HUMANS OF SOUTH SUDAN

The inspiring conflict survivors you’ve been helping

UKRAINE APPEAL
Thanks for fighting the freeze

CHURCH GROWTH IN INDIA
The secret to their success

THE THREE-YEAR-OLD FUNDRAISER
And his five-mile scoot
t’s great to finally have the opportunity to write an Engage editorial, after working at BMS World Mission for over 15 years. For the last six of those years, I’ve been overseeing all of the content BMS produces, and I love reading your letters and hearing about the articles that have inspired you (as well as, on occasion, the ones you haven’t liked so much). It’s so encouraging to know that you’re engaging with BMS through this magazine. Without you, none of the work we do around the world would be possible.

We have some really inspiring articles in this issue. You’ll read about an amazing little boy who made it his mission to raise money to save the lives of babies in Afghanistan (page 6); you’ll meet Agnes, a South Sudanese refugee who lost an eye, who is volunteering her time to help other South Sudanese people with disabilities in Uganda (page 11); and you’ll hear how courageous BMS-supported theology student Samara* left an abusive marriage and found freedom and a new identity in Jesus (page 16).

I’d love to take credit for editing all this content together, but it was actually Sarah’s last gift to us. I hope, with me, you will be praying for her, and I hope you enjoy reading her final issue! Please do let us know what you think by writing to us or emailing us.

God bless you,
Jonathan Langley
Managing Editor

*name changed
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LOCAL LAWYERS FREE WOMAN FROM ABUSE

Isabel* didn’t know what domestic abuse was. She didn’t know it was illegal or that she was a survivor.

After attending an educational event organised by local churches and the Association of Mozambican Christian Lawyers (AMAC), Isabel realised she could get help. Her husband had been abusing her, but she hadn’t known what to do or who to turn to. The event she attended was set up to educate women about what constitutes domestic abuse, and it helped Isabel understand what was happening to her. She spoke to an AMAC lawyer about what she was going through and was taken to a police station that day to report her husband’s abuse.

Just a few months later, Isabel’s husband was in court. A judge placed a restriction on him, and warned he could face imprisonment if he abused Isabel again. It was the first sign of hope Isabel had seen.

“This is just one example of the type of action that we can take on behalf of those in society who don’t have the opportunity for justice,” says BMS World Mission lawyer Mark Barrell, who is working to build AMAC’s capacity.

AMAC was formed seven years ago with BMS support and exists to help the most vulnerable in society access justice. Thanks to your giving, women like Isabel are learning about their rights and getting the legal representation they need. People who were previously unable to access justice because of a lack of money or access to education are being given a voice and life-transforming legal support. And local Christian lawyers are being encouraged and empowered to use their gifts to help people.

*name changed
ONE EXAM DECIDES THEIR FATE

Children in Bangladesh have to pass an entrance exam to progress on to primary school.

That’s why good preschool education for disadvantaged children is critical. “If these children fail, they have little chance of an education,” says BMS worker Louise Proctor. BMS work in 18 rural preschools has given long-term hope to children who might not otherwise have any. By supporting BMS, you’ve helped teachers improve their classroom technique, equipping them to give excellent lessons using free or cheap resources and activities. Sadly, the buildings are often in poor condition, made of corrugated tin or iron. So, while Louise is working to improve the teaching that goes on inside the buildings, her husband, BMS engineer Phil Proctor, is improving the structures themselves. His plans include the installation of toilets and water pumps in the coming months. Phil and Louise are there because you sent them. Thank you for your support.

NEW BUSINESSES FOR STRUGGLING MUMS

Mothers in Tunisia are getting the chance to earn an income.

Mothers who have received little education and have next to nothing are being given the chance to transform their own lives, with your support. One mother had a child outside of marriage – a situation that carries a great deal of shame in Tunisia. Cut off from family support, she had little hope of a better future for herself and her child. Now she has discovered a gift for sewing, and through a BMS-supported training programme she is learning how to start her own sewing business. Your faithful support for BMS means that she has the means to provide for her family.
After learning about the struggles mums and babies are facing in Afghanistan, Isaac decided he wanted to do something to help. He offered to give all the money from his money box – but that wasn’t enough for Isaac. So his mum, Suzanne, helped him think of other ways he could raise money. They did a bake sale and also decided on the sponsored scoot.

