

A photograph of a woman with a bindi and nose ring, wearing a red turtleneck, smiling as she combs the hair of a young girl. The girl is also smiling and looking at the camera. She is wearing a pink sweater with a yellow patch. The background is slightly blurred. A large purple semi-circle is at the bottom of the image, containing the title text.

TRANSFORMING LIVES **BMS WORLD MISSION**

IMPACT REPORT 2023



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A word of introduction

Dear friends,

The Impact Report has made it to a second year and we hope, like last year, it demonstrates the powerful ways in which God has been working through your support during these last 12 months.

As this report gives us pause to look back, Ukraine is so close to the heart of our memories. As news of the war reached us at BMS World Mission, our thoughts turned to our partners in Donbas. Long before the turmoil made headlines, Baptist churches in that region were responding to wartime conditions. Our phone lines began ringing constantly as you, our supporters, and many who had never given to BMS, demonstrated an unprecedented outpouring of love and generosity.

The war set off seismic waves of devastation for those already struggling as the cost of fuel and food soared. In July, our eyes were raised by cries from our partners and workers alerting us to alarming collapses of living conditions in their countries. You redirected your support to our Global Cost of Living appeal, aimed at meeting the increased needs of those on the margins. Through your support for those falling outside the headlines, transformation was achieved with imagination and innovation, notably in Uganda, where agricultural projects set up in response to the crisis have taken root.

As the year drew to a close, we asked you to remember Afghanistan with our Christmas appeal, where those already hurting from the shift in power in 2021 are now also burdened with the global crisis. You humbled us with your willingness to support our mission workers in setting up agricultural projects that can generate food, income and hope for desperate communities.

The year may have felt heavy, but God remained faithful. We pray this is reflected within these pages – that as you read of the work you enabled, you encounter a God who remains infinitely loving and intimately concerned about the detail of our lives.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Dr Kang-San Tan
General Director



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Rev Marc Owen
Chair of the Board of Trustees

OUR VISION

To respond, with your support, to the suffering and injustice of a troubled world with the hope of abundant life in Christ.

OUR MISSION

To harness your provision of prayer and gifts, to work where the gospel is known least and where suffering and injustice are most widely experienced.

HOW WE DO IT

Through partnerships, to bring hope to a troubled world, a heart for the gospel to where it's not known, and help for the journeys of the displaced.





Heart for the gospel

Your support for BMS takes the good news of Jesus to places where it's never been known. Every year, thousands of people in the hardest-to-reach countries hear the gospel through BMS' work.

Hope for the world

BMS supporters deliver practical help to people in desperate circumstances. By providing pathways to education, flourishing livelihoods and good healthcare for those with the fewest opportunities, you tackle injustice and suffering, and bring hope to the world.

Help for the journey

More people than ever find themselves displaced – by war, natural disasters or persecution. Whether dispersed within their own countries or forced across borders, your prayers and donations mean people on the move are met with support, shelter and a warm welcome.

Threaded through all the work that you make possible are the twin callings of creation stewardship and gender justice, without which abundant life in Christ is not possible.

Cost of living: you shone hope into the brokenness

Global Cost of Living appeal

The war in Ukraine rightly occupied much news space last year, but as its effects spread further afield, marginalised communities suffering the impact failed to make the spotlight. The global nature of our work meant we knew early on, from our mission workers and partners, that the global cost of living crisis was having a devastating effect on many other countries.

In July, we set up our Global Cost of Living appeal to start directing your gifts to these other places, where fuel and food prices were on the rise, sometimes more than doubling, bringing people to the brink of starvation and destitution. Incredibly, you raised more than £96,000 to support projects in Uganda, Lebanon and Nepal that are helping families to weather this crisis, as well as shoring up similar work across the world.

In Uganda, exploitative middlemen were set to make a tidy profit from farmers who could no longer afford to transport their crops to market themselves. A farmer like Richard, living in Gulu, was already struggling to feed his family, sometimes surviving on just one meal a day. Our international mission workers, Benon and Genesis, devised a way to help farmers avoid exploitation with a project they called 'Cek Cam', meaning 'abundant food', which aims to cut out the middleman altogether.

