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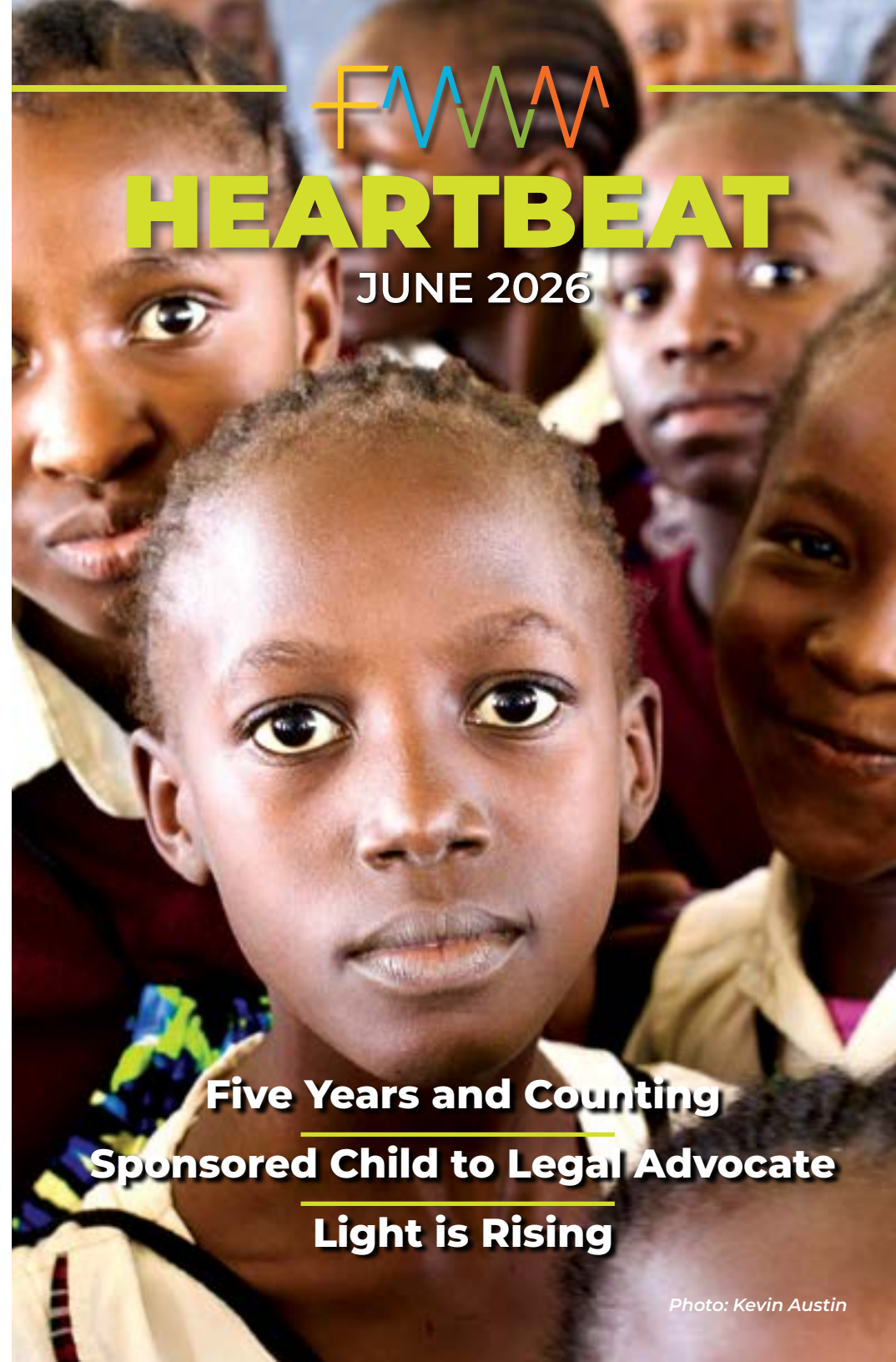
# HEARTBEAT

JUNE 2026

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



# HEARTBEAT

JUNE 2026

**Five Years and Counting**  
**Sponsored Child to Legal Advocate**  
**Light is Rising**

*Photo: Kevin Austin*

# Five YEARS and Counting

By Emily Hlavka Freed, Program Director for Wunders

Five years ago, in a small but determined act of faith and love, the first Wunders menstrual health kits were stitched, packed and placed into the hands of girls who needed them most. What might have looked like a simple kit was — and still is — something far greater: a tangible sign of hope, dignity and a future where girls can stay in school and thrive.

The Wunders kit represents more than menstrual supplies. It tells a girl, you matter. It says her education matters. Her health matters. Her story matters.

