THE UGANDANS

Their strength, their faith, their life-transforming chillies

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Unseen Afghanistan Burger joints, Bible studies, breathtaking beauty
Disability in Thailand The girl with the amazing laugh
Syria’s Forgotten Families What you gave and what it achieved
When I started working at BMS World Mission a little over four years ago, I had no idea of the breadth or depth of the work I was becoming a part of. I didn’t know that Christians from the UK were living in Afghanistan, saving babies and developing mental health care in a country where an estimated 50 per cent of the population suffer with mental illness due to trauma. I didn’t know that BMS had stories to tell from North Korea, the last closed country in the world. Nor did I know that we have lawyers in Africa, helping the vulnerable, abused and oppressed access their rights; or that we support local Christians all over the world to grow churches, co-ordinate huge relief efforts, train teachers and develop communities. In short, I didn’t know that UK Christians were having such a transformative effect in our world.

And that’s what we want to capture in this new era of Engage, the BMS magazine. We want you to be inspired by what you read here, because these are amazing stories and you’re helping to write them – every time you pray and every time you give. And we’re not worried about running out of great stories after the first issue because, as long as you keep supporting us, we will always have incredible things to tell you. God is at work, and he is letting us all play a part in his mission.

We hope you love this new magazine as much as we do! We’ve tried to make it easy to read, beautiful to look at, and all about the wonderful people we seek to serve. We’re also really happy that, by redesigning the magazine to 20 pages and sending it out three times a year instead of four, we’re able to invest even more in God’s work around the world.

We love hearing from you, so please do get in touch to share your thoughts on Engage and the work of BMS.

Happy reading!

Jessica
Editor

Have something to say in response to this issue of Engage?

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@bmsworldmission

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We look forward to hearing from you!

Write to me at magazine@bmsworldmission.org
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We have exciting news about what God is doing in North Korea, but we can’t share it here. To find out more, join Project Cyrus today.

bmsworldmission.org/cyrus
GOODBYE AND THANK YOU
David Kerrigan

David Kerrigan retires as General Director of BMS World Mission in August 2017

NEXT GENERAL DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED

Dr Kang-San Tan will take over as General Director of BMS World Mission in October 2017.

Kang-San is from Malaysia and is currently Executive Director for Asia CMS. He has lived in Canada, the USA, Singapore and the UK, speaks four languages and holds two doctorates. His experience of leadership and mission all over the world have given him a unique outlook, which he will bring to BMS, an organisation with over 200 years of history.

“From a non-western perspective I want to encourage British churches that God is still working through mission,” said Kang-San, who is excited to take on the role.

BMS Chair of Trustees, Maureen Russell, warmly welcomed his appointment: “Everyone on the search committee was very impressed by Kang-San’s missiological experience, insight and vision for BMS,” she said.

FEEDING STARVING IDPS IN SOUTH SUDAN

Famine in South Sudan has left 40 per cent of the country in urgent need of food. BMS World Mission is responding to this need, working with partners on the ground to provide food, seeds and agricultural tools to 1,262 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in two locations.

South Sudan is one of the world’s most fragile states, and since 2015 BMS has been meeting the needs of thousands of people displaced by the conflict there. Our latest relief grants totalling £26,400 are going to struggling families living in Juba and near the border with Uganda.

“Famine has made the fragile lives of displaced people in South Sudan even more precarious,” says Steve Sanderson, BMS Deputy Director for Mission. “We are thankful to our generous supporters for enabling us to provide emergency relief to some of those in greatest need.”

WHEN JANET AND I STARTED WITH BMS WORLD MISSION, LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT I’D LEAVE NEARLY 35 YEARS LATER. WITH SEVEN YEARS IN PASTORATE ALONG THE WAY, THE YEARS WITH BMS HAVE MADE FOR WONDERFUL MEMORIES.

Highlights? Putting down deep roots as a family in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Driving through the Khyber Pass and on to Kabul to make the first BMS visit to Afghanistan in 1996. Attending a worship service in a village church on the Bateke Plateau east of Kinshasa in 1999, where the vibrant dancing blew me away.

