

ENGAGE

The BMS World Mission magazine

Change Agents of Sierra Leone

Stories from Baptist youth in Malaysia,
Thailand and closer to home!

Update from our partners in the Middle East

The impact you make across the world





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



[www.facebook.com/
bmsworldmission](https://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!



4. People Pool

In a world of limited resources,
see how God is using
volunteers across the globe

5. Middle East update

Updates from some of our
partners in the Middle East

6. Steps of hope in Ukraine

The help your support has
provided in Ukraine

7. Thank you

The brilliant fundraising efforts
of our marathon runners and
local churches

9. Hope in a hopeless place

Thank you for your support for
our Gaza emergency appeal

12. Back to school

How teenagers and young
adults are learning about God

16. "For my sake"

The asylum seekers leaving
everything for Jesus

19. Harvest Appeal: We're the Change Agents of our own future

The story of one church and
three women in Sierra Leone

23. Resources for you

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



From the General Director

BMS' vision: confidence in Christ, humility in relationship



Welcome to Issue 66 of **Engage** magazine. Within its pages, I hope you'll get a sense of the vision of BMS

World Mission: that all people may place their faith in Christ and experience the abundant life that only he can provide. Through his resurrection, Christians believe that Christ is God's ultimate self-revelation and the decisive inauguration of his Kingdom.

Our relationship with the risen Lord is rooted in confidence. This confidence is not knowledge we have earned, but knowledge graciously given and gratefully received.

One of BMS' core values is walking humbly in all we do and in how we relate to others. True Christian confidence does not close us off; it opens us up. It allows us to welcome others as they present themselves, respecting their own understanding of who they are.

This humility creates space for learning – from fellow Christians across cultures and traditions. In this issue you'll hear from Christians from Ukraine, Sierra Leone and the Middle East, to name just a few. For it is only "with all the saints" that we can begin to grasp "the breadth and length and height and depth" of the love of Christ (Ephesians 3:18, NRSVA).

Thus, the vision of BMS is both confident and humble: confident in the risen Christ as God's definitive revelation, yet humble enough to listen, learn and grow alongside others as we journey deeper into the inexhaustible love of God. God bless,



Kang-San Tan

General Director
BMS World Mission



BMS World Mission
www.bmsworldmission.org
01235 517700
mail@bmsworldmission.org

Design: Malky Currie
Front cover photo:
Change Agent Debbie (right)
from Sierra Leone with her
friend (see page 19).

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





People Pool member Baja (third from left) with the team from Justice Livelihood Health during his assignment.

People Pool

Our superhero volunteers making a difference across the world

What is the People Pool?

The BMS People Pool is made up of volunteers with specific skills and experience across the global Church. They help us to be responsive, as we draw on their expertise to provide targeted support to our partners and networks for short periods of time.

What does being part of the People Pool look like?

Baja (pictured above) joined the People Pool last year, and agreed to an assignment where he headed over to Uganda to work with Justice Livelihood Health (JLH)'s leadership team for a few weeks.

While he was there, he trained the team and built relationships with them to the point where he has been able to continue supporting them for six months after completing his original assignment.

We have also been working with

Tughunaka, who is being trained by our incredible Gender Justice team to extend their capacity into specific contexts such as India. Susie from Kenya is delivering safeguarding training remotely to the Oasis Hub team in Ghana.

The People Pool isn't just volunteers from overseas – we also have incredible volunteers in the UK, such as Ian, who has taken part in a training week with the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone.

How can you get involved?

If this is something that interests you, then we would love to hear from you! We are blessed to have many brilliant volunteers in the People Pool; however, we need more people with a unique set of skills who are willing to help. If this is you, why not fill in our form and get in touch?



Middle East update

We're pleased to share with you the latest news from our partners who work in Lebanon or with Iranians. Below, Mehrdad Sajadi, a Persian ministry leader with BMS partner Quest Academy, shares an update on the current crisis in Iran and Lebanon. And longstanding BMS partner Thimar describes how their ministry is adapting in a time of huge upheaval for Lebanon.

