

MEMMO

middle east
media

Winter **2020**



*In this
issue:*

Looking back
at our 45th
Anniversary

Looking forward
to our Vision
for the Future

Media:
The Future
of Mission

Dear Friends,

2020 has truly been a year like no other! We have all become familiar with Zoom calls, online videos, and digital media to have some kind of community and learn about what's going on in the world. It is just another confirmation for us about the vitalness of our ministry across the Middle East and North Africa.

In this MEMO we celebrate the success of our 45th anniversary online celebration, talk about an exciting new project in the Gulf, and learn how media is a powerful tool to bring life transformation in the region.

Every week we pray for our supporters and thank God for their faithfulness in prayer and support. If you need prayer for a specific issue, please get in touch.

James Baldock

Senior Communications Manager
comms@mem.org



Leaving a Legacy

Did you know that some of our life-transforming projects are completely funded through legacy gifts from our supporters? If you'd like to know more, or how you can leave a legacy in your will to MEM, please contact our European Director Jolita Paton at jolita@mem.org or on 01223 901137.

Calling Local Churches

Churches are a key pillar to our work. Without your prayer, platforms and finances, we will not be able to share the Gospel and journey with new believers in the Middle East. Over the next 5 years we aim to partner with 100 new churches in the UK to increase our prayer, awareness and financial support.

*We need your help.
Will you become our Advocate in your church community?*

Media and Mission have been our bread and butter for the past 45 years and we can't wait to share more with you!

Do get in touch TODAY with Jess, our Development Manager, who would love to have a virtual coffee with you to discuss how you could be part of our mission of reaching people in the Middle East. Jess@mem.org

"Supporting MEM gives us a focus for our concern for the persecuted church and the wonderful ways God uses modern media to reach out to people from other cultures. We receive a good flow of information from MEM to fuel our prayers and keep us engaged. We could certainly recommend them to other churches looking to support a passionate, forward-thinking and visionary agency."



John Tromans
Mission Partner Representative
Trinity Church Buxton

Celebrating 45 Years

On 3rd September we celebrated 45 years of MEM with our online celebration, **'The Way in the Middle East'** – and what a celebration we had! We looked back at all that God has done since our beginnings in Lebanon in 1975 with incredibly thankful hearts, and looked forward to the ongoing work of MEM with a sense of excitement, expectation and purpose.

We were delighted to have been hosted by one of our long-term faithful supporters, Dr Hugh Osgood, President of Churches Together in England. Other highlights included sung worship led by London Living Water Arabic Church, interviews with our team directors across the Middle East, hearing real life stories of hope from the region, and hearing more about the renewed vision of MEM as we look to the future.

Looking ahead to the next 45 years, we feel the Lord is calling us to a united mission of media discipleship and shepherding. This involves a commitment to walking alongside and shepherding people in every aspect of life, and at every stage of their faith journey. After all, Jesus did not call us to make converts, but disciples. We long to see new believers across the MENA region growing, maturing and being emboldened to reach their own people with the love and hope of the Gospel they themselves have received.

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey
everything I have commanded you..."*
Matthew 28:19-20a (NIV)

What our supporters said...

Our 45th Anniversary | 4

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It was wonderful to hear back from your workers on the field and, above all, to get such a sense of the commitment of your supporters: that you're one family serving the Lord together.

**Emily Smuts,
London School of
Theology**

We congratulate to the 45 years of ministry in the Middle East. We hope that MEM can continue with its work for a long time and be a blessing to the people especially to women and children.

**Cornelia Wolf,
Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Wutttemberg**

A super event, clearly presenting the wonderful impact of MEM and the ongoing vision.

**Dr Carol Walker,
visiting lecturer at
All Nations College**

”

If you missed the live celebration but would still like to watch it, the whole video is available until the 30th of November 2020 at mem.org/videos!

