

February 2019



*In this  
issue:*

NEW newsletter  
name and  
design

2018 in  
numbers and  
2019 projects

You Made  
Christmas  
Count

Dear Friends,

As you may have noticed, we have updated our quarterly newsletter and changed its name from 'Prayer & Praise' to 'MEMO'. We are incredibly excited about delivering your *MEMO* about all the work that *MEM* is doing across the Middle East and North Africa each quarter.

In this edition we look back at some of the numbers from our work in 2018, which truly show the significant impact of our projects across the region. We also look ahead at the exciting projects that are planned for this year and I hope that you will join with me in praying for the lives that will be transformed as a result of our work this year.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in giving towards our Christmas campaign, read more about it on page 5 and 6.

*James Baldock*

Communications Manager


[comms@mem.org](mailto:comms@mem.org)



**Learn more about  
leaving a gift  
in your Will.**

**Visit our website:  
[mem.org/legacy](http://mem.org/legacy)**





I was a member of a fundamentalist Islamic Brotherhood in North Africa. I came across MEM's media, it wasn't labeled as Christian, but it ministered to me holistically, helping me see God in a different light. I knew it wasn't Jewish or Islamic, therefore it had to be Christian. I thought perhaps my perceptions about Christianity were wrong, I wanted to know more.

I became a Christian and the media that MEM produced was a large part of why I came to Christ. I want to tell you, what MEM is doing is excellent.

- Ibrahim\*

Name and photo changed for security reasons,  
photo: zhukovoleg/shutterstock.com

# 2018 Impact in Numbers

112

People trained across media, film production, sound engineering, and leadership.

24+

Refugee camps reached with our *Life in the Desert* project.

1,800+

Traumatized children helped in refugee camps and communities with *Life in the Desert*.

550,000+

Women read our online women's magazine across the Middle East and North Africa.

1.2m

Women engaged with our *Nisra* women's project social media pages.

20

Episodes of *The Action Bible* created and ready for broadcast on satellite TV.

103,000+

Young people reached across 33 countries through our WebTV Project.

13

Episodes of *On Bended Knee* created and ready to be broadcast across satellite TV in 2019.



photo: Vladimir Malnik/shutterstock.com



**Thank you - your  
generosity made  
Christmas count for  
children across the  
Middle East.**

“ It has been a fruitful and successful year for the use of the Life in the Desert programme. Our team has witnessed the great impact and blessings that this programme has left on children, that are truly in need of trauma healing, specifically in refugee camps. ”

- *Partner Organisation*

# You Made Christmas Count

**Thank you for helping us  
raise over £8,600.**

Our Project, *Life in the Desert*, uses a 3D animated children's series to help traumatised children across the Middle East to find healing and restoration. Alongside a curriculum, this project helped over 1,800 children across refugee camps and communities last year.

Unfortunately, we didn't reach our target of £24,880, which would have secured the training of 30 facilitators across Iraq, Gaza and Sudan, as well as enabling us to start working on the next 13 episodes. However, with the money we raised, it has allowed us to move forward with bringing healing and restoration to more children across the Middle East and we are believing that the shortfall in funding will be provided for throughout the year.

None of this vital work would be possible without your generosity and passion to see children's lives be transformed across the region.

## Prayer Points

- » Pray that the script writers and animation team will stay inspired to create the next 13 episodes.
- » Pray that the first 13 episodes, which are being broadcast on SAT-7, will reach thousands of children and bring restoration to them.

# 2019 Projects



This year promises to be one of incredible breakthrough throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Our projects are already underway and we hope that you will join with us in praying for the lives that will be touched and reached through them. Whether it's a traumatised child finding psychological healing through *Life in the Desert*, North African women finding freedom through our online magazine, or Gulf believers finding ways to share their stories through *On Bended Knee*, God is certainly on the move across the region.

Here is a list of our 2019 projects with a summary of each. If you would like further information about them, please get in touch with us.

