

ENGAGE

The BMS World Mission magazine

For Syrian refugees school is:

- a safe place to go
- a space where they feel loved
- the chance of a better future

Education

It's a life-changing gift. You can give it this Christmas.

The animations winning hearts for Christ
You brought relief in Myanmar and Afghanistan
A testimony from Thailand





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



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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!



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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.



Maranatha

Alice Cheeseman

December 2025



As Christmas is drawing close, a phrase I keep hearing is “Maranatha”, meaning, “Come, O Lord.” The word is filled with anticipation and hope, which this season seems fitting. There’s anticipation for world change, and for God to move. On a personal note, as I pick up the mantle of *Engage* magazine, I’m filled with anticipation and hope at the prospect of sharing stories of what God is doing globally and what your committed support has led to. I would love to thank Laura, the previous editor, for the hard work she faithfully put into *Engage*. I have some big boots to fill!

In this issue I get the privilege to share how social media has been drawing people to Christ (pages 20-22). You also get to hear about our BMS Christmas appeal, and how your support

has helped children like Talia* (pages 16-19). Recently, we also said goodbye to our friends Pam Sanders (page 7) and Margaret Howard (page 8), who lived their lives faithfully supporting BMS, and I would love to tell you a bit about their stories.

I hope you find *Engage* encouraging and inspiring, and that it gives you plenty to pray over. I look forward to getting to know you and would like to hear your thoughts – especially on this issue of *Engage* – so please email magazine@bmsworldmission.org with any comments. Thank you so much for your support for BMS and continuing to read *Engage*.

God bless,
Alice
Editor

**Name has been changed*



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Lina* studies at a BMS-supported learning centre. **Credit:** Merath

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EUROPEAN BAPTISTS HONOURED BY UKRAINE

European Baptists have been formally honoured by Ukraine for their role raising relief funds and equipping local churches to support those fleeing war. On 24 August 2025, Ukraine's Independence Day, Rev Alan Donaldson was awarded the Order of Merit (3rd Class) by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for his humanitarian service to Ukraine and his leadership as General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation (EBF), which co-ordinated the relief response. BMS World Mission and our partner, EBF, have shown a faithful commitment to relief work in Ukraine for over a decade. Since the full-scale invasion, more than 1.5 million Ukrainian people have been supported to remain in their communities, or while on the move, by EBF. EBF partners, members and individuals raised over six million euros, of which BMS supporters contributed £1.8 million. The Order of Merit, presented to Rev Donaldson in Sophia Square, is a distinguished state decoration,

established in 1996 to honour outstanding achievements in fields such as culture, science, public service and humanitarian work. The medal, typically a silver cross with a central medallion bearing Ukraine's trident emblem, symbolises gratitude for meaningful service to the Ukrainian people.

Receiving this honour, Rev Donaldson emphasised that the medal belonged to the global Baptist family for the remarkable response, co-ordinated by EBF and carried out by faithful local churches in and around Ukraine. Commenting on the role played by BMS supporters, he added, "BMS is a significant part of the story relating to this award." On receiving the award, Rev Donaldson assured President Zelenskyy that Baptists worldwide would continue to pray for wisdom and peace in the negotiations that lie ahead between Ukraine and Russia. Thank you to BMS supporters for your involvement – this award is shared by you.



Earthquake relief for Afghanistan

BMS supporters help families who lost everything

BMS World Mission supporters gave a life-changing £20,000 to support survivors of a devastating earthquake that struck Afghanistan on 31 August 2025. The 6.0 magnitude quake killed more than 2,200 people and injured more than 3,600 across four provinces. Tragically, children accounted for more than half of the fatalities, with at least 1,172 lives lost. Several villages were completely destroyed in the quake, and 271 children are also estimated to have been orphaned.

In response, BMS' partner in Afghanistan, working alongside another humanitarian organisation, launched an emergency cash assistance programme, reaching 281 families in two provinces. Households with a male breadwinner will receive around £210 to spend on essentials, while female-led households, which face heightened vulnerability, will receive around £245.