With your gifts, they were able to arrange storage facilities for the farmers, allowing them to store their produce and wait until market prices are high before selling. Produce sold this way mean farmers like Richard can earn as much as 35% more.

The people of Lebanon have been especially hard hit by the economic crisis. Triple-digit inflation has left around 80% of the population in Lebanon in poverty, with 90% wiped off the value of salaries since 2019. At the same time, they are hosting the highest number of refugees per capita and per square kilometre in the world. Your gifts have allowed BMS partners in Lebanon to shine hope into the brokenness. Maha and her family, who fled Aleppo in 2013 with nothing, have found two lifelines since settling there: a BMS-supported Church Learning Centre where their children are receiving an education, and their faith in Jesus.

These are just a couple of snapshots of lives you are transforming in places of great struggle, where even the smallest gifts are bringing eternal change.



You raised almost
£100,000 to
support those
on the brink of
destitution

You helped
Ugandan farmers
to earn **35%**
more from their
crop sales

You created
a safety net for
some of the
80% of Lebanon's
people left in
poverty

FROM MARGINS TO THE CENTRE

Ukraine

"We're in the middle of the largest Baptist response ever... BMS came alongside us straight away."

In his wisdom, Solomon wrote, *"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps"* (Proverbs 16 : 9). In the days before war broke out in Ukraine, we at BMS thought we had our appeals for 2022 mapped out. None of us knew that one of the greatest appeals in our 231-year history was around the corner, unimaginable by us. But God knew. He had already been at work in the hearts of you, our supporters, who channelled money our way from every direction once you caught the news, and in the hearts of our Baptist brothers and sisters across Europe, who were well placed to offer immediate help to those in need.

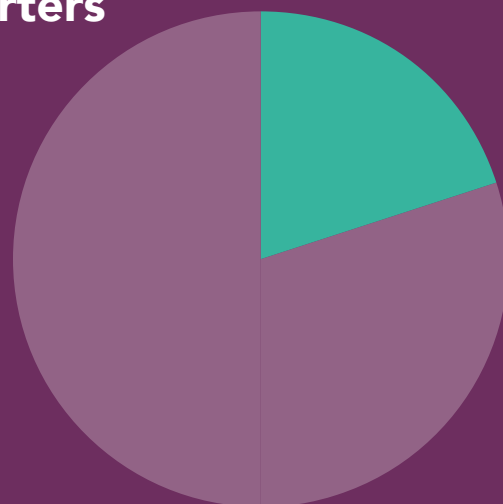
As European Baptist Federation (EBF) General Secretary, Alan Donaldson, shared on stage at Baptist Assembly with BMS Director of Strategy, Steve Sanderson, "There are about 2,500 Baptist churches in Ukraine. Within one day of the war starting, 600 of them had been designated places of refuge." In fact, the Baptist family is the largest Protestant denomination in Ukraine. Through this network of believers, we were able to counter the stories of darkness coming out of the fighting with reports of hope from our partners on the ground – reports of Baptist volunteers helping to build temporary hospitals in Lviv; of a Baptist couple married in the same war-torn district, who spent the days before

their wedding volunteering; of a church established in Severodonetsk to minister to people struggling with addiction, where former alcoholics and drug addicts preached a gospel of personal salvation in the face of the conflict.

Alan Donaldson said, "We're in the middle of the largest Baptist response ever, and that is not a place you want to be alone. BMS came alongside us straight away." As a result of your immediate support you partnered with churches in Ukraine and neighbouring countries through EBF.

According to updates from the Union of Ukrainian Baptists, its churches have been involved in every aspect of the humanitarian response, including evacuation, resettlement, delivery of homecooked food and supplies, and prayer support. And across neighbouring countries, Poland particularly, churches were enabled to step forward by the Baptist family network, and by your ready and generous response to an appeal none of us planned.