Mehrdad

Iran is currently in a deeply critical and volatile situation. In these days, checkpoints have been established throughout the streets. At these checkpoints they are threatening people with weapons in order to prevent them from coming into the streets and to stop any gathering from taking place. At the same time, the regime's national television has openly and directly threatened the public, warning that if people return to the streets, they will face a massacre even greater than what took place on 8 and 9 January.

What many people inside Iran are expressing at this moment is a painful mixture of hope and fear. There is hope because many believe that the fall of the regime may be near through increased external pressure and intervention. But there is also deep fear – fear caused by the sound of bombs and missiles, and even more so by what may happen if those sounds stop. Many people inside Iran have communicated the same concern: whenever the bombing and missile strikes pause, fear rises within

them that this war might end without regime change.

Alongside this national crisis, believers – especially members of house churches – are under even greater pressure. Reports of arrests have emerged from within the country.

Thimar

All six ministries are actively responding to the needs of people affected by the war. As the unrest continues, the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS), which BMS supports, is currently hosting displaced people on their campus; MERATH, another BMS supported ministry, is providing emergency shelter and support.

Through this support, we are reflecting the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ, presenting an alternative to the death, destruction and despair that so many people have long been accustomed to. Pray for wisdom for leaders in Lebanon, the Middle East and the world.

We're grateful to Mehrdad and Thimar for their updates, and know that you'll join us at BMS in upholding them in prayer.

Steps of hope in Ukraine

When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, pensioner Vira made the hard decision

not to leave her home and all that was familiar to her. Sadly, the

following year, her village was struck in a shelling attack and her legs were badly injured. Proper treatment wasn't available locally, so Vira travelled many miles to Crimea, where she had multiple surgeries. After learning to walk again, she returned to Ukraine to be with her children.

The reality Vira returned to was a daily battle to make ends meet. A pensioner's meagre budget simply wasn't enough for buying everyday necessities. But thankfully, she wasn't left to struggle alone. Through your generous support, BMS World Mission's local partner provided essential food and hygiene supplies to Vira and others like her, keeping them going when life seemed impossible. In the most dangerous areas, they helped people evacuate to safer locations.



Working through a network of local churches across four regions of Ukraine, BMS' partner reached more than 6,200 vulnerable people. And the volunteers delivered more than just

provisions – they brought hope. Church members showed love, care and encouragement to those in need within their communities, including many previously unreached by the Church. After the project officially concluded last November, the church members continued helping them using their own funds.

For Vira, the support from BMS has made an enormous difference. "I am very grateful for the assistance I received in the form of food," she says. "I thank God for guiding me through such a difficult journey, healing me, giving me faith and hope to see my loved ones and relatives again, and – most importantly – allowing me to breathe freely and attend church."

Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, and for God's continued protection for BMS' partner and those they serve.

Thank you

It's been a marathon effort



On 26 April 2026 people and down the UK switched on their TVs to watch the **London Marathon**. Thousands of runners, running the set London course, or around the country completing the MyWay

Marathon at the same time.

Meet Nick Harris and Andrew Scott. Two incredible runners that decided to raise money for BMS and took the challenge head on in completing the MyWay Marathon.

Between the two of them, they managed to raise over £900! Our deepest thanks to Nick and Andrew from all of us at BMS.

If you're inspired by our superstars' marathon run, head to www.bmsworldmission/fundraise for further ideas on raising funds for BMS.

Giving thanks - Shakuntala Bhansali (1932-2025)

We are so thankful for the life of BMS supporter Shakuntala Bhansali who generously left BMS a gift in her Will.

Shakuntala was born near Bhiwani, India in October 1932. She was orphaned at birth and was left at the Farrer Hospital in Bhiwani, named after Ellen Farrer, a Baptist doctor and mission worker who founded the hospital.

Shakuntala spent her school years at the Gange School in Delhi, a Christian school run by Baptist mission workers.

After completing her nurse's training, Shakuntala moved to the UK where she



met her husband and had two daughters.