“Isaac was so excited to take his sponsorship form around church, family and friends and ask for help to save a baby’s life!” says Suzanne. “Then, when he was doing his scoot, he was telling everyone that he was saving babies.”

Isaac raised an amazing £312 to help more mothers get the training they need to keep their babies safe. Five miles on a scooter is a long way for anyone – let alone a three-year-old. Isaac, we think you’re an absolute superstar! Thank you so much for scooting to save lives!

Has someone you know done something wonderful to help raise support for BMS? If so, we’d love to hear from you! Email magazine@bmsworldmission.org or get in touch using the contact details on page two.
The Christians came to help me

In war-torn eastern Ukraine, you’ve helped families survive the bitter cold, and introduced people to Jesus.

Words and photos: Jon Mendelsohn

Make no sudden movements. Let one person do the talking. And definitely don’t take photos. That was the advice about how to behave at military checkpoints in eastern Ukraine. As we approach an outpost near the wreckage of a disused railway bridge, I am going through this mental checklist, making sure I’m following the rules. But it couldn’t be easier. Out comes Pastor Vasyl’s Baptist identity card, and we are immediately waved through. As we drive past, Pastor Vasyl hands the soldiers some apples, and while doing so, quietly says, “God bless you.”

These are the pastors you’re supporting on the frontline. They’re helping those caught in the ongoing conflict, and blessing those around them as they do it.

The war has been going on for over four years now. Air strikes, tanks and shelling have caused chaos for thousands of innocent civilians. With the conflict between the Ukrainian army and pro-Russian separatists having stabilised, the shelling is now less frequent. But it’s already caused horrendous damage, killing
thousands of people, separating families, destroying homes and displacing 1.6 million people, many having fled in the middle of the night with nothing but the clothes they were wearing.

And in winter, it gets even worse. Vladimir is the head of humanitarian projects for the Evangelical Baptist Union of Ukraine and he tells me that the temperature can drop as low as minus 25°C. “For many, winter becomes a season of survival,” he says. Towns have had gas and electricity shut off and, with factories being destroyed, a lack of jobs means that many people have next to no income. With no money for coal, firewood or any form of heating, it’s Christians like you who have enabled people to survive the harsh winter. “We do not distinguish people by religion, nationality, political views or any other divisions,” says Vladimir. “The only basis for aid provision is the need of these people.”

Maria’s life changed when she heard the good news of Jesus.

“People like Maria. I’m feeling slightly nervous on my way to meet her, partly because my translator has just shown me the main road that goes straight to the city of Donetsk, a separatist stronghold in the region only a 30 minute drive away. But Pastor Vasyl is in good spirits. Once a coal miner, now a pastor and volunteer helping to oversee the distribution of humanitarian aid in the region, Vasyl and other pastors travel around the grey zone, along the border of Donetsk and Luhansk, to help those who have lost everything. “The influence of the gospel on us makes us do it,” says Pastor Vasyl. “Jesus said ‘I was sick, you visited me. I was hungry, you gave me food.’ So the worst thing the Church can do in a situation like this is do nothing.”

Maria is 78 years old, and is incredibly welcoming as she shows us her chickens and all the vegetables growing in her garden. She used to be an editor in Donetsk, but Maria left the city to look after her mother before becoming a teacher in a rural village. She has beaten cancer, lost a kidney and had issues with her spine. But she’s survived. There’s a quiet resilience about her, an ability to face everything thrown her way. “I had two flying guests, as I call them, land right next to my house,” she tells me, as we perch on a bright orange sofa in her small lounge. “The missiles destroyed my windows and flattened my garden. It was below zero inside the house.” As tears begin to fall, her voice starts to crack.

www.bmsworldmission.org
“These are only road signs that point people to God”

to tremble. “If not for Vasyl, I don’t know what I would have done.”

