Vive la révolution  Crowning Jesus as king in France
Broken art  Syrian children draw memories of home
He’s the boss  Q&A with our new General Director
I would like to tell you a story.

Recently, I had the privilege of meeting a man called Thierry Auguste, the President of the French Baptist Federation. I was in France visiting the French Baptist Congress to interview BMS World Mission workers and French Christians for this magazine (page 10). Thierry abandoned his dinner after just a few mouthfuls to come and answer my questions about the Church in France. I didn’t understand why.

He was the big-shot President of a denomination, I the young journalist who didn’t speak a word of French. Towards the end of the interview he told me a story. Fifteen years before, when he had been a struggling new pastor in a mining area in the north of France, BMS paid his salary. You paid it. He had all the time in the world for me, even though he needed to be on stage any minute, because 15 years ago the UK Church had time for him.

“I wasn’t known in the UK, but when France asked for help, BMS said yes. When I had nothing and BMS helped me, I felt very rich all of a sudden,” Thierry says.

It’s not a dramatic story, but I think it’s beautiful. Because it shows the way relatively small things can have a huge impact. Thierry is helping to run the French Federation now. He’s supporting young pastors who struggle, like he once did. He’s helping to grow the Church in a country where evangelical Christians are a tiny minority.

And he’s thankful to you.

Your support makes a difference. It’s having an impact in big ways and small. It’s touching and changing lives in France, and in all the other places featured in this magazine. It’s funding people and projects that will continue to have an impact for years, decades and maybe even centuries to come.

I hope you enjoy reading the following pages and treasure the difference you’re making in people’s lives.

Jessica
Editor

Write to me at magazine@bmsworldmission.org
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191,502 people you helped last year

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Director
Q&A with Kang-San Tan

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encounters with the Holy Spirit –
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18. Letters
“One day soon we will be a
blessing.” A Mozambican Christian’s
message to you
News

Nawab Ansari’s life changed while he was begging. That was how he met the BMS-supported Street Servants team in Kolkata, India. Now he is learning to read and write, and he is loving it.

Until last year, going to school was a distant dream for Nawab. His days were spent begging outside the Royal Calcutta Turf Club, and his nights were spent sleeping on the city’s streets. His parents didn’t have money to buy enough food for Nawab and his two younger sisters, let alone pay for his education.

After meeting Nawab, our Street Servants team went to see his parents to invite him to our school, which opened on the streets of Kolkata in July 2016 and uses the government syllabus. At first Nawab’s parents were reluctant, but when they realised the school was free, they agreed to send their children.

Nawab is thriving at the school and is widely regarded as the best-behaved child among the 100 students, all of whom live on the streets.

“Children’s lives are being transformed,” says Ben Francis, BMS Associate Team Leader for India. “Children who were begging, children who were transporting alcohol, children who were stealing. We take them out of that life and get them into school, so that one day they can become great citizens of India.”

The BMS-supported Street School has been so successful that we are opening a second school, enabling another 100 children to benefit from high-quality education.

“Without education, these children will have no place in society,” says Ben. “The need is so great. Sometimes you see the need and think, ‘can I really make a difference?’ But now I know the Lord is making a difference on the streets of Kolkata.”

THE BEST-BEHAVED BOY IN STREET SCHOOL

BMS World Mission is helping 100 of Kolkata’s poorest children go to school – unlocking their potential to break free from poverty.

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100 rough-sleeping children aged between five and 12 years old are receiving education.

There’s such high demand the team are opening another school.
Relief:
Nepal

Krishna is 44 and has been blind since he was four years old. In 2015, the Nepal earthquakes destroyed his home. He and his elderly mother had to live in a cow shed.

Your gifts to BMS have funded a new, earthquake-safe home for Krishna and his mum.

“We are very thankful,” says Krishna, “and we are much safer now.”

Health:
Afghanistan

Farah* is pregnant and we are training her in safe birthing practices. Her mother, like many women in Afghanistan, tragically died in childbirth.

Farah’s grandmother, Aliah*, brought her to the BMS-supported course. “I don’t want her children to live life without a mother like she had to,” Aliah says. “If only I had known then what I know now.”

Development:
Uganda

Kambala has ten children and lives in a village in Uganda’s Rwenzori Mountains. His family now has access to solar powered light in their local church thanks to a BMS project.

