

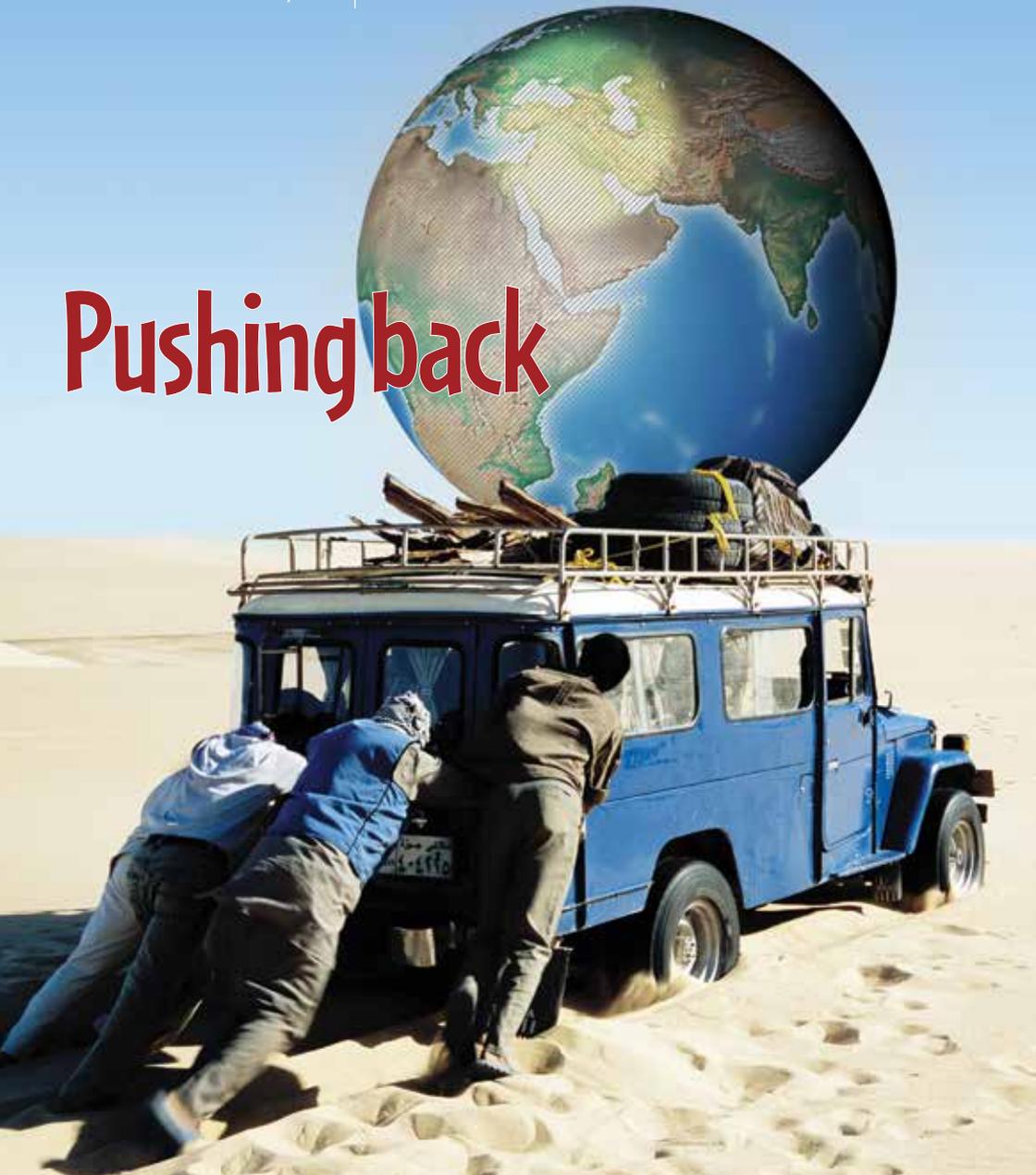
meco

MAGAZINE

ISSUE 4, 2015

international

Pushing back



Includes: Fleeing for their lives

■ Privilege and tension

■ Book reviews

KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE AND AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR ROLE IN THE MINISTRY OF MECO



PUSHING BACK

In this issue of the magazine you will discover articles about people pushing back against the circumstances they face. You'll also read about the privilege and tension of ministry, final highlights from David Garrison's book, *A Wind in the House of Islam*, and book reviews from some of our colleagues.

We hope the articles will inspire and encourage you to pray for God's work in the Middle East and the people who carry out that work.