In 2007, explaining to a Guinean pastor by drawing diagrams with my finger in the soil how believers from a Muslim background could be encouraged to start their own gatherings or Jamaats. He was shocked and delighted!

And standing in the capital of the world’s last closed country just three years ago, realising that God was opening the least likely of doors.

All this has only been possible because of supportive UK churches and overseas partners, mission workers and UK staff who never fail to amaze me in their desire to follow Christ. Thank you all for everything.

But now is the time for change, so pray fervently for our new leader Kang-San Tan, a man hugely respected in global mission circles, and his wife Loun as they return to the UK this summer. Encourage him as much as you have encouraged me!

David Kerrigan retires as General Director of BMS World Mission in August 2017
Thank you

You did it!

£432,632.03 = 11,755 people helped

You raised over £430,000 for our Syria’s Forgotten Families appeal! Your gifts are making a real difference to Syrian refugees and others in need around the world, helping a whopping 11,755 people. From Ali, Yara, Avine, and all of us at BMS, thank you!

Where are they now?

**Ali:**
“It is good now for us”
Ali is occasionally getting work at a market and his family continue to receive help from the BMS-supported church when they need it. He is feeling much happier about living in Lebanon.

**Yara:**
“I am so glad that I am going to school”
Yara was desperate to go to school and we are so excited to tell you that she now is! She has a place at a school started by the BMS-supported church in a local community centre.

**Avine:**
“Thank you for all of the love you have shown us”
Avine has moved to a different part of town and is still looking after her four children on her own. She is really grateful to all who supported Syria’s Forgotten Families.

If you’ve been fundraising for BMS we would love to hear from you and to thank you! Let us know what you’ve been doing and send us your pictures by emailing magazine@bmsworldmission.org or writing to the address on page 2.
Saturday morning in a peaceful valley along the Hindu Kush, mountains rippling with all the colours the earth here has, tipped with snow and mirrored in the impossible blues and greens of the lakes strewn at their feet. This is also Afghanistan, and it is painted with God’s glory.

The soft play area of a Kabul burger joint on a Tuesday night. Children scream and laugh, storming the rainbow climbing frame and shooting down the slide as their parents sip coffees at low tables nearby. This is Afghanistan. It comes with ball-pits.

The truth of life in Afghanistan is, yes, concrete barriers and barbed wire around military checkpoints, the insurgent attacks you see on TV. But beyond the bombers and the hummers are the villages and suburbs and markets full of people trying like the rest of us to find meaning and fulfilment in life. BMS World Mission has workers in Afghanistan trying to make this possible, and we need more. For that to happen, we need people to see this beautiful, wounded country clearly.

“Our people don’t just survive in Afghanistan,” says Graeme Riddell, BMS Team Leader for Mission Personnel. “They thrive.” Graeme has come here to see for himself what life is really like in a country

Words: Jonathan Langley • Photos: Graeme Riddell
he’s trying to recruit for. “In the back of your mind, you know bombs go off,” he says of his initial impressions of airport security and our partner’s safety protocols, “but if I’m prepared to send a family with young children here, why should I be fearful of doing the same?”

Mostly, he is struck by how normal life is. In the city, that is burger restaurants and the bazaar selling fabric, food and old items left behind by ex-pat workers for repair and resale. And it’s the security protocols necessary for safe living outside of the areas where the UN and the banking people go. Target areas. But it’s also ‘the pig of Kabul’: not a warlord or terror chief, but an actual pig, haram in a Muslim country and kept by special permission in Kabul Zoo. It’s Thursday afternoon in a terraced park southwest of the old city, yellow leaves falling on the last of the autumn roses in Barbur Gardens. Young couples meet, fleetingly free of chaperones, to rest on benches and laugh and talk in the sunshine shade near the families on their picnic blankets. This is Afghanistan, and life goes on.