For a long time, Maria had no windows, just a small bit of plastic sheeting that would let the cold air in. With only two habitable rooms in the house, Maria survived the bitter winter using a ceramic heater you paid for, which enabled her to heat the two rooms and stay warm. “The Christians even cut the wood for my stove and brought me food and clothing,” says Maria. “If the world had more people like Vasyl, it would never be the same.”

And it’s not just the physical aid you provided that helped Maria survive the harsh winter and ongoing conflict. When Pastor Vasyl first met Maria and helped her with the aid, he told her the good news of Jesus, and it changed her life. “When the Christians came to help me, they were singing a song that said: ‘Help me, o Lord, to become better through all the trials I’m going through,’” says Maria. “That song helps me get through.”

Pointing to her Bible and posters of Jesus adorning her room, Maria says, “I lie on my sofa every morning and read the New Testament. That’s what helps me to live.”

“Maria’s life has changed,” says Pastor Vasyl. “She witnesses to her neighbours and she changes them, too. What we are doing for people like Maria is only the road sign that points them towards God.”

“Today we can give them bread for their daily life or something they really need,” Vladimir quickly adds. “But we hope that, through all of the aid that is provided, they can see Jesus.”

You’ve helped over 4,000 people by supporting the BMS Ukraine winter appeal. And by providing ceramic heaters, coal, firewood and thermal underwear, you aren’t just helping people survive the freezing cold, you’re giving them the opportunity to hear the gospel and give their lives to Jesus. “I would like to say thank you very much,” says Vladimir. “I know it’s a simple thing to say, but it’s not only from me. It’s from the people that are there.”

Thank you
for supporting our Ukraine winter appeal!

872 people gave
£60,440 raised
Over 4,000 people helped so far

The BMS magazine
Humans of South Sudan

The conflict survivors who need your help

Words: Sarah Stone
Photos: Sarah Stone and David Dunham

The numbers are overwhelming. If we based our response to the South Sudanese conflict on the numbers, we wouldn’t do anything. How can we reverse the damage done to over four million refugees and internally displaced people scattered across at least seven countries in East Africa? How can we target widespread food insecurity and desperate poverty amongst hundreds of thousands of people? The fact is – we can’t.

But we can make a difference. And we already are. Through your giving, we’ve been supporting a network of South Sudanese and Ugandan people working in the settlements in Uganda (where over one million South Sudanese people have registered as refugees). These men and women have been identifying those most in need, and making sure they receive the aid your gifts to BMS World Mission are providing.

The humans featured on the next few pages have survived the conflict in South Sudan, but they’re still in danger. And there are thousands more like them who are yet to be helped. Together, we can make a massive difference.
Agnes

Agnes is one of the pastoral activists you have helped to train.

“In South Sudan life was not easy – we lived through fear. We came to Uganda for rescue. To look for a peaceful place.

“We came from South Sudan with nothing. We were given some tarpaulins, and we built from there and started gaining back what we had lost.

“I used to think to myself, because I am disabled I am someone who is not important. I would isolate myself. But after the training, I became positive about my disability.

“I am disabled, but I have something that can help someone. I use my one eye to help someone who is not seeing. I use my legs to help someone who is not walking. So I feel very happy.

“I really like to work for people with disabilities. So I became a volunteer. We are working with 1,666 people with disabilities in this camp. I can assess people now and then give some advice. I feel good that I am making a difference.”

Susan

After driving through towering shrubbery along irregular footpaths, we have to abandon the car and walk for almost an hour. We fight through the grass and branches that hit us in the face as we head further and further away from civilisation. I am just a mile or two from the border with South Sudan. Surely no-one can be living here.

As we push through the final long blades of grass I am amazed at what I find. A hut made of sticks and reeds, providing barely any protection from the rain. And inside, a solitary woman. Susan.

Susan has leprosy and her hands are beginning to curl in on themselves. I have to take hold of her fragile wrist to greet her. I ask her how she ended up here – on her own in the middle of nowhere.