Please note that in some cases stock photos, pseudonyms* or initials have been used for security reasons

 **If you would like to receive MECO's monthly prayer guide please email: info@aboutmec.org**

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS? EMAIL: INFO@ABOUTMECO.ORG  

MECO International is an interdenominational fellowship of evangelical Christians.

Our vision is to see the love of Jesus Christ lived and proclaimed in the Middle East.

Our mission is to support Middle East Christians in sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

This includes prayer, example, service, partnering with churches, training and development, and encouraging church planting.

Our strategy is to work in fellowship with Christians, churches and agencies in the Middle East, and we come as servants of God's Church in the Middle East.

Our priority is to mobilise and equip people and prayer for the Middle East.

MECO International Magazine is published four times a year and can be read online at www.mecoglobal.org

Editorial Team: Mike Parker, Chris Grantham, Linda Haist

Graphic Design: Eugene Pawczuk
Photography: Some photographs are supplied by istockphoto.com and may feature models.



Scan with a smart phone to go to our webpage

GET IN TOUCH



AUSTRALIA

PO Box 136, Kerrimuir, Victoria 3129
(03) 9898 0077
office@mec.org.au



CANADA

PO Box 610, Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Y5
(905) 335 7329
canada@aboutmec.org



NEW ZEALAND

PO Box 76656, Manukau, Auckland 2241
(09) 263 6819
info@mec.org.nz



SOUTH AFRICA

PostNet Suite 414, Private Bag X37,
Lynnwood Ridge 0040
(084) 623 5962 sa@aboutmec.org



UK & IRELAND

22 Culverden Park Road
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9RA
(01892) 521541
uk@aboutmec.org
Registered Charity 272327

The view from here

Before pilots start their engines and taxi to the runway, a little truck comes to push their planes back. Like that little truck, Christians in the Middle East are pushing back.

■ **Pushing back** against the flow of people out of the Middle East.

Christians leaving is a huge challenge for the church in the region. As many struggle to see their place and their future in the region and are tempted to leave, the churches push back. As Nabil Costa of the Lebanese Baptist Society says to leaders in the West, "We don't want your visas; we want your support to live and work and witness as Christians in our country."

MECO's a small but significant part of this counter-movement. Regional church leaders see God's hand in what's going on and urge their people to stay and engage. We're there to encourage the Lord's people. We're willing to be far from family and roots to walk with local Christians. We invest in language and culture, even though we often get it wrong.

■ **Pushing back** against media impressions. An image is worth a thousand words, and pushing back against streaming 24-hour TV is very hard but necessary. As people move around, some historic Christian communities are being driven out and dispersed. Some, but by no means all! What the media presents is not the whole picture.

Church leaders long for us to know their trust in Christ and their churches' witness to His transforming power. Through Facebook, YouTube and satellite

channels we see them praising, praying and declaring God's word to people who are asking questions they would not have dared ask before. Many are finding themselves being drawn to Christ as the wind of the Spirit is blowing.

■ **Pushing back** against fear.

Many people in the region are afraid of what's being done in the name of their religion. At the same time, others are afraid that the violence and displacements are impacting their cherished lifestyles. Fear of being overwhelmed is fuelled by a powerful mix of media images and xenophobia.

Truth pushes back fear. While the debate rages about how to respond to the waves of people, churches welcome refugees and discover making friends builds bridges of relationship for the gospel to move across.

As we join in the push-back, the work of MECO is a two-way street. On the one hand, we send people to the Middle East and support them to live and work alongside local Christians. On the other, we are sharing with the Church in the West the story of what the Lord is doing in the Middle East. That way we correct false perspectives and encourage people to pray, go and support.

Mike Parker

International Director



Changes and farewell



At the end of July, our colleagues on the board of MECO

USA decided to close their office and wind up their operations. They had been searching for suitable people to follow on from Keith & Sharon Bateman in their roles of Director and Treasurer, but without success, and concluded it was time to let go.

We thank the Lord for the Board, who under the careful and godly chairmanship of Dick Smith and Dan Scheuerman moved things on considerably stateside. As Keith & Sharon retire, we thank the Lord for their faithful service over the last nine years. Together they worked hard to ensure proper support and funding for our colleagues. They brought valuable experience and perspective on both global mission and the church scene in the US, and constantly urged us to understand and embrace the changes agencies are facing. We wish them and their family the Lord's richest blessing as they explore future ministry.

