

**Free Methodist World Missions**  
PO Box 57710  
Indianapolis, IN 46251  
800-342-5531

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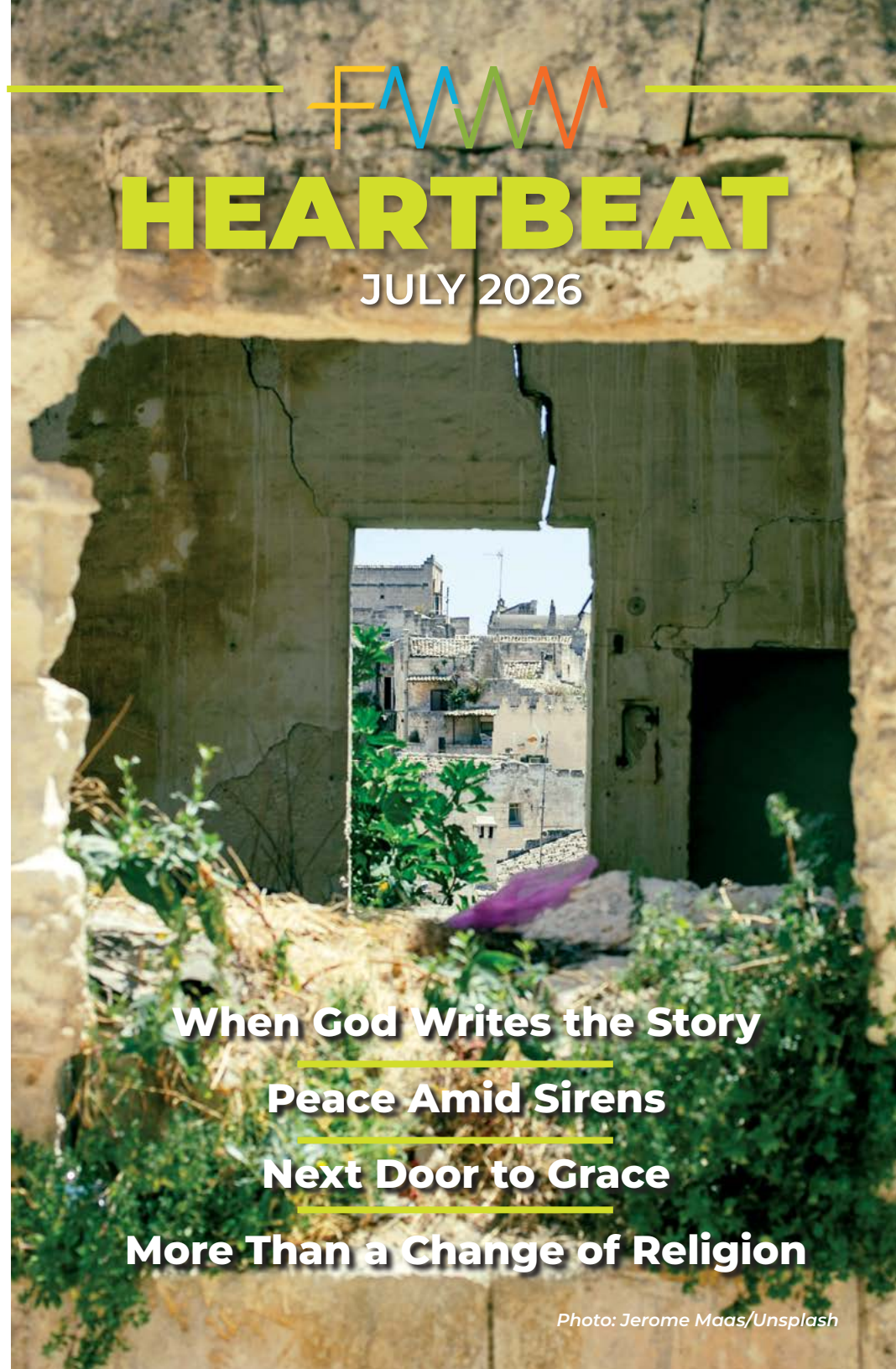
# HEARTBEAT

JULY 2026

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

PUBLICATIONS AGREEMENT NO. 40716549  
STATION A, P.O. BOX 54  
WINDSOR, ON N9A 6J5 CANADA  
EMAIL: [CPCRETURNS@WDSMAIL.COM](mailto:CPCRETURNS@WDSMAIL.COM)

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



# HEARTBEAT

JULY 2026

**When God Writes the Story**

**Peace Amid Sirens**

**Next Door to Grace**

**More Than a Change of Religion**

*Photo: Jerome Maas/Unsplash*

# When *God* Writes the Story

By An Impact Middle East Worker

Their lives were marked by loss and persecution. Yet in the darkest moments, God was quietly writing a story of hope.

