

# ENGAGE

The BMS World Mission magazine

# GOD USED IT FOR GOOD



## LEARNING FROM THAILAND

BMS World Mission workers explore ways you can share the good news in your community.

## SAY IT LOUD, SAY IT CLEAR

Refugees are welcome here in a BMS-supported centre in Cyprus.

## PRAY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Prayer requests from Palestine and Lebanon inside.





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



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mailing to send us a note,  
a cheque or anything else  
in response  
to this issue!

We look forward to  
hearing from you!



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



# "See, I am doing a new thing"

Laura Durrant

August 2025



**I** expect you don't remember my first editorial in **Engage** magazine. I took inspiration from Isaiah 43: 19 and reflected on the ways that both BMS World Mission and I were changing and exploring new frontiers of mission. I take heart in these words again, albeit with a more bittersweet tone, as I share that I am moving on from BMS and handing over the mantle of *Engage* magazine.

I've had a blessed few years at the helm, and I want to express my thanks to everyone who's read *Engage* and prayed, given or got in touch as a result. I've had many days buoyed knowing how much people have enjoyed reading this magazine, and will miss hearing all your kind words!

Before I go, I've still got some exciting stories for you in my last issue

of *Engage*. On page 19, you'll meet Sara\*. She's receiving food parcels from our partner in Lebanon thanks to your support. On page 12, you can read more about *Refugees Welcome*, BMS' harvest appeal for 2025. And you can learn more about how BMS workers Helen and Wit Boondeekhun are sharing the good news on page 16. As always (and for the last time), I hope you find these stories inspiring!

Thank you again for everything you've brought to my time with *Engage*. If you have any thoughts about Issue 63, please do get in touch on [magazine@bmsworldmission.org](mailto:magazine@bmsworldmission.org) – I'm sure the BMS team will get them to me! God bless and goodbye,  
**Laura Durrant**  
Editor

*\*Sara's name has been changed to protect her identity.*



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## A BAPTIST ASSEMBLY WITH A DIFFERENCE

**A**cross Friday 16 and Saturday 17 May, a Baptist Assembly with a difference took place at the Bethel Convention Centre in West Bromwich. The first 24 hours were dedicated to a BMS World Mission-produced mission conference. The theme was how churches in the UK can tap into the rich seam of growth taking place across the Global Church – and how BMS can make that participation possible.

The conference launched by taking everyone on a journey from Kolkata, home of BMS evangelist Ben Francis, to Toxteth, Liverpool, with a pitstop in Loughborough as we learnt that, when it comes to making disciples, anybody can do it. Ben was joined on stage by Toxteth Tabernacle's Jack Sykes and by Hathern Baptist Church's Rachel Malyk, who both have deep experience of using Ben's methods in

very different UK contexts. They taught us that imagination and adaptation were necessary, not to mention lots of prayer!

Prayer, patience and hospitality marked out the afternoon session as the focus shifted to how to create true places of welcome for the strangers in our communities, with a focus on refugees. BMS' Sam Chaise, who heads up our refugee work, introduced Peter Samir and Issa Elbechara of BMS partner Quest Academy, who shared their experiences of training Europe's Arabic diaspora to bring the gospel to their fellow refugees.

Other voices from Ghana, Uganda, Wokingham, Hong Kong and Lebanon blessed the conference as it culminated in BMS' own Nagaland-born Aniu Kevichusa challenging churches in the UK to play their part as the Holy Spirit flows through the Global Church.



# RECORD NUMBER OF BIRTHS AT G2!

**I**t's been an exciting year for the maternity department at G2.

Not only have they welcomed a record number of healthy babies to the hospital, they even saw a woman deliver a set of triplets, born naturally and healthily. These statistics show the amazing work that the maternity department is doing to encourage local women to come to the hospital to deliver their babies safely.

"It was great to feel the commotion from the maternity team, because they have been working for a very long time to break the cultural barrier of getting the ladies to come to the hospital to give birth," says BMS worker Lucia Bastos. "We're thinking, 'Yes, we're

getting there,' but then on the other hand, also that we need to invest more in reaching out."

