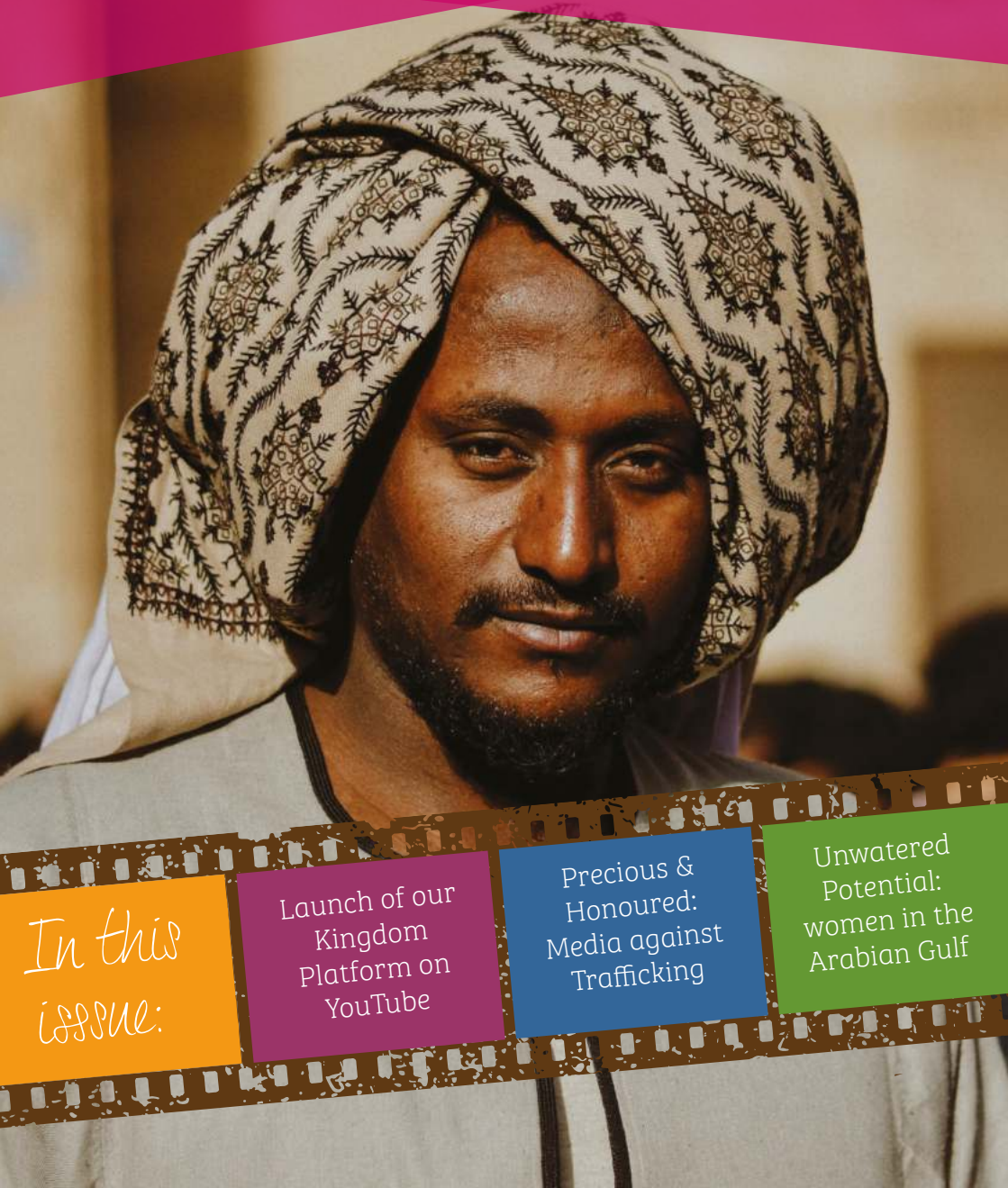


Winter **2021**



*In this  
issue:*

Launch of our  
Kingdom  
Platform on  
YouTube

Precious &  
Honoured:  
Media against  
Trafficking

Unwatered  
Potential:  
women in the  
Arabian Gulf

*Dear Friends,*

Welcome to our latest Winter edition of MEMO! There are so many things to be thankful for, with lives across the Middle East and North Africa being transformed, and vital projects taking steps forward. There are also lots of areas needing prayer, and I want to take a moment to thank all of you who pray for MEM.