20% of the total EBF Ukraine relief fund was contributed by BMS supporters



Afghanistan

When BMS World Mission evacuated from Afghanistan in the summer of 2021, you had been supporting this fragile nation for a quarter of a century. Since then, unemployment rates and inflation in Afghanistan have rocketed, while intense droughts and natural disasters have had a devastating impact on much of the country.

Many agencies struggled to resume their work, yet your persistent prayers helped pave a way for a return in September 2022. Your mission worker Ruby* became a beacon of hope. Through your commitment with your prayers and gifts, most recently to our Afghanistan Christmas appeal, Ruby, who is a BMS agriculturalist, has been equipped to help people like Fazal* and his family in the mountains of rural Afghanistan in desperate need. She has taught them how to farm more effectively and store water safely. In these ways, you helped people survive the bleakest of winters.

And then in December 2022, the de facto authorities in Afghanistan banned Afghan women from working for NGOs. It is hard to overestimate the enormous contributions made by Afghan women in this area of work. In response to the ban, and with our full support, our partner organisation in Afghanistan has paused operations to stand in solidarity with its female staff.

And so we lament another pause to the work in this wonderful country. The gifts received for Afghanistan will help those in need as soon as it is practicable for the projects you make possible to resume. Until that time, while our partner works

with other NGOs to lobby the Government, we invite you to pray. Mary*, a BMS World Mission worker who served in Afghanistan until the evacuations in 2021, encouraged us with her words for the nation:

"My hope is that people will remember from these past 20 years that life can be different... My hope is that God will turn this around."

And for that we desperately need people to pray and to keep praying for Afghanistan."



*The names of Ruby, Fazal and Mary have been changed for security reasons.

HEART FOR THE GOSPEL

Your support for BMS takes the good news of Jesus to places where it's never been known. Every year, thousands of people in the hardest-to-reach countries hear the gospel through BMS' work. We will use all we have learnt over the decades to train mission workers to break new ground, and we will send people from all directions in all directions.

Across Asia, you have helped build collaborations with partners to establish a mission hub in India, which recruits and trains mission workers to be co-sent across the region. This training is inspired by the call to go forth and multiply, in this case through reproductive leadership. The hubs create a movement that begins with disciples, who grow into leaders, who plant churches, which create disciples. One such leader is Vinèet Kumar, who you will meet on page 13.

Your support for BMS takes the good news of Jesus to places where it's never been known.

Over in Thailand, since the first person in the village of Wang Daeng came to know Christ in 2018, the church has been growing steadily, and is now thriving. You can read more about the mustard seed ministry taking shape in the village just over the page.

Mission to North Africa remains in an exploratory phase, both in terms of building sustainable partnerships and in the approach to training and sending people into such volatile and sensitive areas. Elsewhere, you have made possible a return to work and helped grow our presence in countries such as Guinea, where the Word of Jesus has rarely been heard.



IMPACT BY NUMBERS

625 Mission workers and BMS-supported partner workers across the globe (target: 300)

107 Church planters co-supported by BMS across India

1,044 Churches planted in hard-to-reach locations (target: 208)

