

Spring **2022**



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Dear Friends,

I hope that 2022 has started well for you, and as we move out of a couple of turbulent years, I pray that God blesses you in the year ahead. For us at MEM, it's looking to be a very exciting one, with new initiatives being launched in the Middle East, the return of MEM Week, and the excitement of knowing that God is on the move.

In this edition you will find a report on our Christmas fundraising campaign - thank you to all of you who gave and prayed for our work reaching women in the Gulf. We report back on key accomplishments from last year, and answer some of the questions we get asked regularly.

I want to encourage you to think and pray about how you can be involved with us in the year ahead. As always, if you have any questions or would like to talk about anything mentioned in MEMO, please get in touch.



*James Baldock*

Senior Communications Manager

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## Lunch with MEM

Join us online every other month

Our Zoom prayer meetings are taking a slightly different format this year. We are now meeting on the first Tuesday of every other month at 1pm to hear from different special guest speakers and spend some time in prayer. Join us on **5th April** and **7th June** for our next gatherings - sign up to receive details on our website: [mem.org/sign-up](http://mem.org/sign-up).

# MEM Week May 2022

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After two years of upheaval and online gatherings, MEM Week 2022 is going to be different. We are delighted to announce that **this year we're coming to you!** This May, MEM will be travelling around the country to host **in-person events in three different locations.**

**Holland Road Baptist Church, Hove – Sunday 15th May**

**St Paul's Kingston, London – Saturday 21st May**

**Trinity Church, Buxton – Sunday 22nd May**

*We will also meet online to pray together.*

**Day of Prayer – Online – Tuesday 18th May**



Please join us in May to hear how the Arab world is changing and where the future of mission and MEM lies.

It won't all be learning though; we will have plenty of time to catch up over delicious Middle Eastern food and drink!

**Further details will be released in March**, but please do make a note in your diary and start inviting friends to bring along. Head to **[mem.org/memweek](https://mem.org/memweek)** to stay up to date!

*See you then, on the road!*



Car graphic: [rinrin\\_gs/shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/r/rinrin_gs)

# Oasis Christmas Appeal

**Thanks to your generosity and  
faithful prayer**



**to bring hope and home to  
women in the Gulf!**

We wanted to share our gratitude to everyone who donated towards and prayed for Oasis, our 2021 Christmas appeal. The money that we raised will be used in 2022 to connect isolated women across the Gulf region on social media, bringing them a place of **rest, safety and community**.

This pioneering ministry involves the work of our three interns, Naomi, Fullah, and Basma; faithful Christian believers from a Muslim background, passionate about reaching women like them with the love of Christ. This year, God willing, we will see the launch of the Facebook page, which hopes to reach 600,000 women in the region, and share the Gospel with at least 2,000. As they seek to bring an oasis of hope and home to these women, **please keep this important work in your prayers over the coming months**, and we will be sure to update you as this project progresses.

## Some of our numbers and success stories from 2021...

### The Bible Project

- **45** Modern Standard Arabic episodes produced
- **20** Farsi episodes produced
- **15** Levantine dialect episodes translated

### Life in the Desert

- 544** more children in Lebanese refugee camps reached
- Totals across the region:  
**6,794** children reached
- 267** teachers trained

New media teams seeded in **6** different locations

Funded and filmed **Tamer's Questions** season 2

Appointment of a new **US** director

Relocation of our **int'l** director to the field

Launch of the **Kingdom Platform**

**40** NGO workers trained in anti-trafficking

### Nisa'a Women's Magazine

- **450,000** website visits
- **300** web articles
- **6,000** new women joined online community

# Our 2021 in Stats & Stories

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## Fadia's Story - Life in the Desert



Fadia always looked forward to watching the episodes, and loved telling us about the lessons she learned. After the episode with the story of David and Goliath, we had a great conversation with Fadia. She has three younger siblings, and helps her mother out a lot by looking after them. We asked her, "how are you able to help your mother and your siblings when you're still so young?" She told us that she was able to do this because of God, and that He gave her the strength to take on these big responsibilities. We encouraged and reassured her that God will always help and be with her, just like He helped David.