“Our children used to learn at home using candles,” he says. “But this solar light is bright, and it doesn’t give out smoke.”

Leadership:
Peru

Ynés always wanted to use her educational training to serve God. Recently, she took over as co-ordinator of a BMS-supported mobile ministerial training course, helping Christian students across Peru.

She’s seen more than 50 students enter church planting and full-time ministry. “This has brought me so much joy,” she says.

*names changed
MEET OUR NEW GENERAL DIRECTOR

Q&A with Kang-San Tan

You’re moving from Malaysia to Britain to take up your role. Purely in weather terms, this seems like a great sacrifice for the gospel!

Yes, and not only the weather, I’m going to miss a lot of Asian food!

Are you excited about the change and challenge ahead?

I am really looking forward to joining BMS. I’ve been getting all your stories through Facebook and the website, and am looking forward to joining such a dedicated team of BMS staff.

Yes, we’ve noticed that you are faithfully and enthusiastically liking and commenting on our Facebook posts – would you characterise yourself as very technologically engaged?

I do try to be engaged, yes. But I’m not really technologically advanced. I do make use of Facebook on a daily basis, because in my previous role we had about 2,000 people on Facebook, and it’s not possible to travel to different parts of Asia. I use it daily just to keep up with things.

How did you come to faith in Christ?

It was really through reading the Bible. I grew up in a Buddhist family, but in a mainly Muslim community, so I actually grew up in a multi-faith context. When I was 17, a friend gave me a Bible and I completed it in two weeks. It was the first time that I had read the Bible and my friend didn’t share about Christianity. So, with no human being sharing the gospel and no previous contact with Christians, I was really attracted to Christ – without fully understanding the salvation story. Later, I was baptised in the local Baptist church, and then discipled through the ministry of Scripture Union, and later IFES (the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) when I was in ministry.

What do western Christians get wrong most often about Islam and Buddhism?

A great misunderstanding about mission among Muslims is to confuse a small minority of militant Muslims with the wider moderate Muslim community. Where I grew up, most of my friends were Muslims, and the majority are moderate Muslims. On the other hand, there is a pluralism that says Buddhism is a peace-loving and a tolerant religion, but in Asia we also face militant Buddhists in Myanmar [Burma] and Sri Lanka. So, I think there is a need to engage both with the diversities of Islam as well as the diversities of Buddhism. This is where a global conversation can bring a bit of a balance. I think that there’s a lot of potential there.

What was it about BMS that made you want to serve as our leader?

My wife and I had been praying about coming back to the UK when the BMS position came up, and I was really drawn to the way that the advertisement highlighted the need for change. That the context of mission has changed, both in Britain as well as globally. And while BMS will remain faithful to the historic and evangelical gospel values, I felt that the Board was really poised for looking at better partnership with the changing demography of Christians in Britain, such as minority groups and migrants, but also with global Christianity. I’m really excited about that potential, for BMS to be restructuring ourselves to be a 21st century mission community.

Kang-San was talking to Jonathan Langley. He takes up the post of General Director at BMS in October 2017.
Sweet treats for Syria

Janet and Helen from Monmouth Baptist Church raised £500.63 for the BMS World Mission Syria’s Forgotten Families appeal by baking Syrian cakes and selling them in their church and to their family and friends.

Thanks so much Janet and Helen, you’re amazing!

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Thanks from David Kerrigan

We were amazed by your generous response to David’s farewell appeal. So far, nearly 400 of you have given in David’s honour, raising over £10,800.

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Smarties for mission

Central Baptist Church in Paisley had the marvellous idea of giving their fellowship tubes of Smarties to raise money for us. After eating the sweets, members were encouraged to fill their Smarties tubes with money for the work of their Church Partners – Ann and David MacFarlane in Italy.

They raised a massive £1,300! Thanks to everyone from Central Baptist who put the ‘ate’ into donate! Could your church do the same?

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Thank you to everyone who wrote to let us know you’ve raised money for BMS!

If you’ve been fundraising for us and haven’t got in touch, we would love to hear from you and encourage others. Let us know what you’ve been doing and send us your pictures. Email us, Facebook us or write to us using the addresses on page 2.
All children’s drawings look the same. Stick-thin parents. Triangle-and-square houses. Cheerful colours. Perspectives that shift and bend like reflections in bubbles. But, when you look a little closer, some children’s drawings contain within them more pain, more of the things you and I are most afraid of, than any painting by Goya. Some children’s drawings are a shame on our world and a call to do something.

