

MEMO

TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH UNSTOPPABLE HOPE



TRAINING TEAMS IN MEDIA MINISTRY IN TÜRKİYE

PAGE 4

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

PAGE 6

50 & BEYOND: EVENTS FOR NEXT YEAR

PAGE 9



From the editor

Dear friends,

Welcome to your Autumn MEMO! Throughout these pages you will see the fruit of your support, whether in prayer or through generous giving.

During MEM Week in May, our colleagues in North Africa shared transformative stories from many of our projects in the region, including Desert Roses. We've also been conducting training for new media teams in Türkiye to expand their ministry and reach people online in the Kurdish, Turkish, Iranian and Azerbaijani communities.

Inside, you will also find details about our upcoming 50th Anniversary celebrations including a trip to North Africa next May and an opportunity for your church to partner with us.

I am personally encouraged by your support and generosity, whether that's through your unexpected donations or fundraising efforts. I believe you will be encouraged by the impact of your support when reading this MEMO.

All the best to you in the months ahead,

James Baldock

Senior Communications Manager
comms@mem.org



QUICK NEWS



KINGDOM PLATFORM

Through this project in North Africa, we've reached 2,420 children at live events this year. We use animations, song, dance and craft to teach children messages like "God created you for wonderful purposes" and "You have inherent value".

NISAA

We are supporting 20 divorced women over 18 weeks to help them heal, learn life skills and find a hope for the future. We will be using our animated film on divorce to help them along this process



BLOSSOMS & DREAMMAKER

We are helping four charities in North Africa, that we trained last year in emotional and spiritual well-being, to run our Blossoms and DreamMaker programme with 40 women and children, most of whom are refugees.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We have signed a one-year agreement with an International Development Agency to work with Arab youth on sexual and reproductive health. One of the activities will help young people to produce films that raise awareness.





Training Teams in Media Ministry

IN TÜRKİYE

Training and Developing New Media Teams in Türkiye

Türkiye has a rich cultural and religious history, as well as being a major political influence in the region. With only 0.2% of the population claiming to be Christians, there is much ministry needed in unreached communities throughout the country. When a church in Türkiye approached us to train them in media ministry and establish media teams, it was an opportunity we couldn't turn down.

In April, we travelled to Türkiye to train members of this church in essential media skills. The church has multiple sites across Türkiye, each of which has thriving ministries among the local Kurdish, Turkish, Iranian and Azerbaijani communities.

There were 14 attendees, 6 of whom were women, from four cities across Türkiye. Despite the language barrier, as only one spoke English, the trainees came to learn with devotion and enthusiasm. We introduced them to a wide-range of media skills, including AI, that they can now use to launch online ministries. We are expecting between three and four media teams to emerge from this group and, just months after the initial training, one of the teams has already started producing and publishing content online.



“THREE MEMBERS OF THIS TEAM COME FROM WHERE THE TÜRKİYE-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE STRUCK IN 2023. THEY STILL EXPERIENCE EARTHQUAKES NEARLY EVERY DAY AND ONE COUPLE LIVES IN A SHIPPING CONTAINER. THEIR CHURCH MINISTRY SERVES A COMMUNITY THAT IS TRAUMATISED AND STILL GRIEVING THE LOSS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS. SO, THEY ARE EXCITED TO LEARN HOW TO USE MEDIA FOR OUTREACH AND DISCIPLESHIP.”

- MEDIA TEAM DIRECTOR

Update on Sudanese Teams

In our last MEMO, we introduced two Sudanese teams based in North Africa that we are working with: one team of 8, all of which are from a non-Christian background, and second team of 21 from a famous Sudanese choir.

Both teams are busy going through their media training programmes. Many of the trainees are working demanding jobs during the day and devoting their spare time to being trained and mentored by our media specialists. We are currently looking at ways to continue accommodating the two teams, such as running regular weekend training. Both teams would appreciate your ongoing prayers and support.