Outside of Kabul it is easier. “Some of the areas we work in are so remote, the Taliban doesn’t even bother with them,” says Graeme. In the mountains, beyond the carved cliff-faces relieved of their Buddhas, with their stretches of winding roads looking like a desert Glencoe, the beauty is more intense than the suffering here should allow. “This should be the number one tourist destination in the world,” Graeme says, “but these beautiful, peaceful places have a lot of deprivation and poverty. Children die here not from bullets but from a lack of clean water.” And it’s here, where the winter lows reach minus 20, and the summer highs closer to 40, that BMS trains and equips villages to build latrines and helps them pipe clean water from springs. Where our people teach men and women safe birthing practices. What to do when a newborn stops breathing or a new mum won’t stop bleeding. Peacemaking, potato-stores and a witness of presence.

“That’s why we’re working here. That’s why we send people,” says Graeme. “Because we’re making a difference. Because the presence of Christ-minded people living as shining lights and wanting to see transformation is the most beautiful thing I’ve seen here.” This is
Afghanistan, where God is moving.

Back in Kabul, with its soft play areas, greater danger and enhanced security, our people co-ordinate mental health training across a country brutalised by decades of war. They lead a partner organisation helping hundreds of thousands of Afghans in the name of Jesus, among the checkpoints and the calls to prayer. And they live ordinary lives. Board games. Small home-school classes and dusty playgrounds. Fairground rides among shrieking, laughing burkah-clad women. Drinking green tea from mismatched cups passed down by wave after wave of friends. Weekly team Bible studies and sharing struggles with the colleagues who become family. And the one thing they tell Graeme they need is not more freedom or more resources, but more people.

“Of all the places we have worked over the years, Afghanistan is where I’ve witnessed team life at its most encouraging and effective,” says Graeme. But security problems in the country have meant that many sending agencies have pulled their people out of Afghanistan. “BMS is risk aware, but not risk averse,” says Graeme. “The problem we’re facing currently is that some of our families are feeling quite isolated. In order to sustain them and to sustain the work, we need more people.”

This is Afghanistan, and it needs more Christians.

Opportunities

AFGHANISTAN NEEDS YOU

Graeme Riddell, BMS Team Leader for Mission Personnel

Do you know a committed Christian who could join our team? Point them in the direction of Tom Riches at opportunities@bmsworldmission.org or on 01235 517651 to find out more about any of these roles.

Personnel Director
Experienced HR manager to lead on recruitment, personnel and HR policies

Mental Health Trainer
Qualified psychiatric nurse with training experience to progress mental health nursing

Development worker
Development worker with project management experience

Finance Director
Chartered Accountant or CFO with excellent communication, leadership and management skills

Health Director
Experienced manager of health projects with a Master’s degree or higher in a relevant field

Also needed
Teacher for ex-pat children, ICT specialist, water engineer, renewable energy technical advisor, social work consultant, ophthalmologist, chaplain, and more
The Ugandans

These stories have grown out of sun-scorched soil and years of hard labour: out of poverty, prayer and the grace of God. They’ve been stitched together through decades of war and carved from lifetimes of injustice. They’ve been held together by incredible, unwavering faith. Theirs and yours.

The abused mother, the dispossessed widow, the ambitious carpenter, the resolute farmer, the written-off child – the Ugandans. These are the people who have stayed with me months after visiting BMS World Mission’s work in Uganda. The people whose stories I feel convicted to tell you. Memories that have stuck stronger than the thick orange mud I slid across walking from the quiet BMS office to my even quieter hotel room in Kampala; marked my skin deeper than the hot midday sunshine in a garden of bright red chillies. The mother, the widow, the carpenter, the child. Understated, under-resourced, undervalued people.

People who waited patiently, spoke humbly and openly shared their stories. Stories they told for you.

In Kampala, a city of high-rise buildings and one-room shacks, where white taxi vans sit bumper to bumper, waiting for what seems like hours to get a few miles, the mother teaches me about injustice. Robinah speaks quietly, apologising for her good English, and explains that, thanks to the kindness and help of a BMS-supported counsellor, she can now say “I am strong in the Lord.” She is 29, just two years older than me, and has eight children. Every year is written deeply on her face. She tells me how her abusive husband disappears for weeks on end, leaving her with no money to look after their children. She doesn’t tell me where he goes. I’m not sure she knows.

To me, her life looks impossible. Yet she has found God, and he gives her the strength she needs. BMS-
supported counsellor Dorothy brought her to her church and she is getting help from her newfound Christian community. “I have found life hard to live in,” she says. “But it’s by God’s grace that I am still moving on.”