Wunders Kenya was born after witnessing a deep and painful reality within Free Methodist communities: Too many girls were missing school — or leaving school entirely — because of menstruation. Early research uncovered not only material shortages, but also the weight of shame and silence surrounding menstrual health. The taboo nature of the topic left girls isolated, uninformed and vulnerable.

We recently heard from an International Child Care Ministries sponsored girl in Burundi who bravely shared her experience:

*I used some dirty pieces of clothes and suffered from infections that hardly healed. I was afraid to share about it as it was shameful .... However, I had no choice because sanitary pads are too expensive. Today, I understand that I have a God Who has created me in His image .... No more shame! I am so happy to have the Wunders kits with my friends and learn how to deal with the pain. I can go to school or anywhere without worries because I know I am safe and clean. Thank you .... these beautiful gifts have changed our lives here in Burundi by bringing us back hope and confidence!*



Photos: Kevin Austin

Her words echo the heart of Wunders: restoring confidence and replacing shame with truth.

Wunders creates impact in three powerful ways: sustainable livelihood creation, locally informed education, and reusable menstrual-health kits. These efforts create ripples of transformation within communities. The Wunders curriculum reminds girls they are wonderfully made in God's image while providing essential menstrual health education, anti-human-trafficking awareness, and care instructions for their kits.

Since 2021, more than 6,000 menstrual health kits have been distributed, meaning more than 6,000 girls have been equipped not just with supplies, but with encouragement, knowledge and hope.

Today, we celebrate five years of Wunders. Five years of courage. Five years of confidence restored. As we look ahead, we are filled with anticipation for all the ways girls and women will continue to flourish through Wunders.

Learn more at [wunderspartners.org](https://wunderspartners.org).



# From Sponsored Child to

# Legal Advocate

**By Amber Jennings, ICCM Strategic Programs Manager**

*Photo supplied by Lillian*

History was made in the High Court of Kenya — but few realized. The person behind this victory was Lillian Nyangasi Kanji, a determined legal advocate whose faith had carried her into the fight against human trafficking and through Kenya's first successful anti-trafficking case.

When she learned she had won, Lillian was shocked. "Human traffickers and criminal gangs are well connected," she said. "It was assurance that God sees the plight of victims. I give my best, and He's able to do the rest." Her story is a powerful reminder of how God advances His kingdom through faithful obedience, one life at a time.

Lillian's journey toward legal advocacy began years ago. Growing up, she witnessed injustices in her community. Those experiences, combined with her faith in Christ and scriptural understanding, shaped her calling. She came to understand how God's heart beats especially for the hungry, the poor and the oppressed — and she felt compelled to do the very work of God.

As the daughter of Free Methodist pastors, Lillian also understood sacrifice. Pastoral wages were rarely enough to cover her education, especially while her parents served as missionaries. Through sponsorship from International Child Care Ministries (ICCM), Lillian received support from elementary school through high school in Uganda. "The money my dad earned as a

lumberjack was used for food, survival and medicine," she explains. "ICCM came in at a very critical stage." That support didn't just fund her education — it preserved a calling.

Today, Lillian is providing support structures for the younger generation. Through her work with Thrive, a ministry of the Set Free Movement, she helps protect and empower vulnerable children. Thrive began in 2016 when FM missionary Vickie Reynen started a Bible study group for eight teenage girls, including Lillian. Today, it has grown into eight Thrive Junior groups across Kenya.

Thrive leaders provide mentoring and preventative education on human trafficking, while partnering with Wunders to equip girls with menstrual health-management skills. "Because menstruation is a taboo topic, our sessions are the first time many girls can talk about it," Lillian shares. "They see us as older sisters ... and they have so many questions, we rarely have enough time."

Still, Lillian presses forward with hope. "Every seed you sow in another life counts," she says. "Sometimes the tree may grow slowly like a bamboo tree or faster like an orange tree, but there is so much impact in communities for every seed that is planted." And through Lillian's life, that impact continues to multiply.

# Light is Rising!



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

At first glance, the Philippines appears vibrant, colorful and friendly — colorful jeepneys humming through the streets, children laughing, and neighbors who welcome you like family. It is a country rich in beauty, hospitality and resilience. But behind this beauty and life, a painful truth hides in the shadows — one far too many children are living every day.

The Philippines has emerged as a global hub for child pornography.<sup>1</sup> According to International Justice Mission, nearly 500,000 children were trafficked into the child-pornography industry in 2022 alone.<sup>2</sup> These are not statistics. These are sons and daughters, neighbors and classmates — children whose innocence is being stolen behind closed doors and computer screens.

Yet even in the darkest places, light is rising.

