



HISTORY-MAKING MISSION



BMS workers Pete and Lou make mission history with Pastors Nandita and Jyoti!

In November 2022, the Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha (BBCS) gathered to mark the 225-year anniversary of BMS World Mission founder William Carey's arrival in Bengal. More than 3,000 Bangladeshi Baptists came together to celebrate this milestone, along with BMS General Director Kang-San Tan, Head of BMS Trustees Marc Owen, and BMS workers Louise and Peter Lynch.

The theme chosen for the anniversary was Revelation 2: 25, which looks towards our future hope as believers: "...hold on to what you have been given until I come." As Louise explained, "The whole idea of the celebration is to go forward, looking into how we can share the gospel even more successfully across Bangladesh!"

A hugely exciting part of this for BBCS was the work Louise and Peter have been doing behind the scenes with BBCS to prepare the way for the ordination of their first female pastors, Jyoti Ratner and Nandita Sharkar! As the Lynches shared in their November prayer letter:

"Jyoti and Nandita are our friends and we have seen their patient service irrespective of recognition. So, it has been really good to have been part of the behind-the-scenes team within BBCS working towards this day, and to pray for these women as they develop, train and support the next generation. The very public inclusion and affirmation of these women also, I think, communicated something about how BBCS leadership wants to be."

225 years on, our understanding of mission has changed and so has the church in Bangladesh. As Kang-San put it, "Jesus Christ's sacrifice is available for all, young and old, female and male to participate fully in the leadership of the church."

To read more about these celebrations and the new direction of mission, visit www.bmsworldmission.org/celebration

DAY OF PRAYER 2023

Sunday 5 February 2023

We'd love you to join our annual Day of Prayer, individually or in your church families! For ideas and resources, from handy PowerPoints to prayers requests, head to www.bmsworldmission.org/day-of-prayer

In gathering to pray, you'll be joining churches across the UK in committing the work of world mission to the Lord.



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A YEAR IN THE FIGHT FOR GENDER JUSTICE



Annet Ttendo-Miller is passionate about fighting for justice for women around the world.

Just under a year ago, in February 2022, Annet Ttendo-Miller took on the newly created role of BMS World Mission's Gender Justice Co-ordinator.

Her previous work meant she brought with her a wealth of experience, working as she had as a lawyer for two of our partners, the Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity (UCLF) and the Mozambican Association of Christian Lawyers (AMAC), both organisations with a strong history of tackling gender justice.

At BMS, Annet is continuing her work with those same partners, amongst others, collaborating with them to combat the scourge of gender-based violence. This work takes various forms, one being legal assistance offered to victims and their families. An example of this was in the case of two young women violently murdered by a boyfriend, which lawyers at UCLF pursued all the way to the Ugandan High Court, providing the family of the deceased with legal support and counselling. The accused was ultimately convicted. "Without [UCLF's] persistence and Christ-inspired determination, there is no way in a patriarchal society like Uganda the case would ordinarily have made it so far," Annet explains.

AMAC is doing similarly important work with BMS. Education is another powerful tool in the fight against gender-based violence and AMAC's legal education officer, António Chico Gouca Manuel, has been a key figure behind a revolutionary new app used by hundreds of Mozambicans in the last 12 months. The app, called Juris, provides up-to-date information on subjects such as the legal age of marriage and marital rights and duties to a section of society long denied such knowledge.

"In the last year alone, AMAC has handled 12 domestic violence cases," says Annet, "and 500 beneficiaries in the community have received trainings on topics related to domestic violence, child marriages, children's rights and protection, land rights and marriage laws."

This is just a snippet of the work we are doing to counter gender-based violence. To explore this area more fully, go to www.bmsworldmission.org/genderjustice



YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE CHILDREN OF UKRAINE

You enabled war survivors to attend a summer camp in Poland.

Because you gave to the BMS Ukraine appeal, you made it possible for Ukrainian children to attend youth camps run by churches in Poland this summer. The summer camps were made available to children across the country and built on work already being done by Polish churches to develop relationships with Ukrainian families through English and sports classes, Sunday schools, teen and youth meetings and family meetings. The camps involved trips to the beach, swimming, trampolining, singing and more.

Even through the despair of war, you've given these children the chance to be children again, the chance to have fun together, play together and pray together. Thank you.

To hear more about the lives you are transforming, sign up to *Engage*, the BMS magazine by heading to www.bmsworldmission.org/engage

DISASTER RECOVERY

Because you give, people living through disasters and crises across the world can get the help they need. Thank you for partnering with us in this vital work.

Lebanon, cost of living support: £28,500

Your gifts have allowed us to support our Lebanese partners and their families through the loss in value of their salaries, sustaining them in their mission work.

Uganda, relief for floods: £6,400

Over 600 people affected by recent flooding have been given emergency relief to meet basic needs in the face of hunger and disease.

Chad, relief for floods: £14,700

You have assisted staff members at Guinebor II Hospital in Chad, also affected by devastating floods, to rebuild their lives, enabling the work of the hospital to continue.

Nepal, safeguarding a hospital: £15,200

A hospital frequently at risk from natural disasters is being provided with emergency response items and training for staff to reduce the damage of potential disasters.