## The Gulf

**On Bended Knee:** We continue to produce short film clips of poetry, scripture and prayers, showing Gulf believers praying for their own nations and people. These clips give new believers a safe way to share their faith and be a powerful witness to Gulf Muslims.

**Safe Haven** (formerly *The Refuge*): We are in the process of buying land in a Christian-friendly country close to the Gulf, where we will be able to disciple Muslims who are coming to faith. This center will have a dedicated media building where we can train new believers and produce media for the region. There will also be a refuge and outreach building on the property to assist in the discipleship of new believers.



# North Africa



**Animating the Action Bible:** The Action Bible is a comic-book style Bible, telling God's story through beautiful illustrations by Marvel artist Sergio Cariello. We have produced 30 episodes so far and plan to create 20 more this year. Each episode is a 2-minute motion-graphic style animation with an Arabic voiceover.

**Blossoms:** Blossoms provides spiritual and emotional healing to women and young adults in North Africa. This year we are focusing on empowering 80 Sudanese migrants as they are the most under-served migrant group, lacking international support. We use art and drama therapy workshops to help them identify and express their heartfelt needs.

**DreamMaker Workshops:** These workshops use a curriculum, alongside a 3D animated TV series called DreamMaker, to help impoverished children dream again. This year we are focusing on training facilitators from NGOs working with children in North Africa.

**Future Leaders:** We run media training courses for young leaders from the North African Church. This training empowers them to use media and impart transformational messages of hope and reconciliation to their communities.

**Got IT!:** Through dynamic 1-2 minute animations, Got IT takes common misconceptions that many Muslims have about Christians and clearly explains what Christians actually believe. These animations are also used to teach new believers about the Christian faith and help in their discipleship.

**Life in the Desert:** Using 3D animation we have created a TV series that has been designed, in consultation with a child psychologist, to help traumatised children find healing and restoration. This year we plan to create 13 more episodes and train 30 facilitators across the region to deliver this programme.

**Nisa'a Women's Project:** Through our online magazine, social media, and training events across North Africa, we seek to challenge women's core beliefs, attitudes and perceptions of themselves and others. This year we are expanding our offline events to 5 major cities across North Africa.

**Tamer's Questions:** Tamer's Questions is a series of short films aimed at children between 6-10. These films combine animation and live action to answer children's questions about the character of God. This year we want to finish 13 episodes so that they can be aired on Arabic satellite television.

**WebTV:** Using an online platform, WebTV creates a space for Arab young people to express themselves by creating short videos and films about issues that they face in their society. As a part of this project, we train the participants to have the necessary skills to achieve this.

## Focus on Prayer:

### *Background Muslim Believers*

Background Muslim Believers (BMB's) face many challenges. When they make a decision to follow Jesus, their families are expected to kill them, or at the very least completely reject them and no longer see them as part of their family. If that wasn't enough, when they come to know the truth of God, they want to share the Gospel message with those around them. They often do this unwisely and can end up dead or imprisoned.

You may remember the story of Basma from last year. She became a Christian and had to flee her country over 15 years ago as her life was in danger. She left her husband and three children behind and now years later, Basma has reconnected with her children, with the help of Facebook. This kind of situation can often be the cost of converting from Islam in the Middle East.

Media is an incredible tool to help and reach these individuals. Our projects such as *Got IT!* help to clear up misconceptions that they might have about being a Christian, whereas *On Bended Knee* and *Safe Haven* provide support and empowerment for these new believers to stay safe, while also sharing the Gospel through Media.

### *Prayer Points*

- » Pray for Background Muslim Believers to stay safe and be disciplined to use wisdom in sharing about their new faith.
- » Pray that Basma's son will be protected as he is imprisoned with Islamic extremists and that her daughters will keep asking questions about Jesus and Christianity.
- » Pray for our projects that empower these new believers to use media to communicate their messages of hope and transformation.

**Rejoice** *always*, **pray** *continually*, **give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in *Christ Jesus*.

**- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Focus On Prayer | 10

# 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**