"As a result of [her upbringing] my mum has always felt a very strong tie to BMS and the Baptist denomination,"

Shakuntala's daughter Sarla says. "She attributed her Christian faith, which never wavered even through Alzheimer's, to her upbringing by Baptist missionaries.

"In the circumstances, my mum's legacy is a fitting tribute to the work of BMS in her life."

Soup for surgery



In March, Milford on Sea Baptist Church held a lunch to generously raise funds for the work at Guinebor II Hospital (G2). This is their story, written by Ruth Shale.

Why this hospital you might ask; the answer is quite simple. The hospital is known to us at Milford on Sea Baptist Church through our support of Kalbassou Doubassou in his work as a surgeon there. Having learnt more about the hospital, we wanted to do what we could to provide in some small way for the hospital itself.

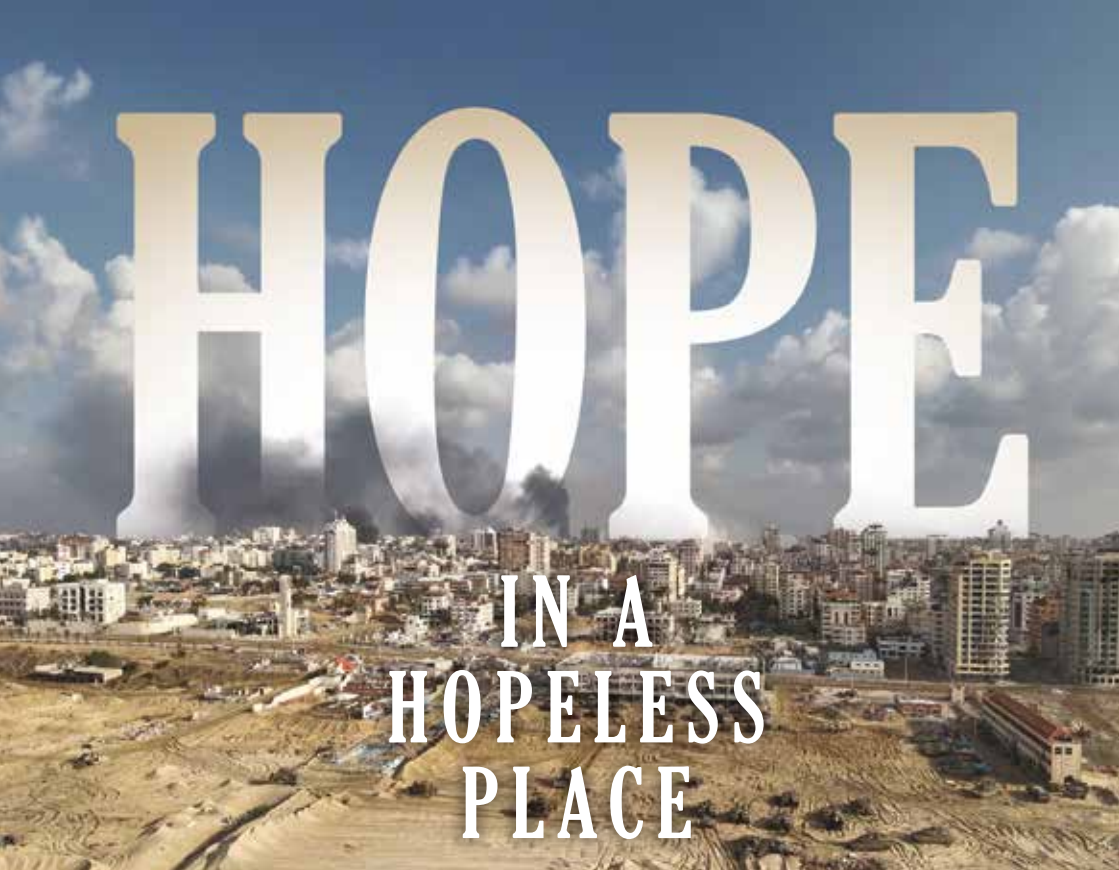
The question remained, how could we do this? The solution became clear. Through having a soup lunch, something we have done before, and where members of the church family were invited. We are a small fellowship but have a big heart to help where we can those in need and it was obvious through a video tour of the hospital that G2 would benefit from what we could easily arrange.

