MODERN SLAVERY
How you can fight it in the UK

TEACHING IN CHINA
What it's really like

100 YEARS, 700 MILES
BMS supporters are transforming lives

THE WILD NORTH
THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR SURGEONS SAVE LIVES IN THE SAHARA
WE CAN HELP FREE PEOPLE FROM SLAVERY

June 2018

an you imagine working 14 hours a day and earning next to nothing? The ‘free’ accommodation you were offered as part of the job is a dilapidated caravan that you share with three other people. You’re exhausted, sick from the cold and the damp, and you never get any time off. You try to leave – but your employer beats you and threatens to hurt your family. He has your passport and controls your bank account.

You feel like there is no way out. You’re completely trapped.

People are living like this here in the UK. Thousands of people – forced to live as slaves. That’s horrifying. Sickening. And we, as Christians, need to be speaking out. We need to act. But it can be overwhelming even to know where to start.

By supporting BMS World Mission, you’re already helping to raise awareness of modern slavery through our work here in the UK, as well as working to fight it overseas. But we want to do more. On page 12, you’ll find an article that will help you spot the signs of modern slavery and know how to respond. I hope it will help to equip you and your church to stand up for those who are being exploited in your community.

Jesus said that he was sent to proclaim freedom for the captives and to set the oppressed free (Luke 4: 18). Together, we can carry on his ministry. We can help people walk into freedom. It’s a huge challenge – but it’s a privilege too.

Thank you for standing with BMS here in the UK, and around the world. As you read the following pages, I hope you’ll be inspired by the way God is at work through the Christians you support, from Chad to China, and from Afghanistan to Southend.

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Editor
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You’ve helped 387,064 people in the last two years

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YOU’VE HELPED 387,064 PEOPLE!

It’s been two years since we launched the BMS World Mission strategy to see one million lives transformed by 2020. In that time, hundreds of thousands of people have experienced help, healing and the love of Christ.

We’re busy doing just that. We haven’t met our targets for church or justice ministries, and we know there is a lot of work to be done to make sure more people are reached with the Word of God and his heart for justice. Sharing Jesus is, however, part of every single one of our ministries, and (as you’ll see in the health story on the right) people are meeting Jesus through our work in unexpected places. Praise God!

Progress: how far we’ve come in two years

Justice
- 29,934 people reached (five-year target = 120,000)

Education
- 25,081 people reached (five-year target = 50,000)

Church
- 113,551 people reached (five-year target = 500,000)

Health
- 90,818 people reached (five-year target = 10,000)

Development
- 58,910 people reached (five-year target = 100,000)

Leadership
- 27,277 people reached (five-year target = 50,000)

Relief
- 41,493 people reached (five-year target = 100,000)

Total
- 387,064 people helped (five-year target = 1,000,000)

Target missed ● Target met ○ Target exceeded ★

EXCITING NEWS FOR NAWAB

Remember Nawab, the best-behaved boy in Street School?

In issue 39 of Engage, we introduced you to Nawab. The BMS Street Servants team found Nawab begging on the streets of Kolkata, India, and invited him to become part of our Street School.

He thrived, and was widely regarded as the best-behaved child in the school.

Nine months on, Nawab has been given a place in a government school! Far from the life we found him in, Nawab now spends his days sitting in a classroom with a pencil in his hand and a world of possibilities growing his mind.

Thank you for helping Nawab go to school, giving him the chance to break himself and his family out of poverty, once and for all.
Meeting Jesus in hospital

Health: Chad

The last thing Abdelhaziz* expected to find was life to the full. He had been diagnosed with cancer and was receiving treatment at a BMS-supported hospital when he met the hospital chaplain, who is funded by your giving, and heard the gospel. Abdelhaziz believed and gave his life to Christ!

Abdelhaziz is one of thousands of people who have heard the good news through the hospital’s chaplaincy work. The hospital treated 18,121 patients last year, including delivering 1,738 babies. It’s known throughout the country for its high-quality care and its Christian foundation.

