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HEARTBEAT

JUNE 2025

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT
INDIANAPOLIS, IN, AND AT ADDITIONAL
MAILING OFFICES.

PUBLICATIONS AGREEMENT NO. 40716549
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*Free Methodist World Missions makes disciples by mobilizing the global church and empowering international leaders
to establish transformational churches.*



A Missing Boy Returned Home Helping Youth Thrive in Kenya Ministering in Brazil

Photo: Caio Britto



A MISSING Boy Returned HOME

*By Rev. Dr. Kevin Austin,
Founder and Director of the
Set Free Movement*



Sonu saw the BMW parked in front of the only grocery store in the village. He had never seen such a beautiful car, especially in his small village. Who could possibly own this thing of beauty? He stood and stared.

A tall, handsome man walked out of the store. He approached Sonu.

"Do you like my car?" The man asked.

"Oh, yes!" Sonu gushed.

"You can have a car like this if you do what I did. I grew up in a village just like this, and now look at me."

The man posed, letting Sonu see his fine clothes. He looked thoughtful and continued, "Say, I run a factory in the city. I could use a smart fellow like you. What do you say? Do you want to make big money? You can send money home to your parents, buy fancy clothes, and have all the girls giggling at you."

Sonu didn't have to think long. This man offered him a way out of a life of struggle and boredom.

"My name is Yashil," the man said, reaching into his pocket to pull out a business card. "Give me a call if you want to have a life of success and fun."

Sonu talked it over with his mother, who agreed it was a good opportunity. Sonu placed a call and, two days later, was overjoyed to speed out of the village with Yashil toward the big city he had heard of but never seen.

But there was no factory.

The trafficker sold Sonu to work in a veterinary college canteen, where he was forced to wash dishes and clean tables from early morning until late at night. As months passed by, Sonu's health deteriorated. Even during his illness, he was forced to work. One day, with the help of local police, Sonu was rescued, and the canteen owner was arrested.

The police contacted the Set Free Movement team in Creative Access-IN, who escorted Sonu back to his village to be reunited with his overjoyed mother.

This is a fictionalized story of reality in Creative Access-IN. The good news is that since 2019, the Set Free Movement team in this country has repatriated 585 children across Creative Access-IN, Creative Access-NP and Creative Access-BG. The team has assisted with more than 900 cases of missing children referred to them by the local child welfare committees.

Learn more about the Set Free Movement's work in Creative Access-IN and other locations at setfreemovement.com.



Helping Youth

Thrive in Kenya

Photo: Sona Shoppe Photos/Kenya

By Emily Hlavka Freed, Associate Director, Set Free Movement and Wunders

Celebrate with us! Earlier this year, Thrive, the Set Free Movement initiative in Kenya, was honored with an award from the International Labor Organization (ILO) in recognition of their outstanding efforts in combating child labor and human trafficking. This award highlights their unwavering commitment to protecting vulnerable children from exploitation and advocating for stronger legal frameworks to prevent child labor, human trafficking, gender-based violence and female genital mutilation. Last year, Thrive reached 1400-plus vulnerable young people through training and mentorship.

Thrive Kenya is opening doors for young people like Mercy and Victoria by equipping and encouraging them through Thrive Juniors, a mentorship and discipleship program. Thrive builds confidence. The youth also learn how to stay safe from human trafficking and gender-based violence.

Mercy and Victoria, two recent college graduates, have brighter futures, thanks in part to Thrive. They are dreaming big. Here are their testimonies:

Thrive has helped me grow and helped me build my confidence. I am always happy being around young girls and boys, and I'm always humbled and grateful whenever I get a chance to create awareness in schools. Thrive has also encouraged me to continue keeping God first in everything. I have grown and look forward to many opportunities to impact children's lives ... it's my passion.

- Victoria

Thrive has played a major role in my life through the mentorship and discipleship program. I have gained the courage and confidence to speak out as a girl when my rights are being violated. Thrive

has impacted me with skills, especially advocacy. Thrive also provided me with reusable pads [Wunders – menstrual hygiene kit] that have helped me stay in college. Thrive has helped me to have good relationships with other Thrive Junior girls."

