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HEARTBEAT

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



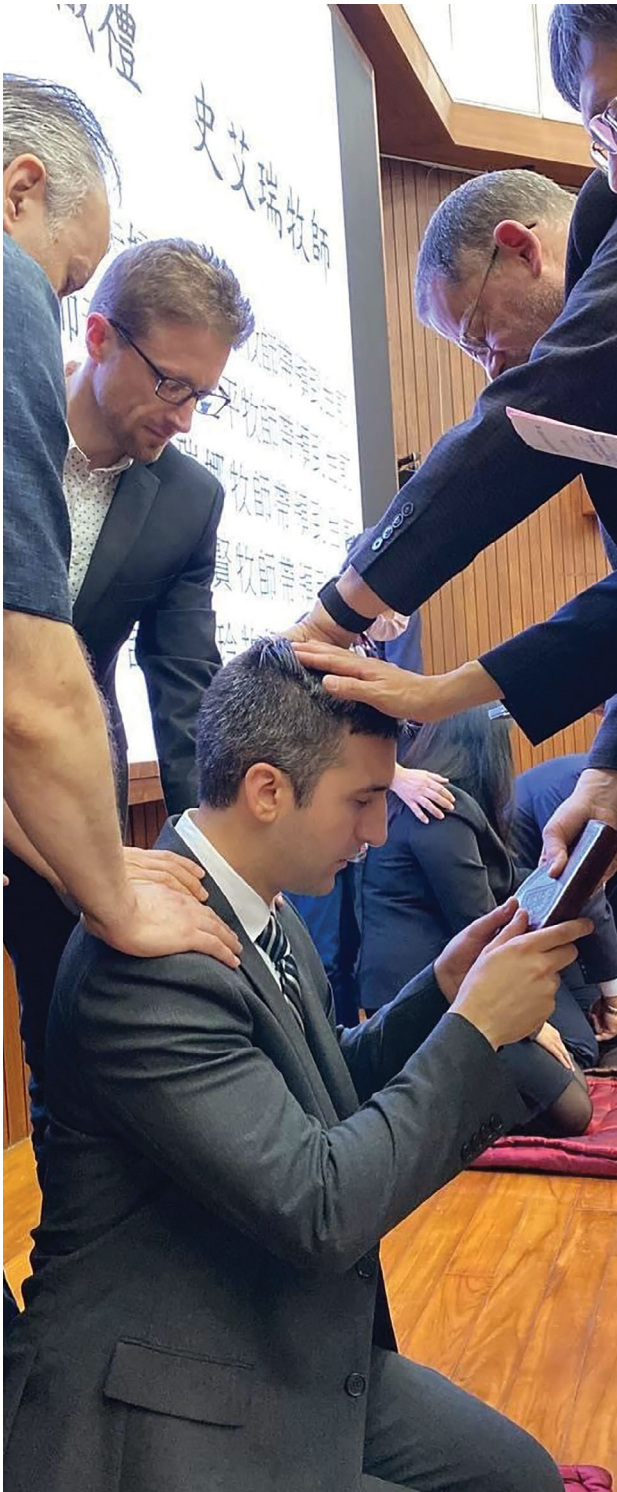
HEARTBEAT

OCTOBER 2024

Let's Sing A Hymn
Pursuing Jesus

Possibilities for Many Circumstances

Photo: Darin



Let's Sing a Hymn

courageous and Spirit-filled women and men. I find myself more inspired than I thought possible.

As a pastor and follower of Jesus, I long to see God move as He did in the book of Acts, where, people heard the gospel, encountered the Holy Spirit, and individuals, families and communities were transformed. We may wonder if this is still possible today.

If you are involved in ministry at any level, you've likely experienced challenges. Expanding God's kingdom isn't easy. However, the examples and experiences of our Free Methodist (FM) brothers and sisters in Asia can encourage us to hold on to hope and faith. The saving message of the gospel is not bound by circumstances or location. Its power is evident in every place and in any circumstance.

