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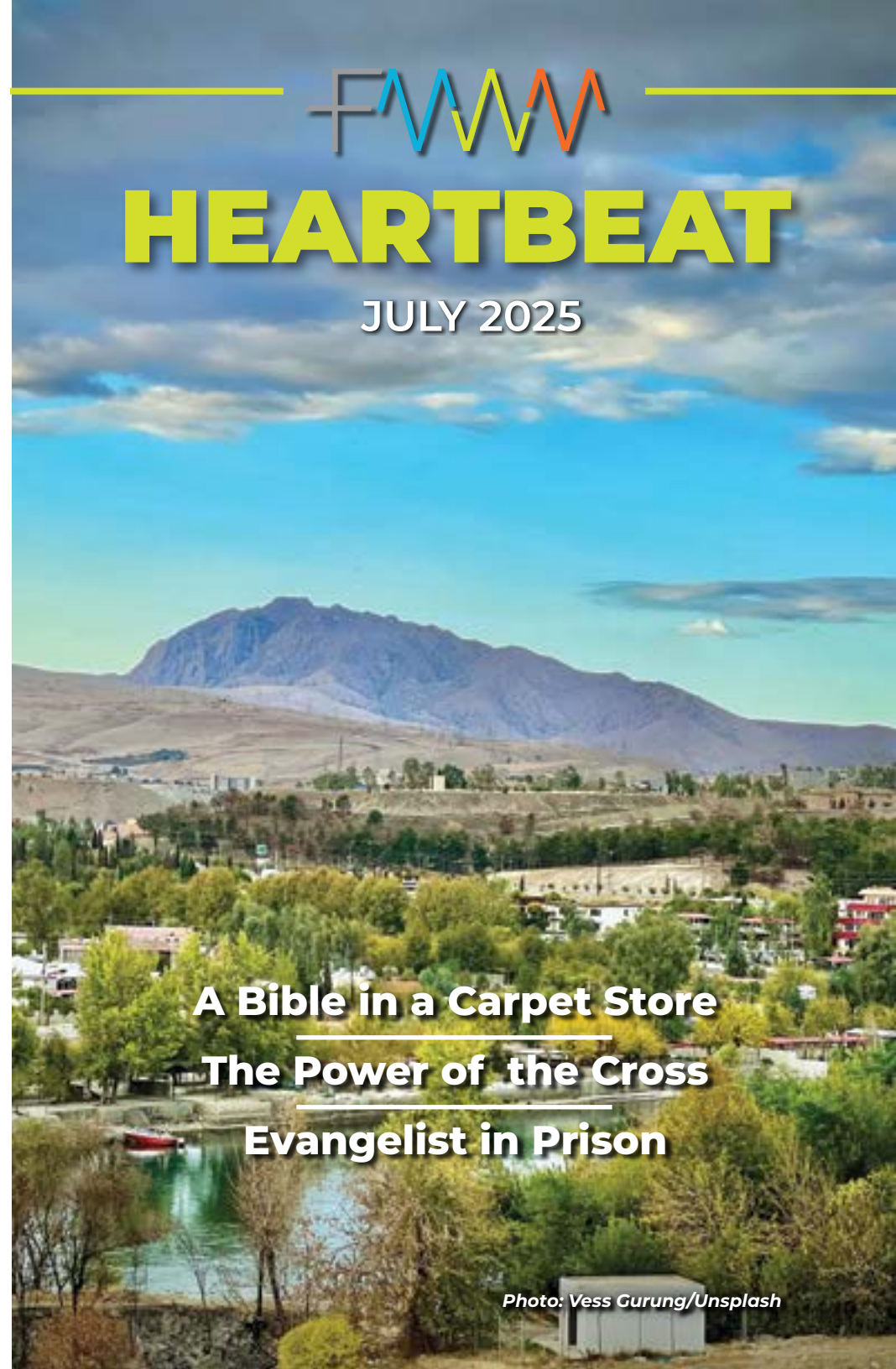
# HEARTBEAT

JULY 2025

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



## A Bible in a Carpet Store The Power of the Cross Evangelist in Prison

Photo: Vess Gurung/Unsplash



# A Bible in a Carpet Store

*By Mary*

*Photo: Mikel Mirjane/Unsplash*

My name is Mary, and my story is about walking toward the truth and light found in Jesus. I was married at 16 and am a mother to three children. I came to know Christ in 2017.