Our US colleagues have made good arrangements for receiving their support, and our UK team are looking after prayer guides and magazines for supporters.

In their own words

We're in touch with a number of advocacy networks in the Middle East. Here's a reflection from the leader of one of them on their partnership with local churches as they respond to present pressures.

Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, the Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States, recently spoke at the UN International Conference on the Protection of Victims of Ethnic and Religious Violence in the Middle East. He remarked that during this past year "we have witnessed unspeakable atrocities committed in the Middle East, which have forced thousands of Christians and members of other religious and ethnic minorities to abandon their homes and seek refuge elsewhere in precarious conditions, involving great physical and moral suffering."

Looking at the Middle East today it is difficult to disagree with Monsignor Gallagher. In many countries Christians live in very difficult circumstances, and many fear for the future of the Church in this part of the world. On the same day Msgr Gallagher spoke, another meeting revealed people had

already made up their minds that the only option was to relocate the Christian communities out of the region.

Monsignor Gallagher and many church leaders in the region would disagree with that sentiment. "Currently the situation compels us to deal with the humanitarian crisis but in the long term, other suitable measures will have to be taken to ensure the presence of Christians in their homelands," he said.

There is increasing awareness of the suffering of Christians in many countries in the Middle East, of their vulnerable situation and fears for the future. We cannot give up all hope of a future for the Church in this part of the world. We are focusing on what we can do together to encourage and enable Christians to stay in their homelands, both in prayer for the region and in initiatives aimed at sustaining the Church in the region.

Our aim is that countries understand Christians are an indispensable part of their societies, and their continued presence is essential for the good of all. We'll encourage regional Christians by offering humanitarian support and advocacy among the international community as well as at local level.

Our other focus is on new believers, especially what needs to be in place on the ground in the region to enable them to stay and thrive in their home countries. We want to build networks, knowledge and infrastructure in different countries to provide real solutions to the issues they face, offering alternatives to relocation out of the region.

Our aim is to see what we can do together with others already involved in these projects, to make a real difference for the future of the Church in the region.



Fleeing for their lives

As thousands of people from the Middle East have flooded into Europe they have been described as both migrants and refugees.

The terminology is important. Michael*, a colleague, who serves in an advocacy role for persecuted Christians, explains that refugees are people fleeing from places of danger in search of a place of safety. Migrants are searching for a better way of life. But until a proper assessment can be made, Michael says it is difficult to make a distinction between who is a refugee and who is an economic migrant.

Although international refugee systems have been in place since 1951, providing a mechanism for determining eligibility for refugee status and asylum, Michael says those systems have been utterly overwhelmed by the current humanitarian crisis.

"At present practically all who have come from Syria are considered automatically to have refugee status and so should be eligible for asylum. But for the many others, their status is more ambiguous - those who are considered to be economic migrants are clearly less likely to be granted asylum," he says.

A glimpse into what drives people to become economic migrants was captured by another colleague in a newsletter she recently wrote.

Based in Northern Iraq, in the area known as Iraqi Kurdistan, Anna* said exploration of the area's rich oil resources has fuelled an economic boom and rapid development which led her Kurdish friends and neighbours in England to consider returning to North Iraq. However, since the emergence of IS (Islamic State) in the region last year the tide has changed.

"People are no longer eager to return and it seems that a great many in the region are leaving, or planning to leave by all possible means, joining the many migrants arriving on the shores of Europe. Today, one of our friends leaves the country for Europe. People see little hope in the future of the region."

Regardless of why people leave their homelands, the reception they receive in their host countries can be mixed.

A colleague in Egypt recently wrote about an incident he and a friend witnessed in a grocery story.

"A woman in a checkout lane began yelling at the Syrian man in front of her to start putting the items from his loaded cart onto the belt. Perhaps he had recently

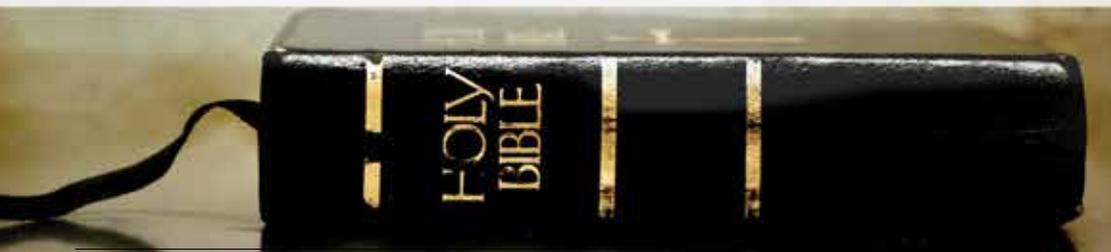
arrived from Syria, was new to the concept of supermarkets, and was confused about what to do. Perhaps he was just stubborn. At a much lower volume than hers he replied, 'It's none of your concern.'