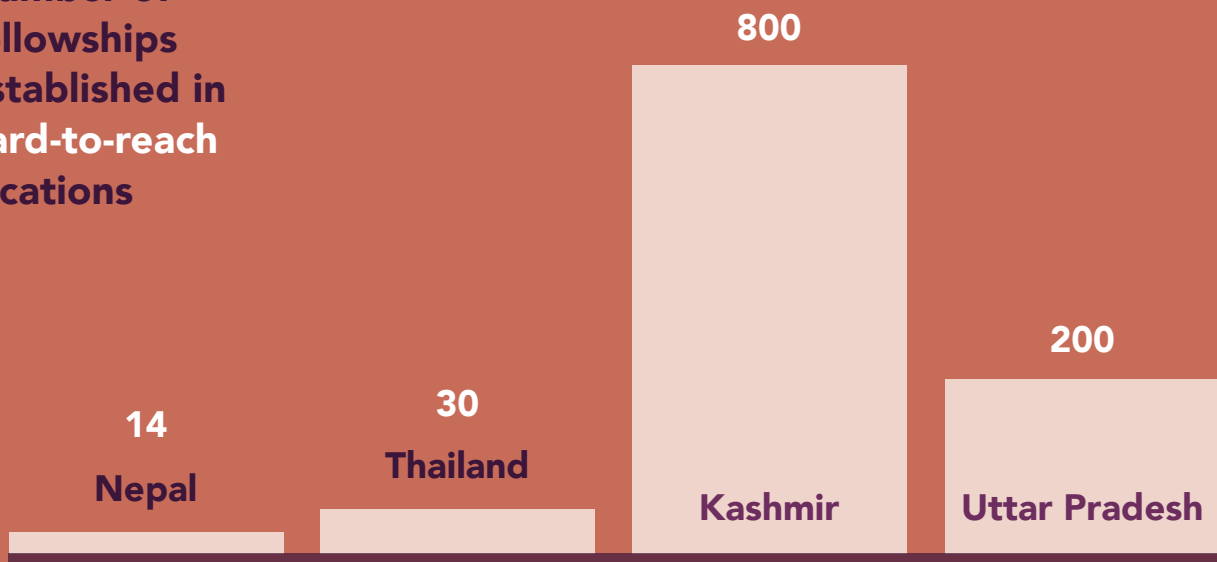
57,000 People involved in associated churches and Christian networks

LOOKING FORWARD

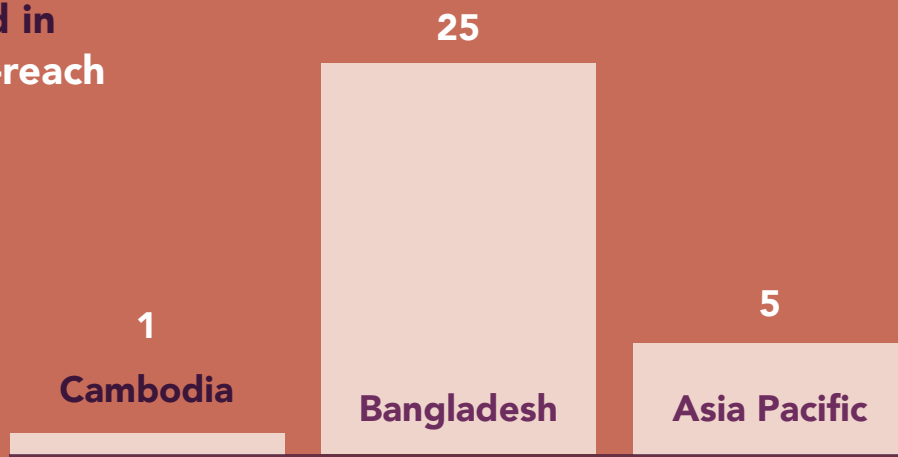
The mission training hubs that were part of last year's 'looking forward' are now taking root.

