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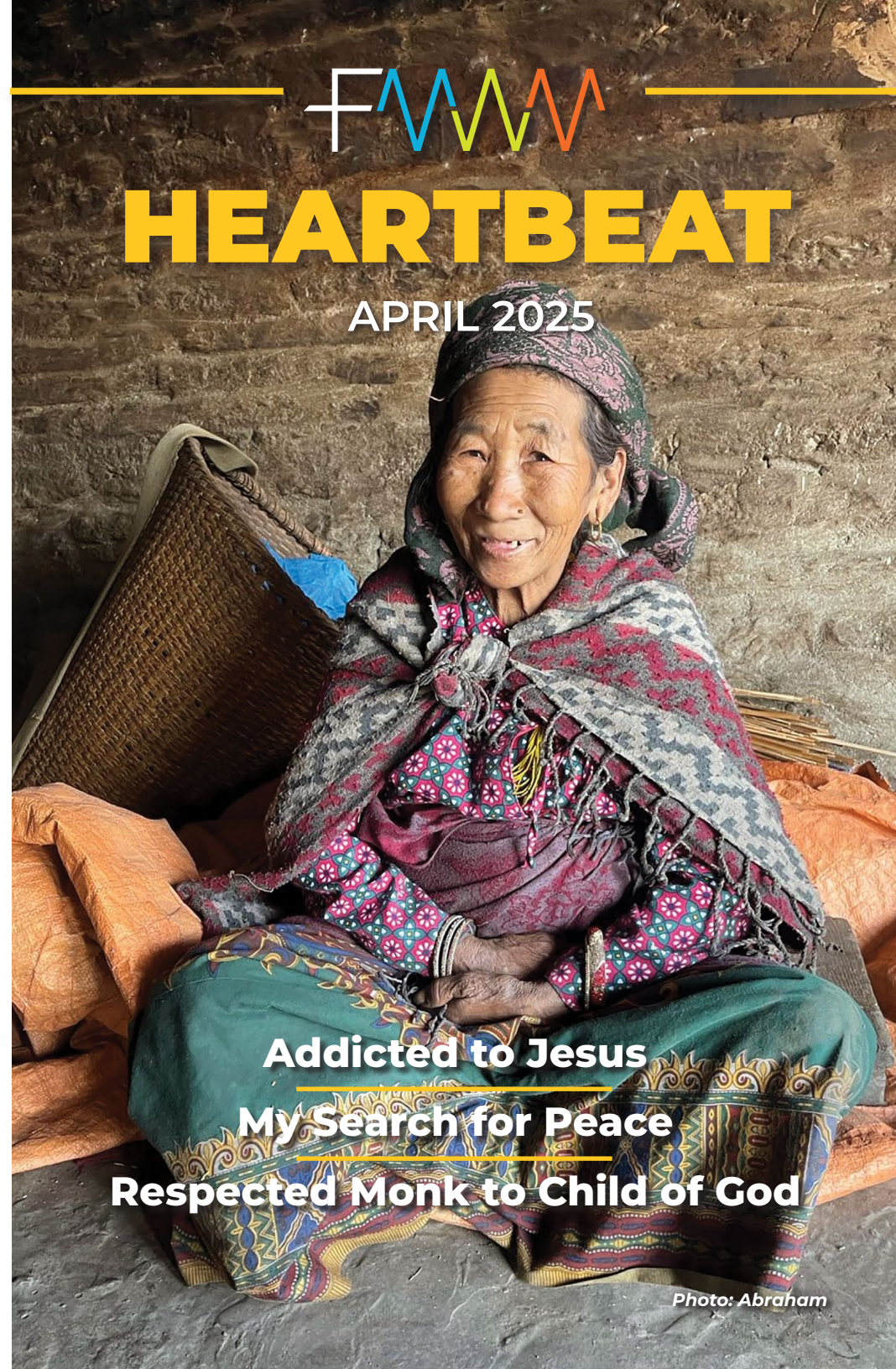
HEARTBEAT

APRIL 2025

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



HEARTBEAT

APRIL 2025

Addicted to Jesus
My Search for Peace
Respected Monk to Child of God

Photo: Abraham

Once Addicted to **DRUGS** — Now Addicted to *Jesus*

By Asia Area Director Eric



Quasad is a 26-year-old man whose life has been transformed by the grace of God.

When Quasad was a young boy, he ran away from home with dreams of becoming rich. He joined a gang involved in drug trafficking and began selling drugs to others, eventually using them himself. His life quickly spiraled into addiction, crime and hopelessness as he sought money and escape in all the wrong places.

On June 9, 2024, Quasad's life took a dramatic turn. That afternoon, he arrived at a hotel to deliver drugs to a buyer. Michael Bridge, a youth leader from the Free Methodist Church, happened to be there and observed Quasad as he conducted his business. As Quasad prepared to leave, Michael approached him and invited him to sit and join him for a cup of tea.

Assuming Michael was a potential buyer, Quasad agreed, expecting to make a sale. But instead of a customer, he found someone who cared deeply about his soul. Michael began sharing stories of redemption, transformation and freedom from sin through Jesus Christ. He spoke about young people whose lives had been changed by the power of God and explained the gospel, emphasizing God's love and His plan for Quasad's life.

