

Free Methodist World Missions
PO Box 5710
Indianapolis, IN 46251
800-342-5531

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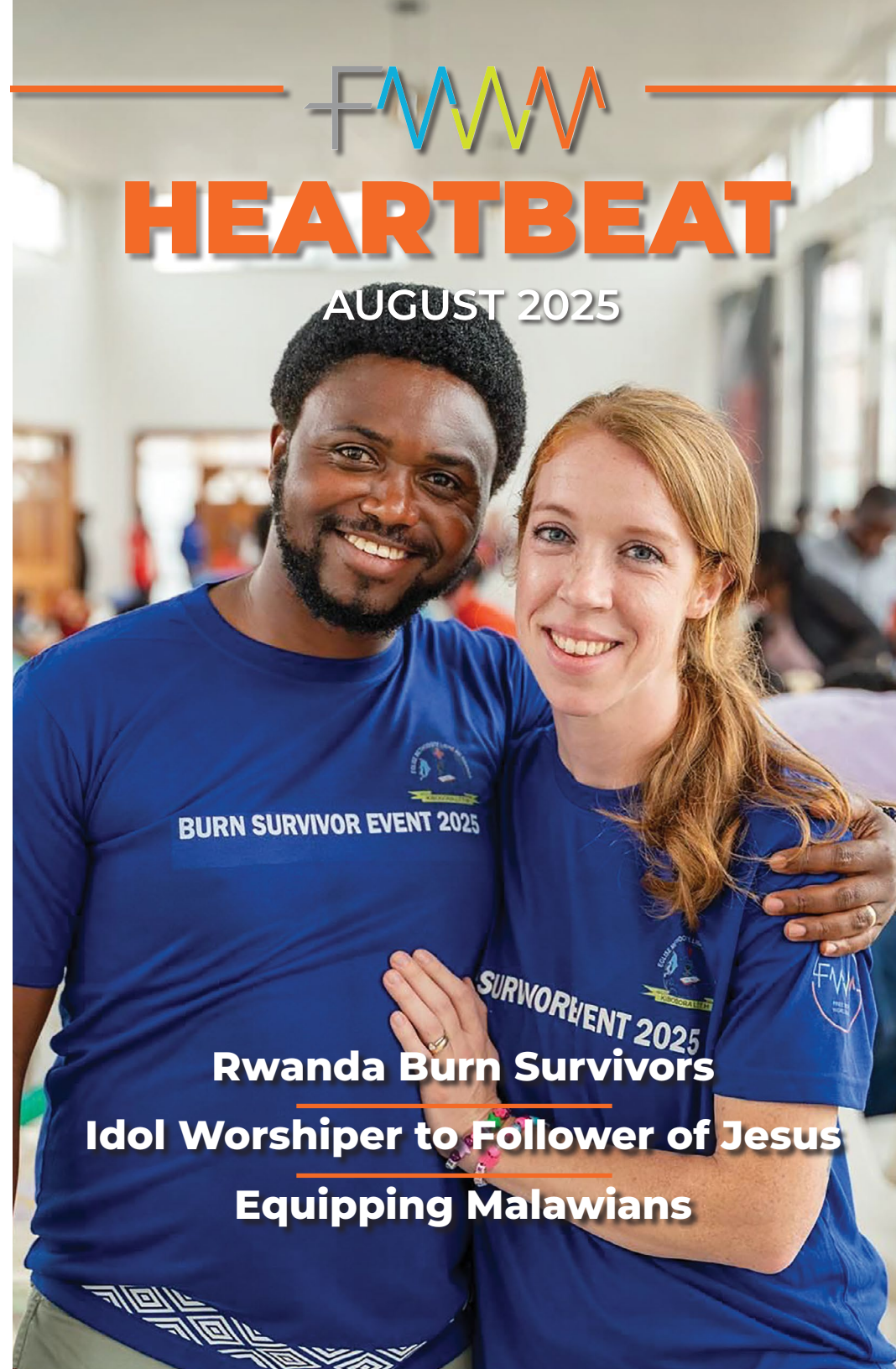
HEARTBEAT

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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.*





By Rachel Nzungize

“And he took them in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”

– Mark 10:16 (NIV)

When children who have suffered a burn injury are discharged from Kibogora Hospital, they have recovered; however, they are still navigating difficult physical, psychological and emotional issues related to their injuries. As they return home, they are often the only burn survivor in their village or school. This makes it important for them to have the opportunity to meet other children who have a similar journey.