Nadia's\* journey began with deep sorrow. She lost her father, and then – only six months later – her mother passed away. She and her siblings moved in with their uncle, a strict religious sheikh. Soon Nadia was expected to work to support herself and her younger brother.

God was already at work. Nadia found a job in a knitting workshop owned by an Orthodox Christian family. The owner's wife treated her with unusual kindness and shared with her about Christ and the cross. One day, gathering courage, Nadia asked for a Bible. When she opened it, her eyes fell on Psalms 27:10: *"Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me."*

The words pierced her heart. In that moment, she felt embraced by a Heavenly Father Who had

never abandoned her. Tears filled her eyes as she experienced the love of God.

But her growing faith did not go unnoticed. When her uncle discovered crosses she had drawn in her room, he reacted with anger and violence. He forbade her from returning to work and instead enrolled her in an Islamic memorization center, hoping to redirect her path.

Yet the Lord's plans cannot be stopped. At the center, Nadia met Tariq's sister – and soon after, Tariq\*.

Tariq carried his own deep wounds. Because of his Christian faith, he had lost his marriage under intense pressure and threats. Within days, he was separated from his wife and his daughter, Lara. Broken and weary, he turned to the Lord, clinging to the quiet guidance of the Holy Spirit: *"Do not rely on your own understanding."*

When Tariq and Nadia met, something beautiful

unfolded. Tariq spoke openly and naturally about the Lord in every part of life. Nadia asked him plainly, "Are you truly a Christian?" Without hesitation, he answered, "Yes." She replied softly, "I also believe in Jesus the Savior."

In that moment, they both recognized God had been writing their story long before they met.

They married, placing their trust not in wealth or security, but in their shared faith and commitment to Christ. God blessed them with children – Lara, Elias (who later went to be with the Lord) and Miriam.

Through loss, persecution, sorrow and unexpected grace, Tariq and Nadia came to understand a profound truth: God shapes our lives according to His wisdom. Even when father and mother forsake us, the Lord receives us. And with grateful hearts, they say: Thanks be to God for everything!

\*The names have been changed for security.

Photo: Sara Colado/Unsplash



Photo: Seiya Maeda/Unsplash

# Peace AMID SIRENS

**By An Impact Middle East Worker**

When panic filled the call, one voice rose in prayer – and everything changed.

During a recent Impact Middle East Zoom call, the sound of sirens blared in the background as Hannah\* spoke. Her face became etched with fear and worry. She sat huddled inside her home with her four children, terrified of another missile attack. Earlier that week, a missile had fallen near the church she attends.

Iman\*, a Muslim background believer from another country, unmuted herself, and began to pray with Hannah. In the minutes that followed, Hannah's body began to relax, and her spirit was filled with peace. God's presence displaced the overwhelming fear she had experienced shortly before. Iman spoke with confidence, for she had seen God come through for her amid persecution when she became a believer. Everyone on the call felt God's peace as Iman prayed – a reminder that God, Emmanuel, is with us.

*\*The names have been changed for security.*



Photo: Sayan Nath/Unsplash

**By An Impact Middle East Worker**

Some time ago, I started a home meeting in Bahij village – Assiut. I prayed much before beginning, and I personally went from house to house inviting people to attend the meeting. At first, things were simple. But there was a young woman in the village who, every time I invited her, refused strongly and spoke very harshly about us.

One day she told me plainly: “I don't like you, and I don't like your worship, because you are heretics.”

Her words were painful, but I decided to keep praying, loving and continuing the ministry without arguing.

The remarkable thing was, she lived next door to the house where we held the meeting. Each time, without coming inside, she heard our prayers, our worship and the Word of God proclaimed. Time passed ... and the Word was quietly working in her heart.

Then one day, something unexpected happened. The woman walked into our meeting. At first, she just sat and watched. Then she began singing with us. After that, she started praying.