These pictures were drawn by primary-age children in a BMS-supported learning centre north of Beirut. They show the children’s responses to the exercise: draw your home in Syria. That’s where these little boys and girls are from. They are some of the million and more Syrian refugees now living in Lebanon.

Their pictures of home look at first like any children’s art: bright, cheerful, freehand masterpieces, just waiting to be magnetted to proud fridges. But these drawings aren’t for fun. They are part of what BMS World Mission and Lebanese Christians have been doing to help the traumatised children we’re educating deal with one of the bloodiest civil wars the world has ever seen.

Look at them.

The olive-green tank, firing little tennis-ball shells at a house in which a family hides, the planes spitting missiles like drops of blood. Is that a baby or a doll in the father’s arms? The tears you almost fail to notice, pouring from the faces in another. The aeroplanes (or are they drones?) and their tell-tale dotted lines that seem to go straight through pencil-thin walls. These are not pictures of play-acting or the children’s favourite programmes on TV. They’re memories of trauma in primary colours.
When you look, actually look, it’s almost too much. But keep going. They have to.

The house on the right, with the sunflower-yellow roof and schoolhouse-red walls, is labelled “before”, twinned with a violent scribble of black (and only black), which is called “after”. One picture that we cannot show you here depicts a person being shot. Another has no details, shows no forms, is just a simple mat of Rothko black – a little boy’s remembrance of home. And then some respite. The playground scene. Seems happy enough until you translate the Arabic and talk to the child, when it becomes perhaps the hardest in the whole collection. “I miss my friends.” Miss playing on the slide and swings.

It is too easy to tell ourselves that there is nothing we can do for these children. But that is a lie, meant by a selfish society to make us complacent, meant by the Enemy to discourage us. The fact is, you have already made a difference, and you continue to.

You are paying salaries for teachers in two learning centres, where 260 refugee children are getting an education. You’re helping our Lebanese partners share training and best practice with teachers, and you’re providing snacks and hygiene packs to kids who otherwise might be distracted by hunger, nits and sickness. You’re building an extra classroom in the north of the country and helping local Christians who started this work to provide a safe and stable space for children to learn and have a childhood for years to come.

These children have seen things most of us would never recover from. They’ve fled city after city, playing hopscotch on a burning map to get here. Your gifts and your prayers are giving them new colours and new memories to draw.

Words: Jonathan Langley

War and natural disasters don’t wait their turn. BMS disaster relief work is happening right now, in Lebanon and beyond. You can support it.

GIVE TODAY ONLINE AT bmsworldmission.org/disaster or send a cheque to the address on page 2.
God is turning lives around in hyper-secular France, the Muslim capital of Europe, where evangelical Christians make up less than one per cent of the population. You are part of the revolution.

Words: Jessica

Twenty young people become Christians at a youth conference in October 2015. Another hundred go forward to be prayed for, desiring to step out in faith when they get back home.

An angry man who has had a very difficult childhood and gets agonising stress migraines makes friends with some Christians. He meets Jesus, becomes part of a church community and finds peace. His headaches stop completely.

A man who believes in God but has never had a relationship with him has a physical, almost tangible encounter with the Holy Spirit while reading Romans 6 in a Bible study with a BMS World Mission worker. He sees himself completely differently. Sees his sin nailed to the cross. He gets baptised.

The gospel is shared, heard, encountered. The revolution has begun.

It’s not the revolution of a nation – huge, unmissable and hard-won with guillotines and bloodshed. It’s a revolution of lives. Of individual men and women, won and transformed by Christ’s love in one of the most fiercely secular nations in Europe.

It’s happening in the whisper. It’s happening through your support. It’s happening right now.

Statistics about the evangelical Church in France are pretty discouraging. While Muslims make up seven per cent of the population, evangelicals comprise less than one per cent. France prides itself on its secularism, and the French Church has a turbulent history, which doesn’t help. “There are two worlds in France,” says BMS pastor Christine Kling, “people who go to church, and people who have no contact at all with faith.”
And yet some stories defy the statistics. They’re miracles, really. Christine’s is one of them. Until a few years ago, Christine was in that other world she describes: she barely knew anything about Christianity. It wasn’t until 2010, when she moved to Scotland following the death of her husband, that she came to hear the gospel message and have her life utterly transformed.