The team at G2 are planning to run more community outreach programmes with people living around the hospital in order to encourage even more women to come to the hospital for medical care during their pregnancy and birth. The hope is that this crucial work will help reduce Chad's infant and maternal mortality rates, which are some of the highest in the world. Please keep this work in your prayers – and if you gave to our Special Delivery appeal last Christmas, supporting the maternity department, head to page 8 for an extra special thank you!





## Welcome Orla!

**W**e at BMS are keen to reignite hearts for mission among young people, particularly after we closed our Action Teams gap year programme in 2022. Which is why we're pleased to welcome Orla Moxon to the BMS team as our Youth Engagement Officer. Orla, a former Action Teamer herself, is excited to see how God will be at work in this new role. She plans to come alongside churches across the UK to help them engage their young people in mission. "My hope is to ignite a passion for this next generation to be involved with God's mission," she says. "And also help them to know that they don't have to be grown up to be part of his mission!"

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From the General Director

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## WELCOME THE STRANGER

Kang-San Tan



**B**MS World Mission's Help for the Journey programme invites Christians everywhere to walk

alongside migrants as they seek safety and search for new life. At the Baptist Assembly in May, Issa Elbechera, from BMS' partner Quest Academy, reminded us of a vital truth: "The most important bridge to refugees is to show you love them. Most refugees think the western world hates them."

Migration is central to today's world. Refugees, displaced individuals, economic migrants, international students and digital nomads are moving across borders. Instead of treating migrants as strangers, Christians can embrace the opportunity to live out the biblical vision of multi-ethnic communities, welcoming and celebrating newcomers.

This movement of people presents an extraordinary mission opportunity. Rather than viewing migrants as outsiders, believers can ground their perspective in Scripture: *all humans are created in God's image* (Genesis 1: 26-28). The Bible affirms that outsiders, too, hold God-given potential to contribute to the flourishing of his Kingdom.

God's love for foreigners is woven throughout Scripture. The Old Testament calls for provisions for sojourners and condemns oppression. As God's people, we are invited to reflect his love and justice, embodying his vision of a world where all are valued.

Thank you

# Thank you



## Neil, the marathon champion!

**D**espite battling an injury, Neil Jones completed the London Marathon in 4 hours 19 minutes in support of BMS World Mission. And during his run, he saw God at work in some amazing ways.

Neil ran a fantastic race, despite almost dropping out two days before due to his injury. He wasn't far from the end when the pain and fatigue really set in, and he had to walk for the first time. And it was at this point that someone tapped Neil on the shoulder. "This guy came up and said, 'Hello, I work for BMS. Let's do this together,'" Neil recalls. "I believe that God uses people as angels in moments. And his name is Roger, he works for BMS and he was a real encouragement to me."

It just so happened that BMS' very own Roger Pearce was running the marathon too – and out of the tens of thousands of people taking part, they found each other. For the rest of the race, they cheered each other on, and crossed the finish line together – the strength of God carrying them right to the end.

Overall, Neil raised an amazing £3,182 for people in need – just over double his original goal! Thank you so much, Neil, from all of us at BMS. You've worked so incredibly hard, and we are just amazed at what you've achieved.

If you're inspired by Neil's marathon run, head to [www.bmsworldmission.org/fundraise](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/fundraise) to get some ideas for how you could fundraise yourself.



## Angels from the realms of Didcot

**Last Christmas, we asked you to send messages of thanks and encouragement to the midwives at Guinebor II Hospital (G2) in support of our Special Delivery appeal – and boy did you deliver!**

We received almost 200 prayer angels to send to Chad, and when they arrived, the maternity team were so cheered by the thought so many of you had put into your messages. One midwife, Melanie, reflected, "people can send us money, but it's words like these that really encourage us in our work, so thank you!"

BMS worker Claire Bedford had these words to share: "Thank you to everyone for your kind and heartfelt messages. You made their day when we showed them the hundreds of cards! To know that we're not forgotten over here in the Sahara is a real blessing. Thank you for your ongoing support!"

## Generosity in spite of change and challenge

**All of us at BMS know how generous, faithful and dedicated our supporters are, even in the face of great trials. Which is why we want to extend a special thank you to the communities who gave us kind and generous gifts after their churches closed or merged last year.**

We know that the closure of a church is an incredibly sad and challenging time for everyone involved, and we are just so thankful for those of you who, in spite of those difficulties, chose to extend the hand of generosity for people on the margins. We are so thankful for your faithful support and prayers, both as your time as a church came to an end, and during the thriving lifetime of your church family.