My husband owned a carpet and furnishings store in an extremely crowded area of Alexandria near a main market. One day after work, I found a copy of the New Testament in the store. I have no idea how it came to be there; perhaps someone deliberately left it for me, or maybe it was God's divine plan. I had many Christian friends. They were my neighbors at work and home, but I had never read the Bible.

Now, I read it for the first time, starting with the Gospel of Matthew. I began to know Christ from

a Christian perspective, not from what Islam taught me about Him. When I took the Bible home, I was unaware of how upset my husband would be. That night, he was very harsh with me and threw the Bible away. I had only read about five pages, including the Sermon on the Mount. Those words deeply touched me. The same night, Christ visited me in a dream. I saw Him in the priestly robes, wearing a white garment. He asked me to come to Him, saying in a clear voice, "I am the Light of the World" and pointing to two paths, one dark and the other light. I didn't understand what I saw, but He repeated, "I am the Light of the World."

The next day, I spoke to one of my Christian acquaintances, telling him about the dream. He

explained this was a special invitation from God to show me the right path. I felt God had set my foot on the right path. I obtained another copy of the Bible and began reading it secretly while at work. Every day I learned something new. It felt like scales were falling off my eyes. I met someone from the ministry in Egypt who answered my questions and disciplined me.

My husband passed away in 2020, and I moved to Cairo in 2022. There, I was baptized, acknowledging Christ as my personal Savior. I left my old life behind and have become a new person in Christ. Today, I volunteer with a ministry in Egypt, working in women's home groups and doing visitation. Praise the Lord for a Bible found in a carpet store!



# THE POWER of the *Cross*

***By An Impact Middle East Worker***

Her husband, a believer in Christ, bought her a huge house, like a palace. It was in the middle of a beautiful garden. This is how one Muslim woman's dream began. As the dream continued, she went up to the rooftop of the house and looked far away. She saw a church building; it, too, was magnificent in appearance, as were her house and garden. Everything was incredibly beautiful.

However, looking at the church, she suddenly noticed it was on fire. The pastor climbed to the roof of the church building, and people were screaming and begging him to come down, but he refused, telling them he would sacrifice his life for Christ and His church.

The woman did not want to come down from the rooftop of her beautiful house. Instead, she began praying and calling upon Eissa (Jesus) and Hussein in the Muslim way, asking them to put out the fire, which went out immediately.

When the fire was out, the pastor said he would throw down the cross on top of the church building, and whoever caught it would be the one chosen by God. As the woman saw and heard everything happening, this news reached her like an inspiration. She felt as if she were standing among the people.

At that moment, she ran with the crowd and reached the cross before everyone. She reached out and grabbed it. Holding it up, she said, "I got the cross before you!" She was incredibly happy, and everyone rejoiced, cheered and clapped.

Then she saw the upper part of the cross was broken and began to cry, saying to herself, "Why did this happen? Didn't I catch it and embrace it?" A woman in the crowd approached her with the broken part of the cross in her hand, attaching it back in place. The cross became whole again – it was no longer broken.

The woman awoke from her dream, happy for what she had seen. Later she shared the dream on her Facebook page. By God's design, my wife, Asmahan, saw this posting on her page and contacted her. Asmahan began telling her about the love of Christ and His salvation. This Muslim woman listened to every word and is still in contact with my wife, who is encouraging her to read the Bible, believe in Christ and leave Islam, just as her husband has done.

Please pray for her. Ask God to help her fully understand the power of the cross and believe wholeheartedly in Christ.



*Photo: Mitosh/Unsplash*

My name is Tahani. I am 32 years old and am serving a 15-year prison sentence. I have been married for about 10 years and have a son and a daughter.

Before I was in prison, my husband and I lived in my in-laws' house, along with my brother-in-law and his wife. Life was very good; we had no conflicts between us. I was not necessarily close to God, but I wasn't evil either; my life was just rather middle of the road.