The witch doctor plants churches

Church: India

Selim* sold potions and charms to the sick in West Bengal, India. His sister, a BMS church planter, tried to tell him about Jesus, but Selim did not want to listen.

When prayer healed a critically ill man, after Selim’s charms repeatedly failed, Selim was stunned.

“I knew I had witnessed something amazing; this was a miracle,” he said. “I understood my sister’s faith in this Jesus. My eyes were opened to the truth.

“My life has been completely changed. I am now running my own fellowships, as well as supporting my sister, sharing the gospel.”

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE IN UGANDA’S SCHOOLS

Nearly 80 per cent of primary school children in Uganda experience sexual violence from teachers or peers, according to a 2012 study by UNICEF Uganda. This shouldn’t be happening.

BMS World Mission lawyer Linda Darby is working to protect children from abuse by helping to make schools in Gulu District, northern Uganda, safer.

Linda, who is part of the Uganda Christian Lawyers’ Fraternity, is currently working with six schools in the district, helping them to identify the ways their pupils are at risk, and to write and enforce child protection policies. These policies will help teachers safeguard children, and aim to minimise the drop-out rates of girls in schools.

In addition, Linda has been part of a group working with the local government to write their new education ordinance, giving them powers to improve education in the district and to keep children safe.

For more stories, visit www.bmsworldmission.org/news
We want to wish a huge happy 100th birthday to Irene Allan, of Hillhead Baptist Church, who has been supporting BMS every year on her birthday for decades as part of our Birthday Scheme! Irene’s been giving on her birthday to help provide healthcare for some of the world’s most marginalised people for so long, she can’t quite put her finger on when she started.

Thank you so much for all your gifts to BMS, Irene. Thank you for the difference they have made and continue to make to people you’ll never meet, but who you have loved so faithfully. We’re inspired by your lifelong passion for evangelism and mission!

In 2017, Chris Lloyd walked not just 500 miles – but 700! And, while walking, Chris raised over £500 for BMS World Mission’s work with Syrian refugees. Chris’ walks included the London Loop, Capital Ring, Ginger Line and the Jubilee Greenway. He also walked the 10-mile Chess Valley every month last year.

Wow! Chris, thank you so much for donning your walking boots for such an amazing cause – and for such an enormous distance!

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You’ve helped communities in crisis
If you are one of the 304 people who gave to our Communities in Crisis appeal, supporting our work with marginalised communities in Albania, thank you so much.

Together we raised £26,196.11. That’s amazing!
We loved hearing about all the creative ways you supported our Wonderful Made appeal. Thank you so much for giving to and praying for the children and team at Hope Home, and supporting our work around the world.

288 CHURCHES supported the appeal

HUNDREDS OF INDIVIDUALS gave generously in their churches, online and by sending us cheques

TOTAL RAISED: £157,982.44

A message from Judy!

“It’s amazing that so many people gave so generously to Wonderful Made. Knowing that friends across the UK have been praying for me, Phil, Tada, Natalie and the rest of the children and team has been such a blessing, and your support really is making a difference. “Thank you for being a part of this work here at Hope Home, showing children created in God’s image that they are loved. We couldn’t do it without you.”

Get in touch to let us know how you’ve been fundraising!
It’s not the Wild West, but it looks like it. Instead of horses, 4x4s thunder through the rocky desert, and the men on their backs carry Kalashnikovs, not six-shooters. This is where you’ve helped us send our finest surgeons. It’s probably the toughest place we work.

Bardaï, in the far north of Chad, near the border with Libya, is a hard place to get to. It’s in a kind of mountain fortress in the middle of the Sahara, populated by a tribe with a fearsome reputation, who’ve endured war, disconnection from the rest of Chad and, more recently, the lawlessness of a gold rush in the Tibesti mountains. The Muslim-majority Teda are fiercely independent and a bastion against encroaching ‘Arabisation’ and radicalisation coming from Libya. The Teda are not universally open to outsiders and will not be dictated to. It takes a special kind of person to gain their respect.

