



MEMO

TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH UNSTOPPABLE HOPE

SUMMER 26

MEM WEEK 2026 IS HERE!

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mem.org



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

The weekend the conflict started in Iran, I was representing MEM at a stand in my church in Worcester. Almost every conversation turned to the same question: What does the war mean for your work?

At that very moment, two of our team members were in northern Iraq. As they trained church leaders in media, they could see missiles crossing the sky above them. Despite the danger, they continued, committed to strengthening the local church. You can read more about their experience on page 14.

The reality is that conflict is not unusual in this region. Alongside rising tensions involving Iran, there are ongoing civil wars in Sudan and Yemen, as well as wars in Gaza and Lebanon. For many, instability is part of daily life.

And yet, this is exactly why our work matters.

The Middle East is in deep need of lasting hope. The kind that comes from Jesus and transforms lives and communities. That's why our team in Iraq chose not to step back. Instead, they pressed on, equipping believers with the tools to share God's light in their own communities.

I pray that the stories in this edition of MEMO encourage you. More than that, I invite you to stand with us, praying for peace, for protection and for the people of the Middle East in these challenging days.

With every blessing,

James Baldock

Senior Communications Manager

hello@mem.org

PRAYER

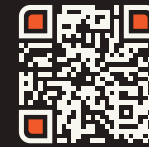


CALL2PRAYER

WALK WITH US IN PRAYER

Sign up to our Call2Prayer monthly email to get updates on how you can pray with us for what God is doing in the Middle East. We share updates on our ministry, prayer points to help guide you and reports on how your prayers have made a difference.

Sign up on our website today mem.org/prayer-blog



QUICK NEWS



CROWN OF SPLENDOUR

This year, we've started an exciting social media project, just for girls aged 12-15 in North Africa. Thanks to funding we received, in April we were able to hire a social media influencer and a script writer.

Together, we're creating fun and encouraging videos to teach girls that they are loved by God, no matter how society treats them. Our goal is to support them through life's challenges and guide them towards Jesus.

We've already written scripts for 10 videos, and can't wait to start testing them online soon.

STAFF LEADERSHIP RESERVOIR

15 of our current leaders - senior and junior - have spent three days in intense leadership training in North Africa. This was the first stage in developing and strengthening a deep reservoir of leaders at MEM.

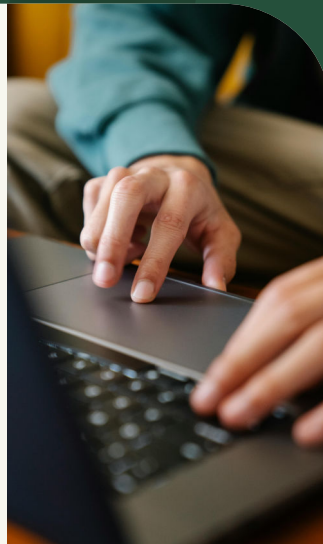
We focussed on using our strengths to develop our skills, creating a shared language for leadership and making leadership visible. The team particularly enjoyed the games, practical workshops and working in pairs to mentor each other.



BUILDING MEDIA MINISTRIES

We've just started equipping four new teams in Morocco, helping them learn how to use media to share the gospel and disciple others. We've also run face-to-face training with a church in northern Iraq (see page 14).

Safety concerns and conflict in the region have resulted in some training being delayed. But we're hoping to work with new teams from countries like Jordan, Yemen and Mauritania. Please pray for them and our team - that we'll know when to move forward and when it's better to wait.



NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Martha, Accountant, North Africa

Rawan, Executive Assistant for Media Ministries Development, North Africa

Marianne, Communications Assistant, UK & Europe

Because of safety risks, it can be hard to find Arab Christians in the region who are able to join the team. These new team members are an answer to many months of prayer, so please join us in thanking God for them.



MEM WEEK 2026

ANNUAL MEM WEEK IS BACK!

8TH - 14TH JUNE

You are invited to hear directly from our team again this year.

We will be hosting one in-person and two online events in June. We will showcase MEM's approach and impact in guiding people in the Middle East towards faith in Jesus.

Please invite your family and friends and book today! Join us to be part of our vision for positive change in the Middle East.