We give thanks for the church families from: Brae Baptist Church, Chipperfield Baptist Church, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Forge Side Zion Baptist Church, Glebe Farm Baptist Church, Green Fields Baptist Church, Hope Baptist Church, Summerfield Baptist Church.



Thanks to  
your support,  
children with  
musculoskeletal  
issues are  
getting the help  
they need.



# Healing hands, divine plans

**B**reaking a leg shouldn't be a life-changing injury. But for Mohammed\* in Chad, what could've been a simple enough fix altered the course of his life forever. Thankfully, BMS World Mission workers Ingrid and Roger Hamlet are working on a plan to help more people like Mohammed get the crucial medical care they need – and change the lives of people with

disabilities.

For more than ten years, Guinebor II Hospital (G2) has been serving the medical needs of people around N'Djamena, Chad's capital. The team there, mostly made up of local Chadian staff, are providing all sorts of life-saving treatments – surgery after traffic collisions, emergency C-sections, and support for malnutrition. The hospital has grown and grown since



Ingrid and Roger Hamlet need your prayers and support as they set up the new prosthetics and orthotics department at G2.

its inception – but the needs of the community are constant, particularly for people with physical disabilities. Which is why the Hamlets are stepping in to help.

Ingrid and Roger Hamlet are prosthetics and orthotics (P&O) experts, and with your help, plan to set up a new P&O department at G2 to help people with limb loss and other physical disabilities. And the need couldn't be greater. More often than not, people with disabilities are excluded from everyday society in Chad. "At best, the person is helped by family members to live life as best they can in the Chadian context. At worst, they are shunned," explains BMS worker Claire Bedford. "Generally speaking, in the Chad context, those with disabilities are seen as 'less than' and to be pitied." Lack of education and access to medical facilities can also lead to conditions and injuries worsening unnecessarily. That, sadly, is why Mohammed ended up at G2.

At just 12 years old, Mohammed broke his shin – a painful and difficult injury, to be sure, but not one that should be too difficult to mend. But after his accident, rather than going to a hospital like G2, he was taken to a traditional healer, where his leg was bound to a wooden stake so tightly that it cut off the blood supply. By the time he made it to G2, his foot was septic and badly rotten. When BMS nurse-surgeon Kalbassou Doubassou first examined him, he knew Mohammed's life was in grave danger – and the only way to save him was to amputate below the knee.

The operation was risky, but miraculously, Mohammed pulled through and his leg healed swiftly after the surgery. But now, Mohammed has to adapt to a completely different way of life – and the infrastructure and culture in Chad can make life incredibly difficult for people with disabilities. "Access isn't really a thing here, in terms of

buildings,” explains Ingrid. “In the city centre, you have some paved roads, but the pavements are very holey... so practically, it can be difficult to get around.” And while the problems faced by people with disabilities are numerous, the team at G2 are determined to help however they can – and break the stigma around disabilities so that people know just how loved they are.

Ingrid and Roger have big goals for their new P&O department. They plan to build a workshop with the capacity to construct custom prosthetics for people in need. They also plan to offer well-rounded orthotics support, providing equipment such as leg or back braces for people with musculature issues. There are only six other people in Chad offering this kind of support – which just goes to show how important this project

is. But they need your help to make this work possible.

Through your gifts and prayers, you can help provide vital equipment to get the workshop up and running. If you feel called to support this work financially, you can visit [www.bmsworldmission.org/chad-summer](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/chad-summer) to give what you can. And pray that the Hamlets will be able to connect with other people doing similar work so they can learn how best to serve people in need.

It takes time to see real progress made. But whatever strides we make now are vital to creating a world where everyone knows their worth. So that the next time a child like Mohammed comes to G2 with a broken leg or similar injury, the hospital be fully equipped to help them recover. •

*\*Name changed*

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”



The team at G2 are doing whatever they can to help the people with disabilities coming to the hospital.



# GOD USED IT FOR GOOD



Junior fled war-torn D R Congo and came to faith in a detention centre, all before he turned 17. From orphan, to refugee, to child of God: this is Junior's incredible story.