When was this to be? It was decided

that following our mission update on the first Wednesday in March would be a good time and to get the support of the church family a short video clip of the hospital was shown a couple of weeks before during our Sunday morning worship.

For the occasion itself, the tables were set for our guests, a choice of two soups prepared and the necessary shopping done to make the occasion a joyful time for those who attended. Following our soup lunch together a full video of the hospital was shown which reminded us of why we had arranged to have the soup lunch.

To hear that donations received were able to assist the work to help patients with significant limb trauma and those living with amputations was wonderful news and we thank the Lord for what they are doing and the opportunity we have had here at Milford to assist them in this important and life-saving work.



HOPE

IN A HOPELESS PLACE

Neighbourhoods that have been turned into landscapes of utter devastation. Parents desperately searching for their children. Death and destruction raining down on the helpless. Hunger and fear everywhere.

Gaza is often in the headlines for all the wrong reasons, and it's easy, watching the news, to feel that there is nothing meaningful that can help in such a terrible situation. However, our amazing partner, Bethlehem Bible College, located in the West Bank, is doing transformative relief work with the people of Gaza and with refugees. Elias Awad and Shireen Halal are working with their team to deliver aid, supporting

residents of Gaza who are hungry, thirsty and without shelter.

Since the beginning of the war, more than 28,000 innocent children have died and many more are fearful, traumatised and without family. Disease is rife and with humanitarian aid to Gaza being blocked, the situation is truly desperate. But Bethlehem Bible College is working hand in hand with the churches in Gaza, who are still able to help and support those most in need, shelter people



Elyanour with her family



Noor and her children

with no homes and organise relief. The infrastructure has all but collapsed, but as is so often the case in desperate situations, the faith community is offering support to those who need it most. There is no political agenda. Our partner models Jesus to those around them, reaching out to those who have lost their homes and who are hungry and thirsty.

The charitable arm of Bethlehem Bible College was established in 1996. For 11 years, they helped Palestinians living in the West Bank to meet basic requirements such as food, employment and medical care, extending their outreach to Gaza in 2007. As the humanitarian crisis deepens, they are now supporting Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Jordan. The Bible tells us to love our neighbour as ourselves and to give

generously to the poor and vulnerable. Those who have lost everything need not lose their dignity, and our partner works hard to ensure that refugees and Gaza residents are shown love and respect.

Noor is a mother of four living in Gaza. She and her family lost their home, and they had to move to a church while she was in the final stages of pregnancy. Noor went into labour in the middle of a particularly savage bombing raid, her contractions decreasing in strength with each new explosion. She says, "It was as if fear itself was delaying life." The next morning, she gave birth to her daughter in the hospital, losing her husband to illness just after the baby was born. Her faith in God has kept her going: she's raising her family in the midst of war, but with a light of hope still alive in her.

“ EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF DARKNESS, I BELIEVE THAT GOD WAS HOLDING US. ”

Elyanour and her children also live in Gaza. They found sanctuary in a local church along with their neighbours during heavy bombing.

“We raised our voices and sang, ‘Lord of Hosts, be with us,’” she says. “In those moments, prayer was the only thing that gave us peace and the strength to continue. We felt weak as humans, but we held on to our faith that God would not leave us. But even in the middle of darkness, I believe that God was holding us, protecting us and giving us the strength to survive.”

Noor and Elyanour are just two of the people living amid war and destruction. Like thousands of others, they need clean water, food, medical supplies, a safe place to live and loving reassurance. Bethlehem Bible College is working hard to provide desperately needed humanitarian support to displaced families in Gaza. They are handing out emergency food supplies and medicine, hygiene kits, cooking equipment, blankets and mattresses, and basic furniture. More than a million people have lost their homes altogether or are living in unsafe buildings. Our partner is helping to carry out structural repairs to ensure that dispossessed people have shelter.