I don't remember the song Trevor and I sang that evening in Taiwan. Still, I remember being overwhelmed with the love and compassion of Jesus as we sang and prayed for a mighty move of God in communities all over Asia. Trevor's courage is inspiring and contagious. I came away with confidence that God is at work worldwide. May His ways be known, and may His salvation be among all nations. May all people praise Him (Psalms 67:1-4).

I'm thankful for the courageous FM leaders who love and serve Jesus worldwide. There's no question we are better together, and God is moving just as He did in Acts.

Praise the Lord, let's sing a hymn!

By Rev. Kyle Welstad

One evening, after visiting a night market in Taiwan, Trevor and I decided to return to our hotel. As we walked, Trevor gave me updates about



Trevor

his work with The Voice of the Martyrs Korea, how he and his team boldly preach the gospel to people they encounter, sometimes in dangerous situations, and how they see lives changed. Some stories were harrowing! Then he asked me, "Pastor Kyle, would you like to sing a hymn?"



Kyle

I was taken aback. We were walking on the busy streets of Kaohsiung. There were people everywhere. I felt uncomfortable thinking, "I'm sure people around us will think this is weird." But then,

having just heard the stories of such courageous followers of Jesus, I sensed the urging of the Holy Spirit, and I said to Trevor, "OK, let's sing."

Over the past few years, I've had the privilege of traveling to Asia several times and, in doing so, have had the opportunity to spend time with many Asia Area pastors and leaders. I experience a deep sense of hope whenever I am with these

Pursuing Jesus



Photo: Rachel Teo for Unsplash

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you” (John 15:16, NIV).

By Sherry L. Cahill

Before arriving in Asia, our prayer was, “Lord, strategically place us where we can minister to people.” The answer was evident when Kelly* smiled and asked me to walk with her and a friend to the local market. The following day, we met, and as we started toward the market, we passed through a Buddhist temple. I observed a monk in the distance, some fragranced candles, a few people praying and mostly silence. Kelly’s friend broke the silence when asking if we were Buddhists. The friend stated, “I’m not Buddhist; what about you guys?” Kelly confidently replied that she followed the traditional Japanese religion. Then I said, “I am a Christian.” Glancing at their faces, I noticed both women were pleasantly surprised. The conversation continued as we visited the market, purchased our vegetables and walked back through the temple toward home.

I felt compelled to bake some cookies and deliver them to the women, thanking them for inviting me along to shop. I knocked on Kelly’s door, and she opened it. I offered her

cookies. Surprisingly, she quickly became emotional. Tears came to her eyes; she thanked me for the cookies and offered a hug in return. I learned later that gifting cookies boosted the opportunity to establish a deep friendship with Kelly, who desperately needed Jesus.

One day, we had tea and discussed our faiths. Kelly explained how she prays to the river for blessings. I responded, “How do you know if the river responds or hears you?” She smiled, then said, “We don’t know.” I shared how Jesus is personal and responds when we pray. As I explained more about the Christian faith, she nodded in agreement. God continues cultivating our relationship and revealing Himself to Kelly through some answers to my prayers for her family during times of need. But she and her family still need Jesus. Will you join us in praying for Kelly, her family and other Asians who need Jesus? Pray our ears will be tuned to the Holy Spirit’s voice and leadership as Kelly and others pursue Jesus.

**A fictitious name is used to protect the individual.*



Possibilities for Many Circumstances

By Dr. Darin, Associate Asia Area Director

She entered the church silently, moved to where chairs had been set up for a leadership training seminar, and sat down with arms crossed. Enrolled in the Biblical Interpretation module, Neela (phonetic spelling) maintained a stern expression and did not interact freely with the other participants.

Neela is a church planter in Cambodia and was recently received as a conference ministerial candidate. But she was hiding a secret: She doesn't know how to read. Her closed demeanor may have reflected a defense mechanism against the shame of being asked to read aloud. However, she is not fully illiterate! As the module continued, her demeanor softened, and she tried reading the Bible aloud – sounding out the words – in a small-group activity.