“I was chased by the government and the rebels,” she says. “I am not able to walk, so I started crawling. A good Samaritan rescued me. I never made it to the camps, because nobody could take me there.”

Because Susan hasn’t made it to an official settlement to register as a refugee, she’s not eligible for UN food relief. You’ve been providing her with emergency food rations – support that has most likely saved her life. She’s still dangerously thin. She lifts up her t-shirt to show me her flat stomach. Too much skin.

You’ve also helped train the pastoral activists who found Susan and identified her urgent needs.

“I don’t get many visitors here. When the team come to visit me, they share the Word of God with me, and they pray with me. That is how I get my strength.”

Susan’s joy at our visit amazes me. Her smile lights up her whole face. She is quick-witted and when she laughs (which is often) it shakes her whole body. She tells us that Jesus keeps her going. She is living the most isolated life I have ever witnessed, and yet her faith is unwavering. As I walk away, I know we’re leaving her lonely, but never alone.
BMS is working in partnership with Hope Health Action to stand alongside South Sudanese refugees, like Joice, in Uganda.

**Nancy**

Fourteen-year-old Nancy hops up to us at impressive speed, her foot scuffing along the dusty ground. Her right foot is twisted and she can’t walk on it. There’s no pavement here, and the uneven ground is hard to move across. It’s clear Nancy can’t move far from the temporary home she is living in like this.

“I stay in Palorinya refugee settlement, but I come from Kaju Keji in South Sudan,” Nancy says. Because of her disability, until recently Nancy wasn’t able to go to school. “Children would tease me because I’m not able to move,” Nancy says. “I would feel bad when people were teasing me.”

You’ve helped BMS partner Hope Health Action transport wheelchairs into Palorinya, giving people like Nancy some freedom and independence.

“The wheelchair helps me to go to school,” says Nancy. “I am very happy with my wheelchair. Now I’ve got a way to move around and I’m feeling good. It can take me anywhere.”

I ask Nancy what she likes best about going to school – but she answers with her dream of where school will take her. “I want to be a nurse,” she says. “It’s the most confidently she’s spoken. “I want to care for people who are sick.”

**Joice**

**Family:** Mother of four children, including five-month-old twins, Sarah and Sharon.

**Location:** Bidi Bidi, the world’s largest refugee camp. A quarter of a million South Sudanese refugees are living here.

**Condition:** Suffered from edema and pre-eclampsia while pregnant with her twins. Untreated, these conditions can be fatal.

**How you helped:** Joice’s conditions were detected because you paid for a highly accurate blood pressure monitor (called the cradle device) to be given to a volunteer health worker in Joice’s community. The volunteer found out Joice had a dangerously high blood pressure and took her to the health clinic. He kept monitoring her throughout her pregnancy using the cradle device, and at eight months she was given a C-section which was vital for her survival.

**What Joice says:** “I think without this device, I was going to face death. If this help was not there, I think I would have already passed away. I am giving you thanks. I am now okay, and I can see that my children are okay.”

Your support enabled Nancy to get her wheelchair. She wants to become a nurse so she can help others too.
Share the stories of South Sudan’s Conflict Survivors

We want the UK Church to be at the forefront of raising awareness of the conflict in South Sudan and the struggles facing the millions of people who have had to flee. People like Susan, Agnes, Joice, Nancy and Modi. We also want to raise money and encourage prayer so that we can do more to respond to the crisis.

You can help.

Please keep your eyes peeled for South Sudan’s Conflict Survivors, the 2019 BMS appeal resource which is coming out soon. It’s coming with your next Engage. Ask your minister to run the appeal at your church’s harvest service this year, share it with your friends, and give generously if you can! Together, we can make sure the incredible conflict survivors you’ve read about on the last four pages are not forgotten.

Modi

**Family:** Son of Flora. Modi has one brother and one sister.

**Location:** Palorinya refugee settlement.

**Condition:** Has learning and developmental disabilities. When the BMS-supported team found him, he was severely malnourished and tied to a tree.

