

Free Methodist World Missions
PO Box 51710
Indianapolis, IN 46251
800-342-5531

To opt out of the print version of
HEARTBEAT and receive an email
prompt for the mobile-friendly version,
go to fmchr.ch/FMWM-Subscribe

Or visit the web version at
www.fmwm.org
and select the Heartbeat link.



HEARTBEAT

OCTOBER 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

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

LOVE BROKE THROUGH BARRIERS
THE FATHER NEVER FORGOT HER
FROM BONDAGE TO BELONGING

Photo: Kevin Austin





Love THAT **BROKE THROUGH** BARRIERS

By Superintendent Hien

Some barriers seem impossible to overcome. For Minh*, they were built on years of prejudice, political ideology and disbelief. Yet God's love proved stronger than every obstacle.

Minh serves as a government officer and works at his local commune in Creative Access-VN. He and his wife, Lan, are raising their two children, Mai and An. Like many Communist officials, Minh did not believe in the existence of God and viewed Christianity with deep suspicion.

Everything began to change when Minh's parents came to faith in Jesus Christ through the ministry of a local church leader. Their decision was met with strong opposition from their own son. But instead of responding with resentment, they faithfully lived out the love of Christ each day. Their kindness, humility and transformed lives became a powerful testimony Minh could not ignore.

Over time, the walls around Minh's heart began to crumble. The remarkable change he witnessed in his parents sparked questions in both him and Lan. They wanted to discover the source of the hope and peace they now saw in those they loved.

One Sunday morning, the entire family attended a worship service together. They listened intently to the songs, carefully observed everything that took place, and paid close attention to the pastor's message.

Then came the invitation to respond to the gospel.

When the worship leader invited people to trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, Minh, Lan, Mai and An all stood together, walked to the front of the church, and prayed to receive Christ. In one unforgettable moment, God's redeeming grace

transformed an entire family.

Their story is a beautiful reminder that no heart is beyond God's reach, and no barrier is too great for His love to overcome.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV).

Some barriers are built so high they seem impossible to cross, but God's love and grace have a way of reaching even the most guarded hearts. Please pray for this family as they continue to grow in their faith and in the knowledge of their Creator and Savior. May their lives become a living testimony of God's amazing grace, bringing hope to many others throughout Creative Access -VN.

**Fictitious names are used for the protection of the individuals in the story.*

THE *Father* WHO NEVER FORGOT HER

By Superintendent Abraham

*I will be a Father to you, and you will be
my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty
(2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV).*

She was 14 years old, abandoned and alone – a girl without a family, without protection, without anyone to call her own.

But God saw her.

A Christian family in the Free Methodist Church in Creative Access-NP opened their home and their hearts and chose her – not as a guest, but as a daughter. And in that single act of love, everything Grace* had longed for – warmth, safety and belonging – came rushing over her.

She will tell you herself, with a smile that lights up the room: She feels blessed.

Week after week, Grace shows up at church and Sunday school with a heart wide open. She is learning about God's love, the life of Jesus, and what it means to walk in faith – and her response is pure and beautiful. She sings for Christ with unguarded joy. She dances during gospel outreach and church gatherings, her whole heart caught up in worship. For a girl who once had so little to celebrate, her praise is a message no one needs to translate.



Then came a quiet, tender day that changed everything.

Grace made the personal decision to follow Christ. In that moment, she gained more than a Savior. She came to know a loving Father Who had known her name long before anyone else and had been drawing her home all along.

*I will be a Father to you, and you will be
my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty
(2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV).*

Those words are no longer just scripture to Grace. They are her story.

Those who know her say her joy has only deepened because Grace is beginning to understand that she belongs not only to a loving family on earth, but to something far greater: the wide, beautiful, unending family of God, stretching across every nation and every generation.

A girl once abandoned has a new home, a family and a life in Christ.

Her story is a quiet one, but it carries the unmistakable fingerprint of a Father Who never forgot her and never stopped working to bring her home.

**A fictitious name is used for protection of the individual.*



FROM **BONDAGE** TO *Belonging*

By Superintendent Pakep

My name is Daw La*, and I grew up where opium grows.

I was born and raised in a remote village in the Golden Triangle – one of the world's largest opium-producing regions. My parents planted it, used it and largely disappeared into it. I followed them into that same bondage. Hopelessness was the air I breathed.

Then, last December, strangers came to my village. They brought noodle packs, pamphlets and a message: Jesus loves you. I stood there holding their gifts and asked myself, *How could anyone love me, a boy whose parents had looked past him and a young man who was already caught in addiction. How?*

That question wouldn't let me go.