Neela is from a non-Christian background and came to know the Lord when Jesus healed her even though other “powers” could not. She resisted her family's pressure to have a traditional wedding ceremony to appease the spirits and instead had a Christian wedding. She no longer needs to offer sacrifices to the spirits and is sharing the gospel with others.

Neela is one of the vibrant Christian leaders in Asia who is receiving pastoral training through Gethsemane Leadership Training (GLT), an FMWM-Asia initiative. GLT provides high-quality leadership development through

modular instruction and intentional mentoring. It empowers gifted leaders for whom traditional pastoral education is unattainable.

Another example of someone who can benefit from GLT is Kris from Creative Access-NP. Kris is a conference ministerial candidate, but she has never been able to take an in-person GLT module due to her secular work schedule. She is well educated and speaks excellent English. With her leadership potential being recognized, Kris was invited to attend the Better Together Converge conference in November 2023. She was chosen to film teaching clips for the GLT training videos. These videos will help people like Kris because they can be viewed on personal cell phones or computers. Once the videos are complete, Kris can receive GLT training, which is inaccessible to her now.

We are currently halfway through filming the 13 core GLT modules, and post-production is ongoing. Please join us in praying for the completion of this project and the fruitful equipping of 10,000 new leaders like Neela and Kris.

You can learn more about the video project and contribute to the GLT Extra Mile Project at https://linktr.ee/fmwm_glt.

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OCTOBER PRAYER GUIDE

01 > **Tuesday** | Democratic Republic of Congo

The rising level of Lake Tanganyika is creating difficulty with travel to and from Nundu Hospital. It has also created a humanitarian crisis by destroying homes, churches, schools and the sanitation system. Pray for those who can develop partnerships and provide a way forward to alleviate this problem.

02 > **Wednesday** | Uruguay

Pray the Lord will give Pastor Sebastian Caballo wisdom as he leads this mission district and seeks to identify and develop healthy leaders.

03 > **Thursday** | The Holy Land

God is moving in this region, even amid war and crisis. Many are coming to know Jesus. Pray God will bring peace to the land and that Jews and Arabs alike will meet the Prince of Peace!

04 > **Friday** | Creative Access-P / Latin America

Creative Access-P: Pray for those ministering to and caring for orphans in this country.

Birthday: Tanya (Affiliate Missionary)

Latin America: John Jairo Leal is a pastor in Colombia and director of Community Church Planting for Impact Latin America. Pray he will have God's wisdom in both roles.

Birthday: John Jairo Leal (International Missionary)

05 > **Saturday** | Creative Access-IN

The hospital, nursing college and English school at Umri provide essential and exceptional services for the surrounding region. Pray these ministries will continue to bring healing and transformation in lives.

06 > **Sunday** | Africa

A team is working to develop a pastoral formation curriculum for use in Africa. Please pray they will work with clarity, wisdom and speed.

07 > **Monday** | Ukraine

European leaders hosted a retreat for church leaders in Ukraine after two years of ongoing war. Pray these leaders will continue to find places and times for soul restoration.

08 > **Tuesday** | Mexico

Around 80% of Mexico's population lives in urban areas where poverty, addictions and violence are problems. Pray the FM believers in Mexico will be people offering a path toward wholeness and hope.

09 > **Wednesday** | Asia

Pray for the Asia missionary team as they deal with the stress of being cross-cultural leaders far from family and friends. **Birthday: Mark Morrison (Asia Missionary Care)**

10 > **Thursday** | Iraq

Growing numbers of people from the "majority background" are hungry to know more about Jesus. Pray believers in Iraq will be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and have the boldness to share without fear the reason for the hope within them.

11 > **Friday** | Southeast Asia / Togo

Southeast Asia: Pray missionaries Bryan and Tammy will trust God for generous wisdom, straight paths and peaceful hearts during a season of transitions. **Birthday: Tammy**

Togo: Pray for Jordan and Audrey Kaufmann and their two young children as they prepare to transition from life in McPherson, Kansas, to life in Lomé, Togo.