“Modi would have died,” says his mum. “He was roaming around looking for food. I spent three days looking for him. Finally, when I found Modi, that’s when I tied him to the tree. He was looking for food and there was no food.”

How you helped: You funded the transport and logistics that enabled 1,700 children with malnutrition to access Plumpy’Nut – a special treatment for malnutrition. Modi received the treatment and has made enormous improvements. He’s put on weight, looks much happier and is even able to play football (with some pretty great footwork!).

“There was nobody who was caring about me,” says Flora, Modi’s mum. “The support you gave was able to revive Modi. I am very happy now.”

As seen in

[South Sudan’s Conflict Survivors]

### Modi

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“There was nobody who was caring about me,” says Flora, Modi’s mum. “The support you gave was able to revive Modi. I am very happy now.”
Travel to India and it’s unlikely you’ll meet a Christian on the street. At least, that’s what the statistics tell you. In the world’s second most populous country, just over two per cent of the population openly identifies as Christian. But that’s still around 28 million people, a good foundation for those working hard to share the gospel in a nation that’s 80 per cent Hindu.

The challenge of telling people about Jesus remains daunting, however. It requires boldness, stamina and, critically, an approach that gets results. Thankfully, the church planters you support in India have it all.

They’re led by Ben Francis, BMS World Mission’s Team Leader in India, a mission worker never found silent when given the chance to express his passion for Jesus. Ben is at the forefront of an exciting disciple-making movement in his country, and has an inspiring hunger to see people come to faith. Around 45,000 people became Christians last year through the work Ben leads in India. It’s a number that’s easier to understand when you learn that over 8,000 people, who his church planters led to faith, attended training sessions on how to spread the gospel. And at the heart of the training is a simple lesson – never miss a chance to share how the love of Christ has transformed your life.

“People need to share their story whenever they can,” says Ben. “They need to be in the habit of talking about what the Lord has done at every opportunity. To friends, family, neighbours, colleagues, acquaintances, or even people they’re buying things from.

“The conventional method was to go out and bring people back to church. Now, we go out, start a group and tell people to go and start one somewhere else. Multiplication can take place much faster this way.”

Sharing stories is at the core of this multiplication. As is getting to the point quickly. Ben encourages church planters to share their stories of transformation in just three minutes.

“One place where there has been an extraordinary response to the gospel is the state of Odisha (formerly Orissa). You may know about it because you supported our recent appeal focusing on church planting there. Or perhaps you followed the brutal persecution that happened in Odisha a few years ago. Christians are still persecuted by Hindu extremists today in Odisha. They’re beaten. Intimidated. Humiliated. Murdered. Yet, in spite of extreme opposition, Christians...
continue to preach the Word of God – gently, respectfully and boldly. You’ve been supporting more than 40 church planters in the state, and in recent years, they’ve taken the gospel to over 1,600 villages.

If you gave to our Odisha appeal recently, you’re helping Ben’s courageous team take the gospel into more unreached villages. You’re standing alongside them as they risk their lives to share the good news.

And while the work you support in India is amazing, you’re going further, too. By supporting BMS, you’ve been helping Christians in other countries expand their church planting. Ben has been equipping churches in Europe and Asia to better communicate the love of Christ, just as he does in India. Soon you may even get a chance to learn from him in person about how you can start a disciple-making movement where you are.

“If the growth of people coming to faith can happen in India, then it can happen anywhere,” says Ben. “The principles of the Word of God do not change because you’re in India, or China, or anywhere. The Spirit of God energises.”

That energy is sweeping through towns and villages in India. Through homes. And through lives, as disciples make disciples. You’re already making it possible. And we’re excited for what comes next.

Christians face extreme persecution in Odisha, India, yet people are still accepting Christ into their lives.

Learn more from the World Church

Ben Francis is just one of the incredibly gifted mission workers you’re mobilising from the World Church. If you’d like to learn more about successful missional approaches in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, come to BMS’ new learning event called How to Mission, on 8-10 July 2019!