At one of the meetings, she stood in front of everyone and said:

*I want to confess something to you all ... I had a completely wrong idea about you. I didn't like you. But when I came in and listened to you, I realized that everything I thought was wrong. I'm sorry ... please forgive me. Pray that God would forgive me.*

Her confession was deeply moving – not only because of her apology, but because we witnessed how God can change a person's heart from rejection and hostility to love and surrender.

What is even more beautiful is that she eventually went beyond simply attending our meetings. She opened her home to begin a house church and started inviting others who may have once held the same misconceptions. What began as harsh rejection turned into a powerful testimony of God's power to transform hearts!

# MORE THAN a Change of *Religion*

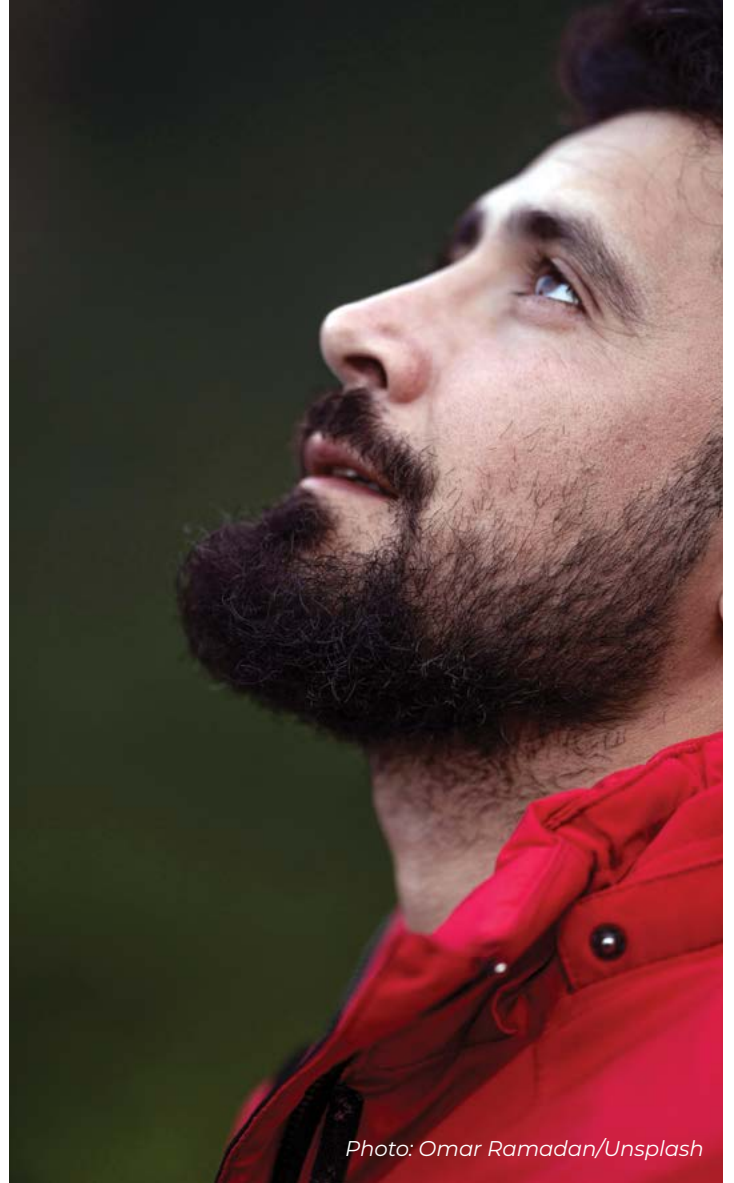
*By An Impact Middle East Worker*

On the surface, Sameh\* seemed like an ordinary man. He was 37 years old, married, and had three children – but inside, he was broken. He entered the world of drugs early in his life, and over time, he became enslaved to addiction. He tried everything, and each time he would say, “This is the last time,” but that “last time” was always followed by something even more difficult.

In a moment of deep struggle, he felt abandoned by God and misunderstood by the church, so his heart turned toward Islam. He converted, believing that changing his religion would ease the pain within him. For a while, he experienced a sense of relief – structure, order, and clear boundaries. But eventually, he realized the problem was not external. It wasn’t in a name or form. The issue was deeper: a heart in need of healing, not just a change of label.

Alone one night, after falling back into addiction, he cried out from his heart: “God, if You truly exist, show me Your way ... I’m tired.”