Birthday: Audrey Kaufmann

12 > **Saturday** | Ivory Coast

Five new elders were ordained at the mission district meeting in August. Praise the Lord for these new leaders! Pray for these and other pastors as they seek to plant new churches and develop devoted followers of Jesus.

13 > **Sunday** | Greece

Pray for the church team in Greece as they distribute supplies, offer Bible studies and do tea visits in the refugee camps surrounding Thessaloniki.

14 > **Monday** | Nigeria

Pray each conference will initiate mission work to the unreached people groups and areas of the country without FM churches.

15 > Tuesday | Southeast Asia

Dick and Sheila Dickinson are now serving as U.S.-based partners for FMWM Asia. Pray the Holy Spirit will give them wisdom on how and where best to utilize their gifts, abilities and ministry experience to further the cause of Christ in Asia and the U.S. **Birthday: Richard Dickinson**

16 > Wednesday | Creative Access Asia

Pray Adam and Rebecca will clearly recognize the voice of the Lord and walk in obedience as He leads them into new gospel opportunities. **Birthday: Rebecca**

17 > Thursday | Set Free Movement

Use the words of Psalms 33:5 as you pray for those caught in some form of slavery. Pray they will know the Lord who loves righteousness and justice and is full of unfailing love.

18 > Friday | 360 Mission District

This region of Costa Rica where the Leon family serves has seen an increase in drug-related violence. Pray for the transformation of individuals, families and society.

19 > Saturday | Egypt

God is moving in this country. Praise the Lord! Pray for the growing openness of the culture to the message of Jesus Christ and the believers' deepening faith.

20 > Sunday | Taiwan

Pray for a fresh move of the Spirit in the Taiwan FMC. Pray the church will catch a vision for training leaders to meet the challenge of influencing a million in Asia for Jesus.

Birthday: Becca

21 > Monday | ICCM

ICCM work in Brazil began in 1980 and now operates in several areas across the country, including Ibitiré, Cuiabá, Monte Santo and São Paulo. Pray for the education, provision and discipleship of these children.

22 > Tuesday | Creative Access-CA

Pray for Jessica as she connects with and disciples women in her community. **Birthday: Jessica (Affiliate Missionary)**

23 > Wednesday | Creative Access-X

This nation has experienced turmoil for many years. Pray for the biblical restoration of this nation and its people.

24 > Thursday | Scandinavia

Pray for resources to assist the development of leaders and church plants in Norway, Denmark and Finland.

25 > Friday | Kenya

Pray for the continued ministry of encouragement and economic stability for women and families provided through Tumaini Women Kenya (TWK).

26 > Saturday | Spain

International missionary Clara Bettiol will teach at the Pan American Christian Academy in Brazil this school year as she and her family prepare to move to Spain next year. Pray for peace and trust in the Lord as they anticipate this transition.

Birthday: Clara Bettiol (International Missionary)

27 > Sunday | Panama

Pray for new missionaries Brook and Susan Selby as they complete partnership building in preparation for service in Panama.

28 > Monday | Thailand

Pray missionary Sherry Cahill will be bold and courageous as the Spirit directs her to share her faith.

Birthday: Sherry Cahill

29 > Tuesday | Belgium

Ivan and Zhana Kalabric moved from Italy to Leuven, Belgium, in August. The couple will assist affiliate missionary Eric Casteel with church planting and ministry in the university community in Leuven. Pray for the Kalabric family as they learn the culture and language.

Birthday: Eric Casteel (Affiliate Missionary)

30 > Wednesday | Guinea Bissau

Join in praying for the expansion of the church in Guinea Bissau with a new church plant in the south this year.

31 > Thursday | Asia

Pray for the development of the Web of Asian Women (WaW), a ministry that encourages and disciples women across Asia. Pray for upcoming events that will mobilize women to mission and obedience.

Birthday: Judi Morrison (Asia Missionary Care)

"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light."

– John Keith Falconer