The pastor and his wife who had come weren't far away, and they were kind in a way I wasn't used to. They invited me to their home, sat with me and told me about Jesus. As they spoke, something shifted. The Holy Spirit moved, and I opened my heart and invited Christ in.

But the addiction held on.

No matter how much I wanted freedom, I could not break the chains myself. In early February, the pastor and

his wife invited me to a day of fasting and prayer. They told me plainly: "Human strength cannot win this battle; only the power of God can."

I wanted to be free. So, I went.

That day, I experienced what Paul described in 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV): "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new has come!" The power of God broke what years of addiction could not. I was set free.

I began attending church. In March, I was baptized.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free ..."
(Galatians 5:1, NIV).

Born into a world shaped by addiction and despair, I seemed destined to follow the same path as generations before me. But Jesus stepped into my story and changed everything. The addictions of my childhood no longer define me. I am a son of the King, part of the family of God's kingdom – and living proof that no bondage is too strong for the One Who sets the captive free.

Praise be to the Lord!

** A fictitious name is used for protection of the individual.*

Vol. 8 No. 10 OCTOBER 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@wdsml.com

To be added or removed from the mailing list, or give notifications of address change, contact Matt Alte, (800) 342-5531.

Printed in the USA — Copyright 2026

All Scripture quotations take from the New International Version unless otherwise indicated.





OCTOBER PRAYER GUIDE

01 > Thursday | Kenya

The Kenya General Conference is October 1-3. Please pray for these sessions, asking God to give church leaders wisdom, insight and courage as they make important decisions. May He guide their discussions and plans so that His kingdom will advance and His mission will flourish throughout Kenya.

02 > Friday | Hungary

Praise God for His provision in making this month's *5,000 Steps for the Victims of Human Trafficking* walk possible. Pray the event will raise awareness, inspire Christ-centered compassion, and bring hope to those affected by human trafficking.

03 > Saturday | Creative Access-MR

Please pray for peace and stability in Creative Access-MR amid ongoing social and political uncertainty. Ask God to strengthen FMC ministries as they serve children, widows, orphans, refugees, and others in need. Pray these ministries will be a powerful expression of Christ's love, bringing hope, healing, and encouragement to those they serve.

04 > Sunday | Latin America

Pray for the expansion of Community Church Planting and the development of local leaders as God opens doors and prepares hearts to hear the good news.

Birthday: John Jairo Leal (International Missionary)

05 > Monday | Czech Republic

Catherine Leech, a Free Methodist from the U.K., is serving as a project manager for Josiah Venture. Pray for growing connections and open doors in the Czech Republic. **Birthday: Catherine Leech (Affiliate Missionary)**

06 > Tuesday | Botswana

The work in Botswana is a church-in-formation under the Zimbabwe General Conference. Pray the Lord will encourage this small group of believers and bear fruit through them, extending the gospel throughout Botswana.

07 > Wednesday | Middle East

Use Ephesians 1:17-21, praying that believers throughout the Middle East will be filled with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, growing deeper in their knowledge of Christ. Ask God to enlighten the eyes of their hearts, strengthening them by the hope of His calling and the power of His resurrection as they faithfully follow Him.

08 > Thursday | Honduras

Pray God will direct churches and leaders to people and communities where He has prepared hearts to receive the gospel message.

09 > Friday | Asia

Pray Mark Morrison will have wisdom, compassion and guidance as he seeks to support and encourage friends and missionaries going through difficult seasons.

Birthday: Mark Morrison (Asia Missionary Care)

10 > Saturday | ICCM

Please pray for the children and families served through ICCM ministries in Cambodia. Ask God to provide opportunities for children to flourish academically, spiritually, and socially, and to draw their families closer to Christ through the ministry's care and support.

11 > Sunday | FMWM

Please join Tammy in praying for an unreached people group and for those working to share God's Word with them. Pray hearts will be open to the gospel, the Scripture translation efforts will be successful, and many people will come to know Jesus through access to His Word.

Birthday: Tammy (FMWM Missionary Care Team Lead)

12 > Monday | Zambia

Please pray for Bishop Mark Lilema as he continues his recovery following cancer treatment in India. Ask God to grant him healing and strength and to sustain his wife and caregivers with wisdom, peace and encouragement.

13 > Tuesday | Europe

Praise the Lord for spiritual revival among young people across Europe. Ask God to draw hearts to Himself, awaken a hunger for His Word, and raise up a generation that boldly follows Christ.