Six years later, Christine came back to France with BMS, ready to share Jesus with French people who are still as far from him as she once was. Now, she’s working to revitalise a dying church.

Understanding that broken relationships and loneliness are huge issues for the French, Christine is using her personal experiences to share Jesus. “I always speak about relationships to explain that in Jesus I feel accepted,” she says. “I feel loved. I never feel alone anymore. There’s this new sense of freedom. I was freed of my sadness.”

Christine’s call back to France is already having an impact. A man and his wife pray and pray for a pastor to come and serve in their rapidly shrinking church, which has been without a leader for 15 years. Just months before he dies of cancer, Christine arrives to see if she can help. He calls her an answer to his prayers.

Homeless and refugee women of all religions and none gather in Massy at a day centre organised by Christine and the pastor of the local Reformed church. They find safety and rest. They find a place to share their stories. Some of them ask for prayer.

Flashes of light in the darkness.

Even the fact that the evangelical Church is a minority within a minority in France (evangelicals = less than one per cent, Protestants = two per cent) is actually, in some ways, a strength. “Because we’re so small, there’s no hesitation about what our role is,” says BMS pastor Philip Halliday, who heads up the Home Mission Department of the French church, which has been without a leader for 15 years. Just months before he dies of cancer, Christine arrives to see if she can help. He calls her an answer to his prayers.

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French-ness and the gospel – a real explosive mix

“Flashes of light in the darkness.”

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Baptist Federation (FEEBF). “It’s obvious – it’s to live out the gospel and to find fresh ways of communicating the good news of Jesus.”

That’s what Christine is trying to do in Gif-sur-Yvette, near Paris. And it’s what BMS workers Claire-Lise and David Judkins are doing in Brive-la-Gaillarde – in the physical and social centre of France. They’ve moved away from a traditional church service model in order to better share the gospel with people who have not yet encountered Jesus. They meet around a table, sharing food and stories, studying the Bible and praying together. The first Church Around the Table officially started in September 2016, and by January 2017 they’d grown large enough to split into two Tables, welcoming around 30 people altogether.

Six people have been baptised since the BMS church plant started.

Six people whose lives have been radically transformed. Who’ve seen the light. Louise* is going through a difficult separation when she meets Claire-Lise and David. She’s into Buddhism, and when she finds out Claire-Lise is a pastor she tells her she is wrong. Louise is totally against Christianity. But then God touches her heart, and she starts asking questions. Amazingly, she asks for a Bible. She reads it, believes it, gives her life to Christ. She finds peace, forgives and accepts herself and reconciles with her husband. She gets baptised. And she gets sick with cancer.

Louise’s non-Christian husband prays for her to get better and, by prayer and radiotherapy, she is healed. He gives his life to Christ and is baptised too.

“Our whole family is transformed,” says David. “He is somebody who’s struggled with depression, and now we’re struggling to control him in the group because he’s such a goofball, making jokes all the time.”

Beyond the local church, in the very centre of the Federation, BMS workers have helped to instil a hunger for mission that is permeating the life of French Baptists. “They have given their fire and passion for mission to others at the heart of the Federation,” says FEEBF General Secretary Mark Deroeux. “People are now able to say that, yes, as Christians, it’s possible to give your life to Christ and not be afraid of being a witness.”

The evangelical Church in France is small, but it’s not weak. At its heart is this fire to share the good news. To reach more people. To save more hearts. And the Christians here are a tiny minority, but they are strong. They believe what they profess – if they didn’t, they’d walk away from the Church and never come back. Because it’s not normal to be an evangelical Christian, it’s hard.

And yet, there is so much in France and the French that is already a reflection of the image of God. As church planter David says: “in their creativity, hospitality, and relationships, there’s so much there that is

#pray4France

“We’ve noticed that it’s prayer that changes lives”
David Judkins

- Pray for boldness for French Christians to share the gospel despite hostility
- Pray for church plants across the nation, for wisdom, creativity and open doors
- Pray for more people to be transformed by the love of Jesus

bmsworldmission.org
reflective of God’s plan and desire.

“If the two could go together – this core French-ness and the gospel that’s embodied in that – then you’d have a real explosive mix.”