LIVE PODCAST RECORDING

FAITH UNDER PRESSURE: WHAT MIDDLE EASTERN CHRISTIANS CAN TEACH THE GLOBAL CHURCH

Join us for a **LIVE** podcast recording featuring our special guests, Dr Grace Alzoughbi and Rev Michael Arteen.

Monday 8th June
7.30-9pm (BST)

St. Marks Coventry
Bird Street
Coventry
CV1 5FX

Find out more and book your tickets at:

link.mem.org/MEMWeek26



YOUR PRAYERS ARE POWERFUL: BRINGING TO GOD THOSE WE ARE REACHING

Wednesday 10th June
7.30-8.15am (BST)

ONLINE

(Check website for Zoom Details)

MEM STORIES: ON PREMIER CHRISTIAN RADIO

Wednesday 10th June
10-11am (BST)

(Subject to change)

MEMBERS NETWORK: IMPACT OF MEM'S APPROACH IN SHARING THE GOSPEL

Thursday 11th June
7.45-9pm (BST)

ONLINE

(Zoom details to follow, by Invitation Only)

More details to public events will be shared via our email list, so make sure you've signed up!

mem.org/sign-up



PROJECTS

Written by: Mike
Director
Media Ministry Development

GOD'S GRACE IN THE GULF

AN UPDATE, INCLUDING ESTHER'S FAITH STORY

At MEM, we don't just produce media content ourselves, we equip indigenous ministries to do the same. These teams are rooted in their communities, speak the local language/dialect and are uniquely placed to share Jesus with their people.

One of the ministries we've built is called Desert Roses. They are a group of five women from a non-Christian background. Together, they use social media to share the gospel with women in the Gulf and disciple them.

By the grace of God, all team members in the Gulf are safe and well.

Most of the team live in the conflict zone, which has made this time particularly challenging for them personally. However, they remain passionate about serving women in the Gulf and continue to work with remarkable dedication.

The team is working tirelessly, responding to the growing emotional and spiritual needs. They keep creating social media content and chatting to people as if there's no war.

We're seeing more online engagement during this period of conflict than before. People are searching for hope, asking deeper questions and engaging more seriously with Christian content. This is providing valuable opportunities for conversation, prayer and offering guidance. We're also continuing to refer lots of women in need to free therapy sessions, paid for by MEM.

The team is also adapting its social media posts and online conversations to the current situation, focusing on messages of hope, peace and faith that directly address what people are experiencing. **In the first month of the war, we saw three professions of faith on social media, and are continuing to see more.** One of these women is called Esther.

Esther is a 28-year-old woman from Egypt. She used to live in a strict religious environment filled with fear, unable to express her thoughts openly. Yet her heart longed for truth. Through a Christian friend, she began her journey. When she messaged the Desert Roses team on social media, she was already experiencing inner peace and seeking confirmation.

We walked with her, step by step, on her journey to Jesus. At first, when we chatted, she struggled to understand concepts like the incarnation and redemption, and even rejected them. But over time, as we spoke, shared videos, Bible verses and prayed together, she began to grasp God's love and plan for her life.

Despite intense challenges and pressures in her life, including the war, Esther chose not to wait. She took a step of faith, praying to accept Christ. Afterwards, she experienced deep peace, as if a heavy burden had been lifted.

She chose her new name, Esther, after we shared the story of Esther in the Bible with her. We continue to pray that her journey with God grows stronger and that she becomes a light within her family. In the meantime, we will continue to support her, invite her to online discipleship groups and, if safe, introduce her to local Christians.

Praise God for:

- The Desert Roses team's perseverance.
- Three women (Esther, Mariam and Hoda) coming to faith recently through the project's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Ask for:

- Physical protection from missiles for the Desert Roses team, including their families.
- Spiritual and emotional encouragement for the team, that they would feel held by God.
- More people like Esther to come to Jesus, and that their faith in Him would grow.
- For peace in the region, spiritual and physical.

Would you consider giving monthly to support more people like Esther to come to faith in Jesus?

£25 per month could help 625 people see a video about the gospel on social media.

Give online at mem.org/give or using the enclosed form.



IMPACT
NUMBERS

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

OVER
20 MILLION

reached through our social media content for people in the Middle East.

18,700 digital Bibles and Christian resources sent to people via Facebook, Instagram & TikTok.

4,268

people at in-person events. The majority were children from disadvantaged communities.

“It reminded me that trauma is real, but healing is possible.”

