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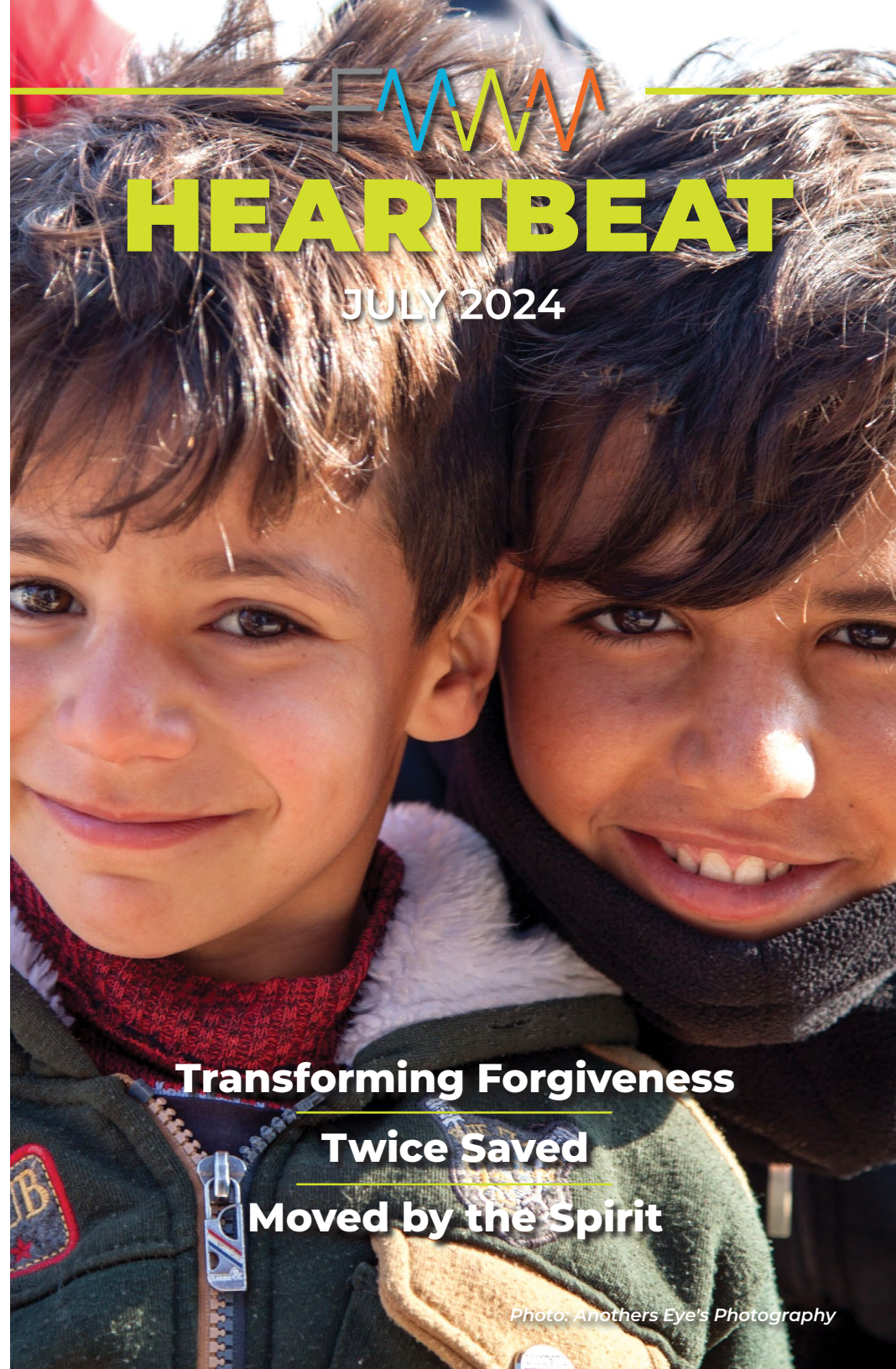
HEARTBEAT

JULY 2024

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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 2024

Transforming Forgiveness
Twice Saved
Moved by the Spirit

Photo: Another's Eye's Photography



Photos: Another's Eye's Photography



TRANSFORMED By *Forgiveness*

By An Impact Middle East Worker

After an earthquake struck their village and the surrounding area, severely damaging their home, Hanada's family immigrated to the neighboring country of Iraq. Their living circumstances had been exceedingly difficult, even before the earthquake, due to the prolonged war. The pain of seeing their house damaged and the fear of what was to come led them to leave everything behind and move to a place where they hoped for a sense of security and survival.