All the details are available at www.bmsworldmission.org/howtomission

TOP TIPS FOR EVANGELISM

Want to be better at sharing your faith? Ben’s top ten tips may help you!

1. Pray
   First, before you do anything: pray.

2. Make contact
   You have to get people’s attention before you present them with hope. It could be as simple as saying, “Hi, how are you?” to your neighbours.

3. Deepen relationships
   Use the relationships you already have, with people whose paths you regularly cross.

4. Share the simple gospel message
   Once we have made a connection we ask, “Will you open your home that we can come in and tell you more about Jesus?” Then we go to their houses and start sharing the gospel.

5. Renew your confidence in the gospel
   The gospel still has the power to save, to heal, to restore and to give hope for eternity.

6. Share your story
   Start gossiping Jesus wherever you go. Start sharing your story and there will be a change. And the best bit about it is that it is your story, so no-one can refute it.

7. Practise
   Our story has three parts – life before knowing Jesus; when we came to know Jesus; how we are living today. You just need a minute for each section.

8. Wait for God to show up
   No evangelism is complete without a supernatural element: there may be a dream, there may be answer to prayer.

9. Expect miracles
   Miracles don’t just happen where they are needed, they happen where they are expected.

10. K.I.S.S. Keep It Straight and Simple
    Keep sharing your story and keep it simple. If something’s working, keep at it!
You can call me **Samara**

It’s not my real name. But it means ‘protected by God’ – which I am.

I love my God. I love my children. I love learning. And I want to tell you my story.

I was forced to marry when I was just 16 years old. I’d always had this dream that when I got married, I would have this perfect family, so different from the one I grew up in. But my husband was a violent man, and he abused me and our children. In his eyes, he always had power over me because to him a woman is worth less than half a man.

It was hell, but I was afraid to leave. My parents were divorced, and I knew how badly my society in this part of the Middle East looks at divorced women. But I also knew I couldn’t let my children grow up in the same environment I did. So, after eight years of marriage, my husband and I separated. But my kids had to stay with their father.

My only thought was to get a good job, a good income, so I could get custody of my kids back. When I eventually got a job, everyone looked down on me because I was divorced. I never had any individuality or value. And because of everything that had happened in my life, I always thought God hated me. I reached rock bottom and I attempted suicide. But then I remembered my step brother.

We’d kicked him out of our family because he was a Christian. But I started to remember what he had told me about Jesus, about how he sees men and women as equal. So, I spoke to him and he told me to read the Bible. But after a year and a half of studying, I still didn’t fully believe that the Bible was the true Word of God. So, I decided to put the books aside and pray.

I yelled out to God: “If you created me, if you gave me this mind to think, and this heart to feel, then you’re the only one who can give rest to my heart and my mind!”

The whole room lit up and someone appeared. They wiped my tears and said, “Don’t be afraid. I am here.” I knew it was Jesus and I gave my life to him that night.

After that, things started to get better. I got involved in a church and I started my ministry. I kept reading my Bible, always striving to learn more. I had a passion for theology, and I knew God would do powerful
things in my life. And he did: I got custody of my kids back, even though their father didn't want me to, because I wasn't living the Islamic life he wanted. He still needed to have control over our lives. He threatened to kill the kids and he tried to throw acid at me. So I started to think about leaving... I wanted my children to have a better life, and I still had a passion to study theology, so I wanted to move my family to Lebanon. But my children didn't have passports and they needed their father's permission to leave. So I prayed. I said, "Lord, if you want me to stay, I will stay, and I know you will provide for me. And if you want me to leave, I know you will make it possible." I surrendered everything to God and doors started to open. I was able to get my children's passports legally and I prepared everything. On the day we were supposed to travel, a friend who worked at the airport told me I wouldn't be able to travel that day. A woman with a similar case to mine had tried to leave but she wasn't allowed to travel with her kids. But that didn't stop me. I said to my friend, "Tonight, I am sleeping in Beirut." And it went so smoothly that I didn't even stand at the counter for long, he just stamped my passport and we left.