On Saturday, March 8, 2025, Kibogora Hospital hosted a Burn Survivor Event for children ages 2 to 13. This was the first known burn survivor event in Rwanda. The goal was to acknowledge burn survivors' unique challenges and provide the children and their parents with physical and spiritual care, fun, and celebration. We also hoped to provide a space where they could build

relationships and share experiences with each other, realizing they are not alone in what they are going through.

Forty-nine children attended the event. It felt like witnessing a miracle to see some of them, who had suffered so much in the hospital, come back happy and healthy. Hospital chaplains, Pastor Enock and Nasson, led the group in worship and shared a short devotion, and a lunch was served. Pastor Enock and a University of Colorado (UC) Health Services nurse offered a support-group discussion for burn survivors. Physical evaluations were completed by a doctor from Kibogora Hospital and another from UC Health. Twenty-four children had consultations; two were scheduled for surgery related to their previous burn injury, and two were scheduled for an outpatient injection to reduce related scarring. The other activities were part of the fun – face painting, bracelet making, coloring and soccer.

My husband, Emmanuel, and I led the planning and coordination of this event with assistance from Kibogora Hospital and Guest House staff. Volunteers from UC Health initiated the idea, and their expertise in caring for burn patients and survivors helped make it a success.

One child's mother shared, “It was nice for the kids to have fun. These children can be seen as having a disability, and they face stigma in society, so it means so much that they would be called back and shown that they are valued.”

Her comments were an affirmation of our hope in planning this event. We wanted the children to leave knowing they were loved by their community and by Jesus. We pray this can become an annual hospital event through continued partnership with UC Health and Free Methodist World Missions.

From Idol Worshiper to Follower of Jesus

By Supt. Mekebib Desta

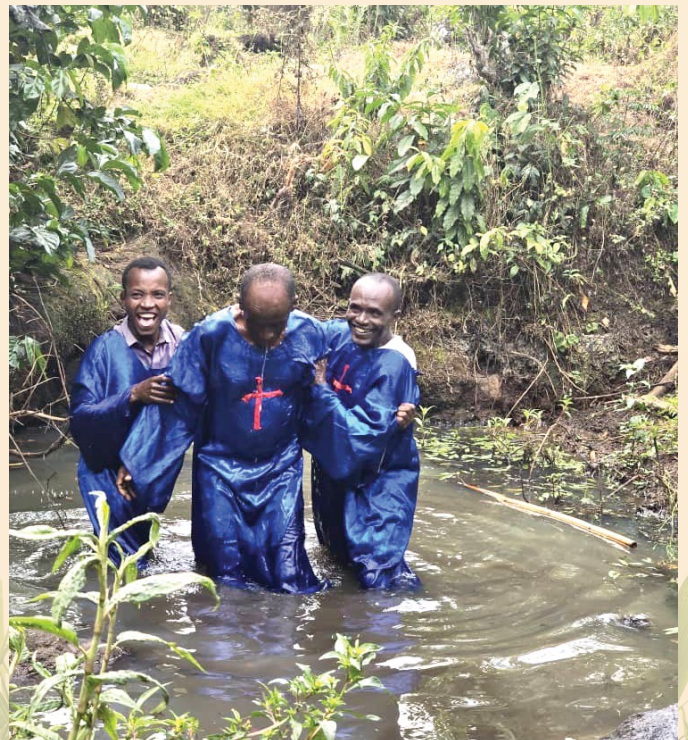
God is doing amazing work in the Ethiopian Free Methodist Church. Our church has 48 local churches within six districts, one of those being the Bita District. We have been planting churches in this area and now have 18 churches in this district.

The strategy we follow in our churches is that the responsibility of reaching the next village with the gospel is not the responsibility of a single person or a missionary; rather, it is the responsibility of all local church members. Accordingly, whether it is praying for the next village, spreading the gospel or planting the church, it is the responsibility of all members.