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New Gulf
Project

Holistic Media Internships

**“Our ministry focuses on
discipleship before the Cross, at
the Cross, and after the Cross.”**

Wayne Larson, International Director

Many believers from a Muslim background – or as they like to be called, the New Church (NC) – struggle to find jobs because of their Christian faith. If they remain in their context, they cannot declare their faith and must continue to perform Muslim practices. Living with this dual identity is confusing, burdensome and dangerous. Without employment, NC believers risk becoming financially dependent on others, rather than being self-sustained. Sadly, the easiest thing to do is often to return to Islam.

We are called to fill the gap by equipping them in media production to be self-sufficient, so they can find work in this market. We are also called to disciple and mentor them spiritually, so that they can stand mature in faith and live as salt and light in the world.

It has always been part of our mission to train and enable local people to help their communities using media. We are thrilled that our Gulf team are seeking to provide three NC believers with interest and talent in media with a year-long internship.

We believe that by holistically equipping them in this way, God will use them as they mature in faith and in life to grow His church in the Middle East. Their media input into our projects to reach their own people is also vitally important. They understand the culture and the extreme challenges better than anyone. We would love to see the NC shepherding their own media teams one day, reaching out to more and more Muslim believers across the MENA region.

This project fits firmly into the future vision of MEM as discipleship after the Cross. You can find out how you can pray for this vision on page 9.

No Boundaries... ...No Borders

If there's one thing that's made the age of Covid-19 just that bit more bearable for all of us, it would be our ability to remain connected with friends and family through the use of media and technology. Had this pandemic struck even 10 years ago, we would not have had the technologies available to remain as connected as we have been...we complain about its hang-ups, but what a blessing technology has been in 2020!

Media is able to access places that people cannot, which has allowed us to attend church services online, hold quizzes with our families on Zoom, and even sit watching our friends get married from the comfort of our sofas. Media has no boundaries, and it has no borders.

For these reasons, media is also the future of mission. For many places in the Middle East, it is extremely dangerous to be a missionary in the traditional sense—threats of persecution, oppression and deportation are very real. This is only heightened by the Covid-19 pandemic.



Media: the Future of Mission

Not only is it dangerous for outsiders, but for citizens too. Cultural and religious laws and traditions, warfare and political upheaval leave many trapped by injustices through no fault of their own...trapped, but also silenced. Trafficking. Child brides. Traumatized children. Victims of abuse. They don't dare speak out...for opening their mouths is quite literally the choice between life and death.

But we can tell their stories. We can be their voice.

MEM uses media in powerful and culturally relevant ways to reach the unreached with the message of hope found in the Gospel. MEM also uses media to help the oppressed find healing, freedom and a voice. MEM enables the stories of those silenced to be heard...with the hope and prayer that more and more people from the MENA region will encounter the life-transforming love of Jesus through their testimonies.

Media is truly a gift that has the power to change lives...

...now more than ever before.

Focus on Prayer:

Our Future Vision

In the Lord's kindness, MEM has been sharing His love through media with the people of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) for 45 years. As we look ahead in faith to the next 45 years, we strongly feel that He wants us as an organisation to be united across teams in one over-arching vision: media discipleship and shepherding.

Media shepherding is not a project, a goal or a tick-box exercise, but an ongoing and persistent commitment to walking alongside people in the MENA region with the truth, love and hope of the gospel – before the cross, at the cross, and after the cross. It is a commitment to making disciples, not just converts.