As Michael shared these truths, the Holy Spirit moved in Quasad's heart. He felt convicted of his sins and overwhelmed by the possibility of a new beginning. Right there, on the spot, Quasad repented, gave his life to God and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

Quasad's transformation was immediate and profound. He walked away from his old life of addiction and crime and stepped into a new life in Christ. Today, he is an active member of the Free Methodist Church and is growing in his faith. He has found purpose, peace, and hope he never thought possible.

Quasad's story is a testament to the goodness and mercy of God. It reminds us no one is beyond redemption, and God desires to save and transform every sinner. We pray Quasad's journey will inspire others – especially those battling addiction – to find freedom and hope in Christ. May God continue to work in Quasad's life, shaping him into a vessel of His grace and using him to lead others – especially those trapped in addiction – to the saving knowledge of Jesus.

My SEARCH for Peace

By Htwe Min Htet (as told to Asia Area Director Eric)

My name is Htwe Min Htet. I was born into a devout Buddhist family in Creative Access-MR. My parents are deeply committed to Buddhism and serve on the committee of pagoda trustees. As a child, I often accompanied them to the pagoda, worshiping gods, and striving to develop inner peace and good behavior.

After finishing my training and certification, I became a public transportation driver. My job took me across the country, where I met people from diverse cultures and religions, including Christians, Muslims and Hindus.

Like many, I worked hard to earn money, hoping it would bring satisfaction. But no matter how much I earned, I felt an emptiness within – a deep thirst in my spirit and a persistent lack of peace. I continued visiting the pagoda and worshiping gods, but nothing filled the void.

In 2019, I drove a group of Christians from Mandalay to Kalamyo. During the trip, I overheard them discussing peace and the meaning of life. Their words intrigued me, and I began asking them questions. We talked throughout the day, and I felt a growing desire to know more about their God.



A desire to know more about the Christian's God stayed with me for years. In 2023, through a friend in the capital city, I had the opportunity to meet a pastor. He explained to me about the Creator, His creation, the reality of death and the promise of eternal life.

The Holy Spirit began to move in my heart as I learned about Jesus' love and salvation. I finally experienced the peace I had been searching for. That peace led me to make the most important decision of my life: I received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

I knew my parents would be upset with my decision, but I could not replace the peace I had found in Christ with anything else. The very next day, I attended a baptism class and was baptized.

Though I am still a new believer, I am confident in my faith. I continue to pray my parents will one day experience the same peace and transformation I have found.

From Respected Monk to a Child of the TRUE *God*



By Asia Area Director Eric

For much of his life, Kong Trav was a devout Buddhist. He even served as a monk for many years, completely dedicated to his faith and practices. His commitment to Buddhism earned him respect in his community, and he believed he was pursuing a path to peace and enlightenment.

Two years after stepping away from his role as a monk, Trav encountered the gospel through Pastor Joseph and Pastor Koy. These two Cambodian pastors shared the message of Jesus Christ with him, explaining the truth of the Creator, the way to eternal life, and the futility of relying on human efforts for salvation. Intrigued and seeking deeper understanding, Trav began attending church-planting efforts in Preaek Khlor.

Through these experiences, Trav, now an 83-year-old man, came to believe in Jesus as the one true and living God – the only way to eternal life. He realized

that despite his years of devotion and the merit he had earned through Buddhist practices, those efforts could not save him or secure a place in heaven. He was baptized in June 2024.

When Trav accepted Jesus, he experienced a peace and joy he had never known before. He found freedom in Christ and confidence in his salvation. Trav has no regrets about leaving his former beliefs behind, as he knows the truth and power of the gospel have transformed his life forever.

Today, Trav is a vibrant testimony of God's grace and redemption. At 83, he stands firm in his faith, proclaiming Jesus as the only true God and rejoicing in the peace and joy only Christ can bring.

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APRIL PRAYER GUIDE

01 > **Tuesday** | Middle East

Pray believers in the Middle East will revere Christ as Lord and always be prepared to answer those who seek to know the reason for the hope they have (1 Peter 3:15).

02 > **Wednesday** | Creative Access-CA

Ask the Father to help Julie manage her tasks, time and relationships in line with His purposes in her life.

Birthday: Julie

03 > **Thursday** | Asia / Togo

Asia: Pray the Lord will instill in the ordained elders across Asia a passion and urgency to invest their best efforts in mentoring emerging leaders. **Birthday: Darin**

Togo: The Kaufmann family arrived in Togo at the beginning of February. Pray for Jordan, Audrey and their two young children as they adjust to a new culture and language. **Birthday: Jordan Kaufmann**

04 > **Friday** | Chile

Pastor Samuel Soto was elected superintendent during Chile's annual conference in December. Join him in praying for total dependence on the Holy Spirit as he fills this new role.

05 > **Saturday** | Ivory Coast

Praise the Lord! The construction of the new national office in Ivory Coast is moving ahead well. This building is essential due to recent government guidelines for churches. Pray the construction can be completed soon.