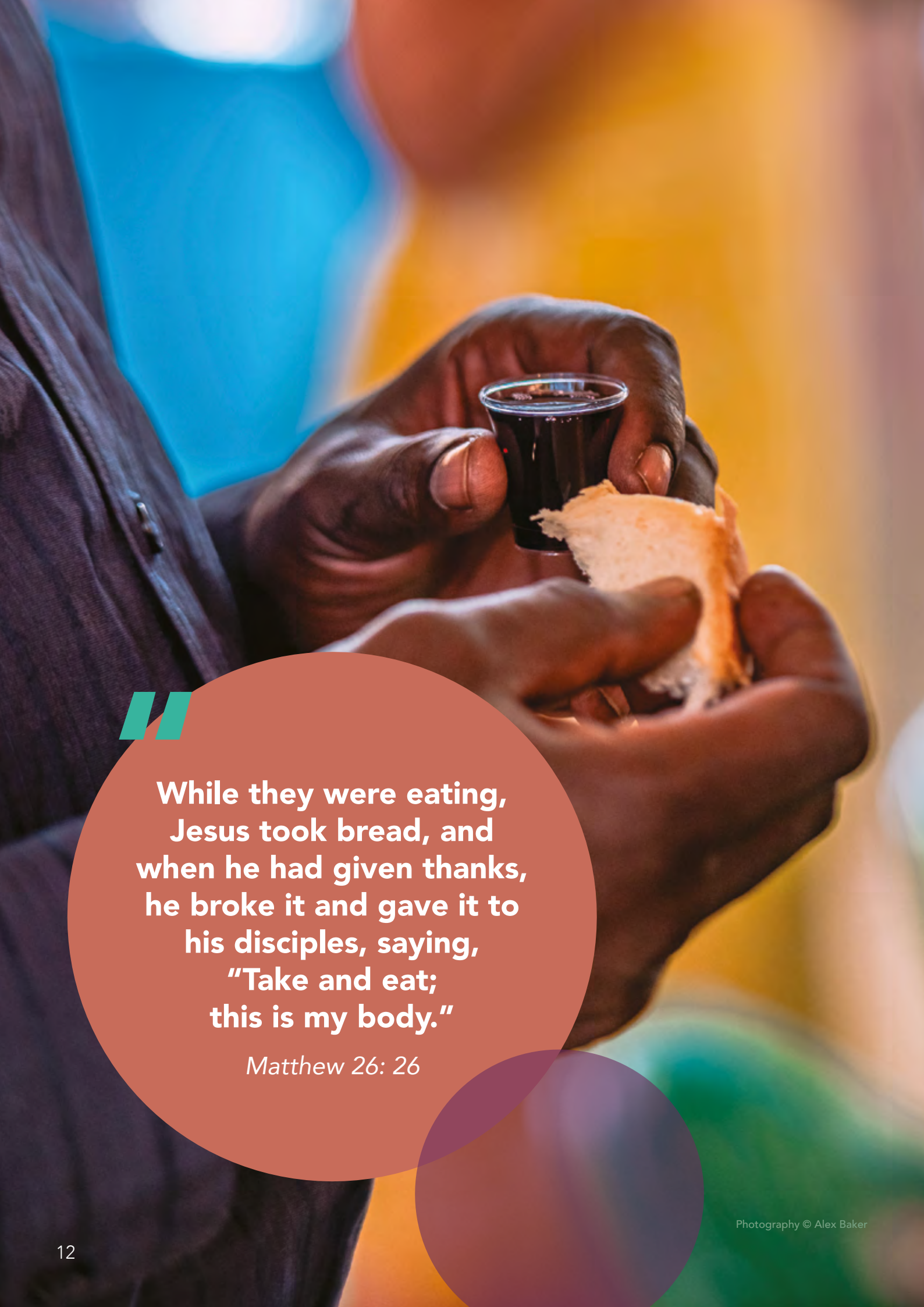
The next stage for all of these hubs is for those trained to go and live out their calling in their local contexts. Thanks to your prayers and support, the fruits of this can be seen across India, where churches are being planted and hubs are becoming self-funding, which liberates BMS and our partners. The future focus is how to create sustainable funding and growth for the training hubs outside of India, where the vast increase in people playing a part in mission gives grounds for real optimism. Your prayers inspire us into the hardest-to-reach places and, as partnerships become established in North Africa, we pray the next 12 months will bring stories of progress.

Number of fellowships established in hard-to-reach locations



Number of fellowships established in hardest-to-reach locations





**While they were eating,
Jesus took bread, and
when he had given thanks,
he broke it and gave it to
his disciples, saying,
“Take and eat;
this is my body.”**

Matthew 26: 26

Outreach to the 'rat eaters'

In collaboration with sister organisation, the Baptist Church Trust Association, you enabled us to establish a mission training hub outside Delhi, with a focus on equipping young leaders to share the gospel in their local context. One of the leaders, Vinèet Kumar, realised the need for outreach to the forgotten people in his area. Vinèet set up a literacy centre for children among the Musahar (in Bhojpuri it literally means 'rat eater' on account of their traditional occupation as rat catchers). Within three months he baptised 22 people from this group, and a church was initiated. Slowly he started training leaders from among them, and today they have planted ten churches within this no-longer-forgotten people group.