In a mining village in the north of France, a struggling young pastor called Thierry Auguste receives a BMS grant to pay his salary. Fifteen years later he is the President of the Baptist Federation, helping to drive the vision of churches across the nation. He says he has never forgotten the gift. Says that, “When I had nothing and BMS helped me, I felt very rich all of a sudden.” Says that the gospel is worth all the sacrifices he now makes to volunteer for the Federation, that “the fruits we receive from the ministry are most precious – they’re men and women who give their lives to Christ.”

Following a terror attack in Paris, 200 people gather together for an ecumenical service in Brive, organised by BMS workers and their church planting team. In the midst of tragedy, non-Christians come into a church to pray.

A coach driver gets out of his bus on arrival at a Christian youth conference to ask why the young people are so joyful. Sitting in traffic for hours because of massive delays, the teenagers haven’t complained once about missing the start of their event. They’ve been singing.

**Fifteen new Baptist churches are being planted across France.**

The number of evangelicals here is nine times greater than it was 60 years ago.

The revolution has begun. It’s not the revolution of a nation, not yet. But it’s a revolution of individual lives. It’s people coming to life. The challenge for the French Church is to dare and to keep on daring. To be bold and to speak out for the gospel. The challenge for us, France’s neighbour, with a larger, stronger, better-resourced Church, is to keep helping them to shine.

*name changed

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**Beaux Guests**

They’re shining God’s light in France, with your support.

**Philip and Rosemary Halliday**

Philip is President of the French Baptist Federation’s (FEEBF) Home Mission Department, overseeing the 15 church plants across the country and encouraging FEEBF churches to be more outward looking. He and Rosemary travel across France offering pastoral support and vision to pastors. Rosemary is also involved in a local church’s young adults’ ministry.

**John and Sue Wilson**

John and Sue are breathing new life into Avenue du Maine Baptist Church in the heart of Paris. John also leads FEEBF’s Ministry Commission, while Sue heads up the Federation’s Youth Committee, which includes organising the national youth conference.

**Christine Kling**

Christine is the pastor of the Baptist church in Gif-sur-Yvette, near Paris, working to replant and grow the congregation. She also helps run a day shelter for homeless women, works as chaplain at a residential home in Gif and does project management for FEEBF.

**Claire-Lise and David Jidkins**

Claire-Lise and David are pioneering Church Around the Table in Brive-la-Gaillarde. They’re building relationships and sharing Christ as they lead the church plant, which they hope will become a movement of disciples who make disciples who make disciples.
The little girl’s long black braids are captivating. Perfectly pulled back, they’re fastened with bright yellow bows and adorned with pink hibiscus flowers. They’re in stark contrast to this small dark room. This ‘mountaintop classroom’. No lights, no colourful posters, no technology. Just black wooden benches and stained walls. The girl watches her teacher with wide eyes, tapping her pencil and scrunching her forehead when the class is asked to think.

There is a light in this dark room: the teacher.

In Nepal, a country that has huge potential but faces equally huge challenges, education is key to unlocking a brighter future. Across the country, there are children who are eager to learn and teachers who strive to give them the best chance in life. But many of these teachers are not trained or privileged enough to get the support they need to succeed in the classroom.

BMS is helping to change the face of education in Nepal. How? Excellent question. Take a seat, grab your notebook and pencils. Class is about to start.

Lesson one: you can do it!

A big hug from Asha Gurung. That’s how BMS teacher trainer Annie Brown is greeted on the final morning of her three-day teacher training course in Lamjung District, near the Annapurna peaks. It’s unusual to see this kind of public affection here, but when you learn how much Annie’s work means to teachers like Asha, it’s not surprising at all.

“It wasn’t my dream to be a teacher, I just became one,” says Asha, who’s been teaching for three years. “But this training has changed how I teach, and now I feel lucky to be a teacher.”

Many teachers like Asha come into teaching without any formal training. “It’s hard for them because they have no understanding of how to effectively work with children,” says Annie. BMS-supported training aims to bridge this gap, educating teachers in skills such as classroom management and creative and critical thinking. Skills teachers like Asha have already started to bring into their classrooms. “I get my students to support their answers now. They think,” says Asha. “I can tell they’re more excited to learn.”

Teachers are getting excited too, as they learn that they have the power to make positive changes in their classrooms and their country. Recently, Annie’s creative and critical thinking training programme was adopted into the curriculum for all Nepali government teacher training. A huge impact in the making, made possible by your giving and our teacher trainers’ passion.

