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HEARTBEAT

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



HEARTBEAT

SEPTEMBER 2026

EQUIPPED TO GO
A DEGREE AND A CALLING
SPARKING A MOVEMENT

CALLED TO *Grow,* EQUIPPED TO *Go*

By Michael Bretton



new season of growth, collaboration and global engagement.

For many years, the U.K./Ireland Conference has been actively engaged in global mission. During the 2026 annual conference, the newly formed Mission Partners Team celebrated the encouraging growth of emerging and established churches made up of people from many nations and cultures. This commitment to welcoming and valuing diverse communities has brought new vitality to the conference, strengthening the Free Methodist family as churches grow and serve together.

As the conference pursues its vision of planting and growing 100 churches by 2034 through



developing and equipping new church-planting teams, leaders also encouraged every church to deepen its engagement with global mission, particularly through partnership with Free Methodist World Missions (FMWM).

To support this vision, a new course launching this autumn will deepen leaders' understanding of the theology of mission and the principles of building effective mission partnerships. The course will be required for all conference ministerial candidates and available to local church mission leaders. Its aim is to cultivate a lasting passion for global mission that shapes both pastoral ministry and church life.

The Mission Partners Team is also partnering with Gerry Coates, director of global engagement, and the FMWM team to provide training for leading fruitful short-term mission trips. FMWM leaders will equip a new U.K.-based team to continue this training in the future. Please pray that as God stirs hearts for mission, this training will inspire and equip new teams to build partnerships that extend far beyond a single trip, creating lasting



relationships where leaders and churches learn from one another across cultures.

Adding to this momentum, Pastor Michael Bretton, a member of the National Mission Partners Team, has been appointed to the European Resource Team. In this role, he will help strengthen connections between U.K. churches and ministry opportunities across Europe, opening doors for future partnerships and collaborative mission efforts.

The opportunities emerging from this year's annual conference to encourage and equip pastors, leaders, and short-term mission teams are both exciting and significant. As the U.K./Ireland Conference continues pursuing its vision for church planting at home while embracing a growing role in global mission, God is opening the door to a promising new season of partnership, ministry and kingdom impact. The vision is not simply to grow churches, but to see churches become active participants in God's mission to the world.

A DEGREE, A CALLING AND A *Faithful God*



By Dee Dee Galloway

Five thousand miles from home, one young woman's journey to graduation became a powerful testimony of God's faithfulness every step of the way.

This past May, Nadezhda Zaharieva celebrated a remarkable milestone. After four years of hard work and the Lord's faithful provision, she graduated from Spring Arbor University, far from her hometown of Kyustendil, Bulgaria.

Nadezhda serves as a student intern with the International Fellowship of Saint John (IFOSJ), the ministry led by FM missionaries Chance and Dee Dee Galloway, who have faithfully served in Bulgaria since 2011. Reflecting on her calling to study education, Nadezhda shares, "The giftings of those around you cannot help but bless and inform your life. Thanks to my family and mentors, I grew up in an environment that cherished learning and nurtured my passionate curiosity."

As the first Bulgarian national to attend college through IFOSJ sponsorship, Nadezhda pursued a major in English secondary education with a minor in psychology. She graduated with E.P. Hart Honors as a student in good standing throughout her studies but must complete a semester of student teaching this fall to fully complete her program.

As graduates tossed their caps and the celebrations ended, a new opportunity to see God's faithfulness arose amid a new challenge. To complete her student-teaching assignment, Nadezhda needed reliable



transportation off campus, but she did not own a vehicle. The Galloways shared her need with supporters and joined Nadezhda in praying for God's provision.

God answered those prayers in a tangible way. By the end of June, a generous couple from a Michigan church offered to loan their vehicle to Nadezhda for the summer and fall semester, ensuring she could complete her student-teaching requirement. Once again, God proved Himself faithful.

Through her years at Spring Arbor, Nadezhda learned more than academic lessons. She also learned God is trustworthy. When asked what she gained from her college experience, she responds with confidence: "Hope and trust in the Lord, for He has plans for you and will provide the strength to sustain you through them."

Nadezhda's story highlights the rippling impact of empowering and discipling national leaders. Speaking of the Galloways' influence, she says, "The Galloways have always pointed me to Christ and the Holy Spirit to discern what His will is for me, and then faithfully disciplined me through all seasons. The steadfast love and support they have abundantly given me has helped me continue to walk in courage and grow in love, and I couldn't be more grateful."

SPARKING A Movement

By Alexa Carney

Before arriving at the Awakening Conference in Munich, I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but by the end of the weekend, I had witnessed how God is moving through young people across Europe in incredible ways.