New life in Christ in Thailand

The rural community in Wang Daeng where Helen and Wit Boondeekhun felt called to serve had questioned why they would even want to be there in the first place. Helen and Wit persisted to discover what the community needed right from its heart. They started with English classes and a basket weaving project to help women earn money. They built lasting friendships and started sharing the gospel. Since the first villager came to know Christ in 2018, the church has been growing steadily. Around 20 people attend Sunday worship, and a youth worker, Fluk, has joined the team, thanks to your support. In a sign of God's work in Wang Daeng and in the hearts of the people of Thailand, the church leadership has passed on to Thai couple, Moses and Mary.



Visions of light in Mauritania

In Albaset market in a village about 400 miles from Nouakchott in Mauritania, three people entered not knowing each other, yet sat together. One could not contain himself and shared the vision he had had of Jesus coming to him and speaking in his own dialect. The second man had had the same vision, and the third. Five more came forward sharing the same vision, which had appeared to each of them at the same time. The story reached our partner Biglife, and Brother Sidi* travelled to the area. The eight men surrendered their lives to the Lord; two of them asked to be baptised despite the danger to their lives. Brother Sidi baptised them, and the rest will be baptised soon.



*Name have been changed for security reasons.

HOPE FOR THE WORLD

Your support delivers practical and spiritual help to people in desperate circumstances. By providing pathways to education, flourishing livelihoods and good healthcare for those with the fewest opportunities, you tackle injustice and suffering, and bring hope to the world.

You make possible work that aims to bring abundant life to those with the fewest opportunities, who are furthest behind and are the most excluded. BMS sends skilled mission workers to places and partners in the world's poorest countries. As surgeons at an understaffed, underfunded hospital in Bardai, a remote region in the north of Chad, Andrea and Mark Hotchkin are a great example of this type of work.

You make possible work with local churches, who are best placed to bring to life community transformation. In Bangladesh, Louise and Peter Lynch partner with the Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha to respond in communities where the need is greatest. They create programmes to help now and in the future, such as providing waterproof bags to school children in monsoon-hit Rangpur District and helping to establish the first Baptist youth mission programme in the country.

We can do more together than we ever could alone

Through partnerships with established and trusted local agencies, we can do more together than we ever could alone. For example, in Nepal, we work alongside the Multipurpose Community Development Service, who come alongside villages to improve all aspects of life, including health, sanitation, water management and education.



IMPACT BY NUMBERS

8 Baptist conventions in high-risk regions trained in disaster risk mitigation (target: 2)

1,900 People using new professional skills in everyday practice (target: 1,000)

7,500 People trained in community-led model of building churches (target: 300)

52,000 Community members benefiting from BMS-supported work in poorest countries* (target: 50,000)

* according to the Multidimensional Poverty Index

LOOKING FORWARD

As the BMS approach to mission continues to shift in the direction of partnerships and resourcing local workers to tackle local suffering, your prayers are needed over the next 12 months for even more local solutions.

While at the time of writing, the work you make possible in Afghanistan is paused in solidarity with the female Afghan workers, the hope is that vital work there resumes as soon as possible. It took a lot of your prayers and financial sacrifice to make return a reality and your mission workers are eager to honour that. Global instability in 2023, in the shape of political and economic collapse in Sri Lanka and Lebanon, and extreme weather in Chad, Uganda and Bangladesh, means the work in those areas remains as necessary as ever.

Number of lives impacted by country



Number of people putting new skills training into practice





Our target is
to see the lives of
250,000 marginalised
community members
changed by 2025

Photography © Alex Baker

Victory twice over in Uganda

Your prayers and gifts have long sustained our partner the Ugandan Christian Lawyers Fellowship (UCLF) as they work to educate and protect the rights of the most marginalised. One example is the case an elderly man, Luzzi Francis. He had been dragged to court by a rich neighbour who took wrongful possession of Luzzi's smallholding (kibanja), his only means of providing for his family and dependents. UCLF fought for Luzzi's rights and kept encouraging him in the Lord. At last in 2022, after years of disputes, the case was decided in Luzzi's favour, and he has been able to return to farming peacefully. After the conclusion of the case, Luzzi came to the UCLF offices to share his decision to commit his life to Jesus Christ.