Emergency cash programmes recognise that among key priorities for people's wellbeing and survival in the wake of disaster (which include shelter, medical supplies, food and clean water), money also represents a vital lifeline. With winter approaching, the funds will help households cover urgent expenses such as food and rebuilding homes.

Those receiving funds will include families who have lost loved ones, homes or essential household items. Widows, people with disabilities, the elderly, and children who have lost parents will all be prioritised in the relief effort.

Your gifts to BMS' disaster recovery fund enabled BMS staff to contact our partner in Afghanistan and offer life-saving assistance without delay. Thank you for giving ahead of disaster. To find out more, search 'relief' on the BMS website.



Your giving provides the next step for patients in Chad

A huge thank you to all who kindly donated to the BMS World Mission Chad summer appeal. You raised over £32,000 for developing prosthetics and orthotics work – which could one day become Guinebor II Hospital's newest department. In Chad, traumatic injuries resulting in the loss of limbs are all too common. Now, mission workers Ingrid and Roger Hamlet are one step closer to providing tailored care for those needing support to walk independently again. You provided specialist hand tools for a workshop, including heat guns for shaping supports. You've also enabled Ingrid to make a weekly visit to the hospital's child development unit, where one mother and her nine-month-old baby had travelled approximately 1,000 km to receive treatment. The hospital's countrywide reputation continues to grow, thanks to you.

From the General Director

'I URGE YOU'

Kang-San Tan



In 1 Timothy 2: 1-6 Paul urges Timothy to pray for world evangelism amid divisions: "I urge, then, first of all, that [prayers] be made for all people [...]. God our Saviour [...] wants all people to be saved [...]. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all."

The desired outcome of these prayers is that Christians can live peaceful lives. In a world troubled by divisions – especially with the ongoing crises in Ukraine and Gaza – your support of BMS World Mission enables us to reach those who are suffering, bringing not only material aid but also the promise of ultimate peace heralded by Christ's birth. This season reminds us not to lose hope: in Isaiah 9: 6 we read: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called... Prince of Peace."

Thank you for standing with us in faith and action. As we look forward to the new year, we pray that God blesses you abundantly and that together we continue to be instruments of peace in a broken world.

Thank you

Thank you

A lifetime of service



We give thanks to God for the life of Pam Sanders, whose incredible gift of 25 per cent of the residue of her estate, left as a legacy to BMS World Mission, is the culmination of a lifetime of service.

Pam attended Earlsfield Baptist Church, inspired by four others from her fellowship who served with BMS overseas. She had hoped herself to go into mission, and even applied to train as a pharmacist, but God's plan for her unfolded differently. Instead, she served faithfully at home – volunteering as a Girls' Brigade officer and deacon, and encouraging countless

children and young people to follow Jesus. Julie, who advised BMS' Legacy Officer Lucy of the gift, remembered being taught by Pam at Sunday School: "We had hospital bed collection boxes for our pennies and, in years gone by, had a special Sunday each year when we brought bandages, plasters and other 'medical' gifts to church, which would be sent abroad."

Beyond church, Pam worked at Boots until retirement, while also enjoying art, embroidery and crafts. She was a talented and creative person who loved travelling, making friends wherever she went, and who lived independently almost to the end of her life.

We are so thankful for Pam – for the life she lived and the difference she continues to make. Her Christian legacy truly lives on in those she taught and inspired, and in those people whose lives her legacy will transform around the world.

Inspired after working for BMS

After moving to Dublin with her husband, former BMS staff member Tabea Dilling returned to the UK to take on the Great North Run – and to raise vital funds for BMS World Mission. With 60,000 runners joining her on the route, Tabea ran the half



marathon in an incredible two hours and five minutes.

"The last three kilometres were a bit hard," Tabea shares. "But people along the way were super supportive and cheerful. It was a very nice experience."

