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HEARTBEAT

FEBRUARY 2025

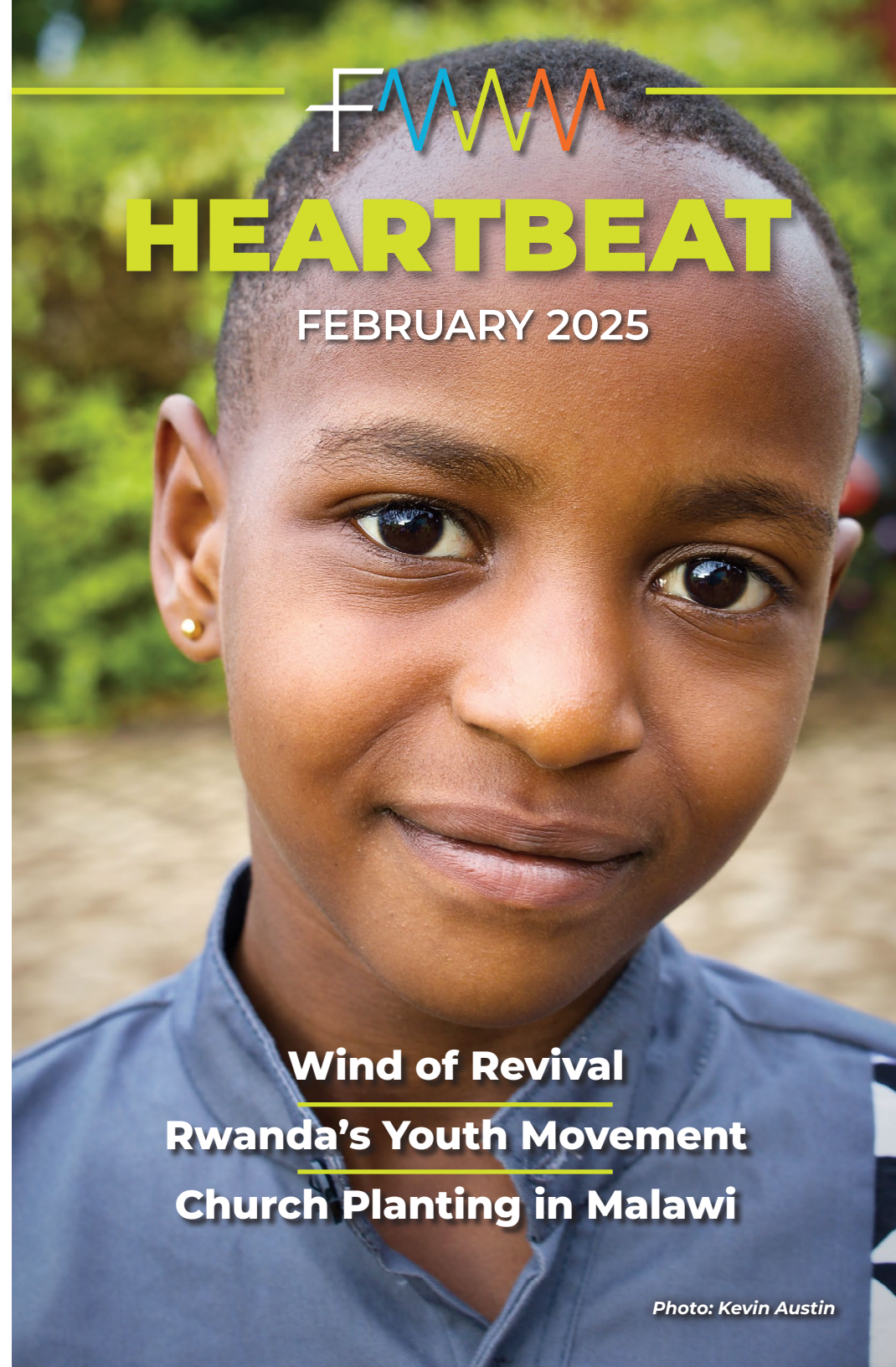
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*Free Methodist World Missions makes disciples by mobilizing the global church and empowering international leaders
to establish transformational churches.*

Wind of Revival Rwanda's Youth Movement Church Planting in Malawi

Photo: Kevin Austin



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By Rev. Dosseh Takpale

"Every knee shall bow ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord ..." (Philippians 2:10-11).

