



middle east  
media

# PRAYER & PRAISE

*Quarterly news from Middle East Media*

ISSUE 100 SPECIAL EDITION  
EASTER 2018

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**"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."**

JOSHUA 1:9

*Dear friends,*

Welcome to our special edition of Prayer & Praise 100! This Easter, coinciding with our 100th edition, seems like perfect timing to celebrate all of the work and life transformation that has happened through MEM over the years. We are incredibly thankful to God for empowering us to do His will in the Middle East.

After only being involved with MEM for a few short months, I am already inspired and encouraged by this vital ministry that we do in North Africa and the Gulf. It is humbling to hear stories of how people have been impacted by our projects and I'm excited to continue sharing these stories with you, our supporters, over the coming year.

I've previously been involved in organisations, like MEM, who reach different parts of the world, in culturally relevant ways. It encourages me that God allows us to be a part of enabling our brothers and sisters in different cultures, to reach their own people, in ways in which we would not have been able to in our own wisdom and understanding. I believe that as we pray together, we will see an even greater breakthrough in the Middle East this year.

I believe that two important parts of breakthrough are prayer and engagement. For this reason, we have a special Ramadan Prayer Guide Campaign this year, we're calling it 'Pray and Give' and I would ask that as we approach Ramadan, we would start praying for this special campaign, even before you receive your Ramadan Prayer Guide.

**In this special 100th issue**, we look at pre-evangelism this Easter in the Middle East. How do we see an outworking of the great commission in a culture that forbids evangelism and can potentially lead to severe repercussions?

We look back at some highlights from the first few newsletters from MEM, while also celebrating the history over the past 43 years. Although we started with modest beginnings, lives were being impacted right from the start.

We also look forward to the future of MEM, exploring how each of us plays a part in taking this ministry forward, building on what we have already accomplished. I am filled with excitement for the opportunities and growth that we will see over the years ahead.

Thank you for the warm welcome many of you have given me as the new Communications Manager, I already feel a part of the MEM family.

In Him,



*James Baldock*  
Communications Manager  
[comms@mem.org](mailto:comms@mem.org)

# Ramadan Prayer Guide

15th May - 14th June 2018

*Pray & Give  
Coming Soon!*

**"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."**

James 5:19

# Pre-Evangelism this Easter

Revealing how God is moving in the  
Middle East



**"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me."**

*-John 14:6*

How do you tell someone the good news of the Gospel, when doing so could result in your own death, and the death of the person receiving the Gospel?

This isn't a question that many of us in the West have to ponder at Easter time, as we meet together in our churches. It is, however, a challenge for our teams in the countries within which they work, hence, the need for us to be strategic in our operations.

You may remember Basma's story from previous editions of *Prayer & Praise*. She became a believer from a Muslim background and had to flee from her family as she feared for her life. She recently updated us about her son...

*"My son has been arrested by police after attempting to flee, he had to flee after becoming a believer in our Lord. But the last thing I heard from him, through a friend, was the vision he saw: He saw himself being prayed for by a woman. After that, he felt pulled up to the sky. He surrendered completely to that force. He lifted up his head and looked at the moon only to see Christ's face drawn on it. After that, he looked around and saw a lot of people like him being drawn towards the sky."*

— Basma

Please continue to pray for Basma and her whole family as God reaches through to them all.

Basma's story is incredible and God is moving by speaking to her family members about who He is. This is due, in part, to Basma's example of questioning the religious belief she was taught to adhere to, and by doing so, she became an example of another way of living to her children. In turn, this has led to her son becoming a believer and her daughter to start questioning her own ideas of who God is.

**Pre-Evangelism is revealing who a loving God is, breaking down barriers of misconceptions, encouraging reconciliation to God, and influencing cultures to create platforms for God to speak to people.**

Our projects throughout North Africa and the Gulf work on several levels and one of the major areas is reconciliation to God. An example of this is the Nisa'a Women's Project that focuses on valuing women and giving them a voice in their society. This is vital counter-cultural work as women in the Middle East are often isolated, marginalised, and even told their lives are worth half of a man's.