In the UK, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed by the distressing news and

pictures coming out of Gaza. However, at BMS, we stand together with the Bethlehem Bible College to make a real difference to those who are undergoing such terrible suffering. As our supporters, you can bring hope and light into this appalling situation.

Firstly, will you pray for our partners at the Bethlehem Bible College as they risk their own safety helping others and doing what Christ has commanded us to do? Please pray for everyone living in fear in Gaza, that the light of Jesus will illuminate their lives, and that peace will come.

Pray for Noor, Elyanour and thousands like them in Gaza and in the West Bank, for safety for our partners and those they support, for hearts to be softened, for an end to hostilities.

EMERGENCY

**Thank you for your support
to our recent emergency
appeal for Gaza.**

If you haven't had a chance to donate, then it's not too late to give or to help. Please visit our appeal page here:

www.bmsworldmission/gaza-crisis.

BMS supporters provide the bedrock of support for our partner in Gaza, encouraging them to continue their vitally important work with those who are traumatised, vulnerable and dispossessed.

Back to school

As children across the UK prepare for back-to-school season, let's take a look at how God is stirring young hearts and minds across his world through your support for BMS World Mission projects.

1. March4Mission

A conversation with Orla Moxon, BMS World Mission's Youth Engagement Officer.

Orla attended 2026's March4Mission, a BMS-supported training programme, alongside two other UK participants.

Q. Now that you have attended March4Mission, how would you describe it?

A. It's a mission training designed for young adults who want to use their lives to glorify God – whether that's through the workplace, creative arts, business or ministry. The two-week training course took place in Malaysia and gathered young adults from both the UK

and north-east India to be equipped for mission together.

Q. What did God do while you were there?

A. God did so much in the hearts of those attending March4Mission this year. I personally was so encouraged by the stories and testimonies. (See the quotes for just a taster.) God changed lives and hearts at March4Mission. He gave people renewed hope and vision for what it looks like to serve him in their daily lives.

Orla's thoughts

"For me, March4Mission recentred my vision and reignited a passion for my calling. A few years ago, I wanted to go and serve God somewhere around the world. I had my heart and mind set on Brazil! But God instead called me back to the UK. He called me to come and serve the young people of the UK. I was a little annoyed, I can't lie, but I knew it was what he asked me to do. Doing March4Mission reminded me of that call. It reminded me that wherever God has placed me, that is my mission field. It reminded me that joining in with God's





"I learnt that mission is an act of worship. It's a home away from home; to see everyone coming and learning together, this is heaven."

"I realised that every Christian has a mission."

mission can be fun and exciting and brings us so much life and freedom! And getting to do it with others from around the world was really exciting. We got to share stories, trade ideas and pray for one another and lift each other up."

Are you in?

Interested in learning more and having your passion for mission reignited?

If you are a young adult or you know a young adult, we would love to get to know you and encourage you in whatever way you want to do mission. Applications for March4Mission 2027 are now open! Contact Orla (pictured below, far right) on omoxon@bmsworldmission.org.uk for more information and opportunities.

BMS at Satellites

This summer, Orla Moxon attended the Satellites youth festival in the UK, where she co-lead a venue called The Chapel alongside others from the Baptist family.

2. Thailand's youth camps

Over the summer holidays, many across England pitch their tents to attend Christian conferences. Ranging from Greenbelt to New Wine, the heart remains the same: to get to know God more. This extends to teenagers and young adults who attend their own events, as they learn about Jesus, the love he has for them and respond to the gospel.

However, it isn't a UK or western world trend. In Thailand, young people gather to hear the same gospel preached. In 2025, more than 1,790 teenagers attended camps led by BMS partner Thailand Karen Baptist Convention (TKBC). Those who





"Coming here, I experienced a lot of freedom and healing through the teachings and through one another. I got to know how good God is. There is so much hope and so much good that is happening around the world."



attended
heard about
topics including "Youth

for Christ and the Church", "Raising awareness of Karen culture" and "How to share the gospel".