“Inspiring teachers to have confidence in themselves is the most important part of my job,” says Annie. “Saying to them, ‘you can do it’. Most of them had it inside of themselves all along, the training just brings that out of them.”

Lesson two: learning can be fun!

“Before the training, I was active in the classroom and my students were passive,” says teacher Hari Chandra Baral. He has been a dedicated teacher in Lamjung District for the last 20 years, but he’s always followed a very traditional teaching philosophy – one where he gives the students information and they memorise it.

“Before, I only used my blackboard and there were no classroom activities or discussions,” says Hari. “But through the training I’ve learnt that this kind of learning is not long-lasting.”

Hari has discovered the value of

*We do let them rest sometimes. But they are very dedicated.*

Words and photos: Hailey Brenden

bmsworldmission.org
WHY THIS MATTERS TO ME

As a former teacher, I can’t imagine what it would have been like if I had been thrown in front of a classroom with no understanding of how to manage an unruly group of children. I had training. I had a mentor. I was lucky. These are privileges not given to most educators in Nepal.

Intelligent, passionate BMS teacher trainers like Annie Brown, Dil Chhetri and Krishna Bohora are giving Nepali teachers the opportunities all educators should have. And it’s the country that will benefit.

Hailey
supported training, the school has achieved the second highest position out of 42 schools within the district four years in a row. And the training is making more of a difference than just better test scores.

Radhika Subedi’s family couldn’t afford to send her to school, but she was able to go thanks to a scholarship from a BMS partner. This opportunity, coupled with well-trained teachers, has allowed her to excel. Not only is she now receiving a good education, she’s also become a star long-distance runner at her school and has been named district champion three years in a row.

“I dream of being an athlete and representing Nepal,” says Radhika. “I also love maths. I want to be a bank manager one day.” If she hadn’t been able to go to school, Radhika would most likely have had to start working at a young age and wouldn’t have had the opportunity to discover her strengths and pursue her dreams. Education has unlocked a future full of possibilities for her.

As we leave the mountaintop school, curious and giggly children dance around Annie and me. A group of five-year-olds catch Annie’s eye when they cup their little hands together and say “Namaste”. Annie flashes the biggest smile I’ve seen all day and returns the greeting, which means ‘I recognise the divine in you’. She turns to me, clearly moved. “When I see young boys and girls at schools like this, it does something to my heart,” she says. “I look at them and just think: these kids could be anything.”

In between gazing at the beautiful mountain views and dodging cows on our rocky descent from the school, Annie’s words replay in my head. These kids could be anything. It’s a challenge, but it’s true. Because of the BMS teacher training you support these kids can be anything.

Lesson three: change will help your teaching and, most importantly, your students

Ramchandra Bhandari, Principal of Himchuli Secondary School in Lamjung, testifies to the positive impacts of teacher training at his school. “My teachers and I have really enjoyed training,” he says. “It’s brought amazing changes within the school.”

Since taking part in the BMS-supported training, Hari has noticed a change in his students, and other educators have noticed a difference in Hari. In a recent competition between 150 teachers in Lamjung District, he was chosen as the top teacher. “I am very grateful for the training,” says Hari. “It’s helped me learn how to teach in the best way.”

WE PLAY NOW, AND STUDENTS LEARN

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Visit bmsworldmission.org/nepaleducation
You can help us transform education in Nepal!

See these sweet faces?

These are a few of the children who are benefitting from the teacher training you have just read about in Nepal. If you feel inspired to make a lasting difference in their lives, we have good news. You can!

You can invest in children’s futures in Nepal by signing up to give regularly to our education work. Go to bmsworldmission.org/nepaleducation to partner with our teacher trainers in Nepal and our education work around the world today! You can also give by phoning us on 01235 517641.

£28 can provide a day of training for more than 20 Nepali teachers

£56 can pay for two days of school visits for our teacher trainers, providing support and advice to local teachers

£138 can enable teacher trainers to visit a rural school for a week, making a real difference in the lives of teachers and children

Support your passion

Have a heart for justice? A passion for evangelism? Or a desire to see people access healthcare? We have projects that you can partner with!