Andrea and Mark Hotchkin, BMS World Mission surgeons and eight-year veterans of our Chad work, live in Bardaï. And they live like few surgeons you’ve ever known. A two-room mud and stone house with a reed roof, no windows and no running water is their home. They sleep on the floor, in sleeping bags zipped up to guard against the scorpions they sometimes share their house with. They wash and use the toilet out of doors: short screens preserving their modesty.

Why are they willing to live like this, in a dangerous and remote corner of the desert? “Our God is a God of justice,” says Mark. “And one of the great inequalities in the world is the inequality in healthcare. It’s really important that in mission we seek to address these inequalities. To show, through that, the love of our God, who loves all people, wherever they are.”

Mark and Andrea are doing that. They’re treating gunshot wounds and torture-burns from bandits. They’re operating on young miners, like the one from whose chest they drained two litres of pus, undoubtedly saving his life. They’re even offering dental help to try to build local people’s confidence in the hospital in which they’re called to serve. It’s a hospital that, until recently, was unable to offer surgery or treatment for serious conditions.

Because of this, and some local
prejudice against the people from other tribes who staff the wards, many local people would rather trek 600 km – 14 hours’ drive across rocky desert – to a hospital in Libya, than go there. Andrea and Mark are changing that. They’re helping to raise standards, have equipment sterile, wards clean and operating theatres ready. They’re building trust. The district hospital is starting to be used. But the cases are tough and attitudes are slow to change.

One mother brought her baby in quite recently, with what she thought was simply diarrhoea. “One glance was enough to see how sick he was,” says Andrea. “His eyes were sunken, his skin shrivelled and he wasn’t moving at all.” So as not to give the child too much fluid too soon, they fed a drip with a syringe. After some hours, his pulse was up and he could drink a little. Checking in that evening, mother and baby were gone. Being part of the community now, Andrea knew that the mother was a good friend of the neighbour she and Mark were eating with that night. She asked for their help. That’s what neighbours and friends can do.

In the morning, their neighbour brought the mother and the baby back to the hospital. The child was worse and desperately needed fluids. “Severe shock had set in,” Andrea says. “This time we couldn’t get a drip in a vein at all so had to put a needle directly into the marrow of the shin bone.” At first it didn’t work. The stout needle they were using kept getting clogged with a plug of bone and after two attempts the baby’s mum was growing quite distressed. Andrea and Mark prayed. On the third attempt the drip went in.

Five days later, baby was healthy and mum was happy.

Miracles like this – where God’s power, human skill and the trust that only comes from living as friends among a community in need combine – are changing the story of the district hospital in Bardaï. They’re possible because our doctors are there. And that is only possible because you make it so.

If you gave to our Bardaï appeal earlier this year, or if you regularly give to BMS at all, you are part of the reason that baby is alive. And we want to thank you. You may not think that your gift has made much of a difference, but it really has – to every person Andrea and Mark help in Bardaï, and to everyone we serve around the world. Thank you for giving. We don’t take it for granted, and we thank God for your faithfulness.

Thank you, from Bardaï!
One in ten babies in Afghanistan will die before their first birthday. Together, we can change that.

Meet Ziba and Umed, and help more mums and babies in Afghanistan’s mountains survive this harvest. Support Life’s First Cry.

Your support for Life’s First Cry will enable us to do more to transform the lives of people like Ziba and Umed in some of the poorest and least evangelised places in the world. You can find out what God is doing through BMS at www.bmsworldmission.org
You’ve probably met someone trapped in slavery. They might have washed your car, paved your driveway, or painted your nails. You might have passed them begging on the street, or avoided their gaze as you drove by them late at night. They couldn’t tell you they were being exploited and you would never have thought to ask. But they were there, and so were you.

The National Crime Agency previously estimated that there were 13,000 people being kept in modern slavery in the UK. It now says that number is the tip of the iceberg. Modern slavery and human trafficking are so widespread, ordinary people like you and I could unknowingly be crossing paths with victims every day.