Tabea knows BMS from the inside out – she worked for BMS World Mission for five and a half years. "I experienced how carefully, with foresight and integrity, the leadership plans and conducts its work," she explains. "It was a pleasure and blessing to work at BMS, and I'm grateful I can continue to support its mission."

And that's exactly what she's done. So far, Tabea has raised an amazing £1,251 from 26 donors. Thank you so much, Tabea! We're so grateful for your energy, dedication and love for BMS. You've inspired us all with your run, and we can't wait to see the difference your fundraising will make.

Following the call



We remember with thanksgiving Margaret Howard, who served with BMS World Mission in India from 1960-1967. Margaret went to be with her Lord in 2024 at the age of 88, and it's with thanks that we celebrate the amazing legacy of a seventh of the residue of her estate left to BMS.

Margaret was baptised as a young teenager in 1948. Thereafter, she dedicated her life to Christ and to the care of others. She went on to qualify as a radiographer and, in 1960, answered God's call to serve at the Christian Medical College (CMC) in Ludhiana, India. Her colleague Professor John Pramod, former Director of CMC Ludhiana, wrote of her "legacy of compassion, service and selflessness" that will continue to inspire generations to come.

Those celebrating at Margaret's thanksgiving sang *I know that my Redeemer lives*, one of her favourite hymns. Also remembered is her gift for hospitality, with friends and colleagues telling of her welcoming home and faithful collie dog.

We give thanks to God for Margaret's life and legacy, and we pray his comfort for her family and all who loved her. Margaret's life is truly a testament to answering God's call and a life lived well for Jesus. If you'd like to find out more about leaving a legacy to BMS, visit www.bmsworldmission.org/legacies for accessible information and inspiration.

For Myanmar — with love

Esther. Dorcas. Seng Mai.

These are three of the thousands of people whose lives were forever altered by the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar on 28 March this year. They're also three of the thousands of people you helped by giving to BMS World Mission and our disaster recovery fund.

Together, BMS supporters gave £15,000 towards a joint Baptist response, supporting more than 5,000 people in Myanmar. Working through local churches in affected communities, you were able to reach people in desperate need of help.

More than 3,500 people were killed

in Myanmar's earthquake, with a further 5,000 people injured. The earthquake's epicentre was located ten miles north-west of Sagaing, but the impact was felt across the country and into India, China and Thailand, with an unfinished high-rise building collapsing more than 600 miles away in Bangkok.

The first earthquake was followed by a second of 6.4 magnitude, and multiple aftershocks. Those impacted were terrified. Then devastated. Their loved ones, homes and livelihoods stolen. Their homeland, already besieged by conflict and poverty, shattered.

The earthquake made Esther's house in Sagaing, close to the epicentre, unliveable. She and her two young sons (three and 11) were out of the house when the earthquake struck, but her husband got hit by a falling wardrobe

You helped provide:



Emergency food:

a 14-day supply of rice, oil, beans, salt, canned fish, instant noodles



Water filters:

so families could filter and store water distributed by the authorities



Hygiene packs:

containing toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap and sanitary towels

to 1,000 households
in Myanmar

and bricks as the whole house shook. "There was no serious injury only by the grace of God," Esther says. Following the quakes, the family had to set up a shelter and sleep outside. Your support was a lifeline for them.

"The church helped us a lot and cared for us. My thanks go to all the donors who help us when we are in need," says Esther.

Through partnerships with Asia Pacific Baptist Aid and the Myanmar

Baptist Convention, and working with and through local churches, your support was able to reach people like Esther when they really needed you. Attempting to deliver aid in a complex context like Myanmar, where communications are unstable, roads are often unreliable, and conflict is rife, is no easy task. But as part of a global Baptist response, your donations were able to make a difference fast, and get to where they were needed most.

