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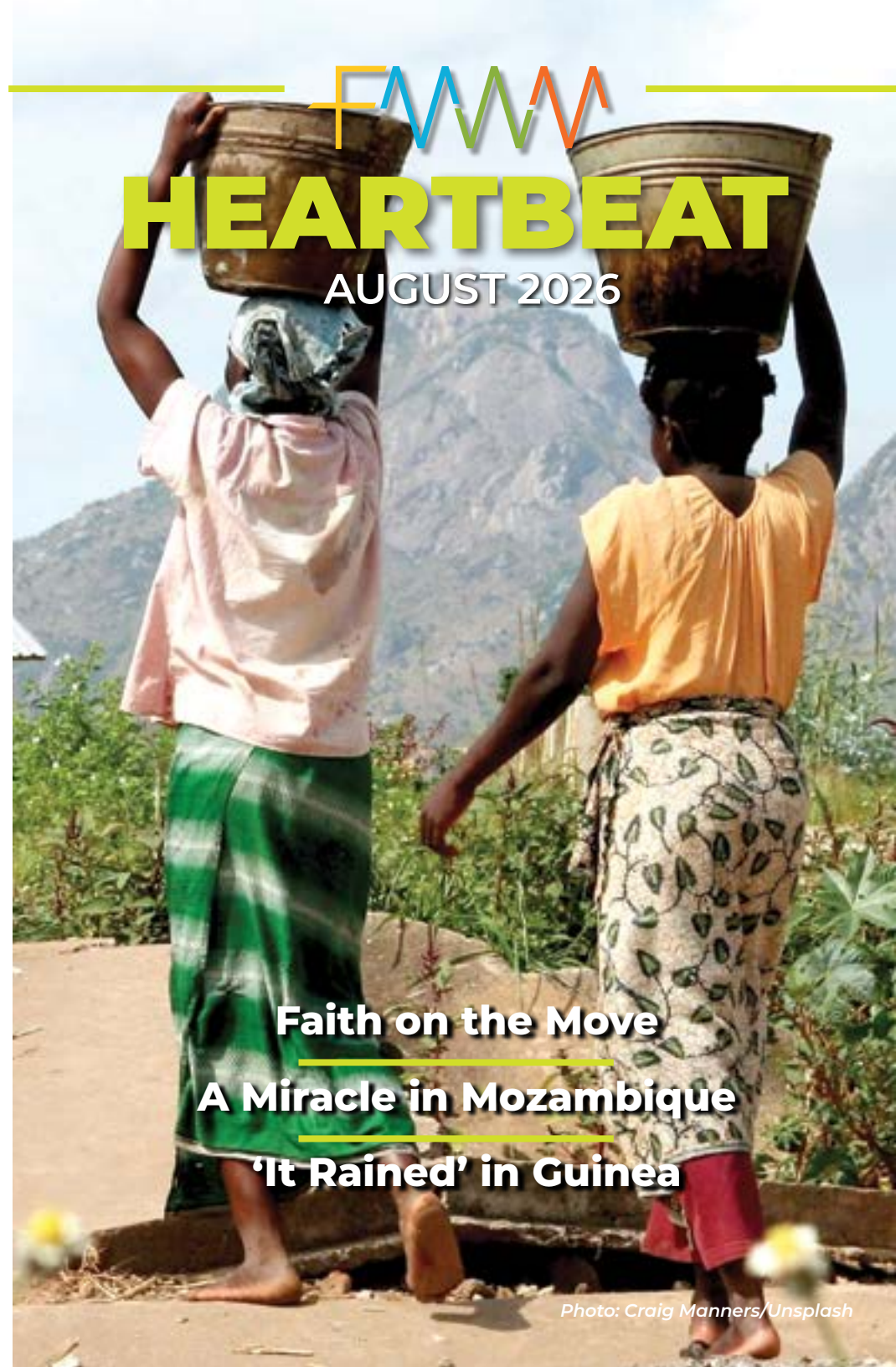
HEARTBEAT

AUGUST 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

AUGUST 2026

Faith on the Move
A Miracle in Mozambique
'It Rained' in Guinea

Photo: Craig Manners/Unsplash

GENTIL'S YES:

Faith on the Move



By Hendrik Smidderks

Something remarkable is unfolding in Togo – quietly, steadily and full of hope. Through faithful obedience and teamwork, new churches are beginning to take root where there was once little gospel witness.