Find out more at bmsworldmission.org/projects or call us on 01235 517641.
Dear friends,

My name is Moises Quembo and I am a pastor, the General Secretary of the Baptist Convention in Mozambique (CBM), and a lawyer involved with the Association of Mozambican Christian Lawyers (AMAC). BMS World Mission has been supporting me in leading CBM and helping the 150 Baptist churches the Convention is responsible for.

There’s a lot of poverty in Mozambique, but people are working hard to bring about change. Peace has come following the civil war and the Church has a great role to play as an encourager for people to work hard, so they can earn something and improve their lives.

The Church in Mozambique is growing fast, but has its challenges; there are more churches than there are church leaders and many pastors are unable to be paid a salary. They are serving faithfully, and we praise God for them. The rapid spread of Islam is also a challenge.

With the support of BMS we have started a social work project giving credit. Through this we can offer loans to people to support the start of small businesses. Laymen or pastors are using this, so they can run a business and minister to their congregation as well. Someone is rearing chickens in Beira city, another one about 200km away is buying and selling. They are busy!

Through BMS support of AMAC we’re building an office in Beira, and soon it will be finished, which is great. Those lawyers are helping orphans to have access to justice, as well as people who wouldn’t normally have financial means to access legal representation.

With the support of BMS donors in the UK, we are able to go forward. They help us to continue to do the work for CBM and the Church. We are also blessed by BMS mission personnel, who are focusing their efforts on Christian justice work here in Mozambique. They bring new thoughts and talent. This is very good.

This support is important because when you are starting something, help is important. We say we are a new Convention, only 50 years old, and we need support at the beginning. But as we grow, one day we’ll be able to support ourselves.

I would like to say thank you to the UK Church, and encourage them to keep going. Expect great things to happen. You have started a good thing, and it should carry on.

My prayer for Mozambique is that peace will continue, and that one day soon we will hopefully be a blessing to other nations, as BMS has been a blessing to us.

Thank you and God bless you, Moises Quembo

Pastor Moises Quembo is General Secretary of the Baptist Convention in Mozambique and is supported by your giving.
LETTERS FROM... THE UK

Wonderfully Made is wonderfully made

Hi to everyone in BMS Comms,

I just wanted to say how impressed I was by Wonderfully Made. I especially LOVE the cover and particularly the concept of “See the movie – meet the heroes”. Made me want to watch the video straight away and start planning for a service to promote it.

Of course, I could put my critical hat on and say this one was a bit too long for a typical Sunday service, but I kept watching it, which says a lot. I also love the sermon outline in the leaders’ guide.

So well done guys, I hope it raises loads of money.

Kindness and love to all,

Pastor G-Man (off to buy a superhero suit for harvest – just want Wonderfully Made to make a wonderful world!)

Rev Gareth Wilde, Broadmead Baptist Church

Thanks for Afghanistan balance

Hi Jessica,

I just wanted to write to say how much I enjoyed reading the latest magazine. I like the new format, especially having a few longer articles. Having been a BMS worker in Afghanistan, I appreciated the balanced article on that lovely country and pray that there will be some response. If I were younger...!!!

Carol

New Engage is disappointing

Dear Editor,

Greetings in Christ Jesus.

I have been a supporter of (taken a keen interest in) BMS World Mission since the 1950s, so you will deduce I am not young! – 80 later this year.

Communications are changing and costs rising. For medical reasons I do not use the internet. So I am sorry to see the reduced number of mags and pages. I miss the updates and the prayer page, and info which will now be greatly reduced, adversely affecting interest levels possibly. But I accept your need to move with the times.

So best wishes,

Mr H G Smith

New Engage is encouraging

Dear BMS,

Engage has been a great encouragement, and one or two articles have been redacted into our church magazine. I am very pleased to respond to the leaving appeal of our dear brother David – cheque by snailmail.

Richest blessings to you all,

Douglas

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!
Have you been inspired by the stories you have read in this magazine?

**Do you have a heart for mission?**

Do you think God might be calling you to use your skills to serve him overseas?

If your answer to these questions is yes, we would love to hear from you!

**We need...**

- Doctors
- School teachers
- Mental health professionals
- Development workers
- Project managers
- English language teachers
- University academics
- Social workers
- And more!

**Interested?**

Visit [bmsworldmission.org/serve](http://bmsworldmission.org/serve) to find out about our current opportunities, or call us on 01235 517651.