Words: Hannah Watson

## Chapter one **ORPHAN**

**Junior was just 12 years old when he was asked to identify his father's body.** It seems impossible to imagine, but in war-torn Congo, where Junior

grew up, there was no grown-up to step in. Junior's mother had left the family when he was just seven years old, and, as a public sector teacher, Junior's father was required to move all over Congo, lending support to deprived schools. His work eventually took the family



A BMS-supported welcome centre run by trusted partner All4Aid gives a warm welcome to refugees from all over the world.

Photos: Myrto Papadopoulos/BMS World Mission/Fairpicture

east, to an area ravaged by fighting between rebel militia groups. The violence was indiscriminate, and one day, armed gunmen entered the school where Junior's dad was teaching. Junior remembers anonymous adults coming to find him, and telling him in a blur that his father had been shot.

Junior and his sisters were sent to live with a grandmother they had never met before. "She couldn't really take care of us," Junior explains, his words skimming over years of emotional and physical neglect. "We just ate our next meal whenever possible." At just 12 years old, Junior couldn't work, but felt an enormous burden to look after his family. "I was the 'man'," he explains.

Junior's story paints a heartbreaking picture of life in Congo, a country

wracked by a humanitarian crisis stretching back decades. Violence, especially in the east, has killed hundreds of thousands, and left over 27 million people struggling for food – people like 12-year-old Junior. It would only be years later that Junior could look back on the grief, the hunger, the heartache and fear and see that God did have a plan for his life. That somehow, someday, God would bring about good.

## Chapter two REFUGEE

**"The idea to leave Congo didn't come from me," Junior continues.** "It came from my grandmother." After four years living alongside constant violence and





Junior's desire to serve means he would love to train as a pastor.

struggle, Junior's grandmother told him that she was making plans for him to leave Congo. If he could find security in Europe, he would be able to send help to her and his two younger siblings. Furnished with a passport, Junior was given instructions by more anonymous adults – more grown-ups treating him like a grown-up – though he was just 16. After saying goodbye to his sisters, Junior was hurried out of the country and away from the life he'd known.

"It was only when I arrived in Cyprus that I was told my passport wasn't legitimate," Junior explains. "It stated I was an adult, and I was put in prison." As a 16-year-old refugee, Junior spoke neither English nor Greek, and had no knowledge of the legal system he was told he had broken. No-one in his family

in Congo owned a mobile phone, and without any proof of age, Junior was placed in a detention centre. It's an experience he describes as being like a prison – an experience that would be both the lowest and most life-changing period in his life.

It was while in the detention centre that Junior met a man who was happy to teach him English. The man had a Bible in his room and Junior asked what it was about. "The man told me he was a Christian," Junior says. "But I couldn't really see God's love or his justice in my life. I thought: if he's really 'Love' as you guys are saying, why can't I see it? He took that opportunity to explain to me about Christ dying on the cross as an atonement to redeem people. I saw clearly that I was guilty, and I repented."



## Chapter three

# CHILD OF GOD

**It took nine months before Cypriot authorities uncovered their error and Junior was released.** By God's grace, he was able to step out into a new chapter: one living as a child of God. Through the kindness of Christians in Cyprus, Junior found accommodation and enrolled in school. Finally, he could see some of God's love in his life.

It was through believers that Junior first heard about the BMS World Mission-supported welcome centre that would become, over the next three years, a place he could call home. Offering practical support to refugees, such as clothing distribution, a food bank, an IT lab and sewing machines, the centre also gives much-needed emotional support to those beginning again with nothing. For Junior, it's provided friendship, support to finish his education, and it's become a place where he loves spending time every week.

"We come from different places, but the one thing that binds us together is love for people," Junior explains. "We have a great example in Christ himself, who gives himself to people and serves." It's this desire to serve that has led Junior

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to volunteer at the welcome centre three times a week, alongside refugees from places like Palestine, Somalia, Syria and Afghanistan. And it's this desire that motivates Junior's long-term dream of training as a pastor and moving back to Congo. "No-one is safe in the east part of the Congo," he explains, "but I would like to go back and help people with what I've learnt here."