I had the privilege of accompanying several young people from across Europe to attend this conference, and from the moment we arrived, meaningful connections began to form. Young adults from various churches and ministries shared stories of the ways God had been at work in their communities. As conversations continued, we realized these were not isolated experiences. God was moving in similar ways across towns, cities and nations.

Throughout the conference, young leaders shared testimonies of ministries that had started with humble beginnings and just a few people – a Bible study, a football game or a small group – taking a step of faith. Following God's leading, these simple beginnings grew into thriving ministries, gospel-centered communities and worship gatherings reaching hundreds of people. God birthed new ministries, opened doors, softened hearts and created opportunities as young people followed His lead.

During this weekend conference, young people recognized God was not working in just one place



but across Europe and beyond. As friendships formed and stories were shared, many found renewed joy and encouragement for both ministry and personal spiritual growth.

It became clear this movement was expanding. Young adults were affirmed that they matter to the church, the body of Christ. Many participants left with fresh vision for the future and for what God may be calling them to do next. Some felt inspired to begin new ministries, while others returned home with greater passion for the work they were already doing.

The goal of the Awakening Conference was simple: to connect young people with God and with one another. Through the testimonies, worship and relationships built throughout the weekend, that goal was unquestionably achieved.

What began as a gathering quickly became a catalyst for transformation. Many left encouraged by what God had already accomplished and energized to join Him in the work still ahead.

Vol. 8 No. 9 SEPTEMBER 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

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 > Tuesday | Zimbabwe

In July, Bishop Isaiah Masiya passed away unexpectedly. Please pray for wisdom, peace and unity as the general conference navigates this sudden leadership transition and seeks God's guidance for the future.

02 > Wednesday | ICCM

Praise God for the launch of an ICCM program in Senegal. Please pray God will provide committed sponsors to support this important work. Also, lift up the ICCM team traveling to Sénégal this month – praying for guidance, safety and a fruitful ministry.

03 > Thursday | Southeast Asia

Please pray Seth Van Tiffin will continue to walk closely with Jesus, seeking His wisdom, humility and strength in all things. Ask the Lord to guide and direct him as he leads In Better Hands, granting him discernment, clarity and a servant's heart as he faithfully serves those entrusted to his care.

Birthday: Seth Van Tiffin

04 > Friday | Creative Access- RA

Pray for the Holy Spirit's direction as pastors and leaders gather for the annual meeting September 4-6. Ask God to give them unity of heart and mind as they work to transform their communities by the power of the gospel.

05 > Saturday | Creative Access-VN

Pray Hieu and Ai will have deepening relationships with God and others. Join them in praying that many people will learn to follow Jesus through their developing house church.

Birthday: Ai (International Missionary)

06 > Sunday | Thailand

Ask the Father to give Jason and Wendi's family wisdom and guidance as they navigate transitions at home with older children going off to college and younger children adjusting to siblings leaving home. **Birthday: Jason**

07 > Monday | Guinea Conakry

Pray for the church in Coyah as they begin an agricultural project – planting peanuts, sweet potatoes and cassava. Ask the Father to use this to bless the church and community.

08 > Tuesday | Middle East

Pray for the Middle East, that God's righteousness, justice, love and faithfulness would be evident throughout the region. Pray those who walk faithfully in God's presence will be blessed, rejoice in His name and remain steadfast in their faith (Psalms 89:14-16).

09 > Wednesday | Creative Access-X

Please pray for all those recovering in the months following the earthquakes. Ask God to bring comfort, healing and hope. Pray God will strengthen pastors as they care for their congregations and communities and use churches as a powerful witness of Christ's love during this season of rebuilding.

10 > Thursday | Creative Access-HK

Pray for Superintendent Fung Wan and the Free Methodist Church in Hong Kong as they minister in an ever-changing environment. Ask God to grant them wisdom, strength, renewed vision and creativity as they seek to communicate the gospel in their context.

11 > Friday | Europe

Ask God to provide wisdom and strength for Paulo Bettiol as he assists the Europe Area director with administration and support of missionaries and leaders across Europe.

Birthday: Paulo Bettiol (International Missionary)

12 > Saturday | São Tomé and Príncipe

Praise God for providing land for the FMC. Please pray for God's provision, wisdom and guidance as they begin construction of the church, daycare center, accommodations and a parsonage, with the intent of blessing children, families and the entire community.