A great "wind of revival" is blowing in Togo! In the country's central area, people are experiencing God's mighty power through a ministry of evangelism and prayer. The "wind of revival" blows through the area, from Lembre to Katchalikadji and the neighboring villages. The FMC in Limbre is an older and small church, but it is growing. Numbers have increased four times. Services can no longer be held in the church building, and the people are now joyfully worshiping outside, under nearby trees.

The church is also expanding. A second church building is about to be built in Fazao, with the local chief donating the land. The gospel is being preached, and the power of God is manifested. It's

like living in the early church times described in the book of Acts. God is touching hearts and lives. There are testimonies of healing, deliverance and conversion. Muslims and people of all ages are surrendering to Jesus.

Two Muslim women received healing; one suffered in her hip, and the other had a swollen foot. They received no solution at the hospital, but when one of the leaders in Limbre prayed for them, they were both healed and accepted Jesus.

Another man, Salifou, heard what the Lord was doing in his village. He brought his wife and child to visit the church prayer service. His wife had continual pain in her thigh, and Salifou often suffered motorcycle accidents. During the prayer service, his daughter confessed she was involved in spiritism, and this was the cause of her father's

accidents and her mother's sickness. All gave their lives to Christ. Now, the mother is well and able to work again. Salifou, a Muslim, says, "I am ready to follow Jesus because I have never seen a powerful God like the Christian God."

In three weeks, we baptized 42 new converts. The revival is bringing new life and zeal to our churches. Everyone gives testimony with joy to the power of God.

"The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name'" (Luke 10:17, NLT).

To God be the Glory! Join us in praying the fire will continue to burn in us as we pray for at least 25 new church plants in Togo in 2025.



By Emmanuel Nzungize

Learning from the roots of the Methodist movement for a well-equipped Next-generation church in Rwanda.

The Free Methodist Church (FMC) in Rwanda now has more than 500,000 members, with a large population of young people who need solid Christian teaching. Late last year, the FMC chose to invest in this next generation through a Youth Leaders Camp at Kunbya Retreat Center. Seventy-seven youth leaders from 22 churches, along with eight secondary school teachers and chaplains, came together to receive training on discipleship through the lens of Methodism.

Each day, the retreat started with a devotion based on the theme of abiding in Christ using John 15:1-17. John 15:5 says, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me, you can do nothing." Leaders were taught that to bear fruit and make disciples of youth, they must first abide in Christ. Teaching times focused on the Methodist movement, with two courses covering the historical background, including key people in Methodism and the Protestant Reformation. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) was also presented as a call for leaders to make disciples of Christ.

Participants learned and grew during these days together. Pastor Alain Irankunda shared how he learned more about the Free Methodist identity and the beginning of the Methodist movement – how it started, key people, and John Wesley's prayer life and devotion to studying the Scriptures. He also learned about B.T. Roberts and how the FMC started.

David Nuyonshuti, a theology student at Kibogora Polytechnic, said,

During the retreat, I was reminded of the benefits of staying connected to the vine, and how important it is to live for the Lord Jesus Christ as He called me to. I felt I must be accountable for studying the Scriptures, my prayer life, and my eagerness to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with my peers and friends. The camp inspired us to become godly agents of change in our churches and communities.

The camp concluded by introducing small-group tools and teaching



the attendees about discipleship through one-on-one relationships, following the example of Paul and Timothy and David and Jonathan.

In addition to this retreat, the conference in Kibogora is making efforts for youth engagement through local evangelism, discipleship, continued leadership development and vocational training with the hopes of seeing a long-term holistic impact in local communities and churches.