This Christmas, we are supporting some of our women's ministry in the Gulf as we have been so inspired by the idea of 'unwatered potential'. I hope that the article on page 8 inspires you too, especially as we look forward to our upcoming Christmas campaign.

Please join me in praying that we will be able to send enough funds to our field teams to cover our ongoing projects by the end of the year, and do prayerfully consider giving personally this Christmas.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

*James Baldock*

Senior Communications Manager  
[comms@mem.org](mailto:comms@mem.org)



**Leaving a gift to us in your  
Will can have an incredible  
impact.**

**Learn more by visiting:  
[mem.org/legacy](http://mem.org/legacy), or contact  
us today.**

# Church Partner Spotlight

Church  
Partner

2

Our work would not be possible without the support and commitment of churches. But we firmly believe that God brings about the best fruit through ongoing, mutual **relationship**. Our church partners are exactly that - active partners in our mission to serve the Middle East.

Meet **Rev. Tif Ewins**, vicar of St Michael's Wandsworth Common. Tif shares her experience of being in partnership with us at MEM.



*“ We have had a relationship with Middle East Media for the last 3-4 years. They are wonderful at staying in touch and keeping us updated, and have always provided very helpful speakers when we've asked for it.*



*I love that we have this relationship with a part of the church completely different from ourselves, with people who do such important work. Particularly, their work with children and women who are in danger or who have been traumatised.*

## 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), or call us on 01223 901137.

# From the Field...

Even with the holiday season, our field teams have been busy making an impact through media across the region. Here are just a few of the exciting things that have been taking place over the past few months, with a particular focus on children and young people.

## Kingdom Platform now on YouTube

Kingdom Platform, a social media outreach initiative for **Arabic-speaking youth**, has recently been launched on YouTube. Plans for this project have been in the running for the past two years, but its inauguration was held off due to inadequate funding. In September, we were able to launch the **YouTube channel** aspect of this initiative, with the aim of releasing 100 new videos over the next six months.

The vision behind this project is to provide Arabic-speaking **11-18 year olds** with accessible, high-quality media content that is **biblically-oriented**.

With Christian TV channels attracting mainly Christian young people, and opportunities to broadcast Christian content on secular channels having closed in the region, young people from non-Christian backgrounds in the MENA have **little access to quality content that proclaims truth**. This age group is spending **more and more time online**, and the globalisation of **social media** makes it a promising **tool** for reaching Arabic-speaking youth across the region.





Often, it is argued that, with the predominance of wordly and even harmful ideals present on social media, we should be discouraging young people from engaging in the use of these platforms. However, we believe that the answer doesn't lie in efforts trying to divert their attention away, but in permeating the online spaces they already occupy with **Kingdom values!**

We hope to eventually reach up to **1 million young people across the Arab world**, and to extend the presence of Kingdom Platform onto other social media platforms, including **TikTok, Instagram and Facebook**, if sufficient funding can be sourced.

## Lights, camera and, ...action!

Our North Africa team held a **4-day long film-making camp** for elementary children (**7-11 years**) at the end of July. Thirteen children were taught skills in basic film-making, which included creative thinking, shooting, acting, and editing. They then had the opportunity to **produce their own short film** by themselves in small groups. The camp was a great success, with the camp leaders and kids all very pleased with the films they produced!

*"You know what,  
...I am a junior movie maker!"*  
~ Aaron\*, junior trainee

\*name has been changed



# Precious & Honoured: Media against Human Trafficking

Victims of human trafficking are often left with feelings of disgrace, humiliation and worthlessness. Even those who do escape and return home are treated with contempt by their community. Isaiah 43 speaks of the Lord turning **shame** into a picture of honour, beauty and value by offering a **second chance**.

*"...you are precious and honored in my sight..."*  
ISAIAH 43:4

MEM is part of a **network** of over 20 charities and non-profit organisations in the Middle East region committed to combatting the growing problem of human-trafficking in the region. Trafficking of **women and girls**, in particular, has tragically been on the rise as a consequence of the economic and social repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have been challenging this by training workers from different regional non-governmental organisations (NGOs) **to use media to educate** their communities on the depravity of human-trafficking, and the importance of giving survivors a second chance. Visual media helps present these concepts in a potent, engaging and relevant way. Such training can **transform a community**.



