

MEMO

middle east
media

Spring **2020**



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& thank you

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The New
Church

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope that you've had a great start to 2020. In this edition of MEMO you'll see some of the stats from what was achieved last year, the projects we have planned for 2020, a BIG thank you for your generosity over Christmas, and a prayer focus on the New Church.

Move For Change is a new initiative that we're launching this year and we'd love for you to be involved. Whether you're a walker, runner, swimmer, or cyclist, would you join us in doing a sponsored activity in June this year? We're raising money for our work with traumatised children across the Middle East. More information can be found on page 2.

I am very excited to see what God will do across the Middle East and North Africa in 2020 through MEM. Thank you for your ongoing prayer and financial support as we do this vital work.

James Baldock

Communications Manager
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Your shopping will raise money for our vital work!

Move For Change

Sponsored
Fundraising

2

There is a generation of children across the Middle East and North Africa who have been traumatised because of war, terrorism, and displacement. On World Refugee Day (June 20th) this year you can bring them healing and restoration by joining us in doing a sponsored activity. We will be running, swimming, cycling, and walking to raise money for our work with traumatised children.

Move For:
Healing
Restoration
Change

How it works:

Choose a physical activity and distance, decide the amount you want to raise (we recommend a minimum of £100), and get going! We will support you along the way with tips and encouragement to help you make it all the way on the 20th of June. So what are you waiting for? Grab your best friend, family member, neighbour, colleague or dog and start moving for change! To find out more, contact our *Development Manager*, Jess Davidson at jess@mem.org.

Background photo: Khak/shutterstock.com

Thank
you

You have helped to raise over £8,400 for:

Racism and
Isolation

4

Sudanese Women Refugees

Thank you to everyone who gave to our 2019 Christmas campaign - where we collectively said NO to racism and isolation for Sudanese women refugees in North Africa. Many of you, our supporters, gave generously towards the end of last year to help 80 Sudanese women go through our Blossoms empowerment project in 2020.

We still have some way to go to reach our £18,000 target to fully fund this project throughout this year, however, donations are still coming in. Please join us in praying that this shortfall will be fully funded in the next few weeks and especially pray for the 80 women who will, God willing, find healing and restoration from the trauma they have experienced.

Sudanese women face incredible racism in North Africa. This racist behaviour can come in the form of verbal abuse, violence, and sexual abuse. We believe that as these women find healing, they will be able to go on and lead healthy lives.

“Previously I was very anxious and felt open to fear - it consumed me. Now I feel like I don't need to worry about the fear anymore. I don't want to walk away with fear, I want to go away and practice my life in a positive way - thanks to Blossoms.”

*- Munirah**

*Name changed for security reasons

2019 in Numbers

2,400+

Traumatised children taken through our *Life in the Desert* programme.

67

Christians trained through our *Future Leaders* project including Yemenis, Sudanese, Egyptians, and Syrians.

120+

Children's teachers trained how to use our *Life in the Desert* programme across Syria, Lebanon and Egypt.

89

Young people trained in film-making skills through our *The Path* project.

2.6m+

People reached through our Facebook Page for *The Path* project.

18

Episodes of the Alpha Course dubbed into Arabic.

81

Sudanese women who have gone through our *Blossoms* programme.

2020 Projects

The work and projects that we do are diverse and have long-lasting impact for years to come. The projects listed here are just some of the work that we will be doing this year. They are projects that we, in the West, will fund throughout 2020 and we hope that you will hold onto this MEMO and come back to this list to pray through each project. Pray that each one would be funded, but also that each one would have incredible impact on people's lives across the region.

As well as these projects, we do work for some of the biggest international organisations, such as the UN and UNICEF, who work in the Middle East. We also work with Christian organisations such as The Bible Project and national government agencies. The reputation of our work reaches all areas of society, which opens doors to train church leaders, secular leaders, and government officials.

The momentum of what God is doing through our ministry has carried into this year and we are excited about all of the lives that will be forever changed and transformed.

"Middle East Media's (MEM) training on the *Future Leaders* camp was more practical and beneficial than my current university degree course in Mass Media. I am seriously considering doing my dissertation with MEM so that I can gain more practical experience."

- Ahura*

*Future Leaders graduate. Name changed for security reasons.

Middle East Projects



Blossoms - Workshops and support groups specifically for Sudanese refugees in North Africa to help them overcome extreme racism and isolation.

Diversity Project - Promoting tolerance and diversity to young people and parents through workshops and the production of films.

Dream Maker- Building capacity of NGO facilitators and school teachers to support children with life skills, which helps them portray their dreams for the future and gain self-confidence.

Employment Equipping - Providing 1-year part-time employment for 3 BMBs to be disciplined, mentored, and equipped in media. We want to empower them to be self-supported as well as gaining the skills that will enable them to find jobs in the market.

Facebook for Women - Creating an online platform to cultivate a questioning culture among Muslim women, providing answers to seekers, and following up those who seek faith.

Future Leaders - Film-making training for young Christians in the region so that they can serve their churches and distribute biblical messages through video to their broader communities.

GCCenter - (Gulf Christian Centre, formerly Safe Haven) This centre is aimed at supporting a community of maturing New Church Arab believers from/or living in the Gulf. They will be disciplined and equipped with skills to reach their own people.

Got IT!- 1-2 minute episodes explaining Christianity through animation and clearing up common misconceptions.

Life in the Desert - A 26 episode 3D animated series with an accompanying curriculum. This project is aimed at helping children overcome the extreme trauma they have experienced.

On Bended Knee: Children- 1-2 minute 2D and 3D videos for children of BMB (believers from a Muslim background) parents. Helping them understand the Christian faith in culturally relevant ways.

Tamer's Questions - 3 minute episodes answering children's questions about God. Tamer sits down with his father and asks questions, with the father using animation to give the answers.

The Path - (formerly WebTV) Professional film-making training for young people, providing a community for filmmakers to learn and a place for them to discover their potential.

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his spirit.

Ephesians 2:21-22 (NIV)



Focus on Prayer:

The New Church

Focus On
Prayer | 10

The 'New Church' is what believers from a Muslim background (BMB) call themselves as a group across the Middle East. We have several projects to support this group across the region and we often encourage prayer around safety and reconciliation, however, as we start this year we want to encourage you to pray for them to flourish throughout 2020.

This year we are planning to do more with BMBs than we ever have done before. Through discipleship, we will come alongside them and help them to continue in their faith. We will train them in media to be able to reach their own people through video, creative media, and the internet. It's an exciting time to see what God is doing through the *New Church* and we ask that you will join us in praying through the points below.

Prayer Points

- » Pray that the GCCenter (Gulf Christian Centre) would be a place of incredible discipleship and empowerment for these individuals to go and reach their nations.
- » Pray that this year would be a year of breakthrough for BMBs and that their faith would go to new levels.
- » Pray that BMBs would see reconciliation with family members and that their families would start questioning Islam.
- » Pray that our work this year would be a catalyst for transformation across the entire region.

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news blog
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advocacy page
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Thank You

Your giving, prayers, and advocacy for MEM, are what make it possible for us to do our vital work across the Middle East and North Africa.

Sowing seeds of transformation

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