 > **Sunday** | **Southeast Asia**

Pray for new international missionaries Helri & Phoung as they work with the Asia Area Director to determine a strategic place for them to locate.

Birthday: Helri

13 > **Monday** | **ICCM**

Use Psalm 91:4-6 to pray for the children in Haiti. Pray the Father will provide refuge for His children, and His truth will be their shield so they will not be afraid of the terror by night or the darkness and destruction around them.

14 > **Tuesday** | **Egypt**

God is moving in Egypt in many ways. Praise the Lord! Pray the gospel message continues to be openly received and the believers who boldly proclaim it will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

15 > **Wednesday** | **U.K. & Northern Ireland**

Pray for these churches as they gather for their annual conference May 15-16. Pray the Spirit will encourage and empower them to boldly proclaim Christ in their communities.

16 > Thursday | Tanzania

Pray for Superintendent Yesse Mlongecha as he leads the Free Methodist work that has a presence in 12 of the 26 provinces of Tanzania.

17 > Friday | Creative Access-BG

Praise the Lord for people who have recently come to Christ. Pray the church will be able to reach into the 291 unreached people groups in this country.

18 > Saturday | Brazil

In March, the Brazilian General Conference and the Nikkei Provisional General Conference unified. Pray for Bishop Ildo Mello and Bishop Daniel Abe as they work together to advance God's kingdom in Brazil.

19 > Sunday | Mexico

Pray for Bishop Hector Perez as he leads the Provisional General Conference of Mexico toward implementing a vision of multiplication and transformational ministry.

20 > Monday | Middle East

Pray the Holy Spirit will call more people to be peacemakers. Pray for these peacemakers as they are trained to share the message about the Prince of Peace.

21 > Tuesday | Zimbabwe

The Chikombedzi Hospital is open but understaffed and lacking medicines. Pray the Lord will provide financial and human resources for the hospital's needs.

22 > Wednesday | North Macedonia

As new churches are planted in North Macedonia, pray they will demonstrate the love and compassion of Christ, bringing transformation to their communities.

23 > Thursday | Philippines

Please continue to pray for Roger Stone as he assists with translating the Bible into Ayta Abellen. Thank the Lord for the forty new hymns and songs being added to the solar MP3 players, containing the New Testament, Genesis and Ruth. **Birthday: Roger Stone (Affiliate Missionary)**

24 > Friday | Guinea Conakry

Praise the Lord for leaders who recently completed training for church planting. Pray the Father will use them to plant new churches in Guinea Conakry and throughout West Africa.

25 > Saturday | Spain

As Cathy Alford assists leaders in strengths identification, pray her teaching and coaching will develop seeds of understanding that take root and produce a harvest of healthy and diverse leaders in Europe.

Birthday: Cathy Alford

26 > Sunday | Colombia

Pray for the rich presence of God as Susana Castro leads the processes of pastoral care, mentoring and sabbatical groups in the Latin America Area.

Birthday: Susana Castro (International Missionary)

27 > Monday | Set Free Movement

Pray for Set Free Movement Director Kevin Austin. Ask the Father to guide him in ways that will allow him to have an impact in God's Kingdom.

Birthday: Kevin Austin

28 > Tuesday | Uganda

Pray the Holy Spirit will move among Ugandan believers, deepening their discipleship and igniting a nationwide revival.

29 > Wednesday | Japan

Bishop Ichirou Baba was reelected as the bishop of the Japan General Conference. Ask the Father to give him wisdom and discernment in leading the church toward health and growth.

30 > Thursday | Iraq

Pray against familial persecution of majority background believers whose extended family members oppress them because of their conversion.

31 > Friday | Panama

Pray for divine connections and discipleship opportunities as the work in Panama develops. Ask the Father to encourage and strengthen Pastor Anthony and Lizette Owens as they establish relationships.

"We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer. If we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God's work on behalf of the people for whom we pray."

– Corrie Ten Boom