MINA, A CHARITY WORKER WE TRAINED IN HOW TO USE OUR ANIMATIONS AND WORKSHOPS TO HELP REFUGEE CHILDREN HEAL

85 people shared that they came to faith because of our media. Many more will have done so quietly without telling us.

13,000 downloads of a Libyan audio Bible app in its first three months, created by a media ministry that MEM launched.

“God is using the pain in my life to be a blessing... I have joy knowing that, despite all my weaknesses, God is capable and wants to use me.”

JADIDA, MEMBER OF DESERT ROSES, A MEDIA MINISTRY BUILT BY MEM THAT REACHES WOMEN IN THE GULF

10 media ministries developed from 4 countries

54 people trained in media skills, online sharing of the gospel and discipleship.



“I heard somewhere that if you can change someone’s imagination you can change their life. As animators, we can positively influence children’s imagination and outlook on life by creating cartoons. My friend from a different religious background told me that she really loves our animations as they present healthy content for children.”

LOUKIA, MEM’S 3D ANIMATOR IN NORTH AFRICA

FINANCIAL REPORT

Written by: **Jolita Paton**
Director
 MEM UK & Europe

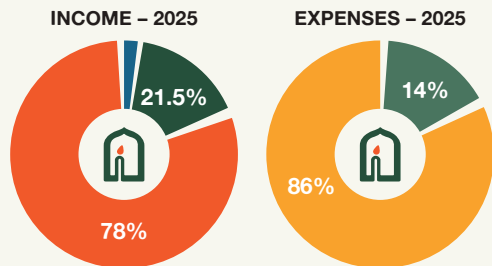
SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

If we were to describe 2025 in one word, it would be “brimming”. Brimming with ideas, opportunities, activities and fruit.

While our team of 40 in North Africa focused on creating media content and building media ministries across the region, our smaller teams in the UK (6) and the US (2) were busy raising funds for this important work.

Regional instability caused some disruption and funding for new projects was at times challenging. As you may already know, we don't wait for all funds to arrive in our accounts before we start new projects.

But, a series of inspiring 50th anniversary events in Malta, the UK and the US gave us a boost – refreshing our vision, strengthening our confidence in God's faithfulness, and witnessing new partners joining us. We are deeply grateful to each of you who supported us financially last year.



- KEY -
- Grants & Donations
 - MEM's Products & Services
 - Other Income
 - MEM Ministry Projects
 - Advocacy, Fundraising and Support Costs

The figures above represent combined data from all MEM offices (pending audit).

Income generated from our products and services (creating media for other organisations) helps sustain our expertise and credibility in the marketplace. Still, our goal is to increase income from our supporters so we can expand our own ministry projects, including new initiatives for children and young people.



Like many organisations, we have faced rising costs due to global inflation. We are thankful that our income from products and services (19% in 2024) helped offset these pressures, particularly in the Middle East.

Encouragingly, we have kept fundraising costs low, partly through reduced working hours in the UK team and our colleagues in the Middle East working on fundraising applications too.

Our team in North Africa especially thanks supporters who gave towards media equipment, medical insurance and Christian education for their children. We give these last two benefits to staff in the Middle East as, otherwise, they can't access high-quality free healthcare or free Christian schooling.

Would you like to hear more about MEM's impact in the region or explore financial partnership? If so, **connect** with us today to arrange a meeting.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM INDIVIDUAL GIVING IN THE UK:

300%

increase in number of new supporters

29%

increase in number of monthly supporters

11%

increase in overall unrestricted giving



PROJECTS

SUPERNATURAL PEACE

Written by: Mark
Deputy Director
Media Ministry Development

RECENT TRAINING IN IRAQ TOOK AN UNEXPECTED TURN, BUT GOD MOVED

GET TO KNOW MARK

Background: **Producer, Director of Production**

How long working at MEM: **11 months**

Favourite film: **The Shack**

In February, my colleague Samy and I travelled to northern Iraq, to train members of a church in using media for evangelism and discipleship. Sadly, the Iran War broke out while we were there, which complicated the training. However, we learnt that Iraqi Christians experience incredibly deep peace, even in the midst of conflict.

The Iran War began just two days into the media training. Alarmingly, a nearby church was hit by a missile, resulting in a two-day pause. The airport – our exit route – was also closed due to missile strikes*, so we couldn't get home to North Africa.