*From our Lebanese partner  
taking the series into refugee  
camps*

Partnered with local  
women to develop  
new training  
for NGOs raising  
awareness  
of **women's  
reproductive rights** in  
North Africa



**259** families and  
**165** women and  
girls from vulnerable  
sectors of society were  
reached through these  
classes

# Frequently Asked Questions

There are a number of questions we get asked on a regular basis, so we thought it would be a good opportunity to address some of them here.

**Q:** Why can't we see most of the work the field produces?

**A:** It is a punishable offense to be a Christian in many parts of the Middle East. It could therefore be **incredibly dangerous** for any of our field teams to be affiliated with MEM, so we must be overly cautious about sharing any of the content they create. Individuals known to us have experienced such extreme persecution that they have had to flee their country because of **security breaches**. We must also protect those we work with who are from a Muslim background, who are unable to share their Christian faith or doubts about Islam with their families for the same reasons. We would love to be able to share more with our supporters in the West, but we have a duty of care to protect our faithful staff, volunteers and friends.

**Q:** Are you registered as a Christian charity in the Middle East?

**A:** We own a number of distinct entities across the Middle East and North Africa under which all of our work is carried out. For the **legal and security reasons** mentioned above, none of these are registered as Christian entities. Our field teams have to remain incredibly alert at all times for risk of **attacks**. We are currently exploring new ways of being able to operate safely within the region.



**Q:** How are you different from SAT-7 and other media organisations?

**A:** MEM specialises in **media content production and training**: we **create** powerful media, and **equip** others to do so. We have been and continue to focus on equipping local believers to reach their own people groups through media. Other regional media organisations such as SAT-7 and *Kingdom Sat*, whom we partner with, not only produce media, but have wide-reaching **distribution** platforms. All are important ministries for transforming lives in the Middle East!

**Q:** What does MEM do in the UK and US?

**A:** MEM UK and US exist purely as a **support offices** for the work being done in the region. We aim to build support through connecting with individuals, trusts, churches, and partners who are passionate about reaching the Middle East, and committed to supporting the ministry both prayerfully and financially.

**What other questions about our work would you like to see answered?**

We want to be as open as possible with you as our supporters about the work that we do. So, if there are questions you'd like to see answered, please do get in touch! Email [hello@mem.org](mailto:hello@mem.org).

# Focus on Prayer: Partnership

Exodus 17: Israel is subjected to an unprovoked attack by the Amalekites. Moses commands Joshua to lead the military battle. Moses himself engages in yet a more important battle: praying for the victory.

Holding both hands up like this is how the Israelites would position themselves in prayer. We are shown clearly how the Amalekites' defeat was utterly dependent upon the prayers of Moses - whenever he ceases to intercede, the Israelites start losing.

Supporting the battle in prayer, however, is no easy task. Prayer can be hard work, and without Aaron and Hur lifting and strengthening him, Moses could not have continued. Ultimately, **the battle is won through their active, prayerful partnership.**

As we seek breakthrough in many areas of our work in the Middle East, this prayer partnership is just as vital. Our hopes and plans for 2022 are similarly fruitless without the prayers of our faithful supporters. You do not need to be on the battlefield to be fighting the battle!

## Prayer Points

- » For our **Gulf Office**: as they continue to train, mentor and equip our three interns, and prepare for the upcoming season of Ramadan.
- » For our **North Africa Team**: as they expand current productions and plan new ones, may they be led in wisdom in which projects to prioritise.
- » For our **New Media Teams**: being cultivated in six new locations across the Middle East and Africa.
- » For our **UK and US Offices**: as they seek to build new connections with individuals, trusts, and churches.

**“As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.**

**When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it.**

**Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset.**

**So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.”**

*Exodus 17:11-13*

# 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*

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