Hanada* joined our church family in Northern Iraq soon after her family settled in town. She had a dream of the Lord Jesus. Six years before this incident, her brother was paralyzed in a serious accident. The doctors treated him, but they finally declared his condition was due to psychological

problems. His condition made Hanada furious with her brother. Instead of helping him, she continually criticized him. She could not accept his condition, and her anger mounted all the time. Hanada's responses to her brother made her feel guilty and very unhappy. She knew her conduct caused her brother pain. To see her brother completely healed and return to his former self was what she wanted most.

This struggle in her mind and heart made Hanada turn to God for help. She knew her behavior was not right, and she needed forgiveness. God visited her in a dream. She saw Christ, and He was not angry but accepted her and smiled. When she realized God had forgiven her, she asked Him to help her forgive others. Hanada came to the

church seeking knowledge and wanting to grow in her faith. Her attitude toward her sick brother changed. She began to show him love and care and could empathize with him. She considers her change of attitude a miracle and is thankful to God.

Hanada, our sister in Christ, is an active church member now. She helps with Sunday school for children and often visits the elderly, especially during the holidays, bringing them gifts and encouragement.

Please pray for Hanada and her family. Pray God will open new doors for them in every possible way so they will find rest in Him.

**For protection, the name and photos are not that of the actual person.*

Twice *Saved*

By An Impact Middle East Worker

My name is Nora*, and I am from the “majority religious” background. As a child, I studied the principles of our religion but had many questions. I began disagreeing with my family. I didn’t feel the presence of God, so I inquired about many things. Why do human beings have no liberty? Why is God a merciless punisher? Why does the Issa (Jesus) in our holy book have no father and is a man of many miracles? Where is the evidence our holy book is an inspiration from God?

My village and the surrounding area had never heard about Christ. When I finished school, I went to work in Damascus. I became acquainted with a Christian family who gave me a cross pendant. During this time, I began to have severe pain in my head. I went to many doctors. Each one gave me different medication, but none helped. For a year and a half, I suffered, waking up in the middle of the night screaming in pain. I even tried to take my life so I might have relief. I was utterly lost. One night, when the pain was so severe, I held the cross and cried out to God: “If you are the truth, then save me.” Suddenly, a light appeared, and I heard a voice saying, “I am the truth.” The voice told me to go to a particular hospital and mentioned a doctor’s name. I went to this hospital and asked for this doctor; indeed, he cured me.

When I returned home, I knelt, thanked Jesus for intervening in my life, and asked Him what I should do with my life. The answer was – go to Lebanon. Though I knew no one there, I prepared my suitcase and went. I walked the streets, not knowing where to go, until a man appeared in the evening and told me Jesus loved me and wanted to save me. If you want to come to know Him, follow me. I followed him to a church. As the pastor was preaching, he talked about the sheep who hear the voice of their Shepherd and follow Him. At the end of the sermon, I wept and raised my hand when he invited people to give their lives to Christ. Many brothers surrounded me in prayer, and I promised God to serve Him all my life.

I began attending discipleship classes. I also started helping with evangelism and the distribution of Bibles. I was kidnapped by a fundamentalistic group from the “majority religion.” They threatened to kill me if I continued this path with Jesus, but the Lord saved me again.

I am grateful for salvation through Jesus Christ. May the name of the Lord be praised!

