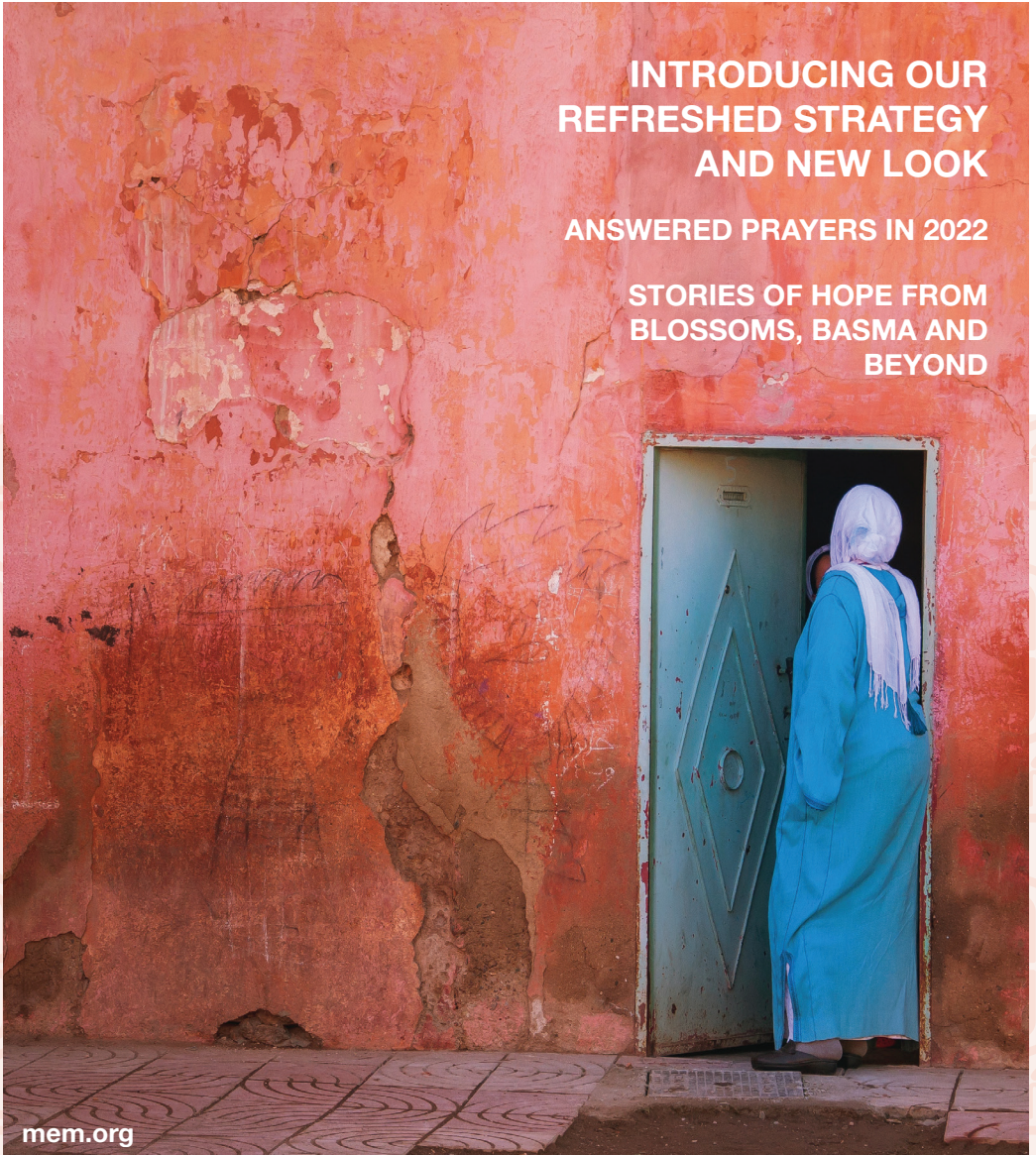


INTRODUCING OUR
REFRESHED STRATEGY
AND NEW LOOK

ANSWERED PRAYERS IN 2022

STORIES OF HOPE FROM
BLOSSOMS, BASMA AND
BEYOND





Letter from the editor

Dear Friends,

Welcome to your new look MEMO Newsletter! It may look different, but this will still be your place to find stories of lives being transformed in the Middle East and North Africa, updates on the ministry projects that you support, and information on exciting events to get involved in.

We apologise that it's been a while since you received your last MEMO. We have been busy updating our brand to represent the renewed vision we have as an organisation. It may have taken a little while longer than we had hoped, but sometimes good things take time.

You will find several updates in your winter edition of MEMO, including a little taste of our new strategy, as well as updates on our ministry. We are very thankful to God for the faithfulness we have seen this year. I hope you will join me in praying for the things mentioned and by praising God for all He is doing.

God bless you.

James Baldock

Senior Communications Manager
comms@mem.org



MEM WEEK RETURNS!