Modern slavery is endemic in the UK. Those words should be shocking. Horrifying even. And they’re true. In our cities, towns and villages, vulnerable people are being exploited for the financial gain of others. They’re being forced to live in inhumane conditions and work extreme hours for little or no pay. They’re too afraid to speak to the police. And the rest of us don’t even know what to look for.

Christians should hate slavery – Jesus declared his mandate “to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and... to set the oppressed free” in Luke 4: 18, and he calls us to do the same. By supporting BMS World Mission, you’re already helping in the fight against modern day slavery in the UK and overseas. And the good news is, you can do even more.

Richard* is 56. He’s been homeless for 40 years. He lives on the streets of Southend and a few years ago he was picked up by a travelling family who offered him work. “I was walking down the street and a


We can break the disconnection that lets modern slavery thrive

4x4 pulled up and they said, ‘do you want a bit of work?’ So I went with them,” Richard says.

That’s how easy it is for someone to inadvertently walk into slavery. People are desperate. They’ll say yes to a job.

Thankfully, Richard’s exploitation only lasted for a few weeks, but other homeless men in Southend have spent years doing forced labour. “They were given accommodation, and spent 16 or 18 hours tarmacking people’s driveways,” says Rev Dan Pratt, minister at 57 West, a church and community centre in Southend.

“Often if they weren’t paid then they would want to leave, but through physical abuse, mental abuse, or even threats to their families, they didn’t feel able to.

“Some of the people we’ve met worked for those families for 12, 15 or even 20 years.”

Dan, a former BMS mission worker, has come alongside many people who have escaped slavery in Southend. His passion to set the prisoners free developed when he was working with BMS in South Africa. Now, we’re helping to support his work in the UK. In partnership with the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Eastern Baptist Association, BMS is helping to fund Dan as he heads up Together Free, a network aiming to raise awareness of modern slavery and to help churches across the country fight it. That means, as a BMS supporter, you’re helping to fight slavery in the UK. And in order to fight it more effectively, all of us need to understand what modern slavery is.

We read reports of children carrying hard drugs, and of pop-up brothels – where trafficked women are made to work with little or no pay. People have been kept in slavery at car washes, construction sites, and in people’s homes. It’s happening everywhere.

Since attending a workshop run by Dan and Together Free, Baptist minister Emma Hunnable has been spurred to act against modern slavery. She’s started speaking with her local council and police officers to find ways the church and community can work together.

“If it’s happening in Southend, then it must be happening everywhere,” says Emma. “It’s happening right on our doorsteps. And as churches, we need to know. We need to be contacting our local councillors and MPs and asking ‘what is going to be the policy on this? What are we going to do about it?’”

Uncovering modern slavery is like trying to piece together a jigsaw puzzle. No-one has all the information. But vulnerable people who are being exploited need to be helped and, while they are unlikely to talk to the police, they might speak to you. The traffickers and slave masters are smart, that’s why they can enslave so many people, and so we need to be smart too.

“There’s so much we can do as churches and community centres,” says Dan. “We’re often working with food banks, with homeless shelters, with crèches – we’re at the grassroots level in our community. We are the eyes and the ears, and we have the possibility of breaking the disconnection that lets modern slavery thrive.”

It’s a huge challenge. And it’s one that we, as Christians called to care for the least and the lost, need to seize. On the next page you’ll find helpful advice for how to spot the signs of modern slavery and what to do if you suspect someone is being exploited. Your church doesn’t need to start a new initiative or raise loads of money to fight this – you’re already in the places where the people most at risk will be. We just need to be more aware. To be smart. To see.

“People who are being kept in slavery have a fundamental right to life in fullness, and this is what BMS is all about – going to the darkest places, to the hardest places, to the least evangelised, to the people who need to know God’s love the most,” says Dan.

