

# ENGAGE

The BMS World Mission magazine



**We  
are  
not  
afraid**

**EVANGELISM AMONG EXTREMISTS**

The Christians in India stepping out in the face of adversity.

**ALL EYES ON LEBANON**

Please continue to lift up Lebanon, Gaza and Israel in prayer.

**FANTASTIC FUNDRAISERS**

Thinking of raising money for BMS? Check out these amazing fundraisers and get some inspiration!





## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

**BMS World Mission is inspired by our heart to bring the gospel where it's not known, to bring hope to a troubled world and to bring help for the journeys of the displaced. We respond to suffering and injustice with the promise of abundant life in Christ.**

Through your support and alongside our trusted partners, we send UK Christians and equip local disciples in over 30 countries across four continents. Our highest goal is to see people come to faith in Jesus Christ and experience life in all its fullness.

## Have something to say in response to this issue of *Engage*?



[www.facebook.com/bmsworldmission](http://www.facebook.com/bmsworldmission)



@bmsworldmission



Use the freepost envelope included in your mailing to send us a note, a cheque or anything else in response to this issue!

We look forward to hearing from you!



## Editorial

# OPEN HEARTS

Laura Durrant

December 2024



**I**'m sure you'll be aware, as we are, of how much the rising costs of living are affecting all our lives. At BMS World Mission, we want to make sure we're doing our best to steward your gifts as well as we can, which is why we're approaching the new year with open hearts to see how we can make our processes cheaper and more efficient. One option that we're exploring is change the size of BMS' magazines, including *Engage*, to A5 in order to reduce postage costs.

I know many of you have spent much longer than I have with the pages of *Engage* magazine, and your thoughts on this potential change are so valuable. We'd love to hear from you before we make any decisions, so if there are parts of *Engage* that you particularly love or are concerned about losing, please do let me know. You can contact me via email on [magazine@bmsworldmission.org](mailto:magazine@bmsworldmission.org) or by using the freepost envelope included in your mailing to share any of your thoughts.

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find what I see as some of the most important pieces included in *Engage* magazine. You'll find an update on the heartbreaking conflict in Lebanon on page 16 and an insight into life of Christians under threat in India on page 13. I hope you find those pieces challenging, and that you'll join me in lifting these terrible conflicts and situations up in prayer.

As always, thank you for your support of *Engage* magazine and for BMS. And if you do have any feedback on this issue, please do get in touch!

God bless,  
**Laura**  
Editor



Write to me at [magazine@bmsworldmission.org](mailto:magazine@bmsworldmission.org)

4. News

Young people are fired up for the gospel!

5. The original Christmas

Dr Kang-San Tan on what we should be focusing on this festive season

6. Fearless fundraisers

Read about some inspiring fundraisers!



7.

“They’ll defy your expectations”

Your support is transforming the lives of children with disabilities in Thailand.

10. Silent night?

A special delivery from Chad

13. The Afghanistan we see

How the women of Afghanistan see the world

18. Letters from Thailand and the UK

Exciting updates from the new church in Wang Daeng!



16 Blessed are the peacemakers

We cry out for our brothers and sisters caught in the fray

You might spot these icons on the pages of Engage – they’re there to show you which ministry area the work comes under.



BMS World Mission
Website: www.bmsworldmission.org
Tel: 01235 517700
Email (general): mail@bmsworldmission.org

The Baptist Missionary Society; registered in England and Wales as a charity (number 1174364) and a company limited by guarantee (number 10849689).

Managing Editor: Matty Fearon
Editor: Laura Durrant
Design: Malky Currie
Front cover photo: Sarah Stone

The views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BMS World Mission.

© Copyright 2024 BMS World Mission
ISSN 1756-2481





Young people gathered in Indonesia to worship and hear about God's heart for mission.

# YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MOBILISING FOR MISSION

**E**arlier this year, young people from 22 countries met in Malacca, Indonesia, to worship and dream about the future of world mission. BMS World Mission-supported worker Ardi Wiradinata spoke at the conference about how we understand the context in which we do God's mission. He was very encouraged by how open and hungry the young people were when talking about mission. "Missions are on their minds, and they want to learn more about how they can be involved," he said.

BMS' partner the Asia Pacific Baptist Forum has committed to mobilising 2 million young people for mission by 2040. "Our vision is not just a numerical goal but a divine calling to raise a generation of young believers who are deeply rooted in their faith and committed to spreading the gospel," Ardi said. "We believe that with God's help, we can inspire and

equip these young people to become effective disciples and leaders in their communities and beyond."

Some of the young people at the conference were new believers from Mongolia – a country where only 1.3 per cent of the population are Christians. "Most of the Christians who are there are the first generation of believers," Ardi said. "As they continue to grow, parents and pastors have said that they need to understand and mentor their young people. So it's exciting that we can come and help address those issues."