In May this year we travelled the country to bring MEM Week to you – and what an encouraging time we had! MEM Week promises to return bigger and better in May 2023...**head to mem.org/memweek to stay up to date!**



Introducing our

RENEWED STRATEGY

MEM's purpose has always been to move the people of the Middle East towards life-transforming faith in Jesus Christ through the creative use of media. This remains our vision. Over the past few years, our MEM teams have been working on renewing our focus to best meet the needs of the local people. Therefore, the way in which we realise our vision is shifting...and our new visual changes are inspired by this shift.

Our 47 years of experience has proven that the most effective way of reaching the unreached in the region is by empowering local believers, who are able to relate to those from their background in ways that even

people from a neighbouring Arab nation cannot. We are increasingly mobilising local believers from different backgrounds who are passionate about creating media that brings the light of Christ to their own communities.

We will continue to share more about these changes over the coming months, but for now, we hope you are as excited as we are about our new direction...and our new look!





Answers to prayer...

Since our Spring 2022 edition, we have seen God at work in many ways throughout our work in the Middle East and North Africa as well as closer to home. Here are just some of the answers to prayer we've seen this year.



70 women from the online Nisa'a community attended an in-person mental health conference



13 Gulf believers and their children attended a leadership training retreat

We provided training and equipment for a new Christian media team in South Sudan, who have a broadcast agreement with the national TV

Kingdom Platform reached over 1 million views on YouTube in 12 months and launched on Facebook this October!

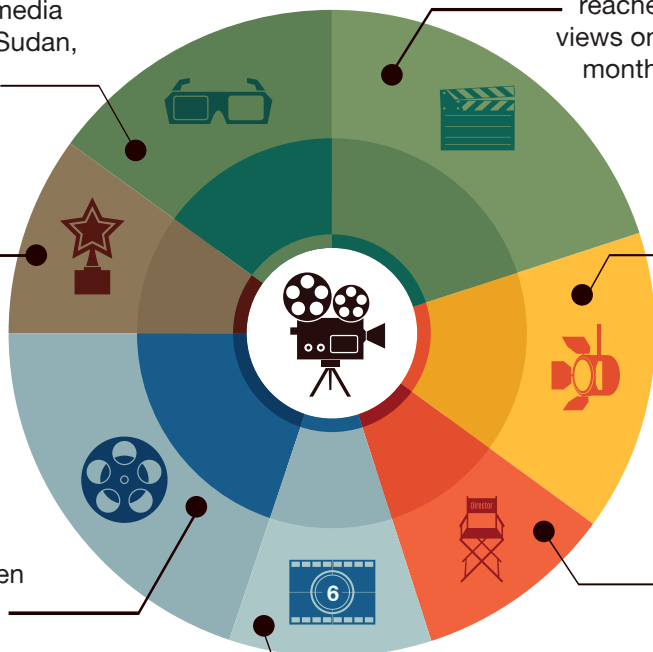
Oasis digital platform for women in the Gulf has been launched!

Our international leadership teams met in person for the first time since the pandemic

Basma's children released from prison
...more on page 6!

Two new trustees joined our UK board

Between January and June, a partner organisation had almost 1000 individual seekers connect with them through one of our Arabian Dawn testimonial videos



For the eyes of the LORD range
throughout the earth to strengthen
those whose hearts are fully committed
to him.

2 Chronicles 16:9



**YOUR SUPPORT CONTINUES
TO BRING HOPE AND
CHANGE LIVES. THANK YOU.**

Image: [istockphoto.com/portfolio/miracsaglam](https://www.istockphoto.com/portfolio/miracsaglam)



Stories from the front line

An Update on Basma and her Children

We've reported on the incredible journey of Basma and her children for some years. Forced to flee her home country when she decided to follow Jesus, Basma has been serving in media ministry in our Gulf office. Framed by family members for a crime that they didn't commit when they also found Christ, her son and daughter have spent the last two years in prison. Basma has not been able to see them all this time. Earlier this year, however, they were due to be released...and Basma decided to

make the dangerous journey back to her homeland to see them.

We were incredibly concerned for Basma's safety. For certain family members to have discovered her whereabouts could have cost her life. We prayed diligently for her protection, and we know that many of you did, too.

Therefore, relief and rejoicing ensued when Basma walked back into our Gulf office with the biggest smile upon her face. Not only did she return safely, but she spent two wonderful and peace-filled weeks with her children in a city far away from her dangerous relatives. She also took her youngest daughter (from her new marriage in the Gulf) and the four of them lived freely together as a family.

Basma was worried that they would hound her with questions, asking her all the 'whys' possible. WHY did God allow this to happen? WHY didn't He intervene? She prayed desperately for wisdom. **She prayed desperately that they still believed.**



**BASMA'S CHILDREN
RELEASED**

BUT THEY STILL NEED YOUR PRAYERS



“...take heart, I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

Image above: pexels.com/@tanima-nasrin-19845
Image left: istockphoto.com/portfolio/resatdongel

Yet, to her astonishment and delight, her daughter said: **“When I was baptised before being framed for the crime, I knew Jesus. However, in prison He met with me and loved me. He was there with me every moment of every day. I had no Bible, I had no songs to listen to, but His Spirit in me was enough.”**

Her son was also joyful, peaceful, and comforted. During this two-week period, they were able to read the Bible as a family together every day without fear of persecution.