Our most recent training in North Africa saw local NGO workers from **18 different organisations** in **8 cities** come together to learn about these important principles, and how to teach them to their communities. Here is what some of the trainees said:

**“This is the first time I’ve seen God in this way and understood Him so deeply.”**

**“The trainer really believes in what she is teaching us. She succeeded in shaking our long-established misconceptions, and smoothly presented enlightened principles and ideas.”**

**“I learnt that this should start with me. I should apply the principle of a second chance to my husband and my kids. I need to practice mercy, and not deprive others of a second chance.”**



*“...And how can they  
believe in the one of whom  
they have not heard?...”*

***Romans 10:14***



# Unwatered Potential

Unwatered Potential | 8

To be fully **seen, known, and loved**. To be liberated from our mistakes and burdens. To know our **calling**, and to have **hope**. These are things that, truthfully, we all desire. For a woman living in the **Arabian Gulf**, this could not be more true.

This region remains one of the most oppressive to be born in to as a girl, with the male guardianship system putting women under the commands of their spouses and fathers. Even with the easing of some restrictive laws in recent years, the **social constraints** upon Arab women remain very much in place. Legally being able to travel, vote, and seek employment is of little use if your male guardian prohibits you.

**We know that Jesus sees, knows, and loves.** As His followers, we are given a new identity, a new direction, and a new hope. He offers this with open arms to all who believe. Yet, the **Arabian Gulf** has also long been one of the most perilous of locations in the world to be found as a Christian.



**Most women in this part of the world have no freedom to choose the clothes they wear, let alone freely choose to follow Jesus.**

In fact, the majority have never heard the truth about Him, and of their precious worth as ones created in His image. Those that have heard and believed in their hearts often must do so secretly, living in **fear and isolation**.

**The Gulf is a deep well of potential, home to many who have not yet had the opportunity to flourish, watered by the love of Jesus.**

**We want to change that in 2022.**



# Focus on Prayer:

## *Fear and Trust*

As King David is captured by the Philistines at Gath whilst on the run from Saul, he writes **Psalm 56** out of a place of isolation, **fear** and distress.

Yet, though he is afraid, David chooses to place his **trust** in God. Though his present condition gives him many a reason to doubt God's goodness, he knows that the hand of the Lord upon his life mightier than any **human threat** or **perilous circumstance**.

Much of our work across the Middle East and North Africa is fraught with risk. Working in countries where not only Christianity is **persecuted**, but those fighting for change in the name of social justice are also met with violent **resistance**. The danger surrounding our field teams is constant; there is no room for complacency. Often, fear is a very real emotion. Even our support offices can encounter much uncertainty and concern as we seek to contend for and enable their work.

But this **fear is not unrivalled**. We serve a powerful, **trustworthy** God, against whom the threat of man meets **unparalleled strength**.

### *Prayer Points*

1. For our **North Africa** office: as they face false accusation and attack, both online and in person. May they know His peace and rest.
2. For our **Gulf** office: as they operate in a place hostile to the Gospel and walk alongside many New Church believers. May fear be met with knowledge of His mighty power.
3. For our **UK and US** offices: as decisions are made, funds are sought, and risks are taken in our planning for 2022. May our trust in the Lord's providence be firm.
4. For our **New Media Teams**: As they pioneer into new spaces and communities. May the Lord uphold, protect, and encourage them.



**In God I trust;  
I will not be afraid.  
What can man do to me?**  
*Psalm 56:11*

# Give

Visit  
[mem.org/give](http://mem.org/give)

# Pray

Visit our prayer &  
news blog  
[mem.org/pray](http://mem.org/pray)

# Advocate

Visit our  
advocacy page  
[mem.org/advocacy](http://mem.org/advocacy)

*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*

Middle East Media UK/EU  
Unit 142, 23 King St, Cambridge CB1 1AH, UK  
[comms@mem.org](mailto:comms@mem.org)  
Registered UK Charity No. 271373

Middle East Media USA  
PO Box 4949, Wheaton IL 60189-4949, USA  
[director.usa@mem.org](mailto:director.usa@mem.org)



middle east  
**media**