Ardi is deeply grateful for your unwavering support and prayers. He asks you to pray that the young people will be receptive to God's call to mission, and that the people of Mongolia – and people across the Asia-Pacific region – will come to know the love of God in Christ through their discipleship training efforts.

—

**22**

Number of countries committed to training young people for mission

**2 million**

Number of young people we hope to mobilise by

**2040**

—



## RELIEF SUPPORT CONTINUES FOR UKRAINE

**W**hen the war in Ukraine first broke out almost three years ago, BMS World Mission supporters responded with unprecedented generosity, raising over £1 million. You were some of the first people to step in when millions of refugees fled to neighbouring countries, offering crucial emergency supplies to people with nothing. And as

war rages on, you're making it possible for our partners to keep supporting Christians who remain in Ukraine.

A new winterisation project is being rolled out as the weather turns. You're helping churches create warm spaces, providing heating materials and hot meals to people who've lost so much in war. Thank you for remembering the people of Ukraine.

---

## BAPTIST CHURCHES PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING AID IN NORTH EAST INDIA

**Y**our generosity brought life-saving aid to 250 families whose homes had been swept away by torrential rain. From 28 to 29 May, a cyclone caused landslides and flooding in Mizoram province in north east India, leaving 5,000 houses damaged or completely destroyed. BMS gave our partner the Baptist Church of Mizoram a £10,000 grant

to fund their relief efforts. Thanks to your generous giving, 250 households were provided with food and temporary shelter. Some 300 other families received training on how to prepare for and build resilience against future disasters.

*For more information on how you've supported emergency relief in Lebanon, head to page 16.*

---

From the  
General Director

---

## THE ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS

Kang-San Tan



*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear*

**D**espite our commitments to using this season to celebrate the birth of the Son of God, Christmas is often commercialised

in global cities or reduced to a family occasion rather than a world-changing event. In the busyness of festivities, we often miss the heart of the gospel: that God himself is already incarnate among diverse people in order to bring about the transformation of whole societies.

There was no place for Jesus in the Jewish nation that had been praying for his coming for 2,000 years. They crowded him out with their worldly cares and national concerns.

And it doesn't seem like much has changed in the year 2024, despite the global and growing world of the Christian faith. Worldly concerns still seem to be the focus of the Christmas season, but when we focus on the commercialisation of Christmas, are we not in danger of pushing the same Jesus out of our society today?

The good news is that God invites us to bear witness to his saving work by doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly in the world (Micah 6: 8), in order that "this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24: 14). So let's remember, among the festivities and the joy, that justice, mercy and humility should remain on our hearts, despite what you might be hoping for under the Christmas tree.

Thank you

# Fearless fundraisers

## Scared of heights?

Tracy and Shaun definitely aren't. And we're so glad they're not – because they've just raised over £2,000 by jumping out of a plane!

Tracy shared more about their experience, saying, "I felt really anxious beforehand, but once we were in the air the adrenaline kicked in... The free fall was exhilarating! The feeling of being in the air and viewing the world from that vantage point left me speechless with wonder and awe. I would definitely do it again." What an exciting way to see the full beauty of God's creation!

And to anyone else who's



thinking of fundraising for BMS World Mission, you don't have to follow in Tracy's footsteps – there are plenty of ways you could raise money. "I would encourage anyone to raise funds for BMS," says Tracy. "There are so many needs that are met through the work of BMS, and so often we

in the UK take our lifestyle for granted. The money you raise will make a big difference in the lives of those that BMS supports."

Thank you so much, Tracy and Shaun, for your daring spirit, and for raising an amazing £2,383. You're making a real difference to people in need across the world.

## Running for relief

Not satisfied with just helping our partners from behind his desk, Bruce decided to go the extra mile – or the extra 13.1 miles – by running a half marathon in support of the BMS disaster recovery fund!

Bruce is the Relief Lead here at BMS, and his day job consists of organising relief grants to be sent to our partners when disaster strikes. He's recently been working behind the scenes to help support our partners in Lebanon as they get emergency food and shelter to people fleeing the Israel-Hezbollah conflict.

Bruce's decision to run a half marathon to fundraise for the BMS disaster recovery fund just shows his dedication to helping those in need. As Bruce himself said, "I wanted to run for the disaster recovery fund as it provides direct support for so many people suffering from disasters and conflict around the world. I know the funds BMS provides through our partners on the ground make



a substantial difference to those impacted."

Bruce managed to raise an amazing £3,721 for people in need – how great is that! We're so grateful for Bruce's tireless efforts and for his going above and beyond to support those in need.

**Inspired to fundraise?** Head to [www.bmsworldmission.org/community-fundraising-resources](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/community-fundraising-resources) to find everything you need to kick off your fundraiser!

# “THEY’LL DEFY YOUR EXPECTATIONS”

**Your support is  
transforming the lives  
of young people with  
disabilities in Thailand.**

Words: **Chris Manktelow**



Families in Thailand often lack the support they need to care for children with physical disabilities.