Dorcas is a widow, a mother and a carer for her father. She is from Mandalay, the second biggest city in Myanmar, which was also close to the epicentre and experienced severe tremors. "The moment the earthquake struck, I was sitting in the room and feeding my 88-year-old father," Dorcas says. "The shaking was so strong that I couldn't stand anymore and couldn't hold my father." Thankfully, Dorcas' neighbours helped her pull her father out of the house following the earthquakes and no-one was injured.

The walls of Dorcas' house cracked, and they had to move out of their home for a month. Your support helped Dorcas, her children and her father get through. "I am really thankful that you come to visit and show your love and care to us," Dorcas says.

That love and care has had almost as big an impact as the emergency supplies themselves. It has shown people who've lost so much that they haven't been forgotten.

Seng Mai and her husband were professional photographers, but their home and shop collapsed in the earthquake. Their livelihood was in



Esther.



Dorcas.

tatters. Now, they and their children are living with Seng Mai's in-laws. Piecing their lives back together is going to be incredibly hard – but they're grateful that you're alongside them.

"The time we are really in need, your visiting really makes us feel encouraged and happy," Seng Mai says. "Thank you so much."

The emergency packages that were delivered to Seng Mai, Dorcas, Esther and 997 other families struggling after the earthquake were carefully prepared and distributed by local Christians, with your support. Inside the parcels were essential supplies to help people get through the aftermath of the earthquake.

On the outside, each was adorned with a message – 'With love'.



Seng Mai.



HEART
FOR THE GOSPEL

AMAZING GRACE

**Encounter God's saving
mercy through Htoo Lee's
beautiful story**

What if your son's reckless behaviour landed you with a fine you couldn't afford? If his drug-taking wound him up in jail? If his downward spiral was dragging his brother down with him? What would you do? Probably not organise a worship evening to cover your child in prayer. This is Htoo Lee's powerful testimony of God's mercy in action, a story that tells of the grace shown him by his parents and the theological seminary that took him on. Read it and pray with Paul and Sarah Brown for their work in Thailand, where young people at Siloam Bible School (SBI) are being fired up for Jesus.

S

arah Brown, a BMS World Mission worker based in northern Thailand, recalls the moment her eyes welled up with tears of joy during an English class at Siloam Bible School. Her student, Htoo

Lee, had just shared his testimony, in clearly articulated English, of the events that brought him to faith. The class had been discussing the salvation of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fiery furnace, leading Sarah to ask, "What miracles has God done in your life?" Little did she expect the frank, vulnerable answer that followed.

Just two years earlier, Htoo Lee was as far away from a seminary classroom as you could be as a young man in Thailand. Disobedient, sad and fearful, he spent his days hanging around with friends who looked on at life with the same disillusioned anger. There were just two things that helped him calm down: drugs and alcohol. "He didn't want to listen to his parents; he didn't want to listen to anyone," explains Sarah. "That's how his life went into a downward spiral."

Htoo Lee used to sell tomatoes in his local village. One day, he and his brother were transporting their wares via bicycle when they were stopped by the police. It was immediately clear to the officers that the boys needed to take a drugs test. "Htoo Lee knew exactly what result it was going to come back with," adds Sarah, "and that those results were going to be positive."

The test landed Htoo Lee in prison for two nights, with his brother locked up beside him. Because Htoo Lee had been riding his bike under the influence, the



Drugs and alcohol: a painful issue for Thailand's youth

- Alcohol and methamphetamine use is notably higher in northern Thailand – including hill-tribe communities – because of low prices and ease of access.
- Migration from villages to larger towns is a well-known driver for drug use, a path many young Karen people find themselves forced to take.
- Young men are particularly affected by higher rates of both heavy drinking and drug use.



“ The fine was money Htoo Lee didn't have ”

police also gave him a fine. It was money he didn't have, and money his parents couldn't afford either. When Htoo Lee's parents received news of his arrest, it sat heavily. Punishing him would have been just. But Htoo Lee's parents – both believers – decided that upon his release, they would pray with him instead. In fact, that same night when the brothers came out of prison, they decided to hold a prayer and worship evening.