These women are often withdrawn and can be somewhat imprisoned inside of themselves, which can cause a breakdown of social skills and emotional intelligence. How can they come to accept a loving Father in heaven, or indeed, a man named Jesus who would lay His own life down for theirs?

There are several important steps in reconciliation before it is often possible for these women to come to know a loving God, which include... (continued over).



IMAGE: Kafainkolik / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

(cont.)... communicating to them that they are valued, accepted, and loved by God and others. It is also paramount to come alongside these women and speak truth, worth, and potential into their lives. These are all ideals that can be quite foreign to women in the Middle East.

The Nisa'a Women's Project focuses on doing these things, while also empowering women to develop their own skills and abilities so that they can have a voice in wider society and grow into all that God has created them to be. This pre-evangelistic work paves the way for Middle Eastern women to be able to encounter God and to accept the Gospel message in their lives.

**"I had so many troubles, which Nisa'a managed to take to pieces. Usually, my body made me feel embarrassed, but today I starting dancing with every fibre of my being. I will never forget the day I applied to attend the workshop: I laughed with happiness. I also felt so many feelings during the workshops itself: I was alive."**

*- Testimony of woman attending Nisa'a workshop.*

This Easter, consider all of the steps of reconciliation that lead people to become ready to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. It is of vital importance that this work of reconciliation, which reveals a loving and accepting God, continues to open doors and influence culture change in the Middle East, resulting in people coming to know Jesus Christ.

# PRAYER POINTS

For Christians in the West, Easter is a time to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus, and be thankful for salvation. Christians across the Middle East will celebrate the same ideals, however they will also hope, and pray, for a time when they can openly evangelise to their neighbours and communities.

In the meantime, please continue to pray for, and support, our projects across North Africa and the Gulf, which are building toward a future where all people can come to know a loving God who has always been there for them.

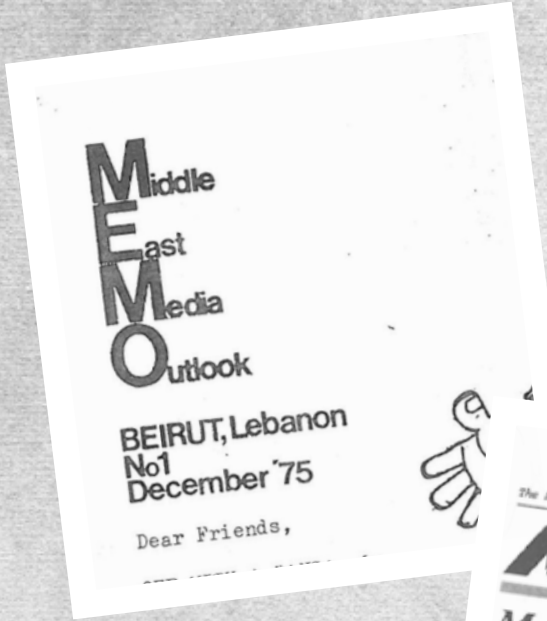
**Whether it's Middle Eastern women coming to know their value, refugees finding healing from trauma, or human trafficking survivors finding acceptance - pre-evangelism is vital for the Middle East.**

As Easter is a time to be thankful, we want to take a moment and be thankful for all of the lives that have been impacted across the Middle East through MEM. We are thankful for the opportunity we have had to report on them all over the last 100 Prayer & Praise Newsletters. We are also tremendously grateful to you, our supporters, for making it possible with your prayers and gifts - thank you.

- Thank God that we have the honour and privilege to bring His love to the Middle East.
- Thank God for the people across the Middle East who are coming to know Him as their loving Father.
- Pray for Basma and her family, pray for protection for her son and that he would be found. Also pray for her other children as they start to question their Islamic upbringing.
- Pray for those across the Middle East, both men and women, who have misconceptions of our loving God. Ask God to open their eyes and help them on their journey to faith in Jesus Christ.