“I HAD THE HONOUR TO SING AS PART OF THE CHOIR DURING MY TIME IN SUDAN AND, WITH THE SUPPORT OF MEM, I AM DELIGHTED THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR MINISTRY IN EXILE. DRAWN FROM DIFFERENT DENOMINATIONS IN SUDAN, THEY ARE AN INSPIRING GROUP OF CHRISTIANS UNITED BY THEIR LOVE FOR JESUS AND A PASSION FOR USING THEIR MUSICAL GIFTS TO REACH OTHERS.”

- CHLOE, A FORMER DIPLOMAT IN SUDAN AND SUPPORTER OF MEM

Prayer Points

- 🔥 Pray that both teams would continue growing in all areas of media training as they receive support from us.
- 🔥 Pray that those who have demanding jobs would have the energy and time needed to get the most from their training.
- 🔥 Pray that they would continue to have passion, creativity and vision for reaching out to their communities.

EXAMPLE TOPICS:



VISION & STRATEGY



SCRIPT WRITING



STORYTELLING



LIGHTING



GRAPHIC DESIGN



FILMING ON A MOBILE



DIRECTING



AUDIO



VIDEO EDITING



DIGITAL MARKETING



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)



SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOW-UP



Our Impact in Numbers

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST
FOUR MONTHS OF 2024

From training new media teams to reach millions online with the love of Jesus, to supporting hundreds of women and children in person with their spiritual and emotional well-being, we've been busy. Here's a snapshot of what we got up to between January and April this year:



People trained in media
outreach in Türkiye



Attendees at our training on
how to support survivors of
human trafficking



Digital Bibles sent via the
Desert Roses social
media platform



Women supported in person
with life skills, emotional and
spiritual well-being



The reach of our Facebook page
helping parents to understand
biblical concepts like grace and
forgiveness and put them into
practice in family life



Women attended our online
lectures that combine spirituality
with topics like love, fear, conflict,
shame and relationships



People have come to Christ
through the Desert Roses
social media platform



Watch hours on our YouTube
channel teaching children
about biblical values and the
unconditional love of God

Prayer Points

- Pray for Basma's family as they grieve. Lift up her Christian husband and four children to the Lord, one of whom doesn't know Him yet.
- Pray for the family of Basma's first husband - they are Muslims.
- Pray for the Desert Roses team as they continue to use social media to share about Jesus with women in the Gulf



Basma Has Passed Away

Over the years we have followed Basma and her children's incredible journey. She had to flee her home and family because of her faith in Jesus, but later reconnected with her children. Basma worked with us in the Gulf for many years and served the Lord joyfully with unwavering faith. Many of you have heard parts of her story, including her health struggles in recent months. We want to share the difficult news that on the 1st of June Basma went to be with the Lord.

Thank you for your prayers over the years. Whilst we are deeply sad, we also celebrate her faithfulness and the profound impact she had on all who knew her. Right up until the end, she was passionate about reaching women in the Gulf through social media with the hope and love of Jesus. Indeed, at least 19 came to know Him through conversations and prayers with Basma on the Desert. Let's remember Basma together, praising God for her life and praying for those closest to her.

INTERVIEW WITH MIKE, MEDIA TEAMS DIRECTOR

HOW LONG DID YOU KNOW BASMA FOR?

5 years, but she's been working with our organisation in different roles for 9 years.

WHAT WAS HER ROLE?

She was the head of content creation for Desert Roses, a social media platform

reaching women in the Gulf. She also led the online follow-up with women who contact us through Desert Roses. She was extremely good at this ministry and I would even say she was perfect at reaching women from our region.

WHAT IS A MEMORY YOU HAVE OF HER THAT WILL STAY WITH YOU?

Firstly, she said to me that she didn't want to lose a minute of her life. She wanted to invest every minute to tell people about Jesus Christ. Secondly, when people come to faith from other backgrounds, they are like a baby and need someone to take care of them spiritually. Sometimes they think they know what to do, but they need someone to guide them. And this is what Basma did for other people very well.

HOW WILL THE DESERT ROSES TEAM MOVE FORWARD NOW?

Basma had unlimited passion and motivated everyone in the Desert Roses team. She provided long-term support to the other team members and they will miss her. We had a succession plan in place and another woman who has been learning from Basma and has now taken over the role.

