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HEARTBEAT

SEPTEMBER 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.*



Redefining "Church"
Peace Amid, Peace Near By
Grow in God

Photo: Jan Coates



REDEFINING

By Erin Kingsley

It is a familiar scenario – a single mother, a few young children and an abusive partner. Against all odds, they escape the situation and, by God's grace, discover a safe home for women and children on the outskirts of Budapest. They are safe but confused, hurt and lost. They come seeking love, comfort and acceptance.

This is the story of most women and children in the Salvation Army safe home in Budapest. Desperate, they are unknowingly in need of Jesus. Sadly, many are part of an ethnic group that, still to this day, faces deep-seated racism in Hungary. They have little money, and their access to transportation is limited – if any. They will be rejected in most places. So how do we, as believers with granted admittance to this home, bring these young women and children the hope of Christ? We love them like He does as we share the gospel message!

Every month, we spend a Saturday teaching the mothers and children about the redemptive love of Christ. We teach the children how to pray and sing songs about the love of God. We read and discuss a Bible story. We do a

“Church”

craft with the children, giving them one of God's promises to focus on for the month. The simple crafts profess things like “God keeps His promises,” “God redeems us” or “Jesus loves everyone.”

This is not “church” as we typically think of it. The children are often in their pajamas; we don't follow a strict format, and we don't take part in communion. However, Jesus has told us clearly it is not these things that truly make a church. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus teaches, “Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Here in Budapest, we are redefining “church” as anywhere we are gathered in Jesus' name.

Jesus' redeeming grace has been seen in the stories of many women and children as they tell us with hopeful, bright eyes how they secured a new job or were approved for an apartment – or when the children proudly recite a prayer or Bible verse. God is moving and at work among those who are underserved and seen as outcasts in Budapest. Please join us in praying for Him to continually speak into the hearts of these precious women and children as they regain their lives after trauma.



"Peace be with you!" Christ greeted His frightened and confused disciples. He stood in their midst and transformed their pain into joy, weakness into strength, and uncertainty into courage. Though outside the walls, Rome still ruled with power, Christ brought peace to hearts – peace that overcame fear and revealed what peace, love, ministry and sacrifice truly are. And today, just as then, Jesus reminds us the most significant victory has already been won, and everyone who believes in Him has His peace, even amid war, behind prison walls, under occupation and in the trenches.

In our church, we sing this worship song:
*You give peace in the midst of war; You
 light the way in the darkness; You pour
 Your rain upon the deserts – and I am
 not alone. You are with us.*

Amid war, we continue to work, serve, smile, hug, love and dream. Last summer, we had a dream to create a special place for children and youth of fallen soldiers. For more than six months, we prayed and sought opportunities. What a joy! With God's help, our dream has become a reality.

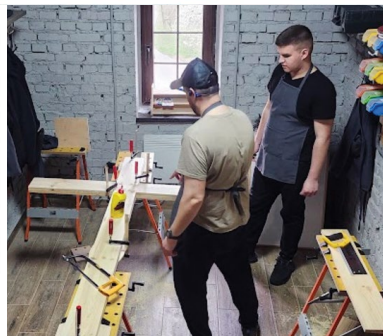
Two floors up – in the same building used by our volunteer center, WAY – is "Porouch" (Ukrainian for "nearby"), named quite symbolically because it's important to have someone dependable by your side in times of deep pain and suffering. Our vision is for this to be a safe space where the children of soldiers currently defending Ukraine or children whose fathers have died in the war can experience healing, love and hope.

Through faith, education and therapy, we seek to help rebuild the children's lives and develop their potential. Various programs for different age levels help make it enjoyable and meaningful. But our greatest desire is to demonstrate Christ's love for them. On April 5, this youth space was officially opened. We began regular activities: sports programs, English-language courses, art therapy, group therapy for teens, a teen movie club, workshops, teen girls' fellowship, and the Wise Carpenter project for boys.

As we move forward, we believe God will guide us and bless this place with His presence. We hope it will become a place of refuge, healing and growth. Please pray that God will use us amid the crisis of war as we walk nearby to rebuild lives and help young people find living hope.