Village transformation in Nepal

Last year, we asked you to pray that God would bless our work in Nepali villages. We're so thankful for the tangible ways in which your prayer was answered: notably in the incredible sum BMS supporters raised for Good Land, our harvest appeal. You raised a total of £168,761 to support work in villages like Ghusel, high in Nepal's Himalayas. Partnership became the beating heart of Good Land, guiding who would be at the centre of this appeal. It wasn't BMS workers, with our ideas, aspirations and dreams, but the people of Ghusel who knew exactly how to improve life in their community. Thank you for making that change possible, bringing amazing improvements to education, livelihoods and clean water practices in Ghusel – and transforming lives forever.



X-rays hit the spot in Chad

We could write about the many patients who have had an X-ray since your prayers bore fruit and the machine was put in place, and the many who thought they would like to have an X-ray but had to be told that it wasn't quite as simple as having a picture taken for fun. This, however, is about an eight-year-old girl who arrived at the hospital complaining of lumps in her neck. It looked like a case of tuberculosis (TB), and BMS mission worker Mark Hotchkin thought he would have to take a biopsy under anaesthetic. Instead, he could take an X-ray, which confirmed TB in her lungs. Mark writes, "It is so much easier to be able to diagnose TB this way. We know there will be many others who can now have their problems diagnosed here in Bardai rather than facing a long journey just for an X-ray. Thank you for being part of a truly life-saving development."



HELP FOR THE JOURNEY

More people than ever find themselves displaced – by war, natural disasters or persecution. Whether dispersed within their own countries or forced across borders, your prayers and donations mean people on the move are met with support, shelter and a warm welcome.

This unprecedented displacement is a sign of the world's fragility. Your support helps overcome this fragility by improving services in origin countries, partnerships of humanity in places of transit networks of Christian welcome in destination countries.

As part of building up communities in fragile countries, BMS mission worker and agricultural expert Ruby* created a 'food forest'. She works

in communities where the winter snow melt can mean the difference between having enough to eat in the spring or facing utter despair.

As part of our mission to establish partnerships of humanity, we're working with a new partner on the Greek island of Lesbos, home to the Mavrovouni refugee camp. The first project of this partnership is the construction and running of a women's centre, which includes everything from showers to laundry services, a hospitality area and a 'shop' to distribute clothes.

After years of continued catastrophe, your commitment has enabled networks of Christian welcome through our longstanding partners in Lebanon. They work alongside local churches to implement relief projects for vulnerable individuals and families – families like that of Imane, a Syrian refugee in Beirut. "The food prices are out of this world," she says. But the voucher she received from the church made a big difference.

*Name changed.



IMPACT BY NUMBERS

46 Percentage of mission workers in poorest countries* (target by 2025: 66%)

80 Percentage of people receiving vital skills for 'destination life' (target: 80%)

168 People trained to help reach refugees (target: 96)

10,500 Displaced people cared for while on the move (target: 400)

* according to the Multidimensional Poverty Index

LOOKING FORWARD

The arrival of Sam Chaise to lead our 'People on the move' work is exciting news and a real answer to prayer.

With Sam in mind and looking ahead across the next 12 months, we need your prayers for more people trained to work with refugees. This includes developing a partnership designed to train Arabic and Farsi-speaking mission workers in western Europe. Through your incredible generosity responding to the Ukraine crisis, this work with people on the move has really grown, and so the next focus – and need for prayer – is on improving how to support refugees once they reach their destination. We are currently exploring new partnerships to increase our presence in destination countries and ask you to watch this space – and pray – over the coming year.