One day, my sister-in-law (my brother-in-law's wife) had a son, and I was very happy for her. One night, four months after the baby was born, while I was sleeping, I heard a voice in my ear telling me, "Get up, take this child and throw him in the sea." I got up, took the child from the house without anyone noticing, threw him into the sea, and returned to sleep as if nothing had happened.

The next morning, my sister-in-law screamed that her son had been kidnapped. I sat quietly, pretending to be unaware. The police came, and after a month, they discovered what I had done. I was taken to the police station, where I confessed everything. They took me to reenact the crime in the village. Eventually, I was sentenced to death and had to wear the red execution uniform.

While in prison, a pastor and other Christians began visiting me. I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior. Then I felt no fear of death, despite what I had done. I knew the Lord was with me.

I began to pray that my death sentence would not be carried out, so I could deliver the message of Christ to other people in the prison. By God's grace, my death sentence was overturned, and my sentence was reduced to 15 years. I was so happy that I started clapping in my cell when I heard the news about the new sentence. Those around thought I had gone mad. But I was happy because God heard my prayer, and now, I would serve Him in prison.

I have been in prison for six years now, and many people have accepted the Lord Jesus. Please pray for me as I continue to tell others in prison the good news of Jesus. Pray that many more will come to know Him.

# Evangelist in Prison

*By Tahani*

*Photo: De an Sun/Unsplash*

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# JULY PRAYER GUIDE

## 01 > Tuesday | Africa/TCK Care

Wendy Lorenz's ministry focuses on TCKs (missionary kids). Pray for Wendy as she assists the kids and parents in navigating multiple cultures and unique challenges.

**Birthday: Wendy Lorenz**

## 02 > Wednesday | Argentina

Thank the Lord for four established house churches and three church plants in Argentina. Pray for continued church-planting efforts and the lay leaders answering God's call to lead house churches.

## 03 > Thursday | Middle East

Last year, over 3,000 people in this region chose to follow Jesus. Praise the Lord! Pray that the transformation happening in individual lives will create a culture of peace and reconciliation in this region.

## 04 > Friday | Creative Access-HK

Pray Christians will be strong and courageous, knowing the Lord will be with them (Joshua 1:9). Ask the Father to give them wisdom in the face of unique challenges.

## 05 > Saturday | Spain/Creative Access-CA

**Spain:** Susy Fajardo is the program director at the Mosaic Learning Center in Rivas-Vaia Madrid. Ask the Father to give her wisdom for this task. **Birthday: Susy Fajardo**

**Creative Access-CA:** Ask the Father to give Randy opportunities to share the gospel with students and fellow teachers. **Birthday: Randy (Affiliate Missionary)**

## 06 > Sunday | Guinea Bissau

This church-in-formation now has five churches, and in early May, they saw 10 people baptized. Pray for a deepening faith among believers and a passion to share the gospel.

## 07 > Monday | FMWM

Ask the Father to help believers understand God's mission – make Him known to everyone everywhere – and then join in the mission as either a goer or a sender.

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

## 08 > Tuesday | Creative Access Asia

Pray for open doors into Asian countries with opposition to the gospel. Ask the Father to raise courageous, faithful laborers for these harvest fields. **Birthday: Adam**

## 09 > Wednesday | ICCM

Pray for the Campo Grande ICCM project in Brazil. They offer an after-school program for children for tutoring and discipleship, which effectively keeps the children out of drug trafficking.

## 10 > Thursday | Belgium

There are currently three churches in Belgium. Pray for the growth of these congregations and the identification of leaders who can plant churches in this diverse and secularized nation.

## 11 > Friday | Spain/Taiwan

**Spain:** Pray the Lord will raise up people in Spain who are passionate about walking with Jesus and becoming more like Him, doing what He would do, bringing light in the darkness, and spreading the kingdom of heaven in Spain. **Birthday: Raul Arana (National Missionary)**

**Taiwan:** Pray for Lena to be fruitful in mentoring relationships as she helps develop ministry leaders in Taiwan and across Asia. **Birthday: Lena**

## 12 > Saturday | Liberia

Pray for Isaac and Alice Grear, graduates of the Wesley Missionary Institute, who have initiated six church plants in new areas of Liberia. Ask the Father to use these six groups to bring many to Christ.