OUR SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN PRAYING FOR YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THEM TO KNOW?

Basma was a role model of a dedicated believer and she invested her life serving Jesus. I pray that we find the same courage and urgency that Basma did with sharing the Gospel with the world.



MEM Week 2024

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE WEEK

Thank you for joining us at MEM Week 2024! Over 70 people joined us over two online events in May. Though Zoom doesn't allow the mingling and informal chats that in-person events offer, we were pleased to hear very positive feedback from some of you:

“THANKS FOR ORGANISING SUCH A GREAT EVENING. ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRAY WITH YOU ALL TOGETHER TONIGHT, YOU REMAIN IN MY DAILY PRAYERS. MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT SURPRISE YOU WITH HIS LOVING INTERACTION IN THE LIVES OF MENA WOMEN AND GIRLS”

- GERRY

“MUCH ENJOYED THE ZOOM PRESENTATION, THANKS SO MUCH”

- TOM

“WELL DONE. HUGE WORK PUTTING ALL THAT TOGETHER. IT WAS BRILLIANT”

- LUCINDA

“WE FOUND IT VERY INSPIRING AND ENCOURAGING. GOD BLESS THE WORK THAT YOU'RE DOING IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING WITH THE SUDANESE COMMUNITY, IT IS SO GOOD TO HEAR”

- PHILIP



50 & Beyond

Next year, Middle East Media will turn **50!**
To mark this major milestone, we will:

CELEBRATE THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY
OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS.

SHARE WITH YOU OUR VISION FOR REACHING
MILLIONS MORE PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

RAISE FUNDS FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS!

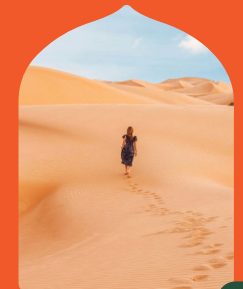
- DATES FOR THE DIARY -

FRIDAY 2ND MAY - TUESDAY 6TH MAY
A trip to North Africa for a group of 12-15 people

SATURDAY 7TH JUNE
Summer Celebration in Central London

THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER
Christmas Celebration in Central London

Bookings will be open from September at mem.org/50





INTRODUCING...

Finance & Operations Manager

Helen Deane

WHAT DID YOU ALWAYS WANT TO BE?

Growing up, I wanted to be my Dad* or my nana! Dad was a fireman back in the day and I wanted to be like him and use all his cool tools and rescue people. I wanted to be like Nana and just bake cakes. Preparing food and rescuing people, that's all I wanted to do!

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY YOUR PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I am passionate about feeding people. Since becoming a Christian it's that vision of love and welcome with plentiful food on the table.

YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF MUSIC?

My favourite piece of music is Objects In The Rearview Mirror by Meatloaf, or Majesty by Delirious.

FAVOURITE FOOD?

My favourite food to share with others is pizza!

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS YEAR?

This year, I am looking forward to going back to Norway on a cruise for my husband's surprise 50th birthday. I am absolutely happiest at sea!

*Helen's Dad is Chris Large the Chair of the MEM UK/EU board



WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT WORKING FOR MEM?

I love the team – even though we all work from home and are scattered across the world! It's also good to use my skills in a workplace where I know where I'm making a difference even though my role is mainly in the background.

MEM NEWS



MEM FILM NIGHT

St George's in Stamford recently hosted an MEM Film Night. They watched our documentary about child marriage and trafficking in the Middle East and we shared how MEM is tackling the problem. Let us know if you'd like to host a film night too!

UK YOUTH FESTIVAL

At the end of July, we went to Newday, a Christian event for 12–18-year-olds in Norwich. We helped to run the seminar stream on reaching the nations.



MEM IN LONDON

On Sunday 22nd September, MEM will be sharing at the 9am and 11am Sunday services at St Paul's in Kingston – please do join us if you are free.

MEM IN DERBYSHIRE

On Sunday 6th October, MEM will be part of Harvest Sunday at St Michael & All Angels in Stanton-by-Dale – join us if you are in the area.



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middleeastmedia

TRANSFORMING
LIVES WITH
UNSTOPPABLE
HOPE

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