Junior is now 19 years old. Life still isn't easy, and he longs to reconnect with his sisters, still at risk back home. Yet for all the pain he has suffered, he radiates warmth and smiles easily, joking with those around him. Junior began life in the hardest of circumstances, but is on track to become an incredible man of God, wherever his Father leads him. Looking back at his journey to Cyprus, he can truly say: "God used it for good." •



The BMS-supported welcome centre was there when Junior needed it most. Could you keep its food bank running for refugees fleeing violence and insecurity around the world? Why not ask your minister whether your church could dedicate its harvest offering this year to the Refugees Welcome appeal, and provide hope to people who have lost everything? Find out more at [www.bmsworldmission.org/welcome](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/welcome) today.



# *Five things* **TO KNOW FROM THE** **CHURCH IN** *Thailand*

**BMS World Mission workers Helen and Wit Boondeekhun have been serving communities in northern Thailand since 2017 – and the churches they work with are thriving. Here are five suggestions from the Boondeekhuns you can use to bless the needs of your own local community.**

## **1. Understand the needs of the community**

Originally based in the village of Wang Daeng, Helen and Wit moved to the village of Tao Hai a couple of years ago to serve people there. “When we moved to Tao Hai, we started surveying the village to find out about the felt needs of the community,” says Wit.

From there, Helen and Wit knew the best place to start serving the people of the village. For the people of Tao Hai, it was English classes, but it could be any number of things in your neighbourhood – speak to the people you want to serve, find out what they need and see how your church could respond.

## 2. Run outreach with your neighbours

A lot of Helen and Wit's ministry revolves around running outreach in the holidays. "Thai people love any kind of celebration," says Helen. "So it's a great opportunity to invite people along." Helen and Wit theme their outreach around occasions like Christmas and Valentine's Day – visiting people in the community, bringing gifts and singing together. It's a great chance to get creative and see how you can bless your community – why not bring people some chocolate at Easter, or do some carol singing at Christmas?

One important thing that Helen and Wit make sure they do is only visit people they know. It's a great way to build on relationships you've already started rather than imposing on people you don't know. And that leads us into the next learning from Helen and Wit: respecting boundaries.

## 3. Respect people's boundaries

The majority of people in the region where Helen and Wit work are Buddhists and aren't always open to hearing the Word of God. "When we ask to pray for people, some of them will say yes, but some will say no, we don't want you to," says Wit. "We have to honour and accept that and not feel discouraged." Rather than getting discouraged about people not interested in hearing the gospel, it's important to respect when people say no. You can be a witness by living out Christ's love in actions rather than words – you never know what conversations that might start.

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*We pray  
constantly for  
our neighbours*

”

## 4. Rely on your Christian brothers and sisters

Helen and Wit aren't the only people serving the wider area beyond Wang Daeng and Tao Hai. A couple of years ago they met Pastor Areerat, who had dreams of planting a church in her home village, Ban Dara. However, Pastor Areerat was also running English classes, and seeing as there were only two believers in the village alongside her, she didn't really have the means to get the church going. Thankfully, Helen and Wit were there to come alongside Pastor Areerat to support her in her ministry.

They held the first church service in Ban Dara, with the two believers from the village and volunteers from the Wang Daeng congregation. Thanks to the generosity of BMS supporters, Pastor Areerat is now supported financially by BMS, giving her the means to keep the church going. From just two believers, the church now has 15 people meeting every week. They also run a Sunday school and members regularly visit people in the surrounding community.

"This is the happiest time in my life, serving Jesus and seeing the church





Top left clockwise: Life in Tao Hai, Helen and Wit Boondeekhun, Wang Daeng church opening, Wit with Somsong, a new believer in Tao Hai.

started: what I really dreamed from the beginning," says Pastor Areerat. None of that would be possible without the fellowship she shared with Helen and Wit and the Wang Daeng church. Why not see how you can connect with other Christian communities in your local area so you can lean on each other through whatever challenges you face?

## 5. Pray constantly

"Prayer is a big, big part of it," says Helen. "We pray constantly for all of our neighbours." Wit suggests following

a two/two/two method: choose two people and pray for them at 2 pm for two minutes every day. That way you can get into a good routine of praying for the people in your community – and hopefully see how God works through your prayers!

