

# MEMMO

middle east  
**media**

Summer **2021**

& new **30-day  
prayer guide!**



*In this  
issue:*

More news on  
MEM Week

Celebrating Easter  
in the Middle East

Our brand new  
prayer guide:  
MEM30

Dear Friends,

I pray that our newsletter finds you well. As I write this, the sun is shining and summer seems like it will soon be upon us. To me, the sun always brings hope and joy - which you will see is a real theme to this MEMO as we have so much to be thankful to God for.

As well as updates from our work and more exciting news about MEM week, we also have included our annual prayer guide with a new theme this year - praying for the Church in the Middle East! We hope you can pray along with us for 30 days during April and May.

Thank you for your faithful support, and if you're a Podcast listener - please do subscribe to our brand new Podcast (details below).

*James Baldock*

Senior Communications Manager  
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## MEM's Hope Through Media Podcast



We're delighted by the recent launch of our new podcast, Hope Through Media! Featuring interviews and discussions covering media, missions and many other aspects of our work and ministry. You can find us on all major podcast directories (Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, etc).

# Introducing... Our Newest Church Partner!

New Church  
Partner

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**Jo Rylett**, Chair of St Paul's Church Kingston Hill's Mission Link Group shared with us why they recently decided to partner with us after one of our trustees introduced them to our work.

"We are very pleased to be partnering with MEM. In spite of the difficult year we have all had in being 'locked down' and not able to meet together in church, we are very aware that we still have it so much easier than many Christians in other parts of the world.

In times of crisis it is easy to become insular and focus on one's own issues, but we have learnt that by partnering and supporting global mission, we as a congregation learn so much from our brothers and sisters working in different cultures and countries. It is these lessons, in faith, courage and perseverance, and the stories of hope and lives transformed, that are so inspiring.

By partnering with MEM we hope to learn more about how God is working through his people throughout the Middle East, in comforting those who have been through trauma, in bringing hope and education to the vulnerable, and in bringing the good news of the gospel to those who have never heard it."



**Could your church be our next partner?**

If you're passionate about our work and want your church to share in that passion, our European Director, Jolita, would love to hear from you! Get in touch at [Jolita@mem.org](mailto:Jolita@mem.org).

# From the Field...

Here's just some of what we've seen God doing in the Middle East over the past few months...

## Life in the Desert

Our 'Life in the Desert' (LITD) animation series helps traumatised children start the healing process. Last year, our partner in Lebanon reached nearly 2,000 refugee children, despite the pandemic. Following the blast in the Port of **Beirut, Lebanon**, in August 2020, a new partner took the series to victims of the blast along with their relief packages. We have been hugely encouraged by the testimonies that have been shared with us following its delivery. The impact that LITD had on **Jumana\***, aged 13, is our prayer for all of the children who watch the series.



"I admire the little girl as she solves all her problems by relying on God."

**Jumana\*** was taken in by the LITD series, she waited excitedly for each visit when a new episode would be delivered. She would share what she learnt from the episodes with the relief workers, and always expressed how much she liked the main character's great faith. Jumana decided to start reading the Bible every night before she sleeps, following the example of the heroine of LITD.

\*names have been changed

## Not just for the children...

**Rashid's\* family** is a wonderful example of how the impact of LITD is extended to include adults as well as children. They are a Syrian family, living in Lebanon for the last ten years. The father was not very welcoming when our partners first visited, and did not like that they shared a Christian message. But they continued to go, and shared God's love on every visit. After some time, they visited the family again, and there was a big change. The mother had been watching LITD regularly with the children, discussing it with them and teaching them about the Bible. This had affected the father as well. He started to love Jesus, and started allowing his wife to go to church!

Our partners said, **"It's truly amazing how God has been working in the lives of these families."**

## Holistic Media Internships

Praise God that He has provided the funding for **three women from a Muslim background** to work as interns in our Gulf office for the next few months. This has provided the security that was critically needed for two of these individuals to stay in the country, and not have to return to the danger they face in their home countries. The internship will provide them with media skills training, but also the discipling and opportunities for emotional growth and healing that they desperately need. **Please pray** for these three individuals as they begin working together!

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MEM  
Week

# MEM Week

We are proud to present to you our first ever MEM Week! Please find below an update on the various activities we'd love you to get involved in. Head to [www.mem.org/MEMweek](http://www.mem.org/MEMweek) to sign-up for any of the activities during the week.