It was during the prayer and worship

night that Htoo Lee felt a new sensation. It was peace. A family member gently asked him if he wanted to give his life to Christ, and, without hesitation, he said yes. “He realised within a matter of weeks that God was calling him to go to Bible school,” Sarah explains. The first Bible school he applied to invited him to interview, and Htoo Lee felt he needed to be open and honest about his past life. “The seminary said no,” explains Sarah. “They didn't accept him.”

Htoo Lee was disheartened, but not broken. Coming back home, he spoke to a trusted teacher, who recommended he apply to Siloam Bible School. In the interview, Htoo Lee trusted the same sense that told him he should be honest about his past. Immediately after speaking, he dropped his head,



preparing to hear the news: “Not accepted.” It was in that moment that the Christians around Htoo Lee once again chose to embody mercy. Ajarn Glad, the head of SBI, told Htoo Lee, “It’s okay. Christ has forgiven you and you have been transformed by him. You have changed”. At that point, Htoo Lee realised the seminary had identified the miracle, the transformation and the work that Christ had done in his life.

Htoo Lee has hopes in the future to go on to become an evangelist. He is in the very early stages of a BA Theology programme, but he hopes he’ll be able to go back to his village to share the good news, and to bring many others

to Christ. Thank you for your support of Paul and Sarah, which is allowing them to teach students like Htoo Lee and encourage them in their faith.

Please pray:

- For Paul and Sarah to continue to build relationships with the students at SBI.
- For Htoo Lee to continue strong in his faith and his identity in Christ.
- For young people in Thailand to find peace and freedom outside of drugs and alcohol.



A gift beyond value

Could you help a child like Talia* this Christmas?

Talia's memories of Syria are hazy. She remembers trips out with her family. She remembers it was different from the life of a refugee in Lebanon. She knows that friends who have returned to Syria have returned to homes that have been destroyed and family members who have been killed. And she knows that the only place she feels properly, wholly safe is a BMS-supported learning centre – one that's given her the chance of a brighter future.



Lebanon hosts the highest number of refugees per capita of any country in the world. While incredible kindness is shown in welcoming vast numbers of people, that kindness can run out when Lebanese families find themselves plunged into economic hardship. If those pressures hit boiling point and refugees become the target, it can be easiest for those in authority to turn a blind eye.

Aside from facing discrimination or even violence, the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR) estimates that a shocking nine out of ten Syrian refugees in Lebanon live below the poverty line, requiring humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs. One way to cope with the economic challenges of life in Lebanon is to skip meals, to forgo medical treatment when it's needed or to send children to work instead of to school. In Britain, school can represent a chore. But in Lebanon, it represents a lifeline. And for Syrian refugees who have left everything behind, it becomes the one thing they want more than anything to give to their children. School is continuity from the life left at home. School is a future of possibilities. School is a safe place to go. School holds out a better life.

School as a lifeline

By age six, Talia had already seen the collapse of everything she'd ever known. Fleeing with her family from war-torn Syria to Lebanon, she had to begin her life all over again. But sadly for Talia, the challenges didn't end there. "Outside, I don't feel very safe to go out on my own," explains Talia, who had lived in Lebanon for nine years when BMS workers spoke to her at the learning centre that became like home.

Talia's story

At the time Talia's family fled, the Syrian Civil War had been raging for over four years – the rise of ISIS leading to hundreds of thousands of deaths, massive internal displacement and millions of people fleeing the country. It's a period of time Talia can't remember too well – or perhaps has chosen not to remember. "It was difficult for us to come [to Lebanon]. I remember that back in



Lina and Ibrahim's* photo is on *Engage's* cover. Their father was killed in the Syrian Civil War. For them, school is a place of safety and healing.

Syria we would go out and do things. We would go on trips out of the house."