**In Iraq, militia groups backed by Iran are carrying out strikes on US interests, including the local airport.*

“...a missile flew right overhead, right past our hotel. Samy and I ran towards each other, terrified for our lives.”

Stuck in northern Iraq, Samy and I decided to finish the training, but it was a hard time for everyone. The church has 30-50 members attending each Sunday and we were equipping the pastor and seven others in media skills for evangelism. Four team members had to drop out. As for me and Samy, we were far away from our families – and they were very concerned about our safety. One afternoon, a missile flew right overhead, right past our hotel. Samy and I ran towards each other, terrified for our lives.

“The video was viewed 2,000 times on Facebook and 25 people returned to the church the next Sunday.”

On Sunday, only five people came to the church service, as the congregation was scared. As part of the training, we helped the pastor and his team create a video, encouraging them to come back. They oversaw the audio, lights, production and more.



The video was viewed 2,000 times on Facebook and 25 people returned to the church the next Sunday. Even people who don't go to the church messaged the pastor, saying how encouraged they were by the video and thanking him for it.

Many years of conflict in Iraq (since 2002) mean that Iraqis are behind in media use and skills. We'd been trying to visit this church for about five years, but had been prevented by regional instability. They have been telling us that they feel very behind in media ministry and need our support. They even had a camera and audio mixer they wanted to use to share the gospel, but didn't know how to use them.

“So, we sat down and prayed, asking God to give us this peace.”

This church wants to reach the Kurdish community with the gospel, and there are so many groups across the Middle East like them. God gave us wisdom to know how to support them during such a terrible time. But they also blessed us. Firstly, the Iraqi food they served us (I haven't had to eat since.) Secondly, the team – particularly the pastor – had such peace in the middle of incredible danger. I kept on saying to myself, “I don't know how they have such peace!” and it really made me and Samy ask ourselves a lot of questions. So, we sat down and prayed, asking God to give us this peace.

God answered our prayers, and we definitely felt peace on our way home to North Africa. In fact, we really enjoyed the journey home, which took over 24 hours by car and two flights.

Since being home, we've talked with the pastor lots. In April, he pointed out that, although we've helped them to gain media skills and work out their vision and target audience, they still have the war. We'll need to go and visit them again, to get their skills further up to scratch. But, until then, we have to wait and pray for more peace in the region.



Written by: Jolita Paton
 Director
 MEM UK & Europe

WALKING THE WALK TOGETHER

MEM'S PARTNERSHIP WITH TWO SPECIAL CHURCHES

On a cold, dark, drizzly mid-week evening in February, there was little hope to have more than 10 people for a prayer meeting at MEM's partner church in Derbyshire. Rev Phil Selby worried that the gathering would be too small for all of MEM's UK staff to come.

But for us, it was a privilege. Having spent two days as a UK team in the nearby area, it was wonderful for the whole team to join with our friends and pray for MEM.

Stanton-by-Dale, Dale Abbey and Risley are a benefice of three churches that make up one church family. Their commitment and passion for MEM's work has only increased since Rev Phil and his wife Ruth visited MEM's team in North Africa last year.

That cold evening in February saw 40 people coming to meet MEM's team, watch videos and pray together. We were deeply blessed by a warm welcome and genuine interest in MEM's work. One teenager even told her parents after the meeting that, one day, she wants to work for MEM. This type of passion definitely helps our succession planning!

Rev Phil and Ruth reflect on the prayer evening:

“Being an in-person meeting, we had food which gave time for our church family to get to know MEM's team. It also meant that MEM could share in greater depth about their work, including the videos they create. The team are so knowledgeable and clear in communicating about the work. They also provided bullet pointed lists and it really enabled our congregation to pray in a more inspired way.”

“It was also obvious that MEM really value local church partnership. We are only a small group of churches, yet we feel valued and loved and that we are in a genuine partnership with MEM, making a difference in the Middle East. This was the best attended prayer meeting we've had since we've been here at Stanton-by-Dale and a very special evening.”



Further south, the Church of the Good Shepherd, Collier Row, a thriving church in Romford, East London, has been generously supporting the work of Middle East Media for the last few years.

We first met at New Wine in 2019 when their now-retired minister, Rev Canon David Hague, and his wife Wendy came to talk to us at MEM's stand. They were interested in our work with traumatised children in the Middle East.