**For protection, the name and photo are not that of the actual person.*

Photo: Another's Eye's Photography



Moved by the Spirit

Photo: Levi Meir Clancy on Unsplash

By An Impact Middle East Worker

Every week, we get hundreds of messages from Yazidis responding to our campaigns through our social media page. Several months ago, a message from Sami* caught our team's attention. He shared that a man in white had appeared to him in a vision several times, and this man told him he wanted to give him a gift called the Holy Spirit. From our page, he had come to know the man who appeared to him was the same Jesus we discussed.

Having never heard about the Holy Spirit, he messaged our team, asking what this gift was that Jesus wanted to give him! Our team continued walking a journey with him online. (We do not initially reveal our identities or locations or request a face-to-face meeting for security reasons.)

It was New Year's Eve, and my husband Majid* and I, along with many of our social media team members,

gathered to worship at the local Kurdish church we attend, where there are more than 70 Yazidi-background believers. Majid was sitting near the front, and a man he had never seen before walked in and sat beside him.

Majid immediately felt something was different about this man and asked him his name. "My name is Sami," the stranger replied. "Sami?" Majid repeated. Could it be THE Sami? Majid proceeded to ask his full name and discovered this was indeed the same Sami! Without anyone inviting him, the Holy Spirit prompted him to come to church that day and led him straight to our team! Our team is now meeting regularly with him for face-to-face discipleship.

For protection, the names and photo used are not that of the actual persons.

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





JULY PRAYER GUIDE

01 > Monday | Third Culture Kids

Pray for our Third Cultural Kids (our missionaries' children) to firmly establish their identity as children of God and understand they belong to and have value in the body of Christ. **Birthday: Wendy Lorenz**

02 > Tuesday | Guatemala

Pray for rebuilding trust and relationships after a leadership failure in this country. Ask the Father to give wisdom to missionaries Thad Roller and Juan Carlos Rodriguez as they seek to work with a remnant of churches.

03 > Wednesday | Democratic Republic of Congo

Pray for retired missionaries Tim and Connie Kratzer as they serve in the DRC this summer, helping with plans for the expansion of the Nundu School of Nursing, addressing operational concerns related to the solar plant, and working on renovations of a house.

04 > Thursday | Singapore

Pray for developing work in Singapore. Ask the Father to identify people willing to help establish FM work and open their homes for house churches.

05 > Friday | Europe

Join missionary Susy Fajardo in praying for her two adult daughters. Pray God will continue to show up in their lives, giving them wisdom for their concerns and challenges. Also, pray for Susy as she serves the Mosaico Cultural Center in Madrid.

Birthdays: Susy Fajardo, Randy

06 > Saturday | Iraq

Pray for "A," a leader in Iraq, as he answers God's call to disciple young people who, like him, have been displaced by war.

07 > Sunday | FMWM

Pray individuals, groups and churches will become increasingly aware of ways they can pray for the global church and have increased opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding from our global FM family.

Birthday: Jan Coates (FMWM Communications)

08 > Monday | Creative Access Asia

Pray for pastors and leaders in Asia. Ask the Father to give them wisdom and discernment as they continue to spread the good news of Jesus. Pray their love for others and their joy and peace will be attractive in their cultural context.

Birthday: Adam

09 > Tuesday | ICCM

ICCM work opened in Togo in 2012. There are two schools in Lome and Tchore where children receive sponsorship. Pastors' children are also being sponsored. Pray for these children and the families they represent.

10 > Wednesday | Philippines

Give thanks to the Lord for 75 years of Free Methodist work in the Philippines. As they celebrate July 9 to 14, pray the Father will give them a clear vision for reaching new areas of the Philippines with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

11 > Thursday | Spain

Pray for the renewal and encouragement of all the leaders and pastors in every FM church in Spain and for the wind of the Holy Spirit to blow revival over the nation of Spain.

Birthdays: Raul Arana, Lena, Natasha Edinger

12 > Friday | Ethiopia

The church in Addis Ababa is forced to relocate because of city renovations. Pray for Superintendent Mekebib Desta as he navigates conversations and relationships with the city government to find an acceptable location.