Inspired by Helen and Wit? Get in touch with us on [magazine@bmsworldmission.org](mailto:magazine@bmsworldmission.org) to let us know how you've used their wisdom to serve your community.





# A SLICE OF HOPE

Words: **Laura Durrant**

W

hen we arrive at Sara's\* house, she greets us with cake. It might not seem like much, but given what she's been through, it's much more than a simple welcome gift. Despite the war, her family's health problems and the financial challenges they face, Sara still finds the time and energy to welcome us into her home. Despite everything, Sara still finds hope.

It's March 2025 – six months since Israel began its ground offensive in southern Lebanon, and five since the beginning of an uneasy ceasefire. Over our three days in the country, people tell stories about what it was like to live through the war. We walk along the seafront in Beirut, where thousands of displaced people from the south camped out. We drive down a street on the outskirts of



People receive necessities such as cooking oil and flour in the food parcels from the church.

Sara will do whatever she can to support her children. Thank you for giving Sara the support she needs to care for her family.



the Muslim part of Beirut and see six or seven buildings, completely destroyed. And we're not even close to seeing the main bulk of the damage.

When we visit the town where Sara lives, in the Beqaa Valley, we're told that we can't go further south than this because it isn't safe (strikes were exchanged a few days before). The team from BMS World Mission's partner Thimar drive us through ordinary streets to visit a church distributing aid for a winterisation project funded by BMS supporters. The church also played a vital role when people began fleeing to the town in autumn 2024 after the Israeli bombardment began. We meet Mousa\* when we arrive. He tells us a little of what it was like back then. "People arrived and just slept in their cars," he says. "It happened so suddenly, no-one was prepared. We didn't even have cups

to give people water. It took a week to get mattresses and things for people to sleep on."

Thanks to your support, Mousa and the team at the church were able to provide crucial food and blankets to people fleeing the war. Even since the ceasefire began, you're still reaching people in need by providing food parcels and fuel for the winter. And when we meet with Sara, it's clear how important this place of refuge is.

Sara has four children: Aline,\* Gabriel,\* Michael\* and Eli.\* Tragically, Aline was dropped when she was born, causing brain damage and paralysis. She can't walk, and Sara can't work because Aline needs round-the-clock care. Gabriel has a serious iron deficiency and requires vitamin injections every six months, and Michael has severe sight problems and needs expensive glasses. All of this costs



“SIMPLY SEEING  
THE CHURCH’S  
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more than Sara and her husband can afford. Sara’s husband is a tuktuk driver. He used to work in construction, but fell off a roof at work, breaking several ribs. He now can’t lift anything heavy – meaning Sara takes on the majority of the work when it comes to taking care of Aline.

“Some days we have nothing to give to our children, and we can’t even buy bread,” says Sara. “The church stands by us every time this happens.” A couple of years ago, a friend encouraged Sara to go to the local church to get help. She started receiving food parcels to help feed her children. This winter, she received blankets and fuel to help keep her family warm. But more than just practical support, she found something much more important at the church: people she could depend on. “They became like family to me, and they provided me with huge emotional

support,” Sara says. “Simply seeing the church’s team makes me feel so much better.”

Things still aren’t easy for Sara and her family – nor are they for many people in Lebanon. After years of financial crisis and a conflict that still looms, many people are still struggling. But as we leave Lebanon, I keep thinking back to Sara’s cake. In the face of such challenges, she used what little she had to welcome us into her home and to thank the church team for all they’d done for her family. It speaks volumes of the love Sara received at that church, love that Christians are displaying across Lebanon. It’s that slice of hope that shows me that – despite it all – God is still at work here. And no matter the challenges this country faces, God’s peace will reign. •

*\*Names changed*



# Pray for Palestine

As we pray for the people of Lebanon, we also cry out to the Lord for those suffering in Gaza. We ask for God's forgiveness for not having spoken out sooner against the atrocities taking place. The prayer and reflection below are from Shireen Awwad Hilal, who works at BMS World Mission's partner Bethlehem Bible College in the West Bank. Please join her in praying for God's peace in Gaza.

## **Shireen's reflections**

The suffering in Gaza is unimaginable. More than 28,000 children have been killed in Gaza since the beginning of the war – each one a precious life made in the image of God.