Peace Amid, *Peace* Near By

By Lena Petrochenko



I Want to *Grow in God* and Learn More!

By Cindi Angelo

How awesome to preach the gospel and see multitudes responding to the call for salvation all at once! But what particularly thrills me is being able to reach one life, lead the person to know and love Jesus, baptize them, and help them become a fervent disciple of Christ. We cannot track the spiritual growth of crowds, but we can for individuals. It is a great privilege!

Tiago Almeida, a 24-year-old Portuguese man, was unaware of God's plan for salvation. He is the production manager of an industrial-waste treatment plant and was awakened by the message of the gospel when he observed the life of his co-worker Catarina Conceição, who was raised in our church. During her work breaks, Catarina spoke to him about the love of God.

After hearing Catarina, Tiago became curious, and even though he was still skeptical, he used Instagram to search for more information about our church. He asked for details about our meetings, and I responded with attention and prayer for his soul. God works in so many interesting ways! The following Sunday, Tiago arrived at church, and I was at the door, welcoming him with a hug and a smile.

Tiago was attentive during the worship service, although with some suspicion. It was the first time he had entered an evangelical church. In Portugal, 96% of the population declares itself Roman Catholic. Attending another type of church can be seen as betraying the tradition of one's ancestors, and Tiago did not yet know his soul thirsted for God. His spirit cried out to know the truth, and Catarina was the channel God used to reach his heart.



Tiago was well received; he listened to the sermon attentively, he received a Bible, and the young people surrounded him to invite him to the youth group the following week.

Tiago went to the youth meetings and continued coming to services. He finally gave his life to Christ, began discipleship and was baptized. He began to grow in his faith like a plant being watered and cared for. Recently, Tiago said, "Pastor, I want to grow in God and learn more, to be a disciple of Jesus, because in the future, I want to be a church planter to win my people for Him." Praise the Lord!

Vol. 7 No. 9 SEPTEMBER 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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SEPTEMBER PRAYER GUIDE

01 > Monday | Missionary Kids

Several of our missionaries have children headed off to college – some for the first time. Pray these young adults will establish good patterns, healthy relationships and find a new depth of relationship with Jesus as they enter this new phase of life.

02 > Tuesday | Europe

European leaders meet for a Convergence Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, September 3-6. Pray for this time of discovering how spiritual disciplines, spiritual gifts and spiritual experiences converge.

03 > Wednesday | Southeast Asia

Praise the Lord for the privilege Seth and Hlawn Hlawn Van Tifflin have of serving the Lord in this region. Pray for the health and growth of their family and their expanding ministry through In Better Hands.

Birthday: Seth Van Tifflin

04 > Thursday | Dominican Republic

Pray for the realization of this general conference's goal of planting 30 new churches.

05 > Friday | Iraq

Pray for the staff at the Noor Center as they continue to bring the light of Christ into the community through trauma support, vocational training, education, sports and services for various age groups.

06 > Saturday | Thailand

Pray for Jason and Wendi during a period of family transition; their oldest son begins university in the U.S., and their youngest daughter enters formal schooling for the first time. **Birthday: Jason**

07 > Sunday | Kenya

Praise the Lord for a water well at the Tumaini Women Kenya Life Center. Pray access to clean water will provide health benefits and further opportunities for the women and families in this community.

08 > Monday | Mexico

As the various regions in Mexico pray and work toward renewal and revitalization, ask the Father to pour out His Spirit in the lives of pastors and laity, giving them renewed passion for the lost.

09 > Tuesday | ICCM

Please pray for the launch of ICCM sponsorship in Senegal. As the children receive the physical benefits of sponsorship, pray they will also begin to know the One Who created and loves them.

10 > Wednesday | Singapore

A new group has formed in one gateway city. Pray many will come to know Jesus, and pray for guidance in connecting with new leaders.

11 > Thursday | Spain

Paulo and Clara Bettiol arrived in Spain in late July. Pray for them as they begin their ministry responsibilities, adjust to the culture and help their son settle into a new school.

Birthday: Paulo Bettiol (International Missionary)

12 > Friday | São Tomé and Príncipe

Pray for the construction of a church building, a place for the kindergarten and a parsonage.