TKBC represent the Karen population in Thailand – an ethnic population that regularly faces marginalisation. BMS has been working in partnership with TKBC since 1988 to bear the witness of Jesus Christ while maintaining the culture and traditions of the Karen community. TKBC is one of the fastest growing Baptist denominations in Thailand.

Sukanya Sanor, General Secretary of Youth in the Mae La Noi Association in Thailand, explained her heart behind all she does. "The reason I serve with the youth is that I thought we could help each other, and they will get to know God personally. I also get to see God's work with the youth as they grow up and get to know God more."

Please be praying for Sukanya and the rest of TKBC as they organise and run their youth camps across the coming

year. May more young people get to hear about and come to Christ.

3. Siloam Bible Institute

Once young Thai people have left school, there are limited opportunities to study theology, but one place where they can is Siloam Bible Institute (SBI). In March 2026, 21 students joined the college and began studying how to become evangelists and pastors.

Eight students travelled to southern Thailand to preach the gospel to the Buddhist community. While there was a difference in language (Thai is not the mother language of the Karen people), the students had a great chance to experience preaching the gospel, and many wish to go again.

Naw Precious Eh Taw (a third-year student in SBI) was one of those who went on the mission trip. During the trip, she had the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of evangelism, from arranging activities for children to visiting elderly and sick people to pray for them. "I have seen the wonderful love and grace of God and experienced some new things,



"I learnt to trust God in difficult times. To be faithful where I am and willing to go where he sends me."

"It gave me a renewed passion to go and serve God."

as well as a few heart-touching moments, from this trip," she tells us.

4. Lebanon: news from our Christmas Appeal

For those of you who are regular followers of *Engage* magazine, you may remember an article from Issue 64 where we shared our Christmas Appeal for Thimar, one of our partners in Lebanon.

We shared with you about Talia, Lina and Ibrahim,* three Syrian children who were beginning again as refugees. A BMS-supported learning centre had changed their lives by giving them a safe space to be the children that they are, but also a place where they can receive an education no longer disrupted by years of war.

You joined us in raising funds through the appeal, giving a generous £62,563.

The money raised helped Thimar to provide healthy snacks each month, books for the centre's curriculum and other supplies for projects run at the centre.

Thank you for helping to provide food

and an education for young children who have lost so much, giving them an opportunity to step into who God is calling them to be.

If you want to read the full article that shares their stories, this QR code will lead you to Issue 64 of *Engage*.

**Names changed for security reasons.*



A person is shown from the chest down, sitting and holding an open Bible. Their right hand is pointing to a specific verse on the right page. The Bible is a thick, old volume with a brown cover. The person is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

“FOR MY SAKE”

The asylum seekers leaving everything for Jesus

For most reading Jesus' words in Matthew's gospel, the idea of leaving your family behind to follow the Lord's call is something we hope would never happen. For Ali*, it's been the biggest decision of his life. Your support of church-planting work in Dublin has allowed leaders to come alongside new believers like Ali who've had to sacrifice everything for Christ's sake. Thank you for helping them follow the call.

Lost

Ali is in his early 20s, and since becoming a believer, he's already given up more than most of us ever will. Born in Jordan, he was raised as a Muslim by parents who

nagged him to fast and pray. "Islam was very strong in our house," he explains. "My parents were very religious." As for many young people, following the rules and rituals of his faith often seemed like a

"Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."

Matt 19:29

problem to overcome.

Ali attended a Baptist school in Jordan – a choice that's not unusual for families wanting their children to gain a good English-speaking education, he explains. His time at school prompted questions about Christianity. But not everyone was happy to answer them. "I went to the Catholic Church to try and find answers, but the priest thought I was lying and refused to answer me," Ali explains. "My parents beat me and I left the house. I felt lost in life and religion, I stopped believing in God and I knew nothing about Christianity."