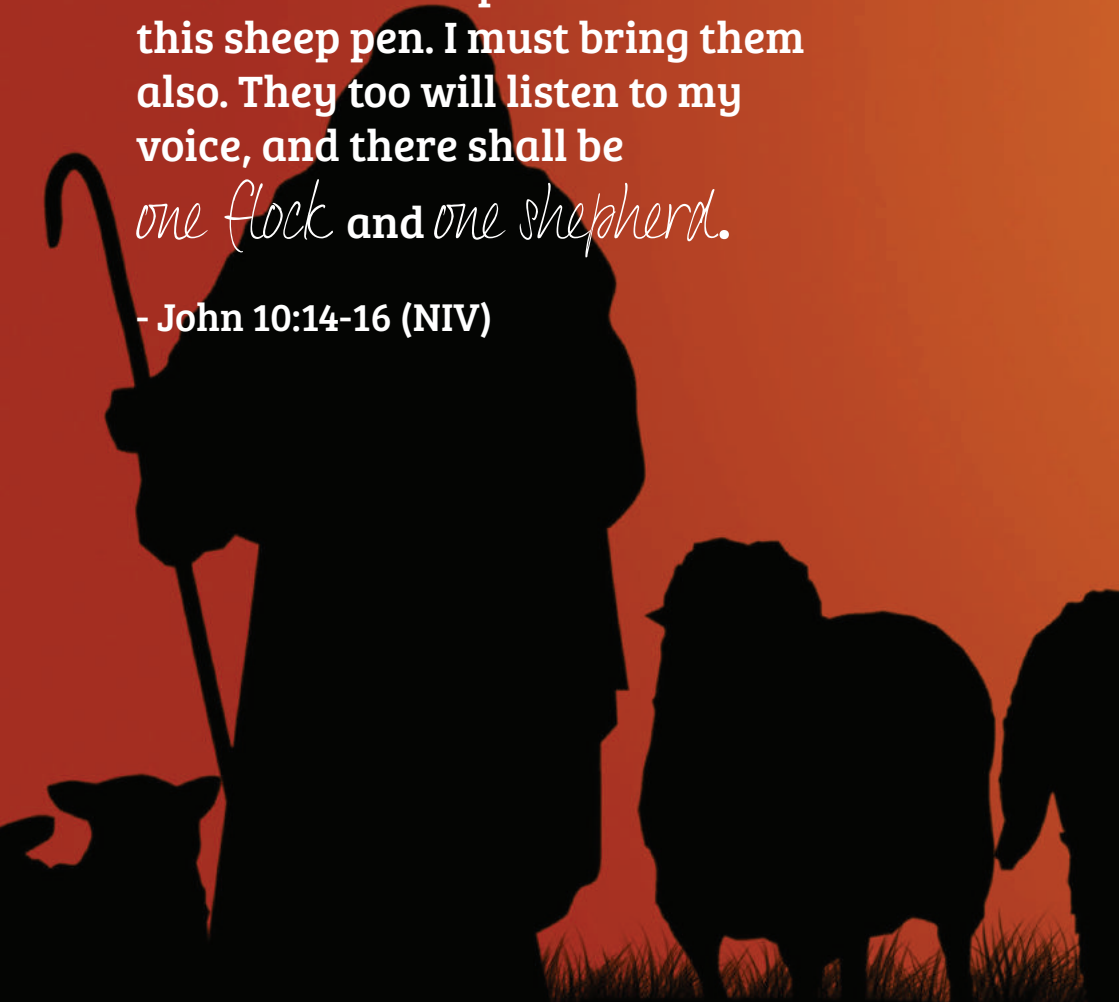
We would love you to continue to pray with us as we look ahead. As excited as we are, we are conscious that the next 45 years, just as with the former 45 years, will not be without challenges, risks and opposition. We must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, first being led by Him - the Good Shepherd.

Prayer Points

- » For all our staff, colleagues, supporters, advocates and friends worldwide to be united in this vision. May we be committed to shepherding one and other, and the people of the MENA region, wholeheartedly.
- » For our field teams, as they seek to walk holistically alongside the New Church.
- » That there may be many new disciples of Jesus from all across MENA in the years to come. May His Spirit be at work!
- » For hearts that are focused on the Good Shepherd in all things.

“I am the *good shepherd*;
I know my sheep and my sheep
know me— just as the *Father*
knows me and I know the Father—
and I lay down my life for the sheep.
I have other sheep that are not of
this sheep pen. I must bring them
also. They too will listen to my
voice, and there shall be
one flock and *one shepherd*.”

- John 10:14-16 (NIV)



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news blog
mem.org/pray

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Visit our
advocacy page
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

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