When the Syrian Civil War started, Syria was seen as a prosperous country with a growing middle class. The trips out of the house form part of this picture of a family who, back at home, could make day trips and do things just for fun. But now Lebanon is all Talia can remember. She wasn't always at the BMS-supported learning centre. Her family jumped at a rare opportunity

to take up a place at a public school – something not guaranteed to refugees. At the public school Talia remembers being mistreated because of her ethnicity. "I had a group of Lebanese friends whom I thought I could trust. I found out that they talked behind my back. They said they didn't really like me. I didn't go to school for a week after that," Talia explains. "They were wrong to say these things."

It was a huge relief to come back to

the BMS-supported learning centre. "The best things at the centre have been all the friends I've made," Talia shares. "The best part is how safe and comfortable we feel. I feel as if I'm at home."

A gift beyond value

The learning centre that has done so much for Talia is run by trusted BMS partner Thimar. Heading up Thimar is Wissam Nasrallah, himself a BMS-supported worker. Life in Lebanon is not easy, whether you are Syrian or Lebanese. But for Christians, loving those in greater need than yourself is a clear way to show God's love. "Serving [those from different faith backgrounds] in their time of need is a gift," Wissam explains. "We believe these relationships represent the early stages of gospel work... Fruit may take time, but the process has started."

For Talia, this fruit is relational. It's how she's treated. In the public school, she struggled to understand the lessons. "The behaviour of the teachers, how they treat the students, wasn't as good." In contrast, the BMS-supported learning centre is a happy place. "I love the teachers here, I feel safe. Even when students are struggling to understand concepts, they always find nice ways to explain things."

Talia is now 15. Her experience of the centre has been so foundational that she has volunteered there a teaching assistant, and is thinking one day of training to become a teacher. Thanks to her education, it's a future that feels within reach. Above all, Talia longs for a life that feels safe. "I am trying to break my fear," she explains. This Christmas, could you give a gift that does just that? •

Imagine where children like Talia could go if nothing held them back. Could you give today?

£28 could purchase educational books and give a child the gift of learning.

£56 could provide every child at the learning centre with two weeks' supply of healthy snacks.

£78 could help prepare young adults like Talia to access employment opportunities by paying for a vocational trainer's salary.

Head to www.bmsworldmission.org/gift to give a life-changing Christmas gift.





HEART
FOR THE GOSPEL

CLICKING INTO PLACE



**With your support, BMS World
Mission workers Andrea and Ian
are sharing God's love online
across North Africa.**

M

aghdi* had so many questions. A chance encounter on social media had introduced him to a God who loved and

forgave freely. And now he was unsure if the beliefs he had been brought up with were right after all...

In the North African country where Maghdi lives, finding answers about Christianity is tough. Less than one per cent of the population identify as Christian, and constructing a church building is illegal. There is a Church, a body of believers – but it's very small and very hidden.

That's where BMS World Mission workers Andrea and Ian come in. Some 20 years ago, they joined a media centre in Spain to broadcast the good news of Jesus to unreached people across North Africa. At this time, no-one else was making Christian television programmes for North African people in their own dialect. Since then, they've built a trusted team, including Arabic-speaking Muslim-background believers.

The team share engaging, culturally relevant short videos about Christianity on social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube. "We make them to make people ask questions," Andrea and Ian explain. And they certainly do. After a video is published, the team's apologist, Habib*, is on hand to reply to individual questions via Facebook and WhatsApp. Often the comments are hostile, but sometimes people are genuinely seeking the truth.



Andrea and Ian's work may be behind the scenes, but it's on the frontline of evangelism.

Christmas downloaded

Last Christmas, they produced a series of 24 short animations telling the Christmas story – a digital Advent calendar. The videos were a hit. "The rest of the year, we had 153 new subscribers to our YouTube channel," says Andrea. "In December we had 692."

And somehow, the simplicity of the animations touched Maghdi's heart. For months, he'd been chatting to Habib online, asking excellent questions but then falling silent for weeks at a time. It emerged that his family were unhappy with his searching and had been trying to dissuade him.