At the center of this work is Gentil (pronounced Jan-tee) Dibalibe, a devoted husband to Caroline Ekpe and father to their three children. Their journey began at Amadahomé Free Methodist Church in Lomé, where they met and married. It was there that Gentil responded to God's call, later training at the Wesley Missionary Institute and graduating in August 2025.

Soon after, a new call emerged. With encouragement from Superintendent Dosseh Takpalé, Gentil accepted an assignment to travel to the rural village of Glainvie Kloképé to

strengthen a small church and plant new ones nearby. Beginning in November 2025, he made the journey by motorcycle – over an hour on rough roads – driven by a desire to reach others with the gospel.

During this time, he discovered the village of Avédjé, home to about 3,500 people. "It is a very amiable and welcoming village," Gentil reported. As he shared the gospel, people responded quickly. "Within just a few days, I was able to win over about 10 people." On December 20, 2025, the first worship service was held in the home of Komi, a man "who possesses great zeal for the Lord."

The work in Kloképé and Avédjé soon gained momentum. In February 2026, visiting missionaries joined local believers on a short walk to an overgrown plot of land offered for a future

church. There, they prayed together, asking God to provide people, resources and a clear mission.

God answered those prayers. "By the grace of God, we have secured a plot of land ... on which to build an apatame," Gentil shared. In May 2026, the first service was held under this simple open-sided shelter made of wood and tree leaves. Today, the young congregation includes about 10 active members and 15 children.

To support the growing ministry, the Wesley Missionary Institute sent three student interns. They are now planting another church in the nearby village of Gbogéré, with plans to continue even farther north.

What began with one man's "yes" to God – one journey, one village, one small gathering – is now beginning to multiply.

A MIRACLE IN MOZAMBIQUE:

When One Church Prayed



By Hendrik Smidderks and Amarildo Manave

Those email prayer requests you scroll past – what if one of them held a miracle waiting to happen? If you ever wondered whether your prayers really make a difference, this story from Mozambique answers with a resounding “yes!”

Jennie grew up in Southern Africa as a missionary kid. In 2016, she returned to Mozambique with a medical team serving at Inhanoi Hospital. While there, she met Amarildo, a local high school English teacher. The two began working together on a multiyear project to create an updated dictionary for the local language, and over time their partnership grew into a meaningful friendship.

One day, Amarildo shared heartbreaking news with Jennie: One of his brothers had been killed in a car accident. This loss devastated the family. Another brother, Roberto, was studying English at the university, but the grief overwhelmed him. He sank into depression and anxiety and eventually left his studies.

After returning to his rural village, Roberto's condition worsened. In his grief, he struggled mentally and spiritually, at times threatening harm to himself and others. In desperation – and with no access to proper care – his family restrained him by chaining him to a tree to protect both him and those around him. One evening he escaped, broke into another property, and was beaten nearly to death.

Despite the fog of his mental illness, Roberto showed moments of awareness. At one point, he reassured Amarildo, saying, “Don’t worry, don’t cry, I’m OK.” Yet, people were fearful, keeping their distance and offering food without coming near him. In desperation, Amarildo asked Jennie to pray. In turn, Jennie asked the small congregation at St. Barnabas Free Methodist Church in Kansas to pray for this young man they had never met.

Soon after, through a miraculous set of circumstances, Amarildo met a doctor experienced in mental health and a remarkable thing happened. The doctor agreed to travel to the village and started Roberto on a home treatment plan.

In the past year, Roberto has experienced significant healing and peace. He is now able to work with his family and is even hoping to get his driver’s license. Amarildo directly credits the prayers of the church in Kansas. With tears he says, “I’m so grateful. We could be telling a different story. I tried everything, and nothing worked until God said it was the right time.”

After Roberto's two-year battle with mental illness, missionaries Hink and Kaylene Smidderks were able to visit him in his village. What a joy to see the fruit of faithful prayers. Your prayers do make a difference!