## Tuesday 15th June - Various Times - A Day of Prayer

We want to start the week in prayer and invite you to join us for any or all of our **5 prayer sessions** across the day. Each session will be **online** and will be **20 mins long**, hosted by a different guest each time. Please head to [mem.org/MEMWeek](http://mem.org/MEMWeek) to find timings and more info.

## Wednesday 16th June - 20:00 - 21:30pm (UK Time) - Charity Quiz Night!

Join us **online** for our *A Journey Through the Middle East Quiz Night!* We encourage you to create teams with your friends and families for a night of fun and fundraising for some truly amazing projects. **Teams** can be as small as 2 and as big as 10. Head to [mem.org/MEMweek](http://mem.org/MEMweek) to sign your team up today. Want to join but don't have a team? Not a problem, drop us an email and we will add you to a team!

## Saturday 19th June - 11:00am - 12:00 noon (UK Time) - The Gathering!

An exciting event where the **MEM family** can come together and celebrate all that God is doing through media in the region. Here we will be looking back over the past year and sharing about our plans for the future. **This is definitely not one to be missed!** The event will be recorded and shown again later in the day for those unable to make it the first time.

# Move for Change 2021

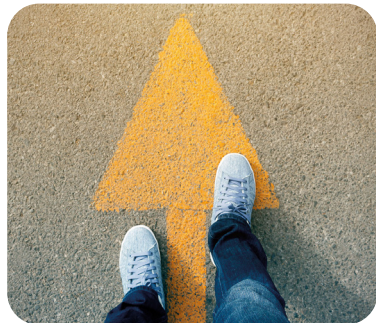
After the success of Move for Change 2020, we are bringing it back... and this is your chance to get involved. Raise money for MEM by getting friends and family to sponsor you doing **any activity**. Running, swimming, dancing, selling baked goods, anything at all! After The Gathering on **Saturday**, we will go out together and Move for Change. You can take part **anywhere**: your garden, kitchen, local park, your Nan's house. Wherever there is space to do your chosen activity.

This event not only brings in really vital funds for our projects but is also a joy to be part of. Here is what **Jen Hooker**, one of our supporters, said about being involved last year.

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I loved the opportunity to do something to support MEM's *Life in the Desert*. I wanted to help traumatised children, and this challenge was a brilliant way to make a difference to their lives. I chose to cycle for 113 minutes, and was so encouraged to know that each mile I went, was contributing to happier, healthier lives in the Middle East. **Will you join us this year?!**

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# Celebrating Easter...

**Did you know that some Christians in the Middle East celebrate Easter a whole month later?**

And this isn't the only difference between the East and West when it comes to celebrating the death and resurrection of Christ.



The reason for this difference is the continued use of the Julian calendar by the Orthodox church for the dates of festivals, whereas in the West we use the Gregorian calendar. The secularisation of Christmas here in the West generally means it is now celebrated more markedly by Christians than Easter weekend; but this is not the case in many parts of the Middle East and North Africa. Easter is by far the bigger festival, at least for Christians. This is interesting from a spiritual perspective, too. Almost all major religions, especially those in the Middle East, believe that the man Jesus was born at Christmas. But, crucially, they don't believe that He was the Son of God, and that He died and rose again three days later. The resurrection is fundamental for the Christian's salvation; and this is reflected in the emphasis that Christians in the Middle East place on celebrating at Eastertime.



# ...in the Middle East

Where it is permitted, Easter festivities in the Middle East usually begin a week before, on Palm Sunday. Children dress up in their best outfits, and marches in the streets take place with candles, flowers and olive branches. Church services are carried out throughout Holy Week, with the most important being Good Friday. Christians gather together with family and friends and enjoy a big feast on Easter Sunday, much like our Christmas dinners in the West!



However, for Arab Christians, especially those from Muslim families, Easter can be a very challenging time as they face the threat of persecution. With Ramadan and Easter overlapping this year, many believers will face tensions of various kinds. Sadly, the fear isn't just on a personal level as believers face unbelieving families. Even over the past few years we've seen scenes of terror and conflict in the region across our TV screens during Holy Week. The Middle East needs covering in prayer at this time, and we'd love you to join us in lifting up the church in the region with the help of our new 30 day prayer guide: **MEM30**.

# My house

*will be called*

*a house of prayer*

**for ALL nations.**

*Isaiah 56:7*