Thousands more are injured, orphaned, or traumatised beyond words. Hunger and thirst are spreading quickly, with nearly the entire population facing food insecurity. Over 80 days of humanitarian aid access to Gaza has been denied. The cries of children dying from malnutrition should shake us to our core and compel us, as the Church, to stand in the gap with prayer, advocacy, actions and compassion.

## **A prayer for Gaza and the West Bank**

Pray for care for the innocent lives shattered by war. Comfort for the children who cry out in fear as they lose loved ones or parts of their bodies. The parents who search for food and safety.

Father God, in a land scorched by sorrow, bring healing. To broken bodies, grant rest. To shattered families, reunification. Lord, bring us hope where there is hopelessness.

May we not turn away from the suffering of others. We pray that the world will see, hear, speak and act for humanity, justice and peace. Bind us in the shared longing for a world made whole. Lord, we cry for the suffering and the pain that the world is going through. Let there be peace.



# **LETTERS FROM THE UK**

**Hello Laura,**

I for one love the new-sized magazine!

I also enjoy having a hard copy to read. I realise we live in a more digitalised age, but I think hard copies will reach more people and encourage them to read rather than an email.

Blessings to you all and thank you for your time and effort in producing such a wonderful magazine,

**Christine Coogan**

**Dear Laura,**

I'm writing with my personal thanks in relation to the new format of the *Engage* magazine.

My views, however, are very different to some expressed in Issue 62 re: in various ways becoming more 'up to date', ie an 'e-version'. There must be many people like myself (of a certain age) who do not use a computer or have confidence with technology as it is today.

Also, when chatting to 'the older generation', it turns out we all like information simply written down – as with *Engage* and other important info, it's within easy reach on the table next to your chair!

One of the best reasons for the new size, Laura, is you can pop it in your bag or pocket and if you don't drive, it can be read as you journey on... who knows, some travelling companion might



enquire what you're reading and who knows where that might lead!

Many thanks again and God bless you,

**Maureen**

## **From the editor**

**Hi Maureen,**

I completely understand your reflections on keeping the magazine in print rather than digital. It's not our plan at the moment to stop making print copies of *Engage*, as we know that so many people value having a magazine they can hold and read and potentially pass on to others.

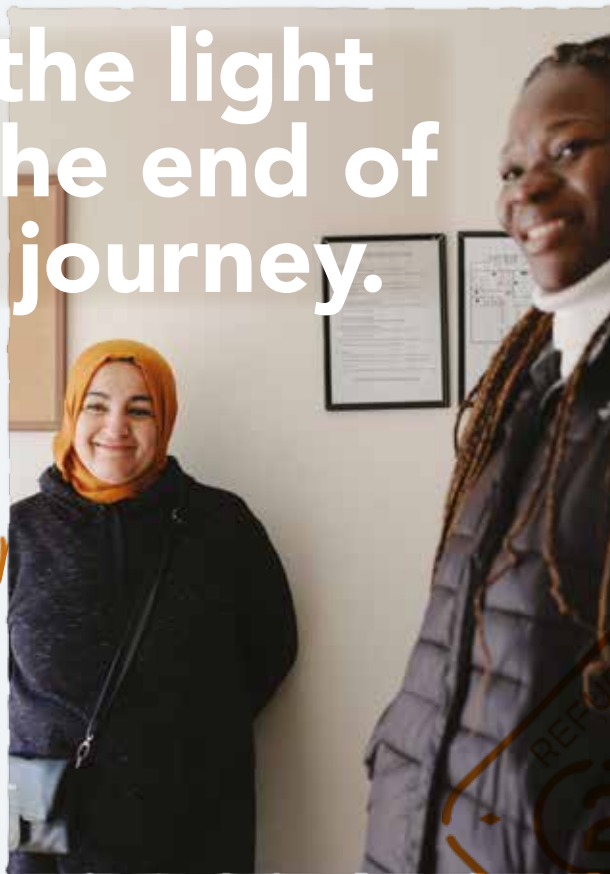
I'm really pleased you like the new size of the magazine as well. Hopefully people will be encouraged to take it out with them more often, and it might spark some fruitful conversations!

All the best,

**Laura Durrant**



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