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FROM WITCH DOCTOR TO CHURCH PLANTER

The gospel is bearing fruit in India. BMS World Mission is seeing men and women from all kinds of backgrounds coming to find faith in Christ. Even witch doctors.

Selim* wanted to be a witch doctor since childhood. He was committed, studying under a master and honing his craft. He practised where he lived in West Bengal, making his livelihood selling potions and charms to heal the sick.

Selim's sister Maya* is a BMS-supported church planter. She always tried to convince her brother to come along to church with her. They would fight, and he would refuse. But then one day everything changed.

Someone in Maya's church had been severely ill for a long time. The man's family had brought him to Selim many times, but he'd been unable to help. The man couldn't walk, so the people of the village carried him to Maya's church one day and the congregation started to pray. After three days of prayer he was completely healed. He started walking and could do everything he had done before he got sick.

"I thought I was healing people by myself, with black magic," says Selim. "But I knew I had witnessed something amazing; this was a miracle. My eyes were opened to the truth."

He started going to church, and Maya gave him a Bible. Selim soon decided to give his heart to God, getting baptised and even changing his name.



Now, Selim leads his own congregations and supports his sister in sharing the gospel. "I am thankful to the Lord for leading me to my new work as a church planter."

Selim and Maya's story is just one of many we could tell of how God is changing hearts and minds in India. We are so excited to be a part of this incredible work.

*Names changed

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FEEDING OF THE 400

In France, it's hard to be a Christian. BMS World Mission is bringing young people together, helping them find community and spiritual nourishment.

In October 2017, 400 young Baptists descended upon the city of Poitiers, 150 miles north of Bordeaux, ready to worship God at an event called Connexion 2017. Young people travelled from all over



France. One girl came completely on her own, and many others came in groups of only five. There was laughter. There were tears. But most of all, there was a sense of family.

Being a Christian in France can be lonely. "Young people are often the only ones in the classroom who are Christians," says Benjamin, a 20-something French man. "With an event like this, we know we are not alone and we can worship the



Lord together." Connexion creates a safe place for Christians to express their love for Christ, without fear of mockery, and gives the opportunity to gain spiritual sustenance for when they return home.

Sue Wilson, a BMS worker in Paris, has run Connexion since 2015 with a small group of volunteers as part of her work with the French Baptist Federation. "Often churches have small youth groups, so an event like this lets Christians connect with one another and worship God," says Sue. Through your support for BMS, you've helped to show young French Christians that they're not alone.

In Britain, youth festivals are common, with a wide variety to choose from. In France, this is not the case. Events like Connexion are rare. And yet, the 400 young Christians who gathered to worship there show that there is hope for Christianity in secular France. Please pray for them.

Pray for the young Christians in France, who left Connexion revitalised in their faith. Pray that God would use them to share the gospel across the country.

MEET OUR NEW MISSION WORKERS!

These are the newest additions to the BMS World Mission family, currently preparing to serve overseas. They would really appreciate your prayers!

Chris and Debbie Carter are using their educational skills to teach at GDQ International Christian School in Albania, starting this January.



James and Ruth Neve move to India's capital city later this year and will use their skills to help meet some of the needs of struggling communities in Delhi. Before joining BMS, Ruth was a senior Baptist minister and James was heading up a debt advice service.



Louise and Peter Lynch travel to Bangladesh next year to support Baptist church leaders. Louise is a social worker and Peter is a Baptist minister, previously leading a church in Western-super-Mare. They'll be using their skills in pastoral care, training and teaching in their role with BMS.



Lisa* and Timothy* are rejoining BMS having been on our gap year programme ten years ago. The pair will be moving to Guinea, where Lisa will teach English and help with community projects. Timothy plans to get involved with microfinance groups.



Pippa and Toby Vokuhl and their three children, Jakey, Ella and Millie, will be moving to Nepal in early 2018. They'll be working with local partners in disaster response and resilience work, as well as getting involved in church projects.



Please pray for all our new mission workers. Pray for good health, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Pray for strength for them and their families, as they prepare to say their goodbyes. Pray for the work they'll soon be doing. Pray that they will settle into the new cultures they're moving to.

*Names changed

Do you feel God is calling you to a time of overseas service? Visit bmsworldmission.org/serveoverseas to see our latest mission opportunities.