Ali found work in another part of Jordan, one where his parents couldn't find him. He was still a minor, but his parents acted quickly to legally disown their son. Their reaction to his questions might seem extreme to us. But for Issa, a BMS World Mission-supported worker serving with our partner Quest Academy in Dublin, it's not the first time he's heard



Issa calls Ali (pictured) every week to make sure he's okay.

of families rejecting a child. "The family went to the police to say that if anyone found him and killed him, there would be no repercussions," Issa explains. For religious families, these measures are not just about protecting their reputation, but about doing what they can to safeguard the prospects of their other children. The fear is that family members may otherwise lose jobs, marriage offers and more because of their sibling's Christian faith.

Found

Ali faced losing everything for the sake of learning about Jesus. But it took God bringing him halfway across the world before he saw what he had gained.



(L-R) Issa from Lebanon and Peter from Egypt are two of Quest Academy's leaders.

After living in a state of constant fear in Jordan, Ali finally made the decision to leave. "I used the visa that was made available to Jordanians to enter the UK and then made my way to Ireland," Ali explains. "Through the outreach in Dublin I met Issa in the city centre."

Finally, with Issa, Ali found someone who could answer his questions. That was in 2024, and five months later, Ali gave his life to Christ.

Since being baptised, life hasn't become magically easier for Ali. Tears fall as he describes the seemingly irresolvable distance between his family and the new life he lives. He's thankful however for the Arabic congregation that has stepped into the gaps, becoming his family through Christ.

"Through the Arabic church I met new people. I go to the outreach when I am not working and share my testimony. They've given me emotional support," he shares. Ali works in a local restaurant but chooses to keep Sundays free to set up the sound system at church. "My spiritual dream is to be a real mature Christian and to be involved in the ministry in a better way," he adds.

Your support of Quest Academy

You support leaders such as Issa and Peter (pictured) to disciple Muslim-background believers in Europe, enabling:

- courses for local churches on how to welcome believers from Muslim backgrounds
- Arabic and Farsi-speaking congregations
- weekly city centre outreach for seekers
- practical and pastoral support for those seeking asylum because of their faith

For lots of us, the promise of Matthew 19:29 could seem like a distant reality. For Ali, it's everything. "In Christianity, I saw that Jesus gave his life on the cross for me," he says. "It means that you have new life and that you will have eternal life."

Nothing can take away the pain of what Ali's lost to follow Jesus. Thank you for your support, which has allowed him to find the most precious gift of all in return.

**Name changed.*



We're the **Change Agents** of our own future

**One church. Three women.
Countless stories of transformation.**

Written by Sarah Stone

It's in the high 30s and what feels like 100% humidity when we arrive at New Harvest Manjama Church in Bo District, Sierra Leone.

Although this area is rich in diamonds and gold, over half its population live in poverty, struggling to access the things most of us take for granted. Education. Healthcare. Three meals a day.

We're welcomed into the church by its

lead pastor, Feima Fefegula. It's still early, but at least 15 people are already sitting in the church hall. Waiting for us. Ready to tell us how they've transformed their own lives through the training they've received here.

The training, known as the Church and Community Mobilisation Process (or CCMP for short), is more exciting than its name suggests. It's an empowering,



Debbie holding one of her beautiful tie-dyed shirts.

potentially poverty-ending tool for those who take it to heart. It has taught the members of New Harvest Manjama Church to understand the root causes of the poverty they're experiencing, recognise their God-given skills and resources, and then use them to transform their own stories.

"We now know that we can make use of the little that we have and make something big out of it," says Rev Feima.

Whether it's starting a small business or building a school in the back garden (yes, Feima has actually done this!), change that started in this church is rippling out into the community. And it's beautiful to see.

Deborah has a smile and warmth that puts you immediately at ease, so it's surprising when she says that before the

CCMP training, she was so reserved she wouldn't even say hello to people in her community when they greeted her. It was the training, she says, that helped her understand how to relate to herself, to God and to her community. It also helped her find a way to make a living and support her family.