**T**oday will be the same as yesterday. Your teenage daughter, P\*, spends all day lying on the floor watching TV. She can't lift her own body weight with her hands, and it hurts when you shift her body to make her feel more comfortable. Every day you help her get washed and dressed, as well as bringing her breakfast, lunch and dinner, while the rest of the family go out to work. You love her so much and you wish you knew how to give her a better life.

Except that today won't be the same as yesterday. This morning your

doctor told you that you need to go to hospital for major heart surgery. It will take at least a month to recover. If you don't go to the hospital, then you won't be well enough to look after P. But your family can't look after her either because they need to be at work. What can you do?

Caring for family members like P can be difficult in Thailand. "Families, when they are faced with a child with a physical disability, are sometimes not given hope or encouragement by medical staff," said BMS World Mission worker Judy Cook. "They may be told, 'Just take them home, they won't get

any better, they won't be able to do anything.' If families hear this, then this is what they believe.

"Some families choose to carry on like this and not try to do anything with their child. Others, in despair, will choose to give them up and hand their care over to the state, fearing that they cannot cope or afford to raise their child. Other families, if they hear more hopeful news from medical staff, may choose different options, even though the challenges of raising a child with disabilities are emotionally, financially and socially high."

P was born with a severe physical



Staff at Hope Home take the children into the garden every day so they can enjoy God's creation.

disability. She grew up being looked after by her mother, while the rest of her family worked to financially support P and her mother as her main caregiver. P's mother loved her daughter deeply but did not know how to lift P properly, or how to feed her when she was not lying on the floor. When P's mother needed to have heart surgery, the family were unable to provide the 24-hour care that P needed, so they asked the Thai Government for help.

The government welfare department got in contact with Judy Cook and her Thai colleagues at Hope Home to see if they could care for P. Judy's served at Hope Home since 2007, where she and her colleagues provide physiotherapy and long-term care for children and young people with physical disabilities. They also teach children who can't go to school, and have times of prayer and worship for those who want to join in. When they heard about P's predicament,

*"There was clearly a big family love there."*

they immediately offered to give her respite care for as long as it took for her mother to recover from the operation.

From the beginning of P's stay, they saw changes in her behaviour. P's mother told Hope Home that P would cry if she couldn't watch TV all day. But soon P began to defy everyone's expectations. "She never watched a single bit of TV with us. And she was fine," said Judy. "Physically, we were able to get her from just lying on the floor to sitting in positions where she could see and be involved. And her hands could

start to actually work because she wasn't lying down on the floor."

Once P became more mobile, she was able to get out and about. "She had a whale of a time," said Judy. "She got out to church, she got out to special events and she even went to a wedding. And she took part in all our educational activities. She really wanted to be learning."

When P's mother visited, she was amazed by how much her daughter had grown in confidence. "The mum saw what P could do with us, and she initially was quite happy to be taught how to position her better and how to





A new accessible playground is about to open at Hope Home, where children from the village and the home can play together.



BMS worker Judy Cook wants all the children at Hope Home to experience the love of God.



*“Families... are sometimes not given hope by medical staff.”*

sit her up on her own,” Judy said. “There was clearly a big family love there and that’s why we were very keen to get her back home before the family started getting used to her not being there.”

When P left Hope Home, her mum wanted to use a purpose-made wheelchair so that P could get out more. But sadly, the family ended up having to return the equipment that Hope Home provided. Although this outcome is disappointing, Judy knows that P’s life has still changed for the better, and she regularly visits her and her family. “We’re helping financially, so that the mum can pay somebody locally to come and help her lift P

and shower her,” she said. “The family knows P can do more, and hopefully the family will reach a realisation of wanting to do more.”

Helping families look after children and young people with physical disabilities is a lifelong journey. Every day, Judy sees signs of God’s love at work in the children and young people at Hope Home. “The slightest little thing gives them pleasure and excitement and that’s what God wants to be like with all of us. He wants us to enjoy life and enjoy who he is and how much he loves us. And to accept it without questioning. That’s what our kids do.”

## Prayer requests for Hope Home

- Pray that the children from Hope Home and the wider community will enjoy the new accessible playground that is about to open.
- Pray for the team at Hope Home as they discern how best to care for children who are ageing out of school and their therapy times.
- Pray that God will give the team at Hope Home wisdom as they make decisions and partner with the Thai Government.



# Silent night?

At Guinebor II Hospital (G2) in Chad, there's no such thing. This Christmas, could you help bring more babies safely into the world?

Words: Laura Durrant

Zahara's mother cradles her grandson, Moussa, knowing that both he and her daughter are safe thanks to the team at G2 Hospital.

**Imagine the hustle and bustle. Outside, the sky is dark and you can only hear crickets. Inside, everything is moving.** Nurses stride with purpose from ward to ward. The generator hums, providing light and power to vital machinery. Patients toss and turn, trying to rest while they can. This is Guinebor II Hospital in N'Djamena, Chad. The hospital staff are working their night shift, offering people a chance at healing that otherwise wouldn't be possible. As a newborn baby cries, life is in the air. But as Zahara\* cradles her newly born son, she has no idea how close to death she really is.