"She raised her voice even more and screamed at his intransigence, 'Does anybody in the world behave like this?' Finally, the store manager arrived and got the checkout lane moving again.

"As the Syrian man and his family were leaving the store, my friend went up to him and said, 'I apologize for the rude treatment of my fellow Egyptian. I know things are very difficult in your country. I'm glad you have come to Egypt, and as far as I am concerned you are welcome here.'

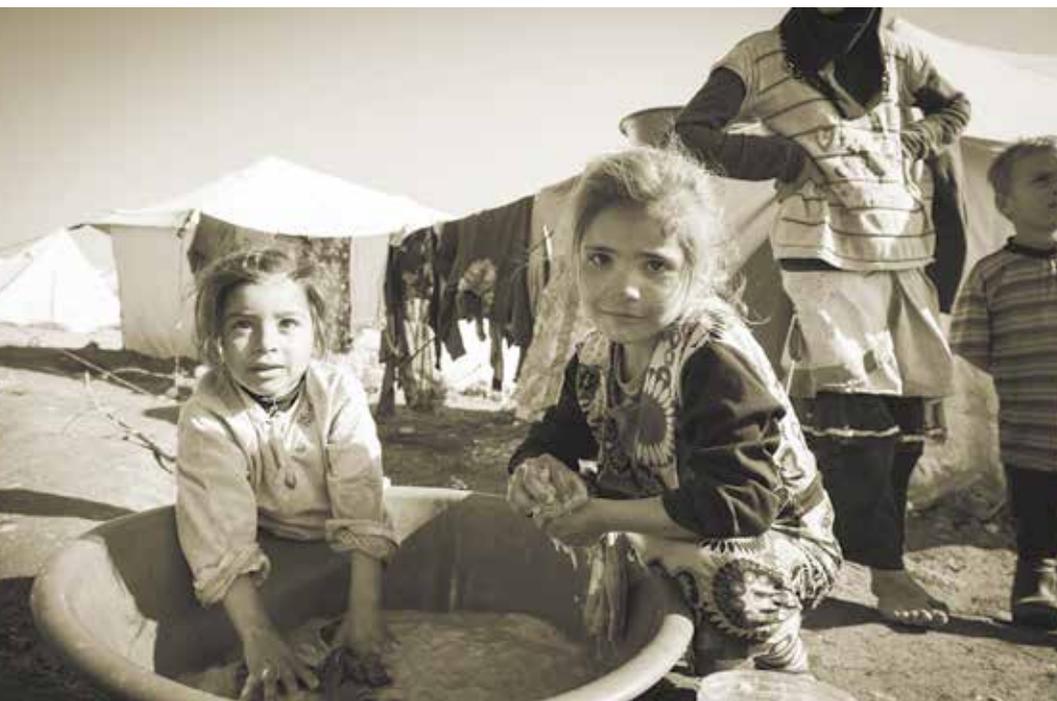
"This scene in the supermarket happened a month ago, and the more I have thought about it the more I am challenged by what my friend did. I realize that what he did revealed the gracious character of God. God is merciful to us, not because we deserve it, but because we need it, and He loves us.

"In Psalm 16, David says God delights in the saints who are in the earth. The word 'saint' means holy, and holy means to behave differently than the world. It means to behave like God, including His gracious character."



Privilege and tension in serving

The dichotomy of ministry is shared by a colleague who also shares her prayers for those she serves.



Privilege and tension of experiencing

The room was full as it was the final party at our pre-school for disabled children before summer vacation. In the middle of the hubbub Mustufa stood up by himself and as I fixed my attention on him and called others to look too, he waited, gained his balance and then walked to me.

Everyone cheered and I cried! It was such a special moment. A couple of weeks ago his mother had phoned me late at night to say he'd just taken his first independent steps and she wanted to share the good news with me. I was very happy to share her long awaited joy but seeing it was even better, as it was for all the mums and kids in the room. There is a deep bond between the mothers and children of shared experiences.