Everything in me cries that a woman as brave, intelligent and gracious as Robinah shouldn’t have to accept the beatings and neglect she receives. No woman should. Eunice Nabafu, a BMS local worker and the head of our partner the Uganda Christian Lawyers’ Fraternity (UCLF), agrees. Her face lights up as she speaks of God’s love for justice and recites the words of Proverbs 31: 9: “Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Kasese is a six-hour drive to the west of Kampala. I drift in and out of consciousness as we make the journey, leaving the orange dust, the congestion, the bustle, for the open road. And for green – everywhere. Grass, trees, mountains. My hair knots around my face, caught in the wind battering through my open window. There is such beauty in this part of Africa. It is not all pain.

Isaac is a BMS-supported paralegal helping Ugandans find justice. When you give to BMS, you’re supporting his excellent work.

We meet Sarah, with a story as far from my own as her country is from my home. She breaks down in tears as she tells her story. Her crying sounds like it physically hurts to come out of her. Her five fatherless children. Her dead husband. His relatives who tried to sell her land from under her feet. Troubles landing in small, salty puddles in her hands.

It’s not an uncommon story, BMS-supported paralegal Isaac (who helped Sarah secure her rights and her children’s futures) tells me. Women are often cheated out of their possessions through a lack of knowledge and a lack of resources. Without Isaac’s free legal support, Sarah could have lost her home, her land and any chance her children had of a good education.

“It is very important for a woman to fight for her own rights,” Sarah tells me. In Uganda, a woman needs to fight for and with everything she has. Kasese is full of battlegrounds.

It is here that the carpenter shows me the value of opportunity.

Twenty-four-year-old Aziz is having sex with their girlfriends and widows being robbed of everything by their own families. They make it clear why the BMS-supported legal team need to be here. Why it’s great that you have enabled them to be.

Kasese is a six-hour drive to the west of Kampala. I drift in and out of consciousness as we make the journey, leaving the orange dust, the congestion, the bustle, for the open road. And for green – everywhere. Grass, trees, mountains. My hair knots around my face, caught in the wind battering through my open window. There is such beauty in this part of Africa. It is not all pain.

Charles is hoping that the chillies he is growing will help to break his family out of poverty.
making a table – he works the wood easily, but his journey here has been hard. Five years ago, he didn’t know he was capable of anything. Now I see him skilfully sanding down the light brown wood and precisely marking the legs to ensure they’ll slot perfectly into the table top. He shows me his masterpiece-in-the-making proudly, telling me that without the BMS-supported skills training centre where he learnt carpentry, his life wouldn’t look like this.

“This training centre must be here,” he says. “Before, I wasn’t doing anything. Now I can look after myself. Now I am seeing a future for me.” Aziz isn’t alone. He is surrounded here by other newly trained carpenters, tailors, mechanics and hairdressers. All better off because of you.

Outside Kasese Town, we circle the foothills of the magnificent Rwenzori Mountains. Through the window I see women crouching to fill jerry cans with dirty river water – they’ve walked for hours to get here.

I visit villages and meet women who don’t have to make that journey anymore. Their families now have access to clean water thanks to local Christians and UK churches. A teacher tells me his young pupils are no longer getting sick with diarrhoea. I meet fathers who send their kids to their local Baptist church every evening to do their homework by the solar-powered light local BMS worker Isaiah installed. I ask Isaiah why he’s passionate about these projects. About bringing water and light to these communities. He says it’s about justice and it’s about God. The first thing God says in the Bible is, “let there be light.” And there was. And there is.

The sun is low in the sky as we drive back towards town. Children peer into my window as we pass, and jump back in fright at the sight of the palest, blondest person they have probably ever seen. They giggle and laugh. They go back to playing in the sand.

The people I meet in the mountains are so thankful for things I have spent my whole life taking for granted. Nothing can be taken for granted in Gulu, my final destination. It is a district of northern Uganda, the poorest and least developed part of the country, frozen in time for two decades while war and the Lord’s Resistance Army tore apart land and lives. An estimated 90 per cent of Gulu District subsist by farming, and many people live extremely fragile lives.