That night became the turning point. He remembered Christ – not as a religion, but as a person he had once known and missed. He began a true journey of repentance. It was not quick or easy but filled with struggle, tears – God’s grace. He returned to faith in Christ, this time with a true understanding of grace and forgiveness.



*Photo: Omar Ramadan/Unsplash*

Sameh became a preacher – not through words, but through his life. He opened his small home, and it became a house church. Broken people like him – addicts, the lost, the doubting – found a safe place, simple prayer, an open Bible and a loving heart.

He often says, “I didn’t come back strong ... I came back slowly, humbly, knowing I need Christ every day.”

Sameh’s story is a testimony that God never grows tired of us. His way is always open – even if we have wandered far away.

*\*For security purposes, the name and photo are not that of the actual person.*

Vol. 8 No. 7 JULY 2026

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](mailto: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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# JULY PRAYER GUIDE

## 01 > **Wednesday** | **Missionary Children & Families**

Ask God to give Wendy Lorenz wisdom as she supports children and families living outside their passport cultures. Ask God to guide our missionary families through transitions and navigation of new friendships. **Birthday: Wendy Lorenz**

## 02 > **Thursday** | **Cambodia**

Pray for students who will be learning Inductive Bible Study this week during a module of Gethsemane Leadership Training.

## 03 > **Friday** | **Holy Land**

Pray for a local Palestinian pastor who has partnered with IME. Ask the Father to encourage him amid the ongoing challenges – war, discrimination, restricted movement and long-term uncertainty. Pray he will faithfully bear witness to the kingdom.

## 04 > **Saturday** | **Cameroon**

Pray for God's provision for several ministries in Cameroon – church-planter training, the primary school, motorbikes for pastors and land for church buildings.

## 05 > **Sunday** | **Spain/Creative Access-CA**

**Spain:** Pray for the Mosaico Center, asking God to inspire creativity and vision for reaching the community more effectively. **Birthday: Susy Fajardo**

**Creative Access-CA:** Pray for resilient leaders and gospel messengers serving in this country.

**Birthday: Randy (Affiliate Missionary)**

## 06 > **Monday** | **Argentina**

Pray for Pastora Silvia, a national pastor, who assumed the role of mission district leader in late April. Ask the Father to give her wisdom and grace as she leads the FMC in Argentina.

## 07 > **Tuesday** | **FMWM**

Pray all members of the FMC would grow in understanding and love for the nations God loves, inspiring them to pray for and engage with people who have yet to hear about Jesus.

**Birthday: Jan Coates (FMWM Communications Coordinator)**

## 08 > **Wednesday** | **Creative Access Asia**

Most missiologists consider the world of Muslims as collectively the largest unreached people group. Pray for believers in strategic locations across Asia to show God's love to their Muslim neighbors, and for open doors to share Jesus.

**Birthday: Adam**

## 09 > **Thursday** | **Greece**

Thank the Lord for the open door among Iranian and Afghan families living in Greece. Ask the Lord to bless their hunger to know about Jesus and deepen their understanding of the Word.

## 10 > **Friday** | **Eswatini**

The work in Eswatini is under the Mozambique General Conference. Pray for the continued discipleship and training efforts among nationals who can expand the work in Eswatini.

## 11 > **Saturday** | **Southeast Asia/Spain**

**Southeast Asia:** Please pray for Southeast Asia, many migrant workers are ready to hear the gospel. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out more laborers to reap the harvest.

**Birthday: Lena**

**Spain:** Ask God to fill the Arañas with wisdom, discernment, humility and passion to lead with Christ-like hearts. Pray for unity, a bold and loving witness to the gospel, fruitful disciple-making, and a fresh move of God's Spirit throughout Spain.

**Birthday: Raul Araña (International Missionary)**

## 12 > **Sunday** | **Hungary**

A team from the Jackson Free Methodist Church in Michigan will assist with camps at the children's home, July 13-17. Pray for safety, energy and life-changing encounters throughout the week.

## 13 > **Monday** | **Oceania**

Pray for David Clemente as he teaches this fall across Oceania – for safe travel, fruitful preparation and God's guidance as he leads ministry teams to New Zealand and Country-IA in September and October. **Birthday: David Clemente**

## 14 > **Tuesday** | **Middle East**

Pray leaders will daily be reminded that the Lord reigns and gives strength to His people and blesses them with peace (Psalm 29:11).

