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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

MAY 2026

**Following God's Lead**  
**Transforming a Community**  
**Faithful Leaders, Faithful Future**

# FOLLOWING *God's Lead* ACROSS BORDERS

**By Bryce Grieco, Lead Pastor of Northway Community Church**

Sometimes God begins a new partnership with a simple question: “Lord, what are You already doing here — and how can we join You?”

In late February, a small team from Northway Community Church (NCC) in Williamsport, PA, traveled to the capital city of a creative access country in Central America to discern God’s direction for a long-term partnership. Along with Joey DeNune and Deb Moffitt, I spent several days meeting with local pastors and ministry leaders, guided by Mission District Leader Pastora Jenny. For each of us, it was our first visit to this beautiful Latin American nation, and the experience far exceeded our expectations.

Before the trip, we assumed our partnership would primarily focus on strengthening the three Free Methodist schools in the capital and supporting local churches. Those ministries are doing meaningful and inspiring work, and visiting them was encouraging. But as we listened, prayed and spent time with leaders on the ground, we sensed God gently but clearly redirecting our focus.

Again and again, our hearts were drawn to the pastors themselves.

Reflecting on Romans 10:15 — “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” — we recognized that local pastors are the everyday carriers of the gospel, and God was inviting us to come alongside them. While strong leadership development already exists within this country and throughout the Free Methodist Church in Latin America, NCC was invited to partner in caring for and supporting healthy leaders in this country.

Joey, one of the NCC leaders, shared a powerful image that captured what we were sensing — a mighty river of the gospel flowing through the nation. When pastors become burdened, overwhelmed, discouraged or exhausted — often amid growing challenges in a country resistant to the gospel — the river’s flow slows. When that flow is restricted, everything downstream is affected: churches, schools and efforts to transform communities.



But when pastors and their families are encouraged, strengthened, resourced and supported, the river flows freely again. The impact spreads, kingdom work flourishes, and the potential of partnership becomes truly exciting.

Many of the pastors we met work tirelessly, providing for their families while faithfully shepherding their congregations. Even in exhaustion, their commitment to sharing Christ remains unwavering.

Our church feels called to walk with these pastors in practical ways — through prayer, encouragement and a long-term partnership marked by the interdependence God intends for His church.

As this partnership grows, we trust the river of the gospel will flow with greater power, bringing life and renewal to churches in Central America and in our own church in Pennsylvania.





# Transforming a *Community,* One Game at a Time

*By Pastora Sarahí Nuñez, Mission District Leader for Honduras*

On many afternoons in Travesía, Honduras, you can now hear basketballs bouncing, volleyballs hitting the net and children laughing. These sounds come from a brand-new sports complex in the heart of town. For many people, it's just a fun place to play. But for the Faro de Luz Free Methodist Church, it has become something much more — a doorway to transformation — a way God is bringing hope and change to the community.

Travesía is known for its vibrant culture, rich cuisine and warm, friendly people. The beautiful scenery has long been attracting visitors. At the same time, the community has faced hard seasons. Changes from one generation to the next, outside influences and social pressures have strained relationships and weakened the sense of unity that once defined the town.

Even so, God has never stopped loving Travesía.

A few months ago, the national government opened a new sports complex, creating a safe gathering place for children, youth and families to come together. Their hope was that this space would reignite the sense of community. After the opening, local leaders approached the Faro de Luz Free Methodist Church, asking the congregation to help manage and care for the facility.

The church saw this invitation as more than an opportunity — it was a calling from God.

The congregation hopes to form basketball and volleyball teams for both youth and adults, creating space for mentorship, healthy competition and friendships. The ministry is still in its early stages. The church is praying for trained coaches, but they are already rich in what matters most: faithful volunteers and confidence that God will provide all the resources needed.

For Faro de Luz, the sports complex is more than a court with lines and nets. It's an open door into the lives of families and young people who may never enter a church building. Through sports, conversations and relationships, the love of Christ can be shared in natural and meaningful ways.

This is how God often works. When people are faithful with what they have, God entrusts them with more. Because Faro de Luz was already serving and loving its community, local leaders trusted them with this new opportunity. Transformational churches step into the life of the community; they don't wait for people to come to them. They trust God will use simple spaces and resources — even something as simple as a basketball court — to share the life-changing hope of the gospel.