Here, the farmer teaches me about growth.

Charles is sitting on a chair in a field of chillies – plucking them one by one and dropping them into a small basket. It’s time-consuming, hot and difficult work. It’s also income-transforming, life-transforming work. The chilli sticks to your fingers – you have to remember not to wipe the sweat from around your eyes.

Chillies are not commonly grown here, and they fetch a much higher market price than the crops Charles had been growing before. He has been
trained by local BMS workers Genesis and Bernard in how best to grow the chilli and where to sell it. He tells me that he is confident that his future, and the future of his eight children, will now be okay.

Genesis, Charles’ teacher, speaks gently, jokes often, and has an infectious passion for looking after God’s earth and God’s people. Heading up this BMS agricultural project, he is committed to teaching farmers to grow their families more profitable harvests – so that they don’t have to choose between medical care and an education for their children.

The seven farmers I meet attest to the fact that this project is working. Hope is growing out of the cracked, broken earth.

Poverty is striking in a different way here in Uganda, and especially in Gulu. It’s not the in-your-face begging I’ve seen elsewhere. It’s the bare-footed children walking along the side of the hot, pot-holed road to get to school. The women carrying 20-litre-full buckets of water on their heads, babies slung low on their backs, for miles in the burning sun. It’s the small, round, immaculately clean mud huts whole families still live in. The hard, calloused hands and passionate voices of determined farmers. The incredible strength of women who do what they have to to survive. It’s life. It’s everywhere.

And then there’s Joshua. He’s four, he has Down’s syndrome, and he greets me with the most wonderful hug – it fills my heart. His mum, Flavia, tells me he didn’t used to do that, it’s one of the things she’s taught him since BMS speech therapist Lois walked into their lives. Before his family met Lois, Joshua couldn’t communicate with them at all. Now Flavia tells me she is “the happiest mother” because Joshua can sign with them and is starting to speak. He’s going to school. He’s happy.

Flavia says, “Lois has done a great job in Joshua’s life. It gives me joy and hope.” And she gives me a message for you. “When you get back, tell them that Joshua’s family loves them so, so much.”

You’re changing lives. That’s what I want to tell you. You have a part in each of these stories, and in all the stories yet untold. In the thousands of words in my notebook, and the hours and hours of interviews on my laptop. Every story is different. Every person unique. Not one of them is done justice on these pages. And not one of their stories is simple.

But they are amazing. The people whose names are written and faces are pictured here were and are strong, kind, faithful, resilient, committed, hardworking, and a million other adjectives I feel personally humbled by. And they’re incredibly grateful, too. Because something ties all their stories together. BMS. You. Together, we’ve helped to empower them. To give them hope and a future.

The abused mother, the dispossessed widow, the ambitious carpenter, the resolute farmer, the written-off child – the Ugandans. These are the people I want you to remember.

Thank you so, so much. •

Read more stories from Uganda and watch videos from some of these projects at bmsworldmission.org/uganda17
Challenge:
will you commit to praying for Yim?

Yim comes to Hope Home for half an hour before school and five hours after school every day. Will you commit to praying for her and her family, and for BMS’ work with children with disabilities, for five-and-a-half hours this week?

An infectious laugh erupts from the ball pool. Yim is laying almost entirely submerged in bright plastic balls. You can see her eyes and white teeth peeking out between the red, green, yellow. Her mum Sor and little sister Yam throw the colourful balls up in the air and they come tumbling down onto Yim, wobbling around as her tummy shakes from all the giggling.

“Lots of things make Yim special, but for me the biggest is her smile,” says Judy Cook, a BMS worker and the founder of Hope Home, a warm refuge for children with disabilities in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Yim’s name means smile – and hers is so lovely.

Yim has slow development. She only started walking, very unsteadily, aged four-and-a-half. She’s seven now and has never spoken. Her mum Sor hasn’t been able to get a diagnosis to help her understand why. The family have been coming to the BMS-supported team at Hope Home for help since Yim was two.