At the end of the party I was thanking the mums for their dedication to their children, each a special gift from God. Then I cracked again! I held it together enough to give each child their file of work, completed over the year, and to see the joy on their faces at their achievements. What a privilege and what a tension to be part of these special children's lives.

Father, I long for them to know you and sing your praises. Reveal yourself to them in ways they can understand.

Privilege and tension of positioning

As I ducked under the awning, the refugee family seemed a little embarrassed at this white giant visiting their tent! They gave me a glass of lukewarm water with many apologies that it wasn't cold and a bundle of tissues to wipe my hot face. It was so hot and they explained there

is no electricity in the mornings. As we assessed one of their children, it struck me again how hard life is for some and yet how resilient they are when the daily things in life take so much effort and energy. What answers do I have for parents who have questions about their children? Who am I to say how to stop a boy escaping from the tent and running off? Or how to stop another boy from bouncing off the walls full of energy when everyone else is wilting in the heat? How do I respond to those who want to use their child's disability to get out of this country? Or another who says she has no time to do her daughter's physiotherapy exercises? Who am I to offer easy advice and then hop back into my air conditioned car and travel back to the comfort of the city where there is electricity and cold water?

It's a privilege but also a tension to be part of these special children's lives. Oh, Father save them and give them a purpose to live for eternity as well as for tomorrow.

Privilege and tension of caring

As I entered another makeshift home I went to touch the little girl lying in the corner but her brother warned me not to because she would start crying. I spent the next couple of hours listening to the mum and trying to gently work with the girl to get her in a more comfortable and functional position. She is a beautiful two and a half year old, but was lying awkwardly on the mattress with a body that frequently locks in spasm. She has only smiled once in the last two months, a moment the mother remembers well with emotion. Three months ago the child was running round the tents, laughing and playing. Then she got meningitis, so the mum said, and has been left severely disabled.

After working with the child the mother quietly said that her son had dropped her daughter on her head and she had bad nose bleeds and headaches just before she got sick. Was that why she caught meningitis, she asked.

How do you answer that one? I didn't. Instead I talked about our Father who comforts and strengthens even when we don't understand why He allows things to happen. Then the mum looked at me and said she wasn't very religious

but believed that God's gifts are always sweet. I shed silent internal tears.

Yes, such a privilege to care for these special children and families but what a tight tension too. Oh, Father comfort this mum and family and open their eyes to your grace.

Privilege and tension of battling

Thank you Father for answering prayers about the need for more helpers for the Saturday kids club. We are in a constant battle and even with more helpers recently it's been difficult to control the kids who are often violent, disrespectful and steal the resources. Most of their fathers spend some time away, trying to regain their villages.

Some of the children are always wanting to sing the praise songs we have taught them and I am reminded what an impact this can have in silencing the enemy. *Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies to silence the foe and the avenger. (Psalm 8:2)* In the middle of a very chaotic session a small girl with autistic tendencies, who always withdraws if we go near her, came and spontaneously sat on my lap for a short while. A treasured moment!

Yes, Jesus, we don't always see how you are working but we know you are and thanks for the encouragements to keep going in this battle. What a privilege and what a tension!

Privilege and tension of journeying

Recently my friend, who I read the Bible with, suddenly left the country. This is the reality of this place, people come and go. We never know how long we have to journey with them but we can keep praying for them.

Oh, Father what a privilege and what a tension. Complete the work you have started in her and her husband's life.

Many others have left the region for various reasons. What a privilege it is to journey together as our Father intertwines our paths for a while and then what tension when He moves people on! I have several significant gaps now in my life...room for more privileges!

Yes, Father, keep my heart soft and provide more people for me to journey with!

A Wind in the House of Islam

Bridges to Christ

In his book, *A Wind in the House of Islam*, David Garrison says there are 10 bridges that help people turn to Christ. In these final highlights from his book, David explains what those bridges are.

1 Faith
Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)

Faith has motivated workers through the ages to enter the House of Islam and share the gospel. Exemplary faith is demonstrated by Muslim-background brothers and sisters who daily walk in the way of Christ. Too often, we've diluted faith to mere mental assent, agree-

ment with a particular point of view or doctrinal formula. The faith of Hebrews, lived out today in the House of Islam, is bold obedience, even when it may result in death.

2 Prayer
The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5:16b)

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:4)

Aisha, a Muslim background follower, was asked why so many are now coming to Christ. "I believe the prayers of people all over the world have been rising up to heaven for many years. These have accumulated like great clouds during the monsoon season. Now they are raining down on my people the miracles and blessings of salvation God has stored up for them."