Based on this vision, the Beko local church believed it was their responsibility to reach the neighboring village of Qila with the gospel. All the members began to engage in prayer and evangelism at Qila village. At one point, while evangelizing, they came to the house of a “witch doctor.”

This sorcerer had been a healer for many years, but he was suddenly struck down with a severe illness and could not walk or move. So, after our members arrived in the village, they shared the gospel of Christ with him. They preached the good news and told him that if he turned to God and repented, he would receive eternal life, and his body would be healed.

The “witch doctor” received the good news with joy, and they prayed for his healing. His paralyzed leg moved, and his health recovered. With immense joy, he and his entire family came to Christ. He even gave one of the plots of land from his farm to build a church. The work of the Lord began in Qila with one single family. They started with a small hut and began regular worship. The Lord added to their number daily – those who were being saved – and the house was filled with new converts. Then, a better church building was constructed on the land given to them, and the light of Christ shone upon those around them. Many have believed and been baptized in water. Glory be to the Lord!



Equipping *Malawians* at Great Commission Bible School

By Kaylene Smidderks and Mike Reynen

It is happening! Great Commission Bible School (GSBS) is fulfilling the vision of Free Methodist World Missions as they train students, equip Malawian pastors to mobilize the global church, and establish transformational churches.

The school operates on a modular system with three resident modules per year – January, June and October. Courses include content that is pastoral, biblical and theological. For example, the June module consisted of four standard courses: Christian Theology, The Book of Acts, English and Scripture Memorization. In addition, visiting teachers Thomas and Noni Ramundo from the United States presented sessions from their Prayer Warrior Boot Camp course.

Superintendent Goodson Phiri (Southern Conference) is a graduate of GSBS. He reflects on his time as a student: “During my training, the school made sure to send us out to preach the gospel in surrounding communities near the campus.” This experience made classroom learning practical. Goodson says, “I was required to plant three churches before my graduation, and it was really serious; that helped the church’s growth and prepared me for ministry. If students failed to plant three churches, they were not allowed to graduate until the churches required were planted.”

One current student, Samuel, is pastor of Karonga Free Methodist Church in the Northern Conference of Malawi. He shares about his training: “The school and the studies have improved my teaching and preaching.” He says the classes also advanced his spiritual growth and evangelism skills. He actively visits in the community, sharing about Christ, especially



with the fishermen. His training helped him relate and communicate with them. It also improved his skills in children’s ministry. Every Saturday and Sunday, his church offers Bible classes for children. This is just the kind of transformational ministry the school aims to produce!

Currently, all the Bible School students are from Malawi. Many will plant new churches, and some will be appointed to existing Free Methodist churches throughout the country.

“Ask the Lord of the harvest ... to send out workers into his harvest field” (Matthew 9:38). Won’t you partner with Great Commission Bible School in praying for these workers?

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AUGUST PRAYER GUIDE

01 > **Friday** | **Creative Access-VN**

Pray for Helri and Phuong as they plant a house-church network in this country. Ask God to give them the wisdom, resources and courage needed for this work.

02 > **Saturday** | **Malta**

Pray for a growing network of churches in Malta as current leaders work with the African European Church Network to train and equip more leaders.

03 > **Sunday** | **Guatemala**

Pray for Pastor Victor Marroquin and the developing work in Guatemala as they focus on fostering relationships and developing projects to assist children.

04 > **Monday** | **Middle East**

Pray for the restraining of spiritual and political forces that inhibit and oppress kingdom work.

05 > **Tuesday** | **Rwanda**

Thank the Lord for how He is using Rachel and Emmanuel Nzungize at Kibogora Hospital. Ask the Lord to continue guiding them as they seek His will for their lives.

Birthday: Emmanuel Nzungize

06 > **Wednesday** | **Cambodia**

There are currently 32 churches in Cambodia. Join them in praying for the bold vision of having more than 300 churches by 2030.

07 > **Thursday** | **Guinea Conakry**

Praise the Lord for 12 new believers baptized in June! Pray the Holy Spirit will continue strengthening these new believers and the new leaders being trained.