That is what we’re about – everywhere we work. That’s why we’re working with people like Dan to raise awareness of modern slavery in the UK. And that’s why we’re asking you to help us. The Church is an army ready to be mobilised to fight slavery. We’re made up of doctors and rubbish collectors, teachers and food bank volunteers. If we all learn to spot the signs of slavery, together we can proclaim freedom for the prisoners.

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Slavery in the UK fits into four categories:

- **FORCED LABOUR:** being made to work long hours in poor conditions for little or no money
- **SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:** being forced into non-consensual or abusive sexual acts
- **DOMESTIC SERVITUDE:** working in a private household with little or no freedom of movement
- **FORCED CRIMINALITY:** being made to commit criminal acts

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The BMS magazine 13

Words: Jessica
How to fight modern slavery where you are

1. Understand the different types of modern slavery
   - Forced labour
   - Sexual exploitation
   - Forced criminality
   - Domestic servitude

2. Learn to spot the signs
   If people you’re speaking with exhibit some of the following signs, they may be being exploited:
   - Inconsistent about their name or age
   - Don’t know where they live or work
   - Afraid to reveal their immigration status
   - Story sounds scripted
   - Distrustful of the authorities
   - Have a false identity or travel document
   - Evidence of violence or threats of violence
   - Appear to be afraid or anxious
   - Malnourished
   - Signs their movements are being controlled
   - Wearing no protective clothing, even though their work requires it
   - From a place known to be a source of human trafficking
   - In full-time employment but still have to use food banks and homeless shelters
   - Clearly being paid less than the minimum wage to wash cars, paint nails etc

3. Contact the Modern Slavery Helpline
   If you suspect someone is being exploited, call the police on 999 (in case of emergency) or 101. You can also contact the Modern Slavery Helpline. Go with your gut instinct, your information might be the final piece of the puzzle.
   Phone 08000 121 700 OR visit www.modernslaveryhelpline.org to fill in an online report.

4. Give to BMS
   When you give to BMS, you help fight slavery in the UK, Thailand and India.

5. Share the knowledge
   Share this information with your church and workplace. Tell your children, your parents and your friends. Everyone needs to be aware of the signs of modern slavery in order to help those most at risk.

6. Get to know your local police officers
   And find out who within your local police force deals with modern slavery cases.

7. Help make your church a safe place for vulnerable people
   People who are being exploited may come to a church when they don’t know where else to go. Find ways to make your church an open and welcoming place for all.

8. Set up a community hub
   In Southend, Dan is setting up a community partnership against modern slavery – developing a joined-up approach between churches, communities, the police and the local council. Could you do the same in your town?
What it’s really like...

China

The cold on your skin. The sound of laughter. A universe of strange and wonderful new tastes... A BMS World Mission teacher reflects on ordinary life in an extraordinary country.

We have just passed the deepest part of winter here, but it’s still -15 degrees as I start my commute up the hill (or rather trek through snow and ice) to school every morning. As I walk, I pass the older generation of people outside playing sports, practising their slow but strong Tai Chi routine, selling fruit or hot soy milk and porridge to other commuters. I pass by the football fields full of school students practising drills and running laps. I bow and greet the group of smiling ladies who power walk down the hill singing traditional songs (who, in turn, beam at me and triumphantly chorus ‘hello, good morning’ as they pass).

I wander through the university cafeteria – where I buy steamed buns with red beans, or meat (of some kind), or egg and chive filling for breakfast – grab a cup of coffee from the office, collect my things and finally head to my classroom to start a day of teaching English conversation to students.

The next few hours go by in a blur of pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar practice, with a colourful splash of laughter and “sorry teacher, I forgot my homework”. I teach about a hundred students per semester, broken into four different classes. The department I work in is one of the only departments in the university that teaches all of the students. All students have to learn English for their first two years to be able to graduate, so I have an almost entirely different class of students every semester (which makes for a challenge of learning names). But I have found teaching to be so enjoyable; getting to know the different personality of every student, the different dynamic of every class, the different level of English ability and how that grows alongside their confidence throughout the semester.