The maternity ward is particularly busy at G2. For the first time ever this

year, the ward has averaged more than 200 babies born per month. "It's hard to quantify whether that's because there's better awareness, or because there's a bigger population that lives around the hospital," explains BMS World Mission worker Claire Bedford, who serves as a pharmacist and member of the G2 leadership team. "But there's definitely more people coming to the hospital to have their babies. And that could only be a good thing."

And looking at the data, Claire couldn't be more right. The infant mortality rate in Chad is the fourth worst in the world – roughly one in ten babies don't make it to their fifth birthday – and the maternal mortality rate is the second worst in the world.

“  
PATIENTS SAY  
THERE'S SOMETHING  
DIFFERENT ABOUT  
THIS HOSPITAL.  
”

For women like Zahara, making it to G2 Hospital really is a matter of life or death.

Zahara has had a total of 12 pregnancies, but tragically only six of her children are alive today: three of her pregnancies ended in miscarriage and three babies passed away in



Maternal and infant mortality rates are unbelievably high in Chad. Praise God that the team at G2 are working to tackle them.

infancy. Unfortunately, Zahara’s story is all too common. Her husband is a taxi driver who frequently ferries patients to and from G2 Hospital, where Zahara had all her children. All her previous births had gone smoothly, and she kept coming back to G2 because she knew she would be well cared for by all the staff there. It was the same with her youngest son, Moussa\*, who was born earlier this year. The birth went fine and both he and his mother seemed healthy. But it wasn’t until they returned home that Zahara’s health took a turn.

A few days after giving birth, Zahara began to feel sick. Her arms and legs swelled up, she developed severe headaches and soon she wasn’t able to stand up or walk by herself. She and her family didn’t know it, but she was showing the symptoms of the pregnancy disorder pre-eclampsia.

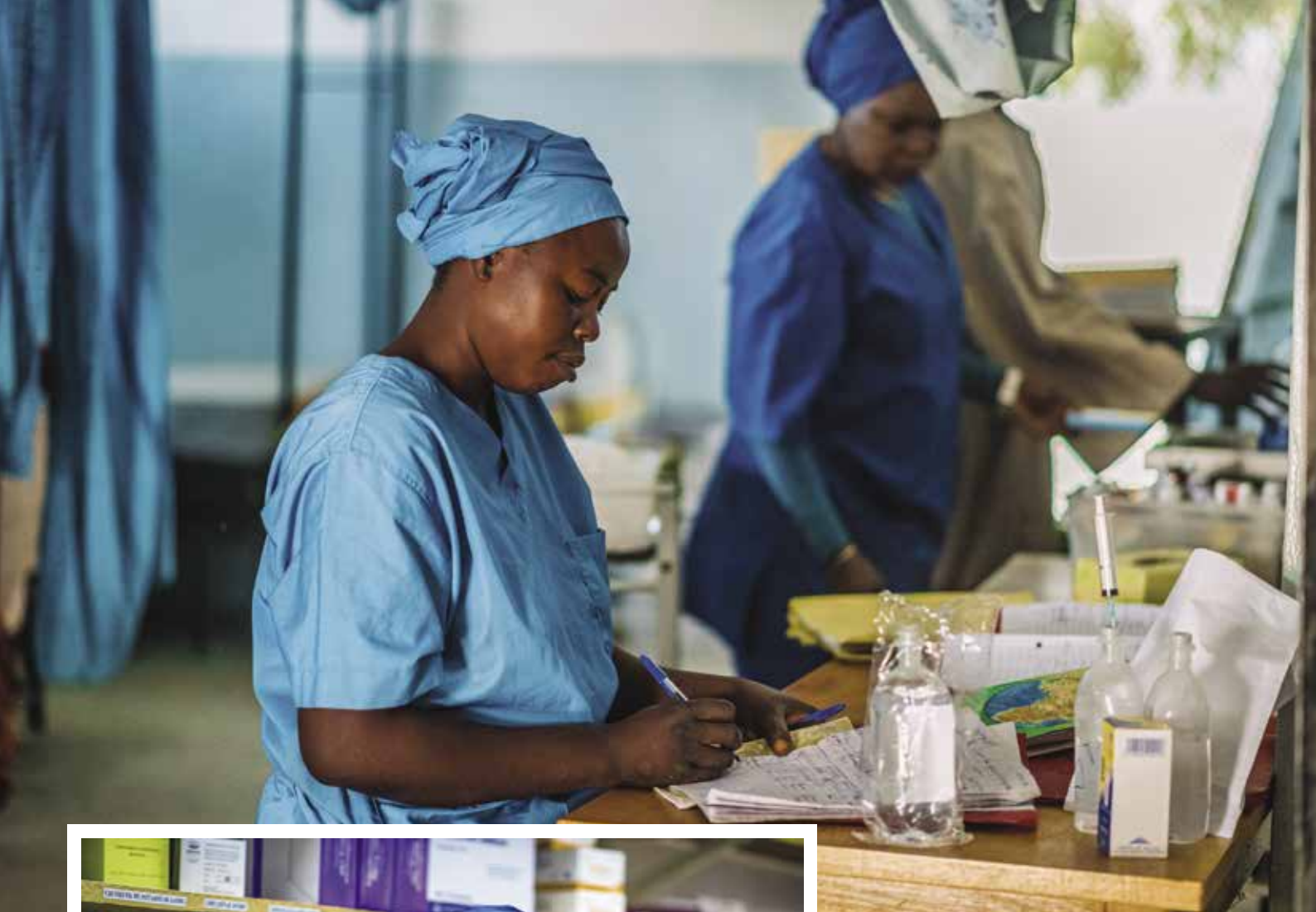
Women in the UK with pre-eclampsia generally experience