FAITHFUL LEADERS, FAITHFUL FUTURE:

# Investing in the *Next* Generation

By Beth Gómez

What does a 30-year-old social worker, a 45-year-old youth leader, and a former superintendent from Mexico have in common? Each is part of a new generation of leaders serving the Free Methodist Church in Latin America.

Together with others, they make up eight recently appointed — or soon-to-be commissioned — mission district leaders and superintendents across the region. Their stories highlight the rich diversity of Latin America: different cultures, backgrounds, ages and educational paths, all united by a shared calling to serve God and His church.

Each leader brings something unique to the table — personal experience, cultural insight and a distinct leadership style. These differences don't divide the church; they strengthen it, helping ministry grow and reach more people in meaningful ways.

This leadership transition didn't happen by chance. It's the result of intentional investment in emerging leaders and a commitment to place people where their gifts can thrive. At the heart of this effort is a guiding principle known as "2:2:2," based on 2 Timothy 2:2. In this verse, the Apostle Paul urges Timothy to pass on what he has learned to faithful people who will, in turn, teach others.

That vision shaped the Latin American Leaders Summit held in February. Each national leader was asked to bring one or more "Timothys" — younger or emerging leaders they are mentoring. Together, they worked on effectively communicating the gospel across cultures, practiced listening to God and one another through spiritual discernment, and began developing ministry plans looking ahead to the year 2030.

Because not every leadership team could attend in full, participants returned home with a framework rather than a finished plan. The next step is to continue shaping those plans alongside local leaders. Still, the most important outcome was already clear: Experienced leaders and emerging leaders sat at the same table, seeking God's direction together and learning from one another.

Today, leaders like Sarahi Núñez in Honduras, Esteban Flores in El Salvador and Juan Carlos Rodríguez in Paraguay are living out this model. They are honoring and building on the legacy they inherited while intentionally investing in their own "Timothys." Through this shared commitment, God's mission continues to move forward — faithfully and sustainably — for generations to come.

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# MAY PRAYER GUIDE

## 01 > Friday | Africa Creative Access-BA

Pray for the two churches and the continuing formation of the FMC in this country where security is a significant challenge.

## 02 > Saturday | FMWM

Give thanks for the people who faithfully serve behind the scenes to mobilize, support and care for missionaries. Pray that the Lord would continue to guide our work allowing more people to hear the good news of Jesus.

**Birthday: Deb Miller (FMWM Systems Integration Advisor)**

## 03 > Sunday | Creative Access Asia

Please pray for the establishment of an international fellowship to reach multiple diaspora groups in one gateway city (a major city that serves as an entry point to the country). **Birthday: Mark**

## 04 > Monday | Panama

Please pray for the Selby family as they navigate major transitions — college milestones for their children and Brook and Susan's upcoming deployment to Panama — asking God for peace, guidance, and a steadfast focus on Jesus. **Birthday: Susan Selby**

## 05 > Tuesday | Belgium

Pray for the unity among leaders and believers in increasingly multi-cultural settings in Belgium and across Europe.

## 06 > Wednesday | Middle East

Use Isaiah 61:1-3 as you pray. Ask the Father to bind up the brokenhearted, release those held captive, comfort those who mourn and make the good news of the gospel known among the people. May ashes be turned to beauty and the splendor of the Lord known among the people.

## 07 > Thursday | Nigeria

Pray for the safety and security of our superintendents as they travel throughout the country. Ask the Father to provide workers, resources and open doors for the expansion of the Kingdom in Nigeria.

## 08 > Friday | Latin America

Pray for Beth Gómez as she travels throughout Latin America with Ricardo. Ask the Father to help her reflect His love to everyone she serves. **Birthday: Beth Gómez**

## 09 > Saturday | Oceania

Ask the Lord to raise up workers for Australia, Creative Access-MY and New Zealand. People who can plant churches and assist in developing the ministries in these countries.

## 10 > Sunday | Latin American Children

Kay Stotts Godoy is committed to the holistic development of children across the area. Pray for her as she leads a team that is implementing the *Raices* (Roots) curriculum and training children's workers in 16 countries throughout Latin America. **Birthday: Kay Stotts Godoy**

## 11 > Monday | FMWM Missionary Care

Pray for Art and Sylvia Brown as they assist in missionary care by encouraging, coaching and resourcing a team of couples who provide pastoral care to our FMWM missionaries. **Birthday: Sylvia Brown (U.S.-Based Partner)**

## 12 > Tuesday | Creative Access-VN

Please pray for Helri and Phuong as they celebrate one year of their house church, thanking God for His faithfulness and asking for a strong, healthy and mature church. Ask God to provide new leaders to expand the house church movement. **Birthday: Helri (International Missionary)**

## 13 > Wednesday | Panama

One thriving house of peace (house church) has been established and is seeing great fruit through strong discipleship efforts and local leadership development. Pray for Anthony and Lizette Owens as they lead this work and develop relationships in the community.