The first question Magdhi asked the team was at Christmas time: “Why did Jesus come?” On day four of the Advent series, something finally clicked, and Magdhi gave his life to Jesus. This was wonderfully unexpected news for Andrea and Ian. They had included a call to make a commitment in the final video of the series, but Magdhi hadn’t needed to wait. He told Habib, “This is the first time I have heard the Christmas story told so clearly.”

How do Andrea and Ian feel when someone comes to the Lord? “Absolutely thrilled to pieces!” says Andrea. “It can be a very dry job, and then all of a sudden, somebody makes a commitment... It’s like, ‘Wow! We knew you were going to do something amazing with this, God.’ It makes you so excited.”

Following the success of the Christmas animations, the team’s work has gone from strength to strength. They produced another series for Easter, with more than 2,600 people checking out the Good Friday episode.

Growing the Church

When you’re the only Christian in your family, finding a sense of community is vital. The team put Magdhi in touch with another Christian in his own city who can study the Bible with him, so that he won’t be alone in his new-found faith.

Andrea and Ian are passionate about helping new believers to become confident, well-equipped followers of Jesus. They’ve produced a series of “How to” videos covering essential topics such as “How do I pray?”, “How do I read the Bible?” and “How do I worship?”



A team member films a cut-away shot for the Easter story video.

“
We make them to make
people ask questions
”

These videos are now being used by churches in North Africa. “Missionaries from other organisations in-country are asking, ‘Can we have your materials?’” says Andrea. Their impact is wider than Andrea and Ian might ever know, helping the Church to grow and mature in some of the toughest soil around.

All this amazing work is only possible through your generosity and prayers. “We are so grateful to be part of God’s plan of salvation for the world,” says Andrea. “To stand alongside each of you and serve in his Kingdom, holding out the hope of eternal life with God to those who do not know him.”

**Names (apart from Andrea and Ian’s) have been changed for security reasons.*



LETTERS FROM THE UK

Hello Hannah,

I was wondering about using an article that you sent to our missions deacon here at Guildford Baptist Church about [BMS World Mission Creation Stewardship Co-ordinator] Laura-Lee Lovering and whether I could use it in the church magazine. **Thank you, Sara.**

From the editor:

Hi Sara, it was lovely to chat and encourage you in your passion for creation stewardship in your church. Of course, BMS stories are always available for churches to share and can be printed for this purpose. If you'd like more creation care resources, head to **www.bmsworldmission.org/creation-stewardship** for study guides, prayer sheets and videos – all free to use!

Responses to Gaza

In July 2025, Baptists Together, BMS World Mission and the Baptist Union of Wales put out a joint statement concerning the war in Gaza. In doing so, BMS hoped to demonstrate to our partners in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon that we had heard their calls to speak into the issue. Most especially, we hoped to encourage supporters that it was an issue we cared about deeply and one that we wanted to walk beside them through, equipping them with reactions

Statement Concerning Gaza, Israel, The West Bank and East Jerusalem – July 2025: from Baptists Together, BMS World Mission and Baptist Union of Wales