14 > Wednesday | Middle East

Pray for our leaders across the Middle East as they seek to lead with Christlike character and godly influence. As 1 Timothy 4:12 reminds us, may they be examples to the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity. Ask the Lord to give them wisdom, humility and courage to lead, serve, and reflect Christ's love to all those around them, drawing others closer to Him.

15 > Thursday | Raices

Please pray for the RAICES Ambassador Encounter in Colombia (October 15-19) as leaders from across Latin America gather for encouragement, training and fellowship. Ask God to strengthen their unity, deepen their spiritual growth, and empower them through the Holy Spirit as they equip and support local ministry with children throughout the region.

16 > Friday | Creative Access Asia

Hudson Taylor said, "The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to obey." Pray for obedience to the call of Christ, even to the most difficult places.

Birthday: Rebecca

17 > Saturday | Colombia

Pray for God's blessing on this new annual conference and on the new superintendent, Fray Morales. Ask the Lord to grant wisdom, unity and clear vision, and to lead the church in advancing His kingdom throughout Colombia.

18 > Sunday | Democratic Republic of Congo

Pray for the Free Methodist Church in Congo as it faces ongoing challenges, including violence, conflict, displacement, and disease. Ask God to provide strength, protection and hope for believers, and to empower the churches to remain a faithful witnesses to Christ's love and peace in their communities.

19 > Monday | Latin America

Please pray for Free Methodist churches across Latin America as they take part in prayer walks in their communities. Ask God to open hearts to the gospel, strengthen believers in their witness, and bring hope, healing and spiritual transformation to their neighborhoods.

20 > Tuesday | Taiwan

Ask God to open new doors for the gospel, raise up fresh expressions of His church, and renew a passion for evangelism and discipleship so more people will grow in loving God and loving others. **Birthday: Becca**

21 > Wednesday | FMWM

Please pray for the FMWM Area Director Leadership Team as they meet in Amman, Jordan. Ask God to grant them wisdom, unity and effective collaboration as they pray, plan and work together to guide Free Methodist ministries in faithfully fulfilling the Great Commission.

22 > Thursday | Creative Access-CA

Pray for Christian workers and the persecuted churches in this nation where the gospel faces opposition. Ask God to strengthen believers with courage, wisdom and faithfulness to His Word, and sustain believers as they boldly witness for Christ despite challenges and scrutiny.

Birthday: Jessica (Affiliate Missionary)

23 > Friday | Set Free Movement

Pray for the growing Set Free ministry across Latin America as God brings hope, healing and freedom in countries such as Bolivia, Colombia, Argentina, Guatemala and Ecuador. Pray for believers, churches and community leaders working together to bring Christ's light into difficult places, protect vulnerable people, and share the hope of the gospel.

24 > Saturday | Creative Access-LO

The church in Thailand continues to reach into Creative Access-LO, bringing the hope of the gospel. In early 2026 they reported 40 people had come to faith in Jesus. Pray these new believers will grow strong in their faith, bringing transformation to whole communities.

25 > Sunday | Nigeria

Pray for the Free Methodist Church in Nigeria as each conference seeks to expand mission work to unreached people and communities not yet served by FM churches. Ask God to open doors for the gospel and enable the church to faithfully serve in these new areas.

26 > Monday | Spain

Clara Bettiol thanks God for the blessing of another year of life. Join her in praying for continued strength, wisdom and faithfulness in ministry. Ask God to continue guiding her and using ministry in Spain and across Europe for His glory.

Birthday: Clara Bettiol (International Missionary)

27 > Tuesday | Bolivia

There are four "Houses of Peace" in Bolivia. Pray they will become places of salvation, spiritual growth and community transformation.

28 > Wednesday | Asia

Pray Sherry Cahill will have sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit as she reaches out to neighbors. **Birthday: Sherry Cahill**

29 > Thursday | Belgium

Eric and Amy Casteel are transitioning to a new season of ministry focused on church planting and leadership development across Europe. Pray for God's guidance and favor as they pursue permanent residency in Belgium, strengthening their ability to serve effectively in the region.

Birthday: Eric Casteel

30 > Friday | Middle East

Sports ministries are used across the Middle East to reach and mentor young people. Pray these programs will be places where youth can grow in character, build healthy friendships, learn teamwork and become positive influences in their communities.

31 > Saturday | Asia

Join Judi Morrison in praying for her family to truly hear and understand the gospel message and surrender to God's love. Also, pray for her grandchildren as they navigate today's culture, that they will find peace, wisdom and strength to live lives grounded in God's grace and truth.

Birthday: Judi Morrison (Asia Missionary Care)