Now we have our new life in Lebanon. I have a strong trust in the Lord that no person can shake. God allowed me to fulfil my passion to study theology at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS). I've got to know him more and more, and my trust in him is always growing. All my life before was destruction and abuse and darkness. But now, I have found my identity in Christ. And in my opinion, it's the best identity you can ever have.

Interview by Jonathan Langley, written by Laura Durrant.

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Samara has always relied on prayer to get her through her darkest moments. Please pray today:

1. For and her children, that they continue to find safety, and that they know the presence of God casting out all fear in their lives.

2. For the students at a BMS-supported theological seminary serving in the Middle East and North Africa. Pray that they use what they've learnt to show the love of God in communities hostile to the gospel in the majority Muslim World.

3. For the teachers at that seminary. Pray that they use their wisdom to inspire and encourage their students.

4. For survivors of domestic abuse across the world. Pray that they would find places of safety, and that they would come to know the good Father.

By supporting BMS World Mission, you're enabling inspiring Christians like Samara to study theology and become leaders in the Body of Christ. This year, you've paid for four full scholarships for future Christian leaders in the Middle East who could never have funded themselves. Thank you!
Dear friends,

France is well-known to many British brothers and sisters as an attractive holiday destination, yet our spiritual reality is so different to yours.

France is a mission field, in the sense that so few people know the gospel. Around 30 per cent of the French population describe themselves as being convinced atheists. And even though 65 per cent of the population call themselves Catholic, only four per cent regularly attend church. Protestants represent two per cent of the population, including 600,000 evangelical Christians. There are 16 times more Baptist churches in the UK than in France. Islam is the second largest religion in the country with four million believers.

We see our work in France as being bridge builders. We’re a bridge between God and non-Christians, as we often meet Christians who do not know how to read their Bibles or who have lost their passion for Scripture. We organise teaching sessions and Bible studies, and people frequently tell us of the renewed joy that they feel in reading Scripture. Some have even told us that they feel like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, with their hearts burning within them as they study God’s word (Luke 24: 32).

BMS is an important partner in our ministry. Seventeen years ago, we spent a year in a Baptist church in Essex, thanks to the support of BMS. We are still in strong contact with this church in Billericay. It is so good to feel part of a wider family when you so often stand alone in ministry.

Whenever you come to France, pay a visit to the local Baptist church. We are not far away, but we have so many needs! Please keep on supporting and praying for France.

Thank you.

Samuel and Valerie

Samuel and Valerie Duval are serving God in their native France, supported by BMS World Mission. Samuel is a Baptist minister, planting a church near Montpellier, while Valerie is a biblical scholar, teaching in theological seminaries and working as a Bible translator.
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 two!

I thought it was so powerful
I’ve just finished reading Issue 43 of Engage magazine and wanted to write and say thank you for producing such a readable and informative magazine. I thought the format and wording of the article from the BMS worker in the ‘country which could not be named’ was so powerful. Having participated in the Life’s First Cry project, it was really encouraging to read what a tangible difference has been made to those families – not only in lives saved but in relationships between husbands and wives improved too.

God’s peace to you all and God’s blessings to Sarah as she embarks on the next exciting phase of her life.
Bev Farrow
Goodshaw Baptist Church

Enjoying good news stories from Afghanistan
I have very much enjoyed reading the latest edition of Engage, particularly the article about the mothers of Afghanistan in relation to Life’s First Cry.

In March, I will be running the Jerusalem marathon and plan to raise some money towards this project.

Additionally, I am currently based at an RAF base and run a Bible study group here. I am planning to promote Life’s First Cry as a possible charity of the year. Being in the military we have strong ties with Afghanistan both in the past and in current operations. It is great to hear positive stories coming out from this troubled country.

Best wishes,
Jo

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Great copy but better as a soft copy sent through the ether.
Chris Russell
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CONFLICT SURVIVORS

Look out for our new South Sudan’s Conflict Survivors DVD, and ask your minister to do a special offering for the appeal in your church.

Let’s not forget our South Sudanese brothers and sisters this year.

www.bmsworldmission.org/survivors