Birthday: Moisés Souza (International Missionary)

13 > Saturday | Brazil

Praise the Lord for a large enrollment in Hope Owsley's Theology of Wesley class. Enrollment is so large that the class had to be split into two groups. The second group starts in September. Pray for deep understanding and growth for these students. **Birthday: Hope Owsley**

14 > Sunday | Creative Access-RA

The annual meeting of this mission district concludes today. As the FMC in Country-RA serves and invests in training leaders in El Salvador, pray their investment will bear much fruit as people come to Christ and are disciplined in faith.

15 > Monday | Mozambique

Pray for Bishop Pedro Viegas Simão. Ask the Father to give him wisdom in leading the church and provide reliable transportation for his work.

16 > Tuesday | Europe Vision Trip

Several pastors and mission leaders will participate in a trip to Spain, Bulgaria and Greece, where they will see firsthand the challenges and opportunities of ministry in Europe. Pray for spiritual impact on the lives of the participants.

17 > Wednesday | Creative Access-NP

There are now over 350 churches and 80 pastors. Their goal for this year is to see 500 new Christ followers, establish five cell groups and plant three churches. Pray this vision will be fulfilled.

18 > Thursday | Set Free Movement

Pray for Set Free Movement Director Kevin Austin as he visits and encourages Set Free teams in Kenya and Hungary in the coming weeks.

19 > Friday | Cameroon

Pray for the nursery and primary school at the FMC in Mondoni, Cameroon. This church provides holistic, low-cost education for children in its community, demonstrating the love of Christ and His church.

20 > Saturday | Argentina

Pray for Tanya Rosado as she coaches and trains leaders of holistic transformational initiatives throughout the Latin America Area. **Birthday: Tanya Rosado**

21 > Sunday | Middle East

As God opens doors into new areas of this region, pray the Holy Spirit will go before church planters in preparing households and communities for the witness of the gospel.

22 > Monday | Europe

Todd and Deann Miller serve as the pastoral care couple for the European missionary team. In July, it was discovered that Todd had a brain tumor. Please pray for his treatment plan and a complete return to health.

Birthday: Deann Miller

23 > Tuesday | Creative Access-BG

Recently, Pastor "G," who lives in the northern part of this country, was given a motorbike. This transportation has provided opportunities to reach more remote locations with the gospel. Pray for God's provision of motorbikes for several other pastors in similar situations.

24 > Wednesday | Haiti

Pray for the provision of basic needs of the people – physical safety, freedom to assemble, food to eat, schools for children and work for adults.

Birthday: Dee Ann Snyder (U.S.-Based Partner)

25 > Thursday | Togo

In June, 34 new believers were baptized in two villages where students from the Wesley Missionary Institute initiated work. Praise the Lord! Pray for these new believers and the extension of the gospel into neighboring villages.

26 > Friday | Hungary

Pray for the raising and training of new leaders and co-workers from within Hungary and from abroad. And ask the Lord to open doors into new communities.

27 > Saturday | FMWM

Pray for Gerry Coates as he works with our area directors, bishops, superintendents, pastors, missionaries, home office staff and other leaders to help us engage more effectively in cross-cultural collaboration with the global FMC. **Birthdays: Gerry Coates (Director of Global Engagement); Ken Myers (VISA Short-Term Missions Coordinator); Todd Miller**

28 > Sunday | Egypt

Pastor "I" leads a small village ministry along the Nile River. In this village, hunger for the Word is growing. Families gather in homes to hear Bible stories and are being transformed by the truth of God's Word and growing in faith. Pray for those who are coming to faith and give thanks!

29 > Monday | Fiji

Pray for Superintendent Lex and the FMC in Fiji. Pray for Ian and Tessie, FMC-Asia missionaries, raising their support with the hope of going to Fiji in January 2026. Pray for new believers, new leaders and provision for nurturing this young work.

30 > Tuesday | Rwanda

Ask the Father to provide resources for renovations of the internal medicine ward at Kibogora Hospital. These renovations are needed to ensure better and safer patient care in a more dignified environment.

"Every step in the progress of missions is directly traceable to prayer."

– Arthur T. Pierson