Over the years, God has answered countless prayers in wonderful and miraculous ways in the lives of Basma and her children. He has continued to prove His faithfulness to this day.

Basma is home in the Gulf, but has temporarily secured an apartment for her son and daughter in the city where they met. However, they need to leave their home country as soon as possible before their location is discovered. They are not anxious and trust God to provide for them, but they still need your ongoing prayers.

PRAISE GOD for how He has continued to minister to Basma’s children whilst imprisoned.

PLEASE PRAY with us that a suitable and safe home will soon be found for them.





Blossoms: a story of hope

Meet Reem

Our Blossoms courses continue to support both local and refugee women in North Africa. These workshops use art and drama therapy to help women emotionally process and express their difficult experiences in a safe environment.

Reem* is a lady in her 30s who attended one of our Blossoms courses this year. On the last day of the workshop, her eyes were bright with excitement. She had a permanent, glistening smile. A member of our team decided to approach her to ask her about her experience of the workshop. She answered our questions with the same sparkle of joy that was written on her face.

*pseudonym

Q: *What prompted you to attend Blossoms?*

Reem: I was going through difficult circumstances. I was praying that God might provide me with a way out. The next day, a friend of mine called me and asked me if I wanted to join her at a workshop on mental health. I attended, and I found my way out. I truly felt that my prayer was heard. I was in real need of such a workshop.

Q: *How has it impacted you?*

Reem: Even though my circumstances have not changed, I have discovered exactly what my problem is and what I need to do to help myself. I learned to define my feelings and never to deny them, but rather allow myself to feel them.

Q: Do you have a highlight from the experience?

Reem: I have actually attended many mental health workshops before, but this was my first women's only group. Here, I experienced the power of women gathering together. We provide great support to each other because we can understand and appreciate each other's feelings. I realised that the women here all share the same psychology, even though we come from different cultural backgrounds.

Q: What has changed for you as a result what you've learned?

Reem: I now know what my goals and priorities are. I know where I am, where I want to go, and what tools will help me to get there. Before the workshop, I had difficulties in relating with some people in my life. But now that I understand what I am going through, I am able to reconnect with those people again. I am very happy and thankful to you; the workshop was incredibly timely for me.

Our Other Activities

Supporting and Advocating for Arab Women

- **Nisa'a** is our online women's magazine and safe social media community. Through campaigns, articles and support groups, the platform challenges the social inequalities and injustices affecting women in the region.



- **Living for a Better Story** is a Nisa'a initiative that empowers women on-the-ground, through in-person workshops, training sessions and gatherings.
- **Precious and Honoured** raises awareness and exposes the horrors of human trafficking in the region through the power of film and on-the-ground workshops.

Stay tuned...



Pray with us

NOVEMBER

Life in the Desert (LITD)

Our popular 3D animation series and workshop curriculum for children who have experienced trauma. LITD's main character, 8-year-old Farah, loses her mother but finds hope through stories in the Bible. Children relate to Farah and find encouragement and healing through her journey. We are currently awaiting funds to complete the last episode of Season 2, as well as fundraising to dub the first season into different dialects and train more programme teachers in Turkey, Egypt and Syria.

Pray with us that hurting children would encounter the love of Jesus for the first time through LITD.

DECEMBER

Our Women's Projects

Over the Christmas period we will be raising financial support to help run and facilitate Blossoms, Nisa'a and Precious & Honoured in 2023 (as detailed on page 9).

Pray with us that we will be able to raise sufficient funds through our Christmas appeal to enable these projects to expand and promote biblical freedom and justice for women across the Arab world.



JANUARY

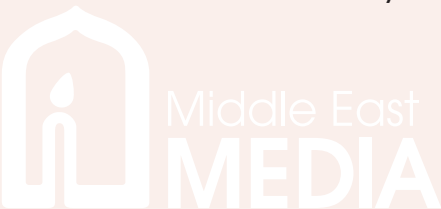
Kingdom Platform

Our social media platform providing high-quality, biblically-inspired and accessible video content for Arabic-speaking children and young people from all faith backgrounds. Already on YouTube and recently Facebook, our North Africa team hope to expand this project onto Instagram and TikTok, as well as connect with parents and families through Facebook over the coming year.

Please pray that Kingdom Platform would be reaching Arabic-speaking children from all backgrounds with the light of the Gospel.

If you'd like more on prayer, why not check out our online prayer & news blog?

Head to mem.org/pray.



Bits 'n' Pieces

@middleeastmedia

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for more stories of unstoppable hope from the Middle East!



LUNCH WITH MEM

Join us on Tuesday 6th December for our last regular online prayer meeting

We've held regular online prayer meetings since the start of the pandemic three years ago. Tuesday 6th December at 1:00pm (UK Time) will be our last meeting like this, as we hope to connect with you in new ways in 2023!

The Zoom details will be emailed – if you don't usually receive our prayer emails but would like to join us for this last gathering, please get in touch at comms@mem.org.

We are reliant on the prayers, giving and advocacy of our supporters to enable us to do our vital work across the Middle East and North Africa.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO.



Middle East
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