Last year, during their interregnum, Associate Minister Rev Keith Turner and his wife Ruth attended two of our in-person events. We also visited their church on Sunday with our Middle Eastern colleagues. Rev Keith remembers the impact of our visit:

“Last year, during MEM's visit at Pentecost, we heard about the work of the Holy Spirit in the Middle East. There was a significant response to the message and many people came forward for prayer at the end of the service. This reflects a new move of the Holy Spirit at home and abroad.”

Our church has continued to grow since then, under the leadership of our new vicar, Rev Canon Dave Chesney.”

WOULD YOU LIKE MEM TO COME AND SPEAK AT YOUR CHURCH?

Contact us today using the details on the back of your MEMO. We would love to have a conversation about having our team speak at your church.



This year, MEM is speaking again at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Romford, on 31st May 2026 at the 10am service.

“We eagerly await another visit by MEM and we feel sure our new members will be excited by what they hear about this ministry. Recent events in the Middle East leave us all thinking how much the good news of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, needs to be heard across that region. It's such a privilege to be partners with MEM in this mission and we shall continue to give MEM as much support as we can.”

Rev Keith Turner

INTERVIEW

JONATHAN MORRIS, HONORARY TREASURER FOR UK & EUROPE, IS STEPPING DOWN

Jonathan and his wife Diane have been part of the Middle East Media family for over 20 years. As they retire, we want to say huge thank you to both of them for being so committed as a couple to the work of MEM. But first, let's hear how they came to be a part of MEM and how their involvement has impacted their lives.

Jonathan: I was born in North Wales, towards the end of World War II. I was always interested in and comfortable with numbers when growing up. Upon leaving school, I trained as an accountant and have worked with commercial companies and charities ever since.

Diane: I grew up in Kent, not far from Orpington, where the founder of MEM was based. I was in retail for many years, until I gave my life to Jesus at the age of 39. Afterwards, I became heavily involved with international ministry for women, and was asked to lead a London group.

Jonathan: Initially, my first contact with MEM was in the early 2000s, when I was asked to give the UK office some guidance on their accounting. Previously, like most Christians, MEM was unknown to me. But I soon learnt about MEM's incredible work.

Jonathan then joined the UK Board of Trustees and became Honorary Treasurer.

MY EARLY PRECIOUS MEMORY OF MEM

Jonathan: I had been involved in helping with some evangelistic activities in England, but knew that the Great Commission is to all nations. I was excited to find that MEM was reaching the Middle East and North Africa.

ONE THING THAT I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER ABOUT MEM

Jonathan: It has been a great encouragement to see God at work opening doors and providing funds when there were needs.

Diane: The joy and love of Christ expressed with such enthusiasm by all those working for MEM.

WHAT HAS GIVEN US CONFIDENCE IN MEM'S WORK

Jonathan: I have met many wonderful, talented and dedicated people with 'witty inventions' (Proverbs 8:12, KJV), and learned much about the Middle East.

Diane: My confidence in the work comes from the testimonies in MEMO newsletter, as well as meeting and hearing staff members speak so passionately about reaching others with God's love.

OUR MESSAGE TO SUPPORTERS

Jonathan: As Christians, we have the greatest message of love and hope for desperate people, but it requires funds to proclaim it to them.

Diane: Remember when you were lost and without hope and had nowhere to turn. Supporting MEM financially enables them to reach others overseas and who were in the place you once were – hopeless and helpless.



OUR PRAYER FOR MEM

Jonathan: That supporters will continue to grow in number and generosity, with long term commitment to the work of MEM.

Diane: I pray all those involved in this ministry are kept in safety, wherever they go. And that everyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour grows in the revelation, knowledge and understanding of the greatness of His power living in them.

Thank you, Jonathan and Diane, for many years of faithful service, commitment and prayer into the ministry of MEM. We're so grateful and wish you all God's blessings in your retirement.



If you, or someone you know, are interested in becoming our next Honorary Treasurer, please email hello@mem.org – we'd love to hear from you!

mem.org



middleeastmedia

TRANSFORMING
LIVES WITH
UNSTOPPABLE
HOPE

**COULD YOU SUPPORT
THE MINISTRY OF MEM?**

Giving is simple and secure,
scan the QR code below.

mem.org/give



FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR



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