"It Rained" IN GUINEA

By Rev. Dosseh Takpale

In parts of Guinea, the dry season doesn't just bring thirst – it brings danger, disease and daily struggle for survival. The period from January to April is particularly challenging when it comes to accessing safe drinking water. The scarcity of rainfall has profound consequences for local communities. In the Forest Region, the few available water sources often become places of conflict between residents and animals searching for water. Waterborne diseases are often severe – and sometimes fatal, particularly for children, pregnant women and the elderly.

It is impossible to visit these communities without being deeply moved by their lack of safe water. During my visit to Guéckédou in the Forest Region, alongside a superintendent and pastor from Michigan, we saw firsthand the dangerous quality of the water people consume. In that moment, God placed a fervent desire in our hearts to "make it rain" with clean, safe water.

Through prayer and generous support from members in the southern area of Michigan, the first clouds of hope



began to gather for these communities whose greatest desire was simply the access to clean water essential for their survival.

In April, during the middle of the dry season, when even contaminated water had become scarce, God graciously enabled us to provide safe drinking water to these communities. A borehole was drilled in Foidou, and another was installed on the outskirts of Conakry through combined efforts of dedicated partners, including a missionary in Togo who helped make this project possible.

This "rain" of blessings brought extraordinary joy to the villages and local churches. The quality of life has improved significantly. Beyond its impact on public health, this initiative has also produced remarkable spiritual fruit. In the two communities where the boreholes were installed, four new churches have been planted, demonstrating God's work among the people.

This "abundant rain" in Guinea is a rain that brought life and reflected the abundant life Jesus Christ offers to all.

We pray for "rain" in other villages still waiting and hoping for life giving water!

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AUGUST PRAYER GUIDE

01 > Saturday | Senegal

Exciting things are happening in the FMC in Senegal! Pray for God's help as they seek locally viable and holistic ways to sustain the church's ministries.

02 > Sunday | Young Asian Leaders

Please pray for the young people participating in the Free Youth Asia CONNECT 6.0 online gathering this month. Ask the Father to provide meaningful connection, spiritual growth and unity across cultures.

03 > Monday | Scandinavia

Pray for the identification and development of new leaders to plant churches across the region – Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

04 > Tuesday | Brazil

Please pray for wise and courageous leadership in each conference across Brazil as they navigate increasingly secular ideologies. Ask the Father to empower them to lead with renewed courage and faithfulness to the truth of the gospel, bearing abundant fruit.

05 > Wednesday | Guinea-Bissau

Please pray for the church in Guinea-Bissau as they seek to plant a new congregation. Pray they will abide in Christ and bear lasting fruit (John 15:16-17), leading to unity and love that reflect Christ and draw others to Him.

06 > Thursday | Iraq

Iraq is a land of ancient cities and deep biblical history where God is still at work! Across communities marked by hardship, people are walking in hope as they find forgiveness and transformation. Pray they will live in courageous faith.

07 > Friday | New Zealand

Pray for Pastor John Max and Michelle, a young couple from the Philippines who have answered the call to cross-cultural ministry in New Zealand. Pray for God's provision and guidance in this transition.

08 > Saturday | Bulgaria/Philippines

Bulgaria: Please pray for the Pure Farm's summer and autumn growing season, as well as for the Bible school classes and the girls' retreat weekends at the safe-house in August and September. May each be fruitful, well supported, and spiritually impactful. **Birthday: Dee Dee Galloway**

Philippines: Ask the Father to give Joshua Opena wisdom as he works with FMWM leaders to help provide support for ministry in the Philippines.

Birthday: Joshua Opena (U.S.-Based Partner)

09 > Sunday | Guatemala

Pray for wisdom and a rich indwelling of the Holy Spirit for Pastor Victor and Paty Marroquin as they lead in advancing the kingdom in Guatemala.

10 > Monday | Ivory Coast

Pray for God's provision of resources to complete a headquarters for the church and to establish church buildings in several locations.

11 > Tuesday | Creative Access-NP

Pray for the fulfillment of the church's bold vision to share the gospel with 12,000 people over the next year – and for courage, protection and faithfulness for pastors despite the potential of imprisonment for proclaiming Christ.

12 > Wednesday | Set Free Movement

Please pray for Sokleap, the Set Free leader in Cambodia, as she equips parents of ICCM children, providing greater awareness to help protect children from traffickers.