## 13 > Sunday | Oceania

Pray for wisdom and strength as David Clemente assists the Asia area director with emerging work in Australia, New Zealand and Creative Access-IA, helping train leaders for cross-cultural witness and missional ministries.

**Birthday: David Clemente**

## 14 > Monday | Honduras

Pray for a spiritual awakening among pastors, leaders and churches, bringing revival and renewed dependence on the Lord.

## 15 > Tuesday | Iraq

Pray for families and individuals hearing about the love of God as they are introduced to the Bible, “the book that brings life.” Pray they will be curious to learn more by reading God’s Word.

## 16 > Wednesday | Asia

Pray for church leaders across the continent as they seek to find adequate resources and effective leadership for discipling children. **Birthday: Sheila (U.S.-Based Partner)**

## 17 > Thursday | São Tomé and Príncipe

The FMC is participating in a “A Bible in Every Home” project, helping distribute 50,000 New Testaments so every home in São Tomé has access to the Word of God. Pray many will seek God through His Word.

## 18 > Friday | Japan

Pray for Minori Hall as she assists in leadership development, especially among the Web of Asian Women (WAW). **Birthday: Minori Hall**

## 19 > Saturday | Creative Access-RA

Pray for the continued church-planting efforts in this country, the transformational schools, adult education, feeding programs for children and microenterprise projects.

## 20 > Sunday | Ireland

Pray for the fruitfulness of a church-planting hub – Transformation Center – located in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

## 21 > Monday | Paraguay/Philippines

**Paraguay:** Yaneth Aguirre has been diagnosed with a herniated disc and osteoarthritis in her knee. Pray for God’s healing touch, giving her strength and health for His work. **Birthday: Yaneth Aguirre (International Missionary)**

**Philippines:** Pray Alan and Ammabelle Bacus will have good health, safe travels and vibrant ministry in the Northern Philippines (Ilocos) and Southeast Asia. **Birthday: Ammabelle Bacus (International Missionary)**

## 22 > Tuesday | Angola

This mission district, with 35 churches, is under the Brazil General Conference. Pray for these churches as they help meet the needs of those suffering around them.

## 23 > Wednesday | Set Free Movement

Out of all the areas where the Set Free Movement operates, the highest risk factors for human trafficking are found in the Philippines and Creative Access-IN. Pray the Set Free teams working in these two countries will have increasing opportunities to educate the most vulnerable.

## 24 > Thursday | Ecuador

Dalia and her husband, “Gaby” Estrella, are joining the Latin America missionary team. Pray for God’s provision as they establish prayer and financial partnerships. **Birthday: Dalia Sanchez**

## 25 > Friday | Jordan

Pray for “E,” one of our ministry leaders in Jordan, as she serves women and children. Pray each person will experience the love of God and seek Him.

## 26 > Saturday | Creative Access-X

Pray for pastors and other leaders as they gather for their annual meeting on the 26th and 27th. Ask the Father to give them a spirit of unity and a shared vision.

## 27 > Sunday | North Macedonia

Pray for pastors and leaders as they seek to overcome racial issues, grow the body of Christ and develop healthy disciples.

## 28 > Monday | Thailand

There were 571 new believers, 104 baptisms and three churches planted in Thailand in 2024. Pray for strong discipleship of new believers and the planting of at least two new churches this year.

## 29 > Tuesday | Togo

Pray for Pastor Dosseh Takpale as he works to share the gospel among the Muslim communities in Togo.

## 30 > Wednesday | Uruguay

Pray for a new ministry in the town of Sarandí del Yi. The work here is impacting the community as children and adults are being restored by God.

## 31 > Thursday | Scandinavia

There are now five churches and one church plant in Sweden, with another church and church plant in Denmark. Pray God will provide leaders and financial resources to plant churches in Finland and Norway.

*“The history of missions is the history of answered prayer.” – Samuel Zwemer*