mild symptoms – but in Chad, it’s a different story. In Chad, pre-eclampsia is a major contributor to maternal mortality rates. But, much like many causes of maternal death, it is easily treatable and preventable. And it’s these sorts of tragedies that the team at G2 is determined to tackle as best they can. “The maternal mortality rate is the second worst in the world,” says Claire. “And the reasons are multifaceted. It’s poverty, it’s access to hospitals, and in my opinion, it’s lack

of women’s education.”

When women come to give birth and care for their children, they rely on information passed down from the other women in their family, and often look to traditional medicines first. “When a traditional birth goes fine, we never know anything about it,” shares Claire. “But when things go wrong, they can be catastrophic.” Which is why the team at G2 are always trying to build good relationships with their community,



Claire and the rest of the BMS team at G2 are so thankful for all your support for the hospital.

### Will you help more mothers this Christmas?

Zahara and Moussa were able to return safely home after a their ordeal, secure in the knowledge that the G2 team would be there to help them whenever they needed it. But so many other mothers and their babies are at risk in Chad right now. A gift of just £10 to our Special delivery appeal could provide life-saving post-birth medication for a woman like Zahara. Visit [www.bmsworldmission.org/delivery](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/delivery) to give now.

and teach mothers – and fathers – how to care for both themselves and their children well, and when to seek professional help.

This is why Zahara’s existing relationship with the hospital really did save her life. A week after Moussa’s birth, her family brought her back to G2 Hospital, because they knew that would be the best place for her. She received vital magnesium

sulphate injections, which lowered her blood pressure and helped remove the threat of seizures and death. A few days after her treatment, she shared that she was exhausted – but grateful to be alive.

Working at a Christian hospital carries a particular responsibility, but the many Christian members of staff – both mission workers and local Chadian staff – are boldly stepping

out in their faith to share the love of God with people in desperate need. “It’s a light in the spiritual darkness,” says Claire. “Patients say there’s something different about this hospital.” So while there may be very few silent nights at G2 this Christmas time, our hope and prayer is that the cries heard in the night are something different from what you might expect – cries, in fact, of life.

*\*Names changed.*

# EVANGELISM AMONG EXTREMISM

It's not safe to show Pastor Jadab's face. But the danger won't stop him sharing his faith.

**Persecution is nothing new to Christians in India. Strict anti-conversion laws and the threat of violence means that Indian Christians face danger every day. So why are so many Indian Christians finding reasons to rejoice?**

**T**here are around 28 million Christians in India, which may seem like a big number, but it only makes up around three per cent of the population. Anti-conversion laws mean Christians often become targets, and religious violence still rears its head across the country. Just last year, BMS World Mission supporters gave £6,500 to our partners responding to ethnic violence between Christian and Hindu communities in Manipur, north east India. And it's in this context that Christians like Pastor Jadab\* are boldly stepping out in faith to make

the Word of God known.

Pastor Jadab serves in the region of Odisha (formerly Orissa). Odisha was subject to terrifying religious riots back in 2008. Extremists killed hundreds of Christians and displaced tens of thousands. In fact, avid readers of *Engage* may remember Pastor Jadab, as he was featured in *Engage* magazine back in 2014. Back then, Pastor Jadab told us about his terrifying flight from the 2008 riots. "More than 200 people were making a plan to kill me," he shared, along with the story of having to split up his family and flee to the jungle with nothing to escape extremists. When they eventually managed to meet up

again, they escaped to Mumbai, and Pastor Jadab vowed to never return. But God had other plans – when he felt himself being called back to Odisha, Pastor Jadab connected with BMS mission worker Ben Francis at our partner BigLife, who helped equip him in his ministry. When we spoke to Pastor Jadab back in 2014, he'd planted over 700 churches in the region. We caught up with him ten years later, and, amazingly, his ministry has grown and grown since then.