08 > **Friday** | **Bulgaria**

Ask God to give Dee Dee Galloway wisdom and strength as she provides leadership in Bulgaria while also serving on the European Resource Team as coordinator of the Love-Driven Justice Team. **Birthday: Dee Dee Galloway**

09 > **Saturday** | **Costa Rica**

Pray for wholistic transformation through ministries supporting the needs of immigrants, serving the impoverished and providing rehabilitation for those struggling with addictions.

10 > **Sunday** | **Asia**

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

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

11 > **Monday** | **Set Free Movement**

In the first six months of this year, Zsuzsa Mecséri-McNamara and the Set Free team in Hungary trained 61 social workers and key community leaders in Hungary about human trafficking – how to recognize the signs, how to seek help for a victim, and resources available. Pray for the team's continued opportunities and effectiveness in education.

12 > **Tuesday** | **Jordan**

Pray for open doors in Jordan as they search for a new space for a community center in the north.

13 > **Wednesday** | **El Salvador**

The FM work is growing in the heart of San Salvador. Pray God will continue to open the minds and hearts of people to receive fullness of life through Jesus.

14 > **Thursday** | **Asia**

Pray for the strategic development of church planting and discipleship throughout each country and ministry in Southeast Asia. **Birthday: Thom Cahill**

15 > **Friday** | **Greece**

Pray for the resources and personnel to assist with the ongoing need for discipleship, especially among new Muslim-background believers.

16 > Saturday | Chile

As Laurie Sheriff helps to restart a women's ministry at their church in Concepción, pray many new connections will be made and lives will be touched. **Birthday: Laurie Sheriff**

17 > Sunday | Thailand

As part of his responsibilities, Corey Persing is helping prepare for the Better Together Converge in Thailand in November. Ask the Father to guide him in all his work and give him safety in his travels throughout Thailand.

Birthday: Corey Persing

18 > Monday | Eswatini

Two churches are under the oversight of the Mozambique General Conference. Ask the Lord to provide a resident pastor or missionary to give guidance to this work.

19 > Tuesday | Egypt

The Egypt General Conference elected Basem Salib as their new bishop earlier this year. Ask the Lord to give him wisdom and discernment as he leads.

20 > Wednesday | Nigeria

Pray for various ministries in Nigeria, including family ministry, ministry to widows, ministry to the underserved, and evangelism and church-planting work in all four conferences.

21 > Thursday | ICCM

Pray for the Amizero and Rushashi study centers in Rwanda. Both serve children with disabilities, providing practical training and physical therapy based on their needs and abilities.

22 > Friday | Creative Access-IN

The church continues to minister to the whole person – body, mind and soul. Pray for ministries that include community centers, literacy programs, microenterprises, child development programs, colleges and a hospital.

23 > Saturday | Middle East

Jesus said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). Pray for peace in this region, expecting what is possible with God.

24 > Sunday | Ukraine

Pray for those who serve at the Volunteer Center, a place of support for military families and the victims of the war. Ask the Father to comfort those who mourn and to heal those who have experienced profound trauma.

25 > Monday | Bolivia

Pray leaders and church members will have total dependence on the Holy Spirit to restore and grow God's kingdom in Bolivia.

26 > Tuesday | Sierra Leone

Pray for Marcus, Kallon and Gloria, three students who graduated from the Wesley Missionary Institute this year and are launching into missionary work in Sierra Leone.

27 > Wednesday | Portugal

The Barnabas Project provides food and assistance to low-income families and homeless people. Pray for this project that helps a growing number of families each month.

28 > Thursday | Asia

Pray for the many Christians across Asia facing persecution and economic hardship that makes daily life difficult. Pray our FM churches can be beacons of love and generosity, reflecting the love of Jesus to those in their communities.

Birthday: Scott

29 > Friday | Colombia

Pray for the annual meeting in Colombia this weekend. Ask the Father to continue identifying people of peace in communities and calling new leaders to teach and disciple new believers.

30 > Saturday | Senegal

Pray for the success of livelihood projects to provide income for the pastors and their families.

31 > Sunday | Chile

Pray for the continued fruitfulness of the Celebration of Hope Church in Concepción. As Rich Sheriff works with leaders, ask the Father to give him all the wisdom he needs for the task. **Birthday: Rich Sheriff**

"We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer. If we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God's work on behalf of the people for whom we pray."
– Corrie Ten Boom