The swings and the ball pool are Yim’s favourite things to play on – or in. She makes a beeline for them when she arrives for an afternoon of play and therapy with Judy and the team. Yim loves throwing the small plastic balls into baskets or through hoops, and thinks that this is possibly the most hilarious thing anyone has ever done. Her laugh is like a song, rising at the end, full of gurgling, beautiful happiness. You have to hear it.

In Thailand, there is a lot of stigma surrounding disability and a need for more support for families. The prevalent belief in karma and the fatalism it breeds mean that disability is seen as the result of wrongdoing – no-one is innocent in their struggles. The outcome is that many children are abandoned by their parents. These children often end up in the Bangkok state orphanage for people with disabilities, which currently houses around 600 children.

The fact that Yim is still living with her family is unusual and rather wonderful. Without Judy and the work BMS supports, Sor might have given up on Yim a long time ago. “Many times Sor has talked about giving Yim away and just looking after Yam,” says Judy. “But because we keep supporting her she comes through those times and says, ‘it’s okay, I love her too much, I wouldn’t really do it.’”

And that is the best news for Yim. When her mum comes to pick her up at the end of the day she gets so excited – jumping on the spot and squealing happily.

Yim comes here for respite care six days a week, while her mum is at work. For the last five years, Judy and the team have been helping Sor to care for her and have been providing milk for both Yim and her five-year-old sister, Yam. Recently, they even managed to get Yim a place in school – she goes every morning and does a combination of therapy and learning. Judy’s team drive Yim to and from her classes and pay her school fees, as well as looking after her every afternoon when the school day is done and her mum is still working.

Yim is very strong, and really very strong-willed, too. As her mum chats about how she loves her daughter and the people who are helping them stay together, Yim dismantles a couple of puzzles and makes an escape towards some of our camera equipment. She has her eyes on the ball pool, and we are in the way.

“What I love about Yim is that she keeps

This wonderful girl is able to grow up with her little sister, raised by a mum who loves her very much. That’s partly thanks to your support for BMS World Mission.

bmsworldmission.org

Want to hear Yim’s beautiful laugh?

Visit: bmsworldmission.org/laugh
trying,” says Sor. Even though many things are harder for her than they are for other seven-year-old girls, Yim is determined to do everything everyone else can. It’s taking time, but she is reaching milestones.

Yim can walk quite far now. She’s developing other motor skills too—grasping and holding things and, helpfully, putting things back in boxes. One of her other favourite things to do these days is to grab hold of a pushchair or wheelchair and take whichever Hope Home resident is in it for a ride. This is one activity that, for obvious reasons, requires quite a lot of supervision. And she loves it.

Mum Sor says that much of Yim’s growth has come from the activities Judy and the team here encourage her to do. “By having this help, I now believe that Yim can learn,” says Sor. “I believe that she can even learn better than I have been able to.

“Without a place like this, families like ours wouldn’t be able to keep looking after our own children,” she says, looking very serious. “I thank God for these people.”

Raising Yim is still hard for Sor. When you don’t have a job that pays you very much money, looking after any family is difficult. And having a child with extra needs has brought extra challenges. But, thanks to your support through BMS, Sor has received help that has enabled her to commit to caring for her precious daughter. As the founder and manager of Hope Home, Judy is happy to know that she has helped Yim stay with her loving mother.

“When I hear Yim’s family say what our work means to them and how it has helped them, it really encourages me,” says Judy. “It encourages me to know that we are on the right track and God is blessing what we’re doing.”

When you hear Yim laugh, you can feel joy bubbling up inside yourself too. That sound is the very definition of perfectly innocent, pure happiness. You have to smile. But there’s one sound Sor longs to hear even more than her daughter’s laugh, and that’s the word ‘mum’. The day Yim learns to call out to her mum in words will be even more joyful than the sound of her giggles. And that’s something worth praying for.

Seven-year-old Yim has slow development. BMS is helping her to stay in her family and thrive

Find out how you can support this project and the children at its heart by turning the page...
10 WONDERFUL WAYS TO SUPPORT WONDERFULLY MADE

You can help us transform the lives of super children in Thailand through this year’s harvest appeal.