Going back to a place that had caused so much pain, not just to the wider Christian community, but to Pastor Jadab himself, took great courage. But Pastor Jadab knew



Wonderfully, women often lead the way when it comes to sharing the gospel. Our partner in India empowers many women to start churches and create disciples.

the strength of God was on his side. “When we started going to people, when we saw the darkness they live in, the need that surrounds them, this challenged us to do more than we have ever done,” said Pastor Jadab. “And if we don’t go, then who will go?”

Using disciple-making training he received from our partner in India, Pastor Jadab began planting small church groups which were then able to plant even more churches, and make the Word of God known to even more people. And, surprisingly, they began to reach the people they least expected – the very same people who were involved 2008 riots.

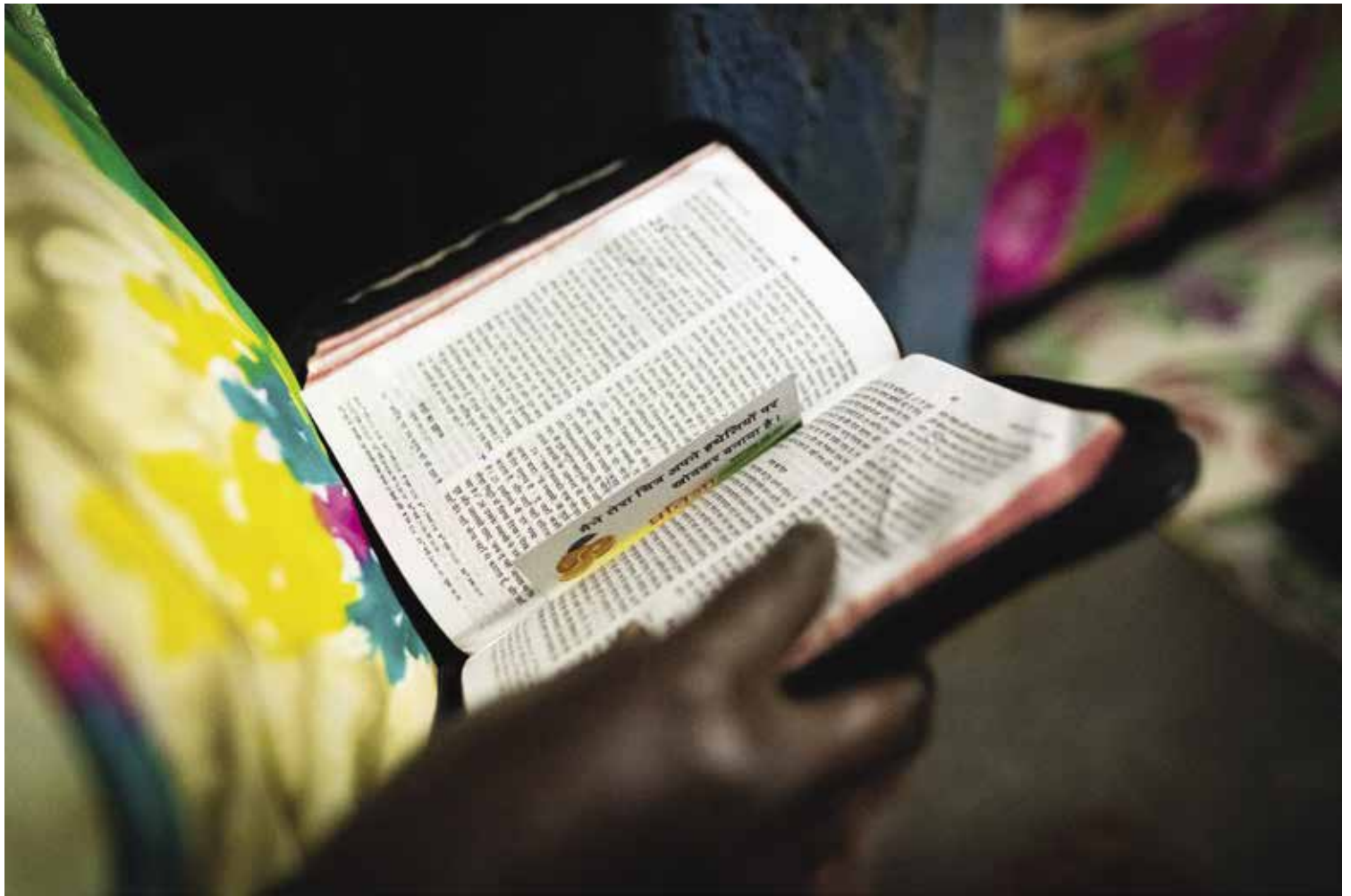
Pastor Jadab told us about a man who had been instrumental in the riots – a man who had killed Christians and destroyed churches. He came along to a church meeting with Pastor Jadab, where people were using tablets to share the Jesus Film. The man was intrigued by the film and asked if he could borrow the tablet. Trusting that the Lord was at work, Pastor Jadab

lent it to him, but arranged to meet him again in a few days’ time. When he saw the man again, Pastor Jadab knew that he had been changed by the film he’d seen. The man asked for prayer, and he subsequently gave his life to God.