13 > Saturday | Oceania

Pray for the FMWM work in Oceania. Pray for the pastors and Indigenous leaders as they continue to give life to the vision of sharing the good news in Asia. Pray for missionary David Clemente as he prepares for various teaching, preaching and training opportunities with groups throughout this region.

Birthday: David Clemente

14 > Sunday | Peru

The church in Tacna recently sent a missionary couple to the Amazon region, where a church is beginning to take shape. Pray for fruitful ministry with many coming to faith in Jesus.

15 > Monday | Portugal

Pray for compassion ministries and evangelism in one poverty-stricken area of Lisbon. Every month, the FM church serves a delicious breakfast to this community. As people have the opportunity to hear the gospel, pray many will come to know Christ.

16 > Tuesday | Middle East

Pray people of the majority religious background will encounter Jesus in their dreams and will continue to seek after Him until they fully know and understand His great love for them.

17 > Wednesday | Malawi

Superintendent Goodson Phiri has initiated a church visitation and encouragement program. He visits every church within his conference to encourage local believers, church boards and pastors. Pray this will inspire leaders and members to do the same within their communities.

18 > Thursday | Japan

Pray for Minori Hall as she continues to offer hospitality and friendship to her neighbors and people in her community. Ask the Father to give her new and creative ways to share the gospel story with those who may be resistant.

Birthdays: Minori Hall, Scott

19 > Friday | Puerto Rico

One church recently acquired a property it is renovating to become a training and retreat center. Pray this will become a place of transformation for individuals, families and the community.

20 > Saturday | Sierra Leone

Pray for Pastor Koroma, a graduate of the Wesley Missionary Institute, who is helping develop a strong core group of leaders and church planters in Sierra Leone.

21 > Sunday | Paraguay

International missionaries Juan Carlos Rodriguez and Yaneth Aguirre will spend time in Mexico and the U.S. this summer, building partnerships and visiting with family and friends. Pray this will be a refreshing time and ask the Lord to give them wisdom and grace as they share their ministry with churches in both countries. **Birthdays: Yaneth Aguirre, Ammabelle Bacus (International Missionaries)**

22 > Monday | Asia

Pray for Ammabelle Bacus and Yuko Wilkins as they establish a network of FM women across Asia by providing connections and encouragement, helping inspire and mobilize them to participate in the Great Commission.

23 > Tuesday | Set Free Movement

Pray for the Wunders leadership as they explore opportunities to open a sewing center in a third country this year, providing education and menstrual hygiene kits for more girls and women.

24 > Wednesday | Senegal

Pray for protection and provision for pastors and their families, particularly the success of livelihood projects to provide income for pastors.

25 > Thursday | Middle East

Pray the Holy Spirit will move in mighty ways among the unreached people groups in this region, breaking down all the barriers that keep them from hearing the gospel.

26 > Friday | Bulgaria

Pray for discipleship schools and other training opportunities that are helping shape the next generation of leaders in Bulgaria.

27 > Saturday | Chile

Missionaries Rich and Laurie Sheriff serve as church planters in San Pedro de la Paz. Pray for ongoing connections in the community leading to the multiplication of disciples, groups and churches.

28 > Sunday | Creative Access-MR

Although there are limitations on traveling and personal evangelism, the gospel is spreading as a result of a Christian literature project that is translating and printing books. Pray the Holy Spirit will continue using God's Word through this effort.

29 > Monday | Zambia

Pray pastors' families will become more economically stable through the "Animals for Pastors" program, which provides animals and teaches animal husbandry skills.

30 > Tuesday | Nicaragua

In addition to planting churches, the mission district in Nicaragua provides adult education, offers cafeterias for children and develops microenterprise projects. Pray all these ministries will help transform families and entire communities.

31 > Wednesday | Middle East

Pray for our workers in the Middle East. Ask the Good Shepherd to lead them beside quiet waters, refresh their souls and guide them along the right paths for His name's sake (Psalms 23:2-3).