The Free Methodist Church in the Philippines is standing firmly against the evils of human trafficking, grounding its mission in justice and a deep value and love for children. Alongside them, International Child Care Ministries is actively supporting 827 children through sponsorship, meeting practical needs while restoring hope, dignity and safety.

For the past seven years, the Set Free Movement has also carried a small but powerful presence in the Philippines. Led by Ken Baldo and her husband, Jemuel, the work began in Manila and has recently expanded into Luzon. Their mission is simple but urgent: educate children in public schools, raise awareness, and equip young people to stay safe online. Prevention is protection — and knowledge can mean the difference between safety and exploitation.

The Set Free Movement exists to mobilize people and institutions to take real action against human trafficking. We equip leaders. We believe in multiplication. And we believe transformation happens when ordinary people say “yes” to protecting the vulnerable.

But the need is overwhelming.

We need to do more.

We are uniting together to do more.

And with your help, we can do more.

Set Free has an audacious vision: to expand our work in the Philippines from one location to five by 2027. In 2026, we will partner with local churches in the Philippines through **Freedom Sunday**, raising awareness and equipping communities to protect their children.

With God's help, child-exploitation statistics can be reduced. More children can be protected. Freedom can replace fear. Hope can rise where harm once reigned.

You can be part of this story. Pray for the children, pray for the leaders and pray for the movement!

Together, we are agents of hope and healing.

Together, we can help set children free.

Light is Rising!

**Give to support the work in the Philippines:**

<https://tinyurl.com/SFMPPhilippines>

<sup>1</sup> [Unicef - National Study on Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in the Philippines](#)

<sup>2</sup> [International Justice Mission - 1 in 100 Sexually Exploited in Livestreams...](#)

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# JUNE PRAYER GUIDE

## 01 > Monday | Mozambique

Pray for God's provision and healing in Mozambique — strengthening church leadership, restoring theological training, supporting health ministries, providing needed resources and workers, and bringing resilience and hope amid ongoing hardship.

## 02 > Tuesday | Latin America

Missionary Shane Jewell requests prayer for the continued growth of the VISA program in Latin America. As more churches send teams, please pray for wisdom, creativity and discernment to connect U.S. churches and Latin American churches in meaningful ways that foster lasting relationships.

**Birthdays: Shane Jewell**

## 03 > Wednesday | Ukraine

Pray for God's loving protection over Lena and Misha Petrochenko and their three children — physical safety, emotional strength and deep spiritual health. Ask God to sustain them through the pain and trauma of ministering during a war.

**Birthdays: Lena Petrochenko (International Missionary)**

## 04 > Thursday | Middle East

Please pray for the 4,500 groups gathering regularly to study God's Word and serve their neighbors. Many of these groups meet in conflict zones. Pray for protection, courage and perseverance — and that their witness would bring hope, healing and peace to their communities.

## 05 > Friday | Asia

Pray for restraint, justice and lasting peace across Asia, asking God to guide leaders in being peacemakers, remembering Jesus' words: *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God"* (Matthew 5:9). **Birthdays: Elizabeth Opena (U.S.-Based Partner); Susan (Affiliate Missionary)**

## 06 > Saturday | Cameroon

Thank the Lord for a new church plant in Bamenda, Cameroon. Pray for those who are boldly sharing the good news of Jesus in three other new communities. Ask the Lord to bless these church plants and grant wisdom to their leaders.

## 07 > Sunday | Mexico

Two annual conferences in Mexico will convene this month. Please pray for Bishop Hector as he presides, and for the unity of the Spirit in all that takes place.

## 08 > Monday | Spain

Pray for 8,000 villages without an evangelical presence. Ask the Father to give Spirit-led strategies to reach the 10 million people living in these communities.

## 09 > Tuesday | Japan

As Gene Hall serves in Japan, pray his life will reflect how much he loves Jesus — and that his answer will be "yes" to Him every day. **Birthdays: Gene Hall**

## 10 > Wednesday | São Tomé & Príncipe

Pray for Jacione as she serves in São Tomé and Príncipe, asking God to strengthen her family, bless her discipleship ministry, and guide her in raising up new leaders for the church.

**Birthdays: Jacione Souza (International Missionary)**

## 11 > Thursday | Creative Access-PN

Pray for open doors and lasting impact for a new effort to plant churches among emancipated indentured servants — those who have worked in the brick kilns.

## 12 > Friday | Europe

Pray for Area Director Josh Fajardo. Ask God to grant him wisdom and guidance, open doors to purposeful relationships, shape his heart to reflect Jesus with humility and grace, and deepen his understanding of God's love.