Deborah used to make beaded bags at home but never thought she could use this skill to improve her life. Through CCMP her mindset changed. Now, she makes and sells beaded bags and tie-dye shirts – and she is training others to do the same. Empowering the people she used to ignore on the street to earn a living.

"There is a Bible study that talks about when Jesus fed the 5,000, and that really changed my life," says Deborah. "It



Feima greets the children at the school she started.

opened my eyes to do more and to help people. I am very happy because of what I'm doing. Learning this skill has helped a lot of people, and now they are also earning money. I feel joy because I'm impacting lives. So, I'm very happy to see that."

Rev Feima has also taken inspiration from the stories of Jesus' ministry. How he saw a need (hungry people), took something small (five loaves and two fish), and did something huge with it (fed 5,000). The need Feima saw? Education for disadvantaged children in her community. They needed a school. So Feima built one. "I didn't have a big piece of land or a building to start a school, but CCMP taught me that we can make use of the little that we have," she says. So she built a small, four-classroom building

in her back garden and started a school with 15 children. Three years later, there are 80 children at the school, many on scholarships. Feima is trusting God for a bigger piece of land, but she didn't wait for it. She started with what she had.

Not only has CCMP improved the economic and educational opportunities of people inside and outside New Harvest Manjama Church, the training has also grown the faith, prayer life and number of members worshipping at the church. Before the training, Feima says her church members thought prayer was for the church leaders. Now, they know prayer is for everyone.

"Whether I'm there or not, they will mobilise themselves and come together to pray. For the church, for the disciples, for the community, for the lost souls,

for the country,” says Feima. “And now evangelism is part of the church.”

This passion for prayer and evangelism, alongside all the practical ways the church is involved in the community, is leading people to Jesus. “Two weeks back, we baptised up to 13 people from the community,” says Feima. Some of the new believers came to the church through Deborah’s skills training programme. “I’ve brought many people to learn, and as a result of this process, we have three people who are now believers in Christ because I gave them scholarships to learn how to make these bags...” says Deborah. “Now they are part of the church here.”

Every member of this church – new and old – is important to God, and Isata’s story demonstrates that beautifully. Isata felt that she couldn’t fully engage in church because she never had the opportunity to learn to read or write. That meant that she didn’t have the confidence to share her testimony, and the idea of leading a Bible study felt impossible. How could she lead a study on something she couldn’t even read?

The training has changed that. Rev Feima was equipped to teach the oral version of CCMP as well as the traditional version. The oral version uses simple language and symbols that the church comes up with together to help them remember key parts of the training – Bible stories and the church’s mission statement, things like that. It means everyone can actively engage in the process, whatever their level of education. That was really important for Isata.

“I was ashamed to stand before people, to give testimony,” she says. “But the process has given me the boldness to do



Papa God’s work. It helped me to stand before people, to give testimonies, to lead a discovery Bible study. Now I can do all of that.”

It’s still boiling when we leave New Harvest Manjama Church, but we’re leaving richer than we arrived. Our imaginations are full of these stories of transformation. Of how much is possible when a church is empowered with the knowledge that they can change their own lives, and the skills to start now.

You can help bring this training to other communities in Sierra Leone by supporting the BMS World Mission Harvest appeal – Change Agents in Sierra Leone. Find out more at bmsworldmission.org/change-agents

Resources for you

Welcome to our new page to let you know what is going on in the life of BMS World Mission and inform you of some incredible resources that we have



BMS Stamp Bureau

In 2025, the BMS World Mission Stamp Bureau made £4,000 for BMS funds through the sale of donated stamps and other small 'collectables'. Thank you so much for your support.

Want to know how you can donate stamps to help raise money for BMS?

Follow the QR code for more information:



Will writing

Writing your own Will is simpler than you might think.

In fact, by partnering with Octopus Legacy, our trusted Will-writing partner, BMS has already covered the cost of writing yours.

Any decision to bless others through your Will is amazing, and if you leave a gift to BMS, you'll have the chance to bless people around the world too.





COMING IN OCTOBER 2026
ETHICAL FASHION GUIDE