No climbing frame is too high for Adventure Man, no task is too small for Captain Kindness, and no challenge is insurmountable for Mr Determined. These children are incredible, and the work you’re enabling when you support BMS World Mission is incredible too.

Hope Home, a residential and respite home for children with disabilities founded and run by BMS nurse Judy Cook in Thailand, is transforming the lives of these three children – and of other wonderful children like Yim (pages 14-15).

We are super excited by the impact this home in Chiang Mai is having, giving children with disabilities hope, love and a place where they can flourish and thrive. We hope you’ll get excited too, and support it by giving to our appeal.

You can see for yourself why Judy’s work is so amazing by watching the Wonderfully Made video at bmsworldmission.org/wonderful – we would love you to do that. And we would love you to do more. By giving generously, you will not only continue to support these awesome kids, you will also impact more lives globally.

Here are ten easy ways you can stand alongside BMS and the amazing children and team at Hope Home.

1. Get your minister on board
   Your minister will have received Wonderfully Made in the post. Encourage them to show the inspiring short film at your church and to dedicate a service to it.

2. Pray for Judy and the carers
   Caring for all the children at Hope Home, with their many complex needs, is challenging and at times exhausting. Pray for strength and energy for Judy and her team.
Start collecting your loose change now
It’s never too early to start collecting for Wonderfully Made. How about giving up a treat for the next few weeks, like going for coffee, and giving the money you save to our appeal?

Give to the Wonderfully Made appeal at your church
And if you can, Gift Aid your donation.

Give online now
You don’t have to wait until your church service or event. It is easy to donate now and make a difference at bmsworldmission.org/wonderful

Become a 24:7 Partner
Signing up to be a 24:7 Partner, is a wonderful thing. Your regular giving will make a lasting impact in people’s lives, not only in Thailand, but around the world. Whatever you are able to give each month will make a big difference to our mission. Go to bmsworldmission.org/partners to find out more.

Subscribe to Judy’s prayer letters
Keep up-to-date with the latest from Hope Home and the children as you pray for them by visiting bmsworldmission.org/jcook

Share online about Wonderfully Made
Tell your friends about BMS’ life-transforming work with children with disabilities in Thailand by promoting Wonderfully Made on Facebook. Don’t forget to tag us in your post!

Sponsor a ‘super helpful child’
Are you a parent, grandparent, auntie or uncle? You could sponsor a child to be ‘super helpful’ for the day to raise money in aid of the superstar kids in Wonderfully Made and others BMS is helping. Think of the useful things they could do for this worthy cause. They could wash your car, tidy the house or make you breakfast!

Raise money with your church
Join in with any fundraising your church is doing – you could even offer to run a bake sale or help to organise your church’s Wonderfully Made Sunday. For ideas, check out the Wonderfully Made leader’s guide at bmsworldmission.org/wonderful

Tell us how you are supporting our Wonderfully Made appeal.
Take photos of your efforts, and your church’s too, and send them to us using the contact information on page 2!
Dear friends,

My name is Endri Tabaku and I am the pastor of Light of the World Church in Tirana, Albania. I’m married to Dyshi and we have three wonderful children – Eliana who is eight, Mateo who is three and Isaac who is one-and-a-half years old. I have been leading the church here since 2010, and for me it has been a real privilege to be a part of this wonderful group of people. The church here is located in a poor area and most people are Muslim or Catholic. The area is very big and we are the only church for this community. The church was founded in 2001 and in 2005 Graham McBain, a missionary from BMS World Mission, took the leadership of the church. Since then we have had a good relationship with BMS. When Graham was here we used to have a lot of teams from BMS, and last year we had an Action Team of four girls who really helped our church in many things, but especially with children’s work and with English courses.

BMS has been the main support for Dyshi and I as a leading couple here and you have also helped us with the rent of the building for the church. We don’t have our own building and it has been very difficult to provide enough income to pay the rent. People here are mostly very poor and don’t have jobs. Many people don’t have their own houses so it has always been difficult for the church to cover our costs. Your support of BMS has helped us for the last five years by paying around 35 per cent of the rent for our church building. This has been a good help for us.