# From The Archives

As we celebrate the one hundredth issue of Prayer & Praise, we take a look back through the archives to some MEM's earliest records...



## Prayer & Praise (MEMO) Issue 1, 1975

The first MEMO newsletter was created to introduce the new ministry of MEM, specialising in 'literature production and distribution'.

## Prayer & Praise (MEMO) Issue 16, 1981

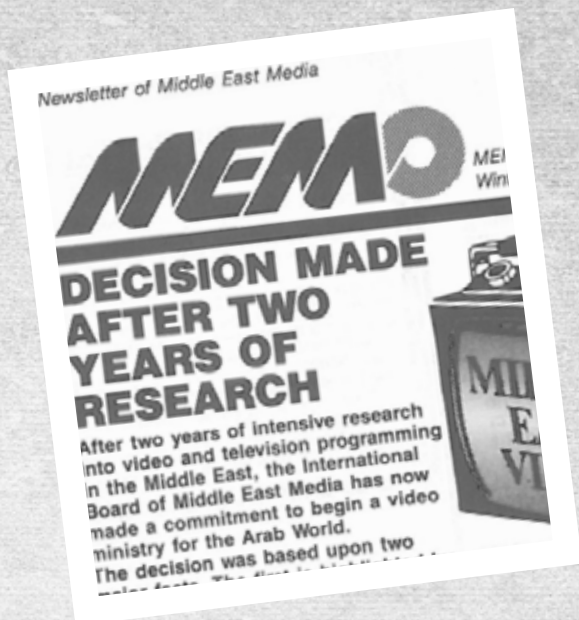
Political and religious tension has been present in the Middle East for years. Our response has always been to pray.





**"Following an escalation in the fighting during December and a complete breakdown of law and order, we decided to leave Lebanon for an experimental three-month period..."**

- From Prayer & Praise (MEMO), February 1976.



**Prayer & Praise (MEMO)  
Issue 25, Winter 1984-5**

In 1984 a decision was made to move into video production, after research showed that 82% of the population of the Middle East could be reached through this medium.

*Lord, we thank you for your faithfulness to the people of the Middle East. We thank you that you have entrusted MEM with this ministry over the past 43 years. Continue to guide us and give us wisdom in the years ahead. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



IMAGE: ZouZou/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

# Be a Part of the Future

While we've looked back at the past, it's important to be thinking about the future of this vital ministry in the Middle East. Whether you're passionate about seeing Muslims coming to know Christ, or want to see an end to human trafficking and child exploitation, there is a part for you to play.

You could be the difference in people finding freedom in Christ, or seeing a young generation achieve breakthrough in their culture and have a hope for their future - where there was little hope previously.

Whether it's sharing about MEM with your Church, fundraising by doing a sponsored run, or committing to praying regularly for our projects across the Middle East, we all have a part to play in the future of what God is doing across North Africa and the Gulf.

**Please prayerfully consider what your next step is as a supporter of MEM, and together we can make a difference for the future.**

*Yes!* I want to join with MEM to make a difference in the Middle East...

## Pray

Pray for our work

Pray for the region

Receive the Call2Prayer fortnightly e-mail

## Give & fundraise

Commit to giving regularly

Fundraise by doing a sponsored event

Leave a legacy to MEM

## Advocate

Invite a speaker

Advocate for MEM in your own church

Share about MEM's work in small groups

**Thank you for your commitment to the future of MEM!**

*If you would like anymore information on how you could be involved with any of the above please e-mail us [comms@mem.org](mailto:comms@mem.org)*

# Thank You

Together, we can see incredible life transformation across the Middle East. We wouldn't be able to have such impact in nations across North Africa and the Gulf without your support.

PHOTO CREDIT: DARRELL CHADDOCK / JUNSPLASH

## *Sowing seeds of transformation*

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Middle East Media is a Christian charity using creative media to share God's justice, compassion & hope with the people of the Middle East in culturally relevant ways.



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