## 15 > **Wednesday** | **ICCM**

Pray the library project at an ICCM school, College Mixte La Providence in Haiti would inspire a lasting love of reading and expand students' minds and creativity. As this project grows, pray for positive impact on many children.

## 16 > Thursday | Asia/Panama

**Asia:** There are approximately 627 million children in South Asia. Pray our Free Methodist churches will provide opportunities for these children to know Jesus, grow and flourish in hope and purpose.

**Birthday: Sheila (U.S.-Based Partner)**

**Panama:** Pray for the discipleship of one young seeker who can play a key role in reaching college students with the gospel. **Birthday: Lizzette Owens (International Missionary)**

## 17 > Friday | Costa Rica

Praise the Lord! This mission district has 33 houses of peace and many new leaders being developed. Pray for the expanding work of the church as they care for their neighbors and share the good news.

## 18 > Saturday | Japan

Gene Hall will be in the U.S. through the summer visiting churches and individuals for partnership building. Pray for God's protection as he travels and for Minori's wisdom and strength as she carries on work in Japan. **Birthday: Minori Hall**

## 19 > Sunday | Ethiopia

The FMC in Ethiopia is working toward the implementation of a new five-year strategic plan leading the church toward further expansion and sustainability. Ask God to provide them with wisdom and resources.

## 20 > Monday | Set Free Movement

July 20-26 is Freedom Week across the Latin America Area. As leaders educate churches about the realities of human trafficking, pray many will find healthy and creative ways to address the problems in their communities.

## 21 > Tuesday | Paraguay/Philippines

**Paraguay:** Pray the Lord will strengthen Yaneth Aguirre as she mentors and equips leaders in Bolivia and Paraguay, and give her wisdom, energy and grace in all her ministry.

**Birthday: Yaneth Aguirre (International Missionary)**

**Philippines:** Praise the Lord for open doors in campus ministry. Ask God to use classroom opportunities to reach students with the gospel, deepen relationships with teachers and impact many young lives for Christ.

**Birthday: Ammabelle Bacus (International Missionary)**

## 22 > Wednesday | Guinea Conakry

Pray for the further development of a medical center called Cellule Médicale le Moissonneur en Christ (CMMC) in N'zérékoré, the second largest city in Guinea and a major commercial hub in the Forest Region.

## 23 > Thursday | Creative Access- X

Pray for the annual meeting in this country, July 24-26. Ask the Father to give the pastors and leaders strength and provision as they care for their congregations. Pray for hope and perseverance as they faithfully share Christ's love within their communities.

## 24 > Friday | Ecuador

Please pray for Gaby and Dalia as they step into ministry in Ecuador. Ask God to give wisdom, strength and guidance, keeping them faithful and encouraged. Pray also that He would lead them to the right ministry partners to support this work. **Birthday: Dalia Sanchez**

## 25 > Saturday | Tanzania

Pray for the expansion of the church in the Lindi and Mtwara Regions where about 97% of the population are Muslims.

## 26 > Sunday | Bulgaria

Pray for the work at the Pure Farm and for an abundant harvest this year, as the church serves the needy in their communities.

## 27 > Monday | Creative Access-IA

FMWM-Asia leaders and national leaders are exploring new connections. Pray for unity of spirit and vision among the leaders as they seek to reach this nation with the gospel.

## 28 > Tuesday | Zambia

Praise the Lord for the growth of the FMC in Zambia. Ask the Father to strengthen, provide for and protect the pastors as they continue to reach their communities with the gospel.

## 29 > Wednesday | Jordan

Pray for those serving women and refugee families in Jordan. Ask God to help them bring hope, reveal God's love, and empower women and families to discover their value and understand how they can impact in their communities.

## 30 > Thursday | Burundi

Recognizing that children, adolescents and youth make up a substantial portion of the population, the church has targeted programs such as Christian Religious Education in primary and secondary schools, Sunday school training materials, and Community Bible Study. Join them in praying for the discipleship of the next generation.

## 31 > Friday | Peru

The FMC in Peru has a theme for 2026 – "Dependent on His Spirit." Pray this year will be a season of renewed spiritual discernment as they wait on the Lord and seek His direction.

*"Whatever we do, we must not treat the Great Commission like it's the Great Suggestion."*

*— Charles Swindoll*