We really appreciate all BMS’ support for the church, which has been very timely but also very practical. And what has been even more important for us has been the teams that BMS has brought to our church during the years working with us and also the connection with some churches in the UK.

BMS has supported me since 2010, and we are now almost at the end of our contract. Your support has been a really big help for me because it has made my work here a bit easier. We hope we will still have teams and churches that want to work with us for the glory of Jesus in Albania in the future. I want to thank again all the people who have supported us through BMS with prayer and money. You should be very proud and pleased because the church here is growing in number and in faith. Of course the glory is all to Jesus, but BMS has worked with us and has its part in Light of the World Church.

Thank you and God bless you,
Endri

Endri Tabaku is a BMS-supported church leader in Tirana, Albania.
Millennial minister speaks out

I found the winter 2016/17 Engage article on Generation Y an interesting read mainly because I’m in it. Not the article – the generation!

I was brought up in a world where people’s sexuality, race, ability and gender weren’t things to be overcome but rather to be embraced. For me, this is one of the largest obstacles to mission to my generation. The Church looks so backward, people think they know what we are against but have no idea what we are for.

We hear preached from our pulpits ‘because it says in God’s Word... (insert chosen theology)’. But for a generation that has issues with authority and views it as subjective, that simply isn’t good enough. The only thing that is good enough is integrity and authenticity.

The Church started on a journey of reformation 500 years ago, and I feel we are going through one again. My hope is that new life in Christ will reach many who simply have no idea about him. My fear is that as we go, we will polarise and become more divided rather than accepting different views and loving one another despite them.

Rev Andy Fitchet, Whitchurch Baptist Church

Let millennials lead

Is it just me or have millennials been the 18-30s for the last 20 years?!
We describe millennialism less like a generation and more like a phase of life. A phase characterised by searching and self-discovery; finding meaning in friendship and experience; and a lack of commitment to anything at all!
The millennial defers responsibility and commitment until they’ve ‘found themselves’. Presumably in South East Asia.
Sure, it’s an important and useful phase, but one that ultimately we all grow out of.

I’m often watching and helping young people grow out of millennialism. And they do so by adopting responsibility (gasp!). In responsibility we find meaning, friendship, experience, authenticity... even ourselves! It’s everything the millennial was looking for and they didn’t even have to go on their fifth consecutive gap year to find it.

So if you want to nurture and help millennials – put them in charge of something. Then watch them grow!

Anon

BMS will NEVER sell your details

Recently, a small number of large charities have dragged the reputation of charitable organisations generally towards the mud, if not actually into it. The negative media reports may have caused you concern. If so, I hope this will allay your fears.

The biggest single issue, identified by regulators, is to do with the buying and selling of databases containing the details of donors. It is completely unacceptable that donors should have their details bought and sold for a price, and that’s why BMS World Mission doesn’t do that, and we never will. If you’re a donor of any kind, BMS will always treat your information as being shared privately with us, and we will never share it with anyone else.

In the new world of charity regulation, we may be forced to seek your prior approval to contact you with anything from BMS. As a reader of Engage, for example, we may need to ask you every two or three years for your permission to keep sending you issues, even though they’re free and you’ve previously asked us to. We hope you won’t hesitate to tell us that we can keep in touch with you. We are talking to the Information Commissioner’s Office about this.

We know from your letters and emails that you trust us. We all work hard every day to deserve your trust and we will never take it for granted. We will continue to aim for the highest fundraising standards and comply fully with new best practice guidelines – you rightly expect nothing less from BMS.

Mark Craig, BMS Director for Communications

Get in touch!

If you’ve been inspired or challenged by anything you’ve read in Engage, have been busy raising money for us, or have anything else you want to share, we would love to hear from you. Get in touch using one of the methods on page 2!
You can help Yim and her family continue to receive the respite care they need.

You can help Charles and other farmers in Uganda grow fruitful harvests that will feed their families and send their children to school.

You can save the lives of mums and babies in Afghanistan.

You’ve read their stories.
Could you be part of their future?

Be part of their story. Become a 24:7 Partner.

bmsworldmission.org/partners
01235 517628

By becoming a 24:7 Partner, you’ll help to transform the lives of people like these around the world.