I met up with one girl recently to eat lunch together (hot pot, a delicious boiling pot of spicy broth that you cook meat, tofu and vegetables in) and catch up after the winter break. I had taught her for her first semester in her first year. She was painfully shy, and could not understand a word I said for the first few weeks. I started meeting with her one-on-one for tutoring and slowly her understanding and confidence improved, although we still had to use a translator on her phone to have a conversation. However, this time, we not only met and talked for an hour over lunch, but then we went for coffee and continued talking. Only referring to the translator twice!

Chinese students are not normally taught by a native English speaker, so they tend to experience some form of culture shock when they first enter the classroom. They are pushed far out of their comfort zone while learning a new language but, to their credit, they adapt quickly, (quietly) and well. But the real reward comes as the semester continues on and we grow to know each other. It’s wonderful to be able to share our cultures with each other and the things we value most about our ways of life.

We’re looking for more people to teach English with us in China.

If you have a TEFL qualification or teaching experience and are interested in serving God overseas, visit www.bmsworldmission.org/teachinchina or phone 01235 517651.
Get involved

Life's first cry

Be a voice for the poor in your church this harvest, and save lives.

Did you know that, when you give to BMS World Mission, you’re helping women in remote villages in Afghanistan’s mountains learn how to keep themselves and their babies alive?

We think that’s incredible. And we hope you do too.

Life’s First Cry is not a story people get to hear every day. You’ll see that for yourself when you watch the video and get transported through the snow and over the mountains into the houses of ordinary Afghan families. Families you will never get the chance to meet face to face, but who have amazing stories to tell of the way BMS-supported work has transformed their lives and their villages.

When you give to this year’s BMS harvest appeal, and when you encourage your church, your friends and your family to give generously too, you can help save the lives of hundreds more babies and mothers. You can help us bring transformation to some of the poorest families in Afghanistan, and around the world.

Ready to get involved? Great, here’s how...

1 Get your minister on board

Speak to your minister and ask them to support BMS by using Life’s First Cry in a Sunday service. They should have already received the DVD in the post.

You could even offer to help them run the service! On our website you will find a Leader’s guide full of ideas.

2 Promote Life’s First Cry

We want everyone to know about the work we’re doing in Afghanistan and how they can help. Display the pull-out poster you’ll find in this magazine (page 10) prominently in your church to let them know Life’s First Cry is coming soon. We’d also love you to advertise your BMS service on social media and to share our promotional video – www.bmsworldmission.org/promo

Don’t forget to tag BMS in your post – then we can share it, too!

You can find more great resources to help you promote Life’s First Cry on our website using the web address in the purple box on the right.
**Donate to the appeal**

In the UK, mothers and fathers are taught the importance of preparing for the birth of babies and staying healthy when pregnant. That’s why many people choose to attend antenatal classes. What BMS is doing in Afghanistan is standing alongside women to help them be prepared and stay healthy, too.

An NCT antenatal course normally costs at least £160. Could you start saving money now with the goal of donating the cost of all or part of an NCT course to Life’s First Cry – helping mums and dads learn lessons to keep themselves and their babies safe?

You can donate during your Life’s First Cry service in your church, by visiting www.bmsworldmission.org/cry or by sending a cheque, made payable to ‘BMS Life’s First Cry’, to the address on page 3. You can also give by phoning our donation hotline on 01235 517641.

**Pray for families in Afghanistan’s mountains**

Without God, the work we’re doing in Afghanistan (which we know you will be really inspired by!) would be impossible. God has opened so many doors for us, and has kept our workers safe. So, we need you to pray, and then pray some more!

Pray for the mums and dads in Afghanistan who are yet to receive the training they need to help their babies survive – pray that we would be able to reach them soon. And pray for the Life’s First Cry appeal – that it would be successful and enable us to extend this work, and other life-transforming work around the world.

If you haven’t already given your pull-out poster (page 10) to your church, why not put it up in your house to remind you to pray for mums, dads and babies in Afghanistan?