06 > **Sunday** | Middle East

Ask the Father to provide continued strength, health and wisdom for Area Director Dale as he works with leaders and teams throughout the region. **Birthday: Dale**

07 > **Monday** | Bulgaria

Pray for the church in Bulgaria as they connect with partners across Europe to protect vulnerable women and children from human trafficking.

08 > **Tuesday** | Latin America / Colombia

Latin America: Pray the superintendents, pastors and leaders across the area will seek to grow and serve through the power, presence and purity of the Holy Spirit working in their lives. **Birthday: Ricardo Gómez**

Colombia: Thad Roller is often away for ministry travel, please pray Nikki will have the strength and energy to maintain home and ministry routines while he is away..

Birthday: Nikki Roller

09 > **Wednesday** | Creative Access-PN

Pray for the protection and courage of believers facing persecution. Ask God to give the church opportunities to share the gospel among unreached tribes.

10 > **Thursday** | ICCM

Access to emergency medical care is severely limited in most countries where ICCM works. Ann's Angel Fund allows ICCM to assist with the urgent medical needs of sponsored children. Thank the Lord! Several children received life-changing surgery or care during the past year.

11 > **Friday** | Portugal

Cida Matos leads a network of cell-group leaders in Portugal. Ask the Lord to give her wisdom and guidance from the Spirit as she mentors these individuals.

Birthday Cida Matos (International Missionary)

12 > **Saturday** | Europe

Cindi Angelo serves as the leader of the Pastoral Formation Team in Europe. Ask the Lord to give her wisdom as she mentors pastors and ministerial candidates.

Birthday: Cindi Angelo (International Missionary)

13 > **Sunday** | Paraguay / Bolivia

Juan Carlos Rodriguez mentors pastors and leaders in Paraguay and Bolivia. Pray for the development of healthy relationships and wisdom from the Lord as he seeks to encourage personal growth and health in the lives of leaders. **Birthday: Juan Carlos Rodriguez (International Missionary)**

14 > Monday | New Zealand

Work in Christchurch, New Zealand, is beginning with one family. Pray for this family and gospel opportunities in their community.

15 > Tuesday | Democratic Republic of Congo

Rebel attacks in the DRC began in January. Pray for the thousands displaced, the ICCM schools, Nundu Hospital, and the FM churches as they seek God's peace and provision for their nation.

16 > Wednesday | Greece

Praise the Lord for Michael Long's 32 years of missionary service. Pray he will continue to have motivation and energy for the work God still has for him to do.

Birthday: Michael Long

17 > Thursday | Iraq

Embroidery classes at the Noor Center provide a skill while building meaningful relationships, creating space for women to find release from anxieties, and giving opportunity for workers to share the Word of God. Pray many will experience the goodness of God through these classes.

18 > Friday | Uganda

Pray pastors and the leadership in the Ugandan FMC will have passion and commitment to serve God's kingdom diligently.

19 > Saturday | Creative Access-VN

Pray for the safety and effectiveness of the underground church. Ask the Father to give them boldness and fruitfulness in multiplying disciples despite governmental restrictions.

20 > Sunday | Latin America

Pray for the ministerial formation centers throughout Latin America, the students preparing for leadership roles in the church, the facilitators who lead the courses, and the coordinators who oversee the centers. Pray God will use them to grow and strengthen His church.

Birthday: Becky Crouse

21 > Monday | Japan

Chris and Yuko Wilkins use tea times and game nights to connect with neighbors. Pray for gospel opportunities as they continue to build these relationships.

Birthday: Chris Wilkins

22 > Tuesday | Sierra Leone

Pray for the training of church planters to expand the work in Sierra Leone. Ask the Father to provide partnerships to support and encourage this small work.

23 > Wednesday | Spain

The John Wesley Seminary in Spain is helping equip pastors, church planters and leaders. Pray for the director and teachers as they seek to provide a challenging but functional curriculum.

24 > Thursday | Asia

Pray for wisdom and resources to train indigenous leaders who can effectively disciple their communities.

Birthday: Bryan

25 > Friday | Middle East

Please pray for the provision of people's essential needs—food, shelter and schooling—so the hope of the gospel becomes a tangible reality in the communities being served.

26 > Saturday | United Kingdom

Pray for the development of fruitful leadership pathways to strengthen their local, national and global influence in advancing God's kingdom.

27 > Sunday | South Africa

Evangelism programs for youth and children and ministry to women are priorities in this general conference. Pray the investment in these ministries will bear much fruit for the Kingdom.

28 > Monday | Latin America

Flor Marlene is an online facilitator for the pastoral formation program in Latin America. She also serves as part of the Developing Healthy Leaders Team, assisting with pastoral care groups. Ask the Lord to give her wisdom for her various tasks.

Birthday: Flor Marlene (International Missionary)

29 > Tuesday | Set Free Movement

Pray for Set Free teams in Washington and Michigan as they bless social workers, assist families and provide resources for foster youth who are vulnerable to trafficking.

30 > Wednesday | West Africa

Pray for the Rev. Dosseh Takpale as he travels throughout West Africa, encouraging churches and training leaders in several countries.

Birthday: Dosseh Takpale (International Missionary)