- Mary

In 2024, the Thrive Juniors program in Kenya expanded to seven groups. Each one has an average of 45 participants, with a total of 315 youth participating in these important mentorship groups. Thrive Juniors is just one of the transformational programs Thrive Kenya leads.

Mercy and Victoria are excited to continue serving their community and building awareness to help prevent human trafficking after graduation.

Learn more about how Thrive and the Set Free Movement are helping youth thrive at setfreemovement.com or tinyurl.com/sfmthrive.



Ministering in Brazil



Photos: Caio Britto

By Raymond Babcock, ICCM Brazil Regional Coordinator

The Free Methodist Church in Campo Grande, Brazil, ministers in a poor neighborhood rife with drug trafficking. Two hundred children are involved in weekly discipleship groups that meet mainly in homes, with a few taking place at the church. ICCM sponsorship of children and occasional gifts from the Extend Your Table Fund allow the church to offer food at these gatherings.

Two afternoons each week on school days, the church offers a tutoring program in reading and math, spiritual instruction and celebration, and a meal. One central goal is to help children stay out of drug trafficking through the half-day program and the accountability in their discipleship groups. Entry into the drug trade almost always results eventually in prison or death. Most of the children often experience hunger. Improved nutrition helps the children say no to the offer of a few dollars to make a drug delivery. School closures due to

COVID left many children unable to read by the time they normally would have learned. Several children have now learned to read through the half-day program.

The after-school programming at Campo Grande was modeled on that of Todo Mundo Feliz (TMF) in Santo André, a suburb of São Paulo. The TMF nursery and preschool serves 60 children during the day. After-school and before-school programming supports an additional 40 teens, offering lessons in music, foreign language, information technology and more. At TMF, caring well for children includes caring for their families. Staff members walk the neighborhood periodically, talking with parents and distributing food to make personal connections.

Praise the Lord for these ministries to children in Brazil!

Vol. 7 No. 5 JUNE 2025

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.

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JUNE PRAYER GUIDE

01 > Sunday | Cameroon

Five new church planters are being trained in Cameroon. Please pray for them as they visit new communities and establish church plants.

02 > Monday | Colombia

Shane Jewell serves as the Latin America field coordinator for VISA teams. As opportunities for service in Latin America grow, pray he can help provide mutually beneficial experiences for both U.S. and Latin American churches, creating healthy long-term relationships.

Birthday: Shane Jewell

03 > Tuesday | Ukraine

As the church serves and ministers to the parents, children and war veterans who are suffering due to the ongoing war, pray they will experience the love of Jesus and find rest and peace in Him.

Birthday: Lena Petrochenko (International Missionary)

04 > Wednesday | Middle East

Pray believers will be eager and unashamed to preach the gospel, realizing it has the power of God to bring salvation to everyone regardless of ethnicity or cultural background (Romans 1:15-16).

05 > Thursday | Asia/Taiwan

Asia: Seek God's blessing for establishment of self-sustaining, reproducing churches throughout Asia.

Birthday: Elizabeth Opena (U.S.-Based Partner)

Taiwan: Pray for Susan as she demonstrates love and hope to migrant workers and international students living in Taiwan. As seeds of the gospel are sown, pray they will bear much fruit. **Birthday: Susan (Affiliate Missionary)**

06 > Friday | Ghana

In April, the FMC in Ghana held its 3rd Provisional Annual Conference. Pray for this growing conference as they seek to have 100 sustainable and multiplying churches by 2031.

07 > Saturday | Creative Access-P

Pray for the truth of the gospel to reach the hearts of the people and leaders in this nation.

08 > Sunday | ICCM

Pray for ICCM ministry in Haiti. Due to ongoing security concerns in the capital city, schools and teachers have adjusted to ensure students have an uninterrupted education. Pray the students and teachers will experience God's presence and peace.

09 > Monday | Japan

Use the words of John 15:5-17 as you pray for missionary Gene Hall. Pray he will abide in Christ and Christ in Him, resulting in ever-increasing fruitfulness and love for God and others. **Birthday: Gene Hall**

10 > Tuesday | São Tomé & Príncipe

Significant ministry exists among children and young people. Pray for the discipleship and training of the youth in this country.