**Walk, hike or run for mums and babies**

Men and women in the mountains of Afghanistan often have to walk for hours to get medical help. Could you do a sponsored walk, hike or run to raise money for mums, dads and children in Afghanistan? For inspiration, turn to page 6 and check out what Chris did.
Dear friends,

When an earthquake hit our country in 2015, many of our Christian friends were worshipping at church. Sometime in the middle of the service, they had to stop and run to an open place to save their lives.

The impact of the earthquake was big. Many of our Christian communities lost their homes and their churches were destroyed. We [MCDS] didn’t know what to do when it hit, because we had only been involved in community development. But BMS World Mission provided prayers, encouragement and technical support. Thanks to you, we were able to distribute immediate relief.

We were also able to set up a long-term recovery programme. It helped us to rebuild people’s livelihoods, their shelters, and to provide disaster reduction training to communities so they could build their resilience. We helped people to build their own homes again without receiving government funding. With your help, we were able to support thousands of families affected by the earthquake.

When the floods came in 2017, we were more prepared. The experience we gained from your support during the earthquake meant we could mobilise our resources and our communities more quickly. You helped us to provide food and temporary shelters. Now, we are working to support schools and self-help groups by providing disaster reduction training too.

Our recovery projects have also meant that we could do livestock training and other skills training for women. We have helped women help their families to rebuild their lives, their houses and to continue to support the education of their children.

We are very grateful for your support. BMS is our oldest partner. One thing I really like is that BMS continually asks us to send prayer requests from Nepal. Thank you for praying, it is very encouraging for us. Every morning during our devotion time now, we pray for BMS. You helped make a great contribution by transforming the lives of communities, through giving, and through prayer.

Thank you.

Dipak

Dipak Raj Rai is from Nepal and is the Executive Director of the Multipurpose Community Development Service (MCDS). Your gifts helped MCDS to support those affected by devastating earthquakes and floods in the country.

“THANK YOU FOR PRAYING, IT IS VERY ENCOURAGING FOR US.”

Dipak and the team at MCDS are helping people rebuild their lives after the 2015 earthquakes.

bmsworldmission.org
LETTERS FROM... THE UK

Inspiring prayer

Dear Jessica
Thank you for the inspiring Engage magazine, I used some of the information in the church this morning as it was the BMS Day of Prayer.
Blessings,
Janet Denman

Remembering Billy Graham

It was a privilege to be among the 2,300 invited guests attending the funeral of Billy Graham, not least because he had been an influential presence in every decade of my life.

My late father, Arthur Coffey, was among the group of young pastors who invited Billy for his first visit to Britain in 1946, and I was five years old when Billy visited my home church at Winton Baptist Church Bournemouth. I have no memory of his sermon, but I do recall the excitement generated by his visit to our church. In 1954, I attended the landmark Harringay Crusade in London and came forward to make my first public commitment to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour.

I visited Billy and Ruth Graham in their Montreat mountainside home in March 1996 and I was able to observe the strong loving bonds of the Graham family. During the funeral service on 2 March, all five of the Graham children paid tributes to the shaping influence of their parents. As one of the sons said: ‘The man who preached in stadiums around the world, and the person who was my father was the same man. I want you to know there was only one Billy Graham’.

Billy often said, the first thing he was going to do when he arrived in heaven was to ask the question: ‘Why me Lord? Why did you choose a farm boy from North Carolina to preach to so many people around the world?’

The same question has been posed by obituary notices since his death. What was the secret of this ordinary man who preached to 215 million people across six continents? How could this farm boy from a humble background emerge to become the world-famous evangelist, confidante of royalty, presidents, prime ministers and religious leaders of all faith traditions?

I think the answer is in the first line from two hymns made famous by his global missions.

Billy came to faith in Christ and said to God, use me ‘Just as I am’.

And when he died people around the globe said with one voice, ‘To God be the glory’.

David Coffey OBE
Global Ambassador for BMS World Mission

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