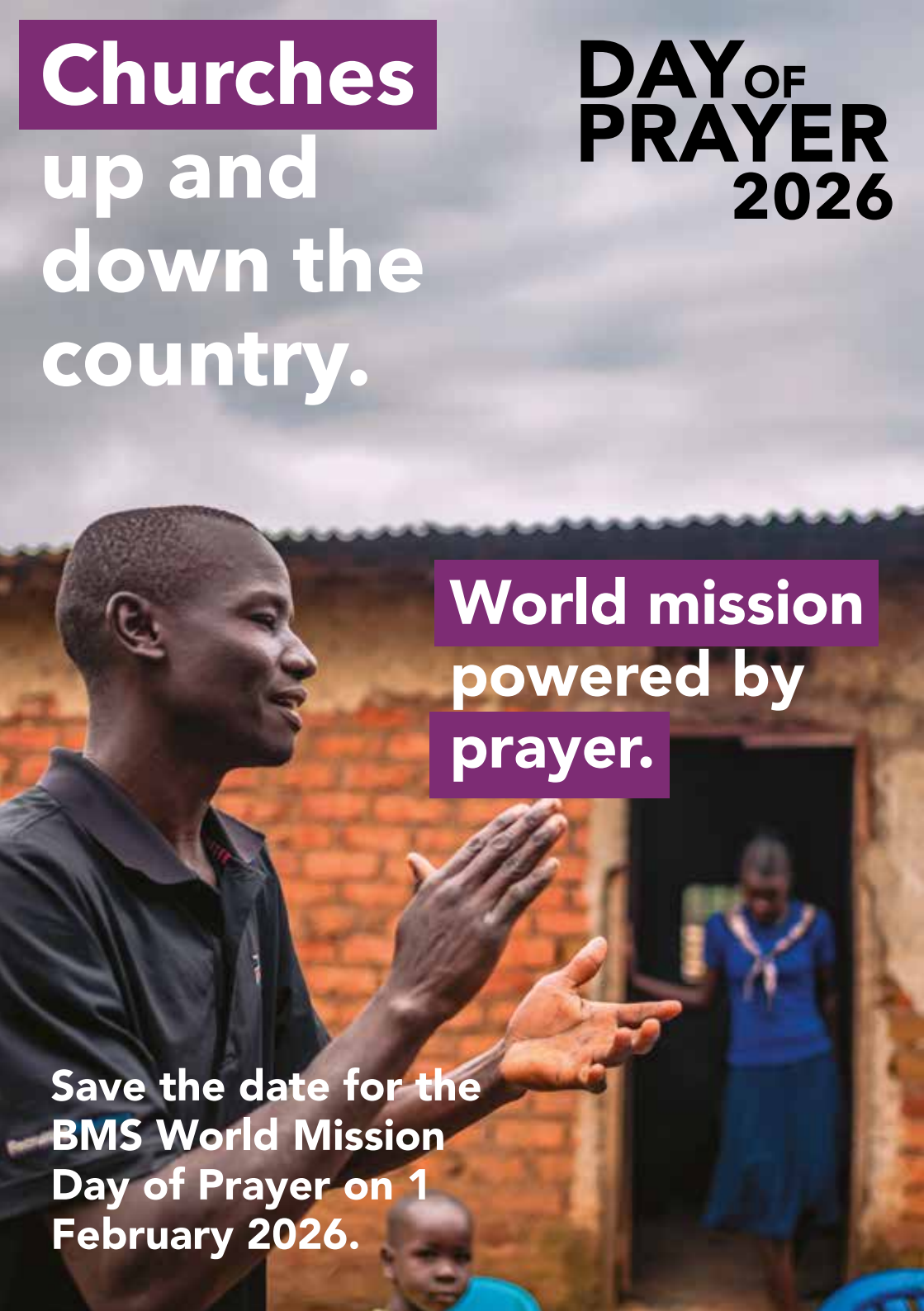
What's this about?

BMS Head of Mission's Arthur Brown explains the background of this statement.

[Download the video](#)

and prayer requests from those most affected. More than 39 organisations or churches signed the statement, as well as more than 900 individuals, for which we are tremendously grateful.

We knew that in writing about this topic, we would also want to invite responses from supporters with a range of views and that a number would hold a position that differs from the wording in our statement. Thank you to many of you who did write in. We recognise that each person's response to this complex issue is a matter for personal discernment and is often deeply felt. Thank you for feeding into our understanding by sharing your thoughts.



Churches
up and
down the
country.

**DAY^{OF}
PRAYER
2026**

**World mission
powered by
prayer.**

**Save the date for the
BMS World Mission
Day of Prayer on 1
February 2026.**