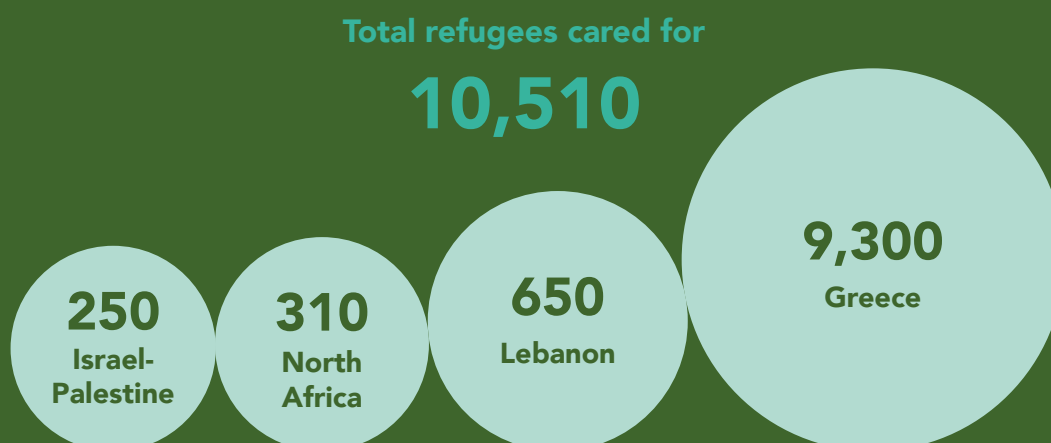


Sam Chaise

Number of lives impacted by country



Number of refugees cared for by country/region





**Thank you for shower.
Thank you for laundry.
Thank you for food. Thank
you for all this place.**

*Woman at BMS-supported
facility outside Mavrovouni
refugee camp,
Lesbos, Greece*

Why they love Mondays in Lebanon

In Lebanon, our partner operates a number of church-based learning centres. One of the teachers shared this with us recently: "I have never met such grateful kids, welcoming every act of kindness like a golden opportunity. 'Who's happy it's a Monday?' I asked, not expecting positive feedback. One of my pupils replied, 'We love Monday because it means we come to school.'" When you live with a refugee status stamped on you, you cannot escape your vulnerability in an already collapsing country. Syrian refugees, and many Lebanese families, now live below the poverty line on less than £1 a day, but our partner's holistic approach to ministry gives every child hope.



Finding peace amid desperation in Lesbos

Lesbos is a key location on the perilous journey known as the Eastern Mediterranean route, travelled by desperate people fleeing from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. It is why BMS is partnered with an organisation working on the Greek island. They run services near Mavrovouni refugee camp. Recently, a refugee asked to volunteer with our partner. She said she had been able to find peace in that place from the first time she came to pick up food from the foodbank. In some of their conversations, our partner workers were able to tell her that Jesus is the one who gives us peace. They prayed for her over her passport application. The next day, she came back and said she was so happy because she had received a positive decision. She said, "I know that God did this for me."



Protection from persecution in the Middle East

Husband and wife Mike and Sabreen come from Egypt, where they faced severe persecution after their Christian conversion became known to their families. They fled to Turkey. Once there, BMS' on-the-ground partner was able to help Mike find a job, meaning he could support his family in their new home. Unfortunately Mike lost that job when his employer looked on his Facebook page and found Christian content. Mike has since found part-time work, but it has not been enough, especially when Sabreen urgently needed an operation. As a result of our partner's support, Sabreen was able to undergo surgery and receive three months of vital post-operative care, allowing Mike to keep the family together and a roof over their head.



CELEBRATING SUPPORTERS

None of all that has featured over the last 21 pages could have happened without your incredible financial and prayerful generosity.

From the small, quiet prayer at your desk when a story of transformation drops into your email inbox to a fundraising event involving the whole church community, it all makes a difference. We are constantly surprised and inspired by the tales that reach us of your acts of kindness and sacrifice.

We also know that there may be many stories that we never hear about, or when we do, it is in the form of an answered prayer or an unmarked cheque. You make all this work possible, and for that we remain always grateful.

If you would like to see the full statement of BMS finances, please visit our website and search for "Annual accounts".



THANK YOU!

LEAVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

**By leaving a gift to
BMS World Mission
in your will, you can
transform lives for
generations to come**

For more details scan
the QR below or visit:
www.bmsworldmission.org/legacies





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BMS World Mission

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