For such a man to commit himself to Christ, it raised awareness of the Christian message to even more extremist leaders, who began to come along to church meetings just to understand what had changed in this one man. “I did a meeting of over 3,000 people, and 700 of these extremist people came,” says Pastor Jadab. “We called some of their leaders up. We actually welcomed them, we honoured them.” It was the welcome they received – and the kindness shown to others on the margins – that lit a spark in people’s hearts. Because the Christians Pastor Jadab serves with don’t just preach the Word, they act on it too. They bring food and community to people with leprosy who’ve been thrown out of their villages, or women who’ve lost

“  
IF WE  
DON’T GO,  
THEN WHO  
WILL GO?  
”

their husbands and struggle to earn enough to support themselves and their families. It’s this giving Christian spirit that is really inspiring the growth in the area. And it really is incredible growth. The number of churches in the area has gone up more than sixfold – from an original number of 700, there are now 4,745 churches in the area. And at that meeting, each of those extremists were given a copy of the New Testament. A small gesture, but



Christians in India are so thankful to have your support behind them. Please keep them in your prayers.

there's no telling what fruit it might bear.

Despite these inspiring numbers, things are still hard for people like Pastor Jadab and the ex-extremist who came to faith. "That man was thrown out of his village," shares Pastor Jadab. "His family don't want to have anything to do with him. These kinds of things are normal." But despite the dangers, Pastor Jadab knows that God can – and does – do

miracles. "I don't operate on fear," he says. "I operate in boldness because God can change anybody."

And Pastor Jadab is so grateful to know that Christians in the UK have been supporting this work and praying for him all this time. "As I take the Lord's name, I also take BMS' name," he says. "If we didn't have your support and your prayer, I don't think we would be where we are today. I want to thank you for

standing behind us, encouraging us, praying for us, providing for us." Please do keep lifting up Pastor Jadab and Christians in India in prayer. They need you now more than ever. Together as brothers and sisters in Christ, we can share that boldness to step out in faith and rejoice, knowing that God will achieve the unimaginable.

*\*Name changed.*



# BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

Lebanon has been under threat from Israeli airstrikes since 8 October 2023. The conflict escalated in September 2024, and since the beginning of the conflict, over 3,000 people have been killed by Israeli strikes in Lebanon, and over 60 people in Israel have been killed by Hezbollah. BMS World Mission's partner in Lebanon, Thimar, has been offering emergency aid and support to people displaced since the conflict began. These are the stories of the peacemakers – the people putting their lives at risk to help those in need.



**M**azen serves in the Beqaa Valley in southern Lebanon. It is one of the worst-hit areas of Lebanon since Israeli airstrikes began last October. But despite the danger, many people have nowhere to flee to. Fortunately, thanks to his church's partnership with Thimar, Mazen is helping people with nothing to find food and shelter. One family he's helping had their house completely destroyed in a bombing; they had to flee with nothing. Their young daughter has been traumatised by the attack, and now has jaundice. As well as

providing crucial food, water and toiletries, Mazen is helping the family find a doctor to treat their little girl as soon as possible.

Mazen knows the risk he's putting himself in. But he also knows that our God has commanded us to take in the stranger and love our neighbour. In his own words: "I cannot abandon them. Who will help them if we don't? In the end, I committed my life to the Lord and I only have one rule in life: if I live, I live to serve the Lord. If I die, I will go to be with the Lord. I don't know any other option."

Jean serves in North Lebanon. While it is safer compared to the south, it's

still susceptible to attacks – on 15 October, 21 people were killed in an airstrike in a predominantly Christian village. Jean and the other volunteers at her church working with Thimar are distributing blankets, pillows and toiletries to help families arriving to experience some sort of normality. Many are, of course, still terrified of the threat of airstrikes still reaching them – and sometimes the only thing you can do is sit and listen to their stories, comforting them as they share the tragedies they've been through. As for Jean, despite the constant threat of bombs, she finds her comfort in God: "We thank God and we feel

“  
IF I DIE, I  
WILL GO  
TO BE  
WITH THE  
LORD. I  
DON'T  
KNOW  
ANY  
OTHER  
OPTION.  
”





safe, because we know we are part of God's Kingdom. We believe God will use us, and we feel blessed to be helping these people and ease their pain."

Bahaa is in Akkar, also in the north, and shares similar stories – people arriving with nothing and knowing no-one. Bahaa and the other volunteers at her church have been doing their best to provide for the 250 displaced families in their small village. Any building available is used for shelter – local homes, schools, even nursing homes.