**Birthdays: Josh Fajardo**

## 13 > Saturday | Panama

As Brook and his wife, Susan, begin their ministry in Panama, pray that Brook would experience Jesus' nearness in fresh ways and develop deep, meaningful connections with the people and culture of Panama. **Birthdays: Brook Selby**

## 14 > Sunday | Uganda

Discipleship Focused Entrepreneurship Clubs are finding success in soap making. Pray for the spiritual development of those involved and a growing impact in communities.

## 15 > Monday | Missionary Care

Please pray for the team providing pastoral care for our missionaries — Guy and Betsy Crawford in Latin America, Phil and Debra Gilmore in Europe, Larry Light in Africa, Todd and Deann Miller in Europe, and Mark and Judy Morrison in Asia.

**Birthdays: Art Brown (U.S.-Based Partner)**

## 16 > Tuesday | Albania

Pray for Algent Bregu as he leads the ministry in Albania, asking God to bless the newly initiated Bible study groups, strengthen relationships, and bring fruit through the training of disciple makers.

**Birthday: Algent Bregu (Affiliate Missionary)**

## 17 > Wednesday | Greece

Pray God will continue to give Maria Long strength and comfort, granting her wisdom, cultural understanding and renewed energy as she serves people from many backgrounds. Ask the Holy Spirit to sustain her and encourage her in seasons of joy and seasons of loneliness.

**Birthday: Maria Long**

## 18 > Thursday | Ghana

Pray for God to raise up workers, provide resources and protect the church in Ghana as it grows disciples, develops leaders, and pursues church planting and community development.

## 19 > Friday | Egypt

Pray for God's protection over the hearts and minds of youth and young adults, that they would not be conformed to the patterns of the world but be transformed by His truth, standing firm in Christ amid competing influences.

## 20 > Saturday | ICCM

Pray for families and children in Malawi who depend on maize for daily food, especially in areas where farming is difficult. Thank God for His provision for sponsored children. Pray for ongoing food security, dependable rainfall, and for God to strengthen ICCM as they care for families facing hunger.

## 21 > Sunday | Creative Access-HK

Join the FM churches in this country in praying for God to raise up and train new young leaders, renew creativity in sharing the gospel, strengthen outreach and church planting, and send missionaries boldly into the harvest.

## 22 > Monday | Rwanda/South Korea

**Rwanda:** The Nzungize family returns to the U.S for continued education. Pray for the entire family as they readjust to life in the United States. **Birthday: Rachel Nzungize**

**South Korea:** Pray God will raise a national leader to reestablish a presence for the FMC in South Korea.

**Birthday: Trevor Foley (Affiliate Missionary)**

## 23 > Tuesday | Hungary

Zsuzsa Mecséri-McNamara and her team are planning for camps at the children's home in July. Please pray God's Word would touch each child's heart, and that they would personally experience His love. Pray lasting seeds of hope, healing and protection will be planted in their lives. **Birthday: Zsuzsa Mecséri-McNamara (International Missionary)**

## 24 > Wednesday | El Salvador

Please pray for Esteban Flores as he leads JUMELI and mentors young leaders across Latin America. Pray for wisdom, strength and unity as he supports Free Methodist ministry in El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

**Birthday: Esteban Flores (International Missionary)**

## 25 > Thursday | The Holy Land

Pray for Spirit-led breakthroughs among Orthodox Jews, Arab Muslims and the people of Gaza, asking the Lord to provide opportunities and boldness for believers to share the gospel.

## 26 > Friday | South Sudan

Pray for peace and unity among the communities of South Sudan, asking God to use the church to lead in the way of peace and demonstration of unity in the body of Christ.

## 27 > Saturday | Creative Access- IN

Despite opposition in this country, pray for the continued growth and discipleship of Free Methodist believers and the development of faithful next-generation leaders.

## 28 > Sunday | Set Free Movement

Pray for the growing Set Free work in the Philippines. Ask God to guide and strengthen the development of new leaders and teams as well as the promotion of Freedom Sunday and youth gatherings. Pray He will continue to move powerfully, granting wisdom and favor as this work moves forward.

## 29 > Monday | Colombia

Please pray for God's guidance and provision as the church in Colombia celebrates their new provisional annual conference status and navigates the selection of the first superintendent.

**Birthday: Thad Roller**

## 30 > Tuesday | 360 Mission District

Pray the Holy Spirit will continue to guide Dennis Leon as he establishes churches and develops leaders within the beach communities. **Birthday: Dennis Leon**

*"When we rely upon organization, we get what organization can do; when we rely upon education, we get what education can do; when we rely upon eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. But when we rely upon prayer, we get what God can do."*

— A.C. Dixon