Birthday: Jacione Souza (International Missionary)

11 > Wednesday | Iraq

Pray the center in Iraq will continue to be a beacon of hope during difficult and uncertain times. Pray for life transformation and kingdom growth.

12 > Thursday | Europe

Pray Area Director Josh Fajardo will have the Lord's wisdom and guidance for every part of his life, helping him to reflect on past challenges and experiences and to grow from them. Ask the Father to lead him toward new opportunities and meaningful relationships, modeling the compassion, humility and grace of Jesus. **Birthday: Josh Fajardo**

13 > Friday | Panama

As Brook and Susan Selby complete their partnership building before deployment to Panama, pray the Holy Spirit will give them good connections for prayer and financial support. **Birthday: Brook Selby**

14 > Saturday | Creative Access-NP

Pray for spiritual breakthroughs in Nepal, creating growth in number and depth of spiritual commitment.

15 > Sunday | Global

Pray for Art and Sylvia Brown as they help provide resourcing and development opportunities for our missionary care couples.

Birthday: Art Brown (U.S.-Based Partner)

16 > Monday | Albania

Pray for opportunities to reach new families, especially the many Muslim families in this area. Ask God to open hearts and minds to receive His Word.

Birthday: Algent Bregu (Affiliate Missionary)

17 > Tuesday | Greece

Pray for Maria Long's strength and effectiveness as she assists in multiple ministries – helping at a refugee center, distributing aid in a refugee camp, teaching language classes and weekly Bible studies, and developing relationships. **Birthday: Maria Long**

18 > Wednesday | Creative Access-MR

Pray for the reconstruction efforts following the devastating earthquake that hit this country in late March. Ask the Father to continue giving the FMC opportunities to share the gospel as they care for the people's ongoing needs.

19 > Thursday | Brazil

In 2024, the Brazil General Conference and the Nikkei General Conference combined to establish one Free Methodist General Conference of Brazil. Pray for wise and courageous leadership as they navigate the country's increasingly secular ideologies.

20 > Friday | Kenya

Pray for the modular program of the Springs of Hope Bible School in Eldoret as they help train church leaders.

21 > Saturday | Middle East

Despite persecution and threats from authorities, pray the servants of Christ in this region will be enabled to speak God's Word boldly (Acts 4:29).

22 > Sunday | Rwanda/South Korea

Rwanda: Pray a CT scanner will be obtained and installed at Kibogora Hospital. This project has been delayed, but once in place, it will revolutionize the care provided at the hospital. **Birthday: Rachel Nzungize**

South Korea: Pray for open doors to reestablish the FMC in South Korea. **Birthday: Trevor Foly (Affiliate Missionary)**

23 > Monday | Set Free Movement

The Set Free team in Cambodia provided awareness training about online sexual exploitation and human trafficking to more than 950 youth in 2024. Pray for this team as they continue to help protect vulnerable youth in Cambodia.

24 > Tuesday | Botswana

This church-in-formation is under the Zimbabwe General Conference. Pray for the encouragement of the small group of believers meeting there.

25 > Wednesday | Creative Access-BG

Despite setbacks in recent years, this work is growing. Pray the Father will provide abundant gospel opportunities and many will come to faith in Jesus.

26 > Thursday | Creative Access-X

Pray for the new conference superintendent, Pastor Ivan, and a continuing movement of the Holy Spirit in the FMC.

27 > Friday | Malawi

Praise the Lord! Through a U.S. partnership, bicycles were purchased for 100 FM pastors. Pray for these pastors as they utilize the bicycles to travel to remote villages to evangelize, plant churches and serve the people.

28 > Saturday | Asia

Ask the Father to give wisdom to leaders as they seek provision for economic initiatives that support communities and open doors for gospel witness.

29 > Sunday | Colombia

Pray for Thad Roller's travel schedule as he makes strategic visits to ministry locations in Colombia and throughout Latin America. **Birthday: Thad Roller**

30 > Monday | 360 Mission District

Pray Dennis Leon will stay attuned to the Holy Spirit's leading as he oversees this growing mission district planting churches in beach communities in Costa Rica. **Birthday: Dennis Leon**

"If there be anything about which we cannot tolerate lukewarmness, it is in the matter of sending the gospel to a dying world."

– Charles Spurgeon