Bahaa met an older woman at her church who began to cry when she saw the things

she was going to receive. "We have never needed help before," she said. "We are not the type of people to receive assistance. We are not even refugees – we are in our country. We feel we have lost our dignity." Bahaa and her team did their best to comfort and reassure her. Bahaa told her, "You are home here; this village is your village. The items we distribute are not from us or from our families; they are from the Lord. Truly, the blessing is ours, because whenever we are able to help someone, our God rejoices and will reward us one way or another."

## WE PRAISE GOD FOR THE PEACEMAKERS.

For those who see war, destruction and death and won't turn their backs. But the conflict rages on and people are still in desperate need. Will you stand with the peacemakers and show them that we will not forget them? If you could **GIVE £25**, you could provide vital mattresses and blankets to keep displaced people warm this winter. Visit [www.bmsworldmission.org/lebanon-appeal](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/lebanon-appeal) to give today.

And please, keep praying for an end to this conflict. Pray for all sides to lay down their arms and for the Lord to usher in an age of justice and peace for all.

*All information correct at the time of printing.*



# A letter from Thailand

You might remember Mary and Moses from Issue 54 of *Engage* magazine back in 2022, when they had just taken on the leadership of the church in Wang Daeng, Thailand. Two years on, Mary wants to share with you the difference the church has made in a village that used to have no Christians.



Mary, Moses and their family are excited to help grow the Kingdom of God in rural Thailand.

**Dear friends,**

Thank you for supporting the church community at Wang Daeng. When we arrived here, we felt like strangers. However, after five or six months, we got to know people more through visiting and by teaching English and running a football ministry. We did home visits and met many parents and other adults. We began to feel we belonged in the village. From being strangers, we became one of them. People got to know us and became our friends. People say hello and smile and greet us.

To have our own church building is revealing our clear identity. Most people understand that there is a Christian church in the village. We run various activities like English classes and football training at church. There are some strict Buddhist parents who don't allow their children to attend, but only a small number. We are, as

Christians, hoping that the church building will be a blessing to the community and open up for them to come and use it for their meetings. It's our aim to include them – to feel like we are all together – not to segregate, so that we can live together in the village with happiness and peace.

In the future, I hope that our believers will grow up rooted in God's Word and have a desire to serve God together more in the church. We'd like to see our leaders stand firm in their faith, well equipped in management, evangelism and discipleship with others. We hope that they will have an ability to teach, evangelise and lead people to faith, with good pastoral care. Then I believe that the Wang Daeng Church will expand and plant more churches.

Every blessing,

**Mary**

Pastor at Wang Daeng church

“  
WE BEGAN  
TO FEEL WE  
BELONGED...  
FROM BEING  
STRANGERS,  
WE BECAME  
ONE OF  
THEM.

”



# LETTERS FROM... THE UK



## Could Engage be more accessible?

Dear Laura,

I have been and still am the BMS representative for Denmark Place Baptist Church for over 50 years.

I enjoy reading *Engage* but the print is too small. Why is Kang-San Tan's article printed on blue paper. It is unnecessary. It is wonderful the help we have given in Afghanistan. Our missionary, Grace\*, is based in Afghanistan. We hope to see her soon. Also the article 'A letter from Palestine'. In May 2011 we had lunch at Bethlehem Bible College while I was on a Holy Land tour.

God bless you and all you do for BMS,  
**John**

## From the Editor

Dear John,

It's so encouraging to hear about your faithful service at Denmark Place Baptist Church as a BMS Rep. I imagine you must have achieved some great things in that time, and your congregation is fortunate to have someone so dedicated to mission. Thank so much for everything you do!

Thank you too for your feedback on the readability of *Engage* magazine, I'm sorry to hear you've had trouble reading some of the magazine. The reason Kang-San's column is printed on blue is to differentiate it from the rest of the content on that page, but I understand that that may make it hard to read. We will definitely be taking your feedback on board when we begin to consider the upcoming changes to the magazine in 2025. If there is any further feedback you wish to share, please do feel free to email me.

Every blessing,  
**Laura**

## Thank you for cheering up Laura!



**Get in touch!** If you've been inspired or challenged by anything you've read in *Engage*, we would love to hear from you! Use [magazine@bmsworldmission.org](mailto:magazine@bmsworldmission.org) to get in touch with our Editor, Laura!

\*Name changed.

A woman with dark hair is sitting on a red surface, reading an open book. A young child with dark hair is sitting next to her, looking down at the book. The child is wearing a dark blue t-shirt with a pink graphic. The woman is wearing a blue top. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting with some lights.

Pray for **JUSTICE**

Pray for **HOPE**

Pray for **CREATION**

Pray for **PEOPLE ON THE MOVE**

Pray for **PEACE**

**PRAY FOR THE WORLD**

Pray for **HELP**

Pray for **THE KINGDOM**

Pray for **THOSE IN NEED**

Pray for **THE HUNGRY**

Join us on 2 February 2025 for the BMS Day of Prayer.

[www.bmsworldmission.org/day-of-prayer](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/day-of-prayer)