Birthday: Moisés Souza (International Missionary)

13 > Sunday | Brazil

Praise God for the large enrollment in Hope Owsley's Theology of John Wesley class (September 7-November 9). Please pray students will grow in their love for God and have a deepened understanding of His Word as they are impacted by the study of John Wesley's sermons. **Birthday: Hope Owsley**

14 > Monday | Italy

In April, four churches in the province of Parma began the affiliation process with FMWM Europe. Pray for lead pastors Aldo and Mariela as they provide leadership to this work.

"Some of us are senders and some are goers. Neither is more important than the other. Neither is possible without the other."

— David Sills, *The Missionary Call*

15 > **Tuesday** | **Mozambique**

Praise God for the consecration of António Manuel Muti as the new bishop of Mozambique on July 5. Please pray the Holy Spirit will grant him wisdom, discernment and strength as he begins this new role.

16 > **Wednesday** | **Australia**

Pray for ongoing conversations, connections and formation of work among several immigrant communities – Filipino, Tongan and African – asking God to use these immigrant groups to bring revival to this nation.

17 > **Thursday** | **Iraq**

Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit as church leaders witness unprecedented opportunities to share the gospel. Ask God to open hearts to His message and bless the plans to begin ministry in a new refugee camp.

18 > **Friday** | **Guatemala**

This church-in-formation gathers for its second annual meeting September 18-20. Pray for God's provision as together they seek to develop healthy relationships, provide transformational ministries, and share the good news of Jesus.

19 > **Saturday** | **Togo**

Pray for the expansion of church planting in Togo, including three new fellowships starting in Lomé and their vision for another 25 across the country.

20 > **Sunday** | **Latin America**

Praise God for the Empowering Holistic Transformation team in Latin America. There are now 115 initiatives across 14 countries with 1,220 monthly volunteers serving through relief, education, health, agriculture and microenterprise. Pray God will continue to bless these efforts and partnerships bringing lasting transformation. **Birthday: Tanya Rosado**

21 > **Monday** | **Rwanda**

Praise God for the new CT scanner at Kibogora Hospital, one of only nine in Rwanda. As we give thanks for this important addition, please continue to pray for the hospital's ministry, that it would effectively care for both the physical and spiritual needs of patients and be a powerful witness of Christ's healing and hope.

22 > **Tuesday** | **Europe**

Please pray for Todd and Deann Miller as they provide care and support for our missionaries in Europe. Pray for strength, encouragement, and God's sustaining grace as Todd continues treatment for a brain tumor, and ask the Lord to grant him healing, peace and renewed strength for each day.

Birthday: Deann Miller (Missionary Care – Europe)

23 > **Wednesday** | **Creative Access-PN**

Pray for pastors and leaders attending the Gethsemane Leadership Training module on Foundations of Christian Theology (September 23-25). Ask God to bless the students and teachers with wisdom and help them apply what they learn in their ministries and communities.

24 > **Thursday** | **Haiti**

Please pray for the ministries of Dessalines Hospital and the Violet Susanna Wesley clinic as they continue to provide care despite the economic, social and political instability in the country. **Birthday: Dee Ann Snyder (U.S.-Based Partner)**

25 > **Friday** | **Mexico**

The Mexico General Conference convenes September 25-27. Pray for the guidance, wisdom and peace of the Holy Spirit to rest upon each participant, bringing them together in unity of purpose and vision.

26 > **Saturday** | **VISA**

Pray for VISA ministries as they prepare and support teams serving around the world. Ask God to provide wisdom, safety and good health for each team member; to bless their partnerships with international hosts; and to use their service to reflect Christ's love, strengthen His church and advance His kingdom.

27 > **Sunday** | **FMWM**

Please pray for Gerry Coates as he serves the global church through leadership, advocacy and partnership-building. Pray God will give him wisdom, strength and spiritual discernment; deepen key relationships; and use his work to encourage and strengthen believers around the world.

Birthday: Gerry Coates (Director of Global Engagement); Todd Miller (Missionary Care – Europe); Ken Myers (VISA Coordinator)

28 > **Monday** | **Malta**

Although the church in Malta is currently composed of African immigrants, pray new leaders will be raised up who can reach the Maltese people with the gospel.

29 > **Tuesday** | **Set Free Movement**

Pray for Emily Hlavka Freed, the associate director of the Set Free Movement and program director for Wunders, asking God to give her wisdom and encouragement in her work.

30 > **Wednesday** | **Creative Access-IN**

This general conference has ministries including community centers, a hospital, a college of nursing and a college of leadership. Pray these ministries will be spaces for communicating the forgiveness and love of Christ.

"God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him." — Hudson Taylor