The Free Methodist Church is intentionally choosing to invest in the next generation. Training those called to youth ministry ensures the young people they serve will grow and mature in Christ.

**The conference would like to note that this retreat was made possible through a grant given by the Butterfield Foundation.*



Church Planting in Malawi!

By Maxwell Kadzuwa
Northern Malawi Conference Superintendent

Evangelism and discipleship are the key components of church planting in the two districts of the Northern Malawi Conference.

Rumphi now has a Free Methodist Church because of evangelism and disciple-making efforts in this community. The church is in the district's town center and meets in a school classroom, which is being rented for the weekend church worship services. Many have welcomed the church to this area, including the district's town council, the village chiefs, political leaders and other community leaders. The vision is for this church to become a healthy, growing and multiplying congregation. The Northern District's goal is to plant more new churches for the glory of God. Pray for the resources needed to buy land and construct a church building.

Another newly opened church is in the Chitipa District near the border with Zambia and Tanzania. This church, the Mwenechawa Free Methodist Church, was opened as a result of an evangelism and discipleship



multiplication campaign recently held in this area. This church plant also holds worship services in a rented classroom block at a nearby school. The district includes 14 different tribal languages, creating both challenge and opportunity. Pray for Bibles to help people learn the Word of God.

God is transforming lives in these two new churches. One 63-year-old man and father of four had lived far from the Lord. He was a chain smoker, a drunkard and a womanizer for the last 40 years. The Holy Spirit began working in his heart through evangelism and discipleship efforts in the Rumphi District. This man and his entire family have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. He stopped smoking and drinking, and the entire family now participates in the church. Many people in the surrounding community are praising God for the transformation that has taken place in the whole family. God is working in the villages of Malawi! Give thanks and pray for continued life transformation.

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FEBRUARY PRAYER GUIDE

01 > **Saturday** | São Tomé and Príncipe

Thank the Lord for four young people baptized in early December. Pray for the discipleship of these new believers and the ongoing community outreach and church-planting efforts.

02 > **Sunday** | Asia

Praise the Lord for the increasing number of young and emerging leaders in the FMC. Pray for a revival among the young people and ask God to ignite their hearts with a growing passion for Christ.

03 > **Monday** | Belgium

Pray for pastors Eleazar and Emmanuel as they lead a congregation in Brussels and a small congregation meeting in Oostende.

04 > **Tuesday** | Latin America

Pray for key leaders in the Latin America Area who are part of the Implementation Team. They will gather for a retreat in Manizales, Colombia. Pray the Holy Spirit will give wisdom and unity as they plan together.

05 > **Wednesday** | Rwanda

Praise the Lord for the training provided for youth leaders in late 2024. Pray these leaders will be faithful to abide in Christ as they seek to disciple the youth in the Rwandan churches.

06 > **Thursday** | Cambodia

Leaders in Cambodia are seeking to initiate campus ministry to reach young adults. Pray for wisdom and the identification of leaders who are called to share the gospel with university students.

07 > **Friday** | Tanzania

Pray for the spread of the gospel in the Lindi and Mtwara Regions, where about 97% of the population is Muslim.

08 > **Saturday** | Greece

Michael and Maria Long have been working with refugees flowing through Thessaloniki for the past nine years. Join them in giving thanks for the opportunity to introduce many to Jesus. Pray for their continuing ministry.

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

Pray believers in this country will exhibit a powerful sense of God's love to the millions who are lost and remain faithful despite opposition and persecution.

10 > **Monday** | Middle East

Ask God to give wisdom to Hany as he leads the various Impact Middle East teams in seven countries.

Birthday: Hany

11 > **Tuesday** | 360 Mission District

Pray for the outreach and discipleship ministries to children and youth through the *Una Mas* tutoring center.

12 > **Wednesday** | Creative Access-VN

Pray for a group of young leaders who are professionals working in a major city. Pray they will grow deep in their faith and overflow with the love of Jesus, bringing many in this city to Christ.