13 > Thursday | Colombia

The annual conference meets August 14-17 and will elect their first superintendent. Pray this new leader will be faithful and effective in their new role, and that the Lord will use their ministry to further expand the work in Colombia.

14 > Friday | Southeast Asia

Pray for Thom Cahill as he encourages, supports and mentors emerging leaders across Southeast Asia.

Birthday: Thom Cahill

15 > Saturday | Ukraine

Pray for The Way, a center serving military families and those affected by war. Ask for God's love and goodness to be evident as they provide spiritual, emotional, psychological, and practical care to all in need.

16 > Sunday | Chile

Pray for Laurie Sheriff as she works with the women's ministry at the Celebration of Hope Church. Pray this group of women will grow in number and in the depth of their love for Christ.

Birthday: Laurie Sheriff

17 > Monday | Thailand

Pray for the Persings as they return to Thailand following partnership building. Ask the Father to bless them with a smooth transition to ministry responsibilities. Pray also for Connie's continued recovery from double-knee replacement and the healing of their daughter Gabriella from fractured vertebrae and leg bones. **Birthday: Corey Persing**

18 > Tuesday | United Kingdom

Pray for the Rev. Michael Bretton, lead pastor at Helston Light and Life in Cornwall, U.K., as he joins the Europe Ministry Resource Team. Ask for wisdom and effectiveness as he assists in connecting the U.K./Ireland Annual Conference with ministry opportunities across Europe.

19 > Wednesday | ICCM

Please pray for the Kawangware School in Nairobi where many students live in difficult conditions. Ask for God's protection over the children and strength for school leaders. Pray that water filters and solar lights would bless families, and the school would be a place of safety, hope and care in the community.

20 > Thursday | Liberia

Several churches in Liberia have launched primary schools. Please pray for the effective ministry of these schools and the expansion of this ministry to children and families in additional churches.

21 > Friday | Belgium

Pray for the congregation in Brussels as they move forward following the passing of Pastor Eleazar Habiakare earlier this year. **Birthday: Amy Casteel**

22 > Saturday | Egypt

Pray for the ministry of majority-background believers who are experiencing significant pressure. Ask the Father to give them strength and fill them with hope.

23 > Sunday | Sri Lanka

Pray for leaders who will teach a module of the Gethsemane Leadership Training (GLT) August 25-27. Pray the pastors and leaders in Sri Lanka will clearly understand and apply what they learn about Free Methodist history and polity.

24 > Monday | Dominican Republic

Pray for this general conference. Ask the Father to give wisdom and discernment to Bishop Cecilio Osoria as he continues to lead.

25 > Tuesday | FMWM

Please pray for Dustin Weber as he leads development and partnership efforts for FMWM, asking for wisdom and favor as he builds connections to secure the resources needed to advance the mission.

Birthday: Dustin Weber (FMWM Director of Development)

26 > Wednesday | Zimbabwe

Ask God to grant wisdom to Bishop Isaiah Masiya as he leads and encourages the church toward a spirit of unity, peace and reconciliation.

27 > Thursday | Uruguay

Pray for two developing churches in Montevideo as they serve their communities and reflect Christ's love through sports, health programs, and other holistic ministries.

28 > Friday | Asia

As Scott celebrates another year of God's faithfulness, please pray for wisdom, discernment and fruitful relationships as he helps lead Shared Sustainability Initiatives across Asia. Pray God will continue to raise up healthy, co-vocational leaders and churches that are spiritually vibrant, economically resilient, and empowered to serve their communities through strong interdependence. **Birthday: Scott**

29 > Saturday | Portugal

Pray for the pastors, church planters, ministerial candidates and cell-group leaders to be strengthened in their faith and filled with courage as they share Christ in a culture resistant to the gospel.

30 > Sunday | Jordan

There are many accounts of God revealing Himself through dreams, opening doors to share the good news. Pray this will continue to happen across Jordan and across the Middle East.

31 > Monday | Chile

As the Sheriffs return to Chile following a period of partnership-building in the U.S., pray for a smooth transition back into their ministry responsibilities. **Birthday: Rich Sheriff**

*"We must be **global Christians** with a **global vision** because our God is a **global God**."*

*"His authority on earth allows us to dare to **go to all the nations**. His authority in heaven gives us our only hope of success. And His presence with us leaves us no other choice."*

— John R. W. Stott