**Birthday: Anthony Owens (International Missionary)**

## 14 > Thursday | Jordan

As leaders in the church visit in homes and care for families, pray the love of Jesus demonstrated through God's people will be a living testimony to the love and grace found in Christ.

## 15 > Friday | Kenya

Praise the Lord for the work He is doing through Tumaini Women Kenya, which now includes 87 groups serving more than 1,400 members across the country. Please pray for continued fruitfulness as they provide low-interest loans, vocational training, and discipleship to empower women and families.

## 16 > Saturday | Missionary Children

Pray for the missionary children who will graduate from high school or college this month. Ask the Father to guide them in this time of transition and provide them with meaningful relationships and a community of support.

## 17 > Sunday | Scandinavia

Pray for the identification of new leaders and the resources to develop new church plants in Norway, Denmark and Finland.

## 18 > Monday | Democratic Republic of Congo

Please pray for Nundu Hospital and surrounding communities affected by the conflict in Eastern Congo — for safety, provision and strength for medical teams and displaced families.

**Birthday: Connie Kratzer (U.S.-Based Partner)**

## 19 > Tuesday | Middle East

Praise the Lord! In the past year over 500 displaced children and families have experienced Jesus through sports programs, trauma counseling or education. Please pray for these ministries and for continued healing, hope, and transformation.

## 20 > Wednesday | Creative Access-NP

Give thanks for the growing faith, new churches, and trained leaders in the Free Methodist Church in Creative Access-NP. Pray for continued spiritual growth and faithfulness among its 18,000 members as God's Word takes deeper root.

## 21 > Thursday | North Macedonia

Pray for those who work to disciple and train healthy leaders who in turn disciple healthy believers. Pray for the new churches reaching out into their communities.

## 22 > Friday | ICCM

Give thanks for the successful pilot of Wunders menstrual health program in western Rwanda, equipping 69 girls and women. Pray for continued wisdom and impact as the program expands through Kibogora Hospital, local leaders and ICCM schools.

## 23 > Saturday | Philippines

Pray for Roger and Vangie Stone and the translation team they work with as together they finalize the last four books of the New Testament in the Ayta Ambala language.

**Birthday: Roger Stone (Affiliate Missionary)**

## 24 > Sunday | Malawi

Pray for spiritual depth and strength among believers in Malawi and for the multiplication of leaders who are passionate about sharing the gospel.

## 25 > Monday | Europe

As a U.S.-based partner, Cathy Alford continues to support the Europe area by providing leadership guidance and helping teams better use their gifts. Please pray for God's wisdom as she carries out the work He has called her to do.

**Birthday: Cathy Alford (U.S.-Based Partner)**

## 26 > Tuesday | Colombia

Pray for Susanna Castro as she pastors the church in Medellín. Pray for healthy and fruitful disciples and community transformation.

**Birthday: Susanna Castro (International Missionary)**

## 27 > Wednesday | Set Free Movement

Kevin Austin leads the Set Free Movement around the world. Pray that as he lives in the faithfulness of the Lord he will have "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow."

**Birthday: Kevin Austin**

## 28 > Thursday | Fiji

Pray for Tessie and Ian as they begin service in Fiji — mentoring leaders, discipling young people and finding open doors for evangelism.

**Birthday: Ian Norris (International Missionary)**

## 29 > Friday | Sierra Leone

Pray for Kallon Lansana, a Wesley Missionary Institute graduate, who recently became the leader in Sierra Leone. Ask God to give him wisdom as he guides this church-information.

## 30 > Saturday | Honduras

The baton of leadership for the Honduras mission district recently passed from Pastor Manuel Herrera to Pastora Sarahi Nuñez. Pray both will be able to strengthen the body as they serve in their areas of gifting.

## 31 > Sunday | African European Church Network

Pray for African leaders across the continent of Europe as they partner together to serve the African diaspora and plant churches among Africans and Europeans.

*"It is possible to move men, through God, by prayer alone."*

— Hudson Taylor