13 > **Thursday** | Zambia

Pray for the 30 churches and 10 established ministries in the 10 provinces of Zambia and for Bishop Mark Lilema as he leads this general conference.

14 > **Friday** | Middle East

Dawn requests prayers for a smooth process as her daughter and son-in-law complete an international adoption. They hope to be united with the child this month.

Birthday: Dawn

15 > **Saturday** | Brazil

Pray for Dan Owsley as he serves as pastor to the counselors and other personnel at a conference-wide children's camp during a holiday (March 1-4) in São Paulo.

Birthday: Dan Owsley

16 > **Sunday** | ICCM

ICCM ministry in Ethiopia began in 2001 and now has five schools and a weekend program in Addis Ababa. Pray these sponsored children and their families will fully know the love and forgiveness of Christ.

17 > Monday | Europe

Pray for international missionary Albert Delali-Yevunya as he serves in coordinating the African European Church Network, working with African leaders across the continent. Pray for the connection of groups in Spain, Malta, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands.

Birthday: Albert Delali-Yevunya (International Missionary)

18 > Tuesday | Thailand

The church in Thailand continues to grow. Pray the Lord will give wisdom to pastors and leaders as they disciple new believers. Also, pray for those doing outreach to Creative Access-LO.

19 > Wednesday | Set Free

Praise the Lord! From August through October, the Set Free Team in Creative Access-IN handled 131 missing child cases, reunited 93 missing children with their parents, and educated 1,007 youth about the dangers of human trafficking. Pray God will continue to use this team mightily.

20 > Thursday | Iraq

Through educational, medical and sports ministries as well as house churches and leadership training, workers in Iraq had over 9,000 face-to-face contacts in 2024. Their social media ministry also reached over a quarter million people online. Pray for increased gospel opportunities in 2025.

21 > Friday | Ecuador

The FM churches in Ecuador gather February 21-23 for their annual meeting. Pray this will be a great time of fellowship and encouragement for leaders.

22 > Saturday | Haiti / Portugal

Haiti: Pray for the churches, medical and educational ministries, and ICCM schools as they continue to persevere during the chaos of the political, social and economic turmoil in Haiti.

Birthday: Dan Snyder (U.S.-Based Partner)

Portugal: Pray for international missionary Eduardo Angelo as he ministers in Portugal and works to complete a degree in geography and biblical archaeology.

Birthday: Eduardo Angelo (International Missionary)

23 > Sunday | Democratic Republic of Congo

Praise the Lord for a grant and donations to construct a midwife classroom building at Nundu Hospital. Pray the construction of this new facility will help train midwives who are desperately needed in this region.

24 > Monday | Scandinavia

Pray that the developing church plants in Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway will make connections and reach those in their local communities with the gospel message.

25 > Tuesday | Asia

Pray for the next steps in completing the Gethsemane Leadership Training videos. Specifically, pray for missionary Bryan as he helps coordinate the recording and dubbing phase of the video project. Also, pray for those doing translation work.

26 > Wednesday | Honduras

There are large numbers of poverty-stricken families in this country. Pray for the 36 churches in the mission district as they proclaim the gospel and demonstrate Christ's love through their various ministries.

27 > Thursday | Togo

Praise the Lord for a "wind of revival" in Togo and for the new life, joy and zeal swelling up in the believers. Pray the Holy Spirit will continue to move as the FMC works to plant 25 new churches this year.

28 > Friday | Egypt

Two church networks in Egypt include more than 2,000 house churches with an average attendance of 80,000 per week. Pray for a continued movement of the Spirit among all age groups and in the prison ministry.

*"Lord, I give up
All my own plans and purposes,
All my own desires and hopes
And accept Thy will for my life.
I give myself, my life, my all,
Utterly to Thee
To be Thine forever.
Fill me and seal me with Thy Holy Spirit.
Use me as Thou wilt,
Send me where Thou wilt,
Work out Thy whole will in my life
At any cost,
Now and forever."*

– Betty Scott Stam, martyred in China in the 1930s