Prayer changes us as well as those we pray for. Near to the heart of God are countless Muslims in need of a Saviour. If the Holy Spirit is the wind that is blowing through the House of Islam then prayer is one of the ways we spread our sails and catch the wind.

3 Scripture
For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

We're only beginning to see the effect of Scripture in the languages of Muslims around the world. As this continues, response is likely to follow. Many Muslims remain illiterate, but new

initiatives through storying, the Jesus film, and radio and TV broadcasts hold forth the promise that Scripture will continue to ignite and fuel movements across the Muslim world.

4 Holy Spirit Activity
"Unless I go away (Jesus said) the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement." (John 16:7-8)

Muhammad endorsed the value of dreams in his own life, prompting Muslims worldwide to give credence to dreams that's no longer current in the secular West. God is using dreams to stir countless Muslims to look to the One who offers them salvation and new life, who appears shining bright as light (Matthew 17: 1-2).

5 Faithful Christian Witness
Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (Hebrews 12:1)

Devotion to prayer, evangelism, ministry, faithfulness to the word of God, and personal sacrifice – faithful Christians through the ages laid the foundation for much of what is now happening. Western evangelicals often fail to recognize the impact of those from other traditions who came before us. What-

ever flaws we find with their traditions, they have faithfully retained a focus on Christ and the Scriptures and passed them on to Muslim seekers.

6 Learning from the Body of Christ
"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." (Matthew 4:19)

A good fisherman asks those who fished before. Lessons are being learned, shared and implemented by outreach advocates from one room in the House of Islam to another. Humble learning is particularly necessary for us from the West, who have historically been knowers and teachers, rather than learners and students. We have much to learn.

7 Communication
"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. (Isaiah 1:18)

Contextualization means communicating to be clearly understood in the culture and worldview of those who are intended to hear it. Breakthroughs in communication are playing an enormous role in the spread of this ancient life-giving message, enabling it to penetrate societies effectively closed to outsiders.

8 Discovery
Taste and see that the Lord is good... (Psalm 34:8)

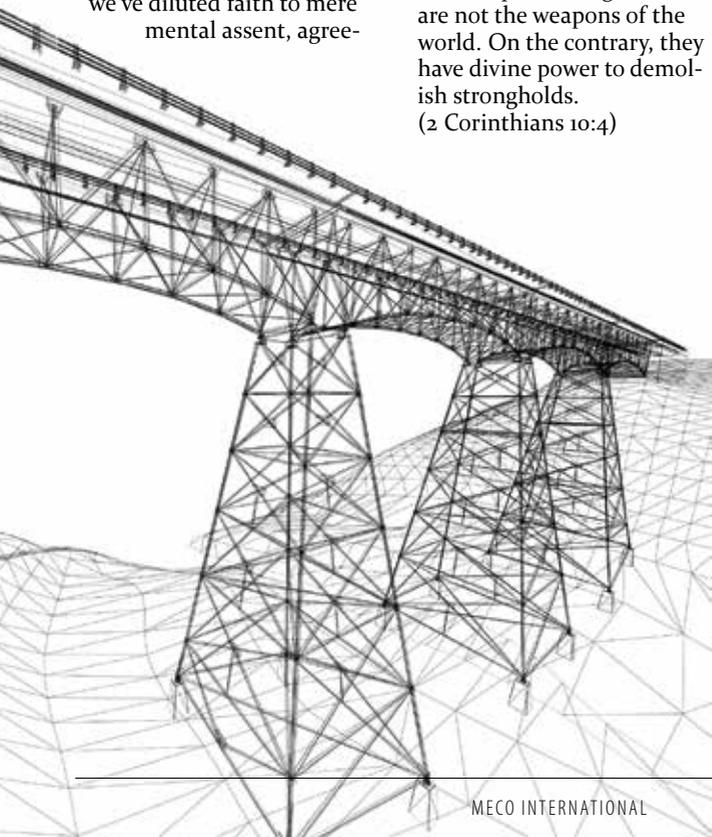
Muslims abhor being told they are wrong or that truth is other than what they have always believed. However,

when they discover the truth for themselves, it becomes part of them, something for which they will lay down their lives. A growing familiarity with the biblical salvation narrative through discovery Bible study has convinced many of Christ's authenticity and drawn them into humble submission to him.

9 Islam Itself
One of the great surprises in the movements we examined is that Islam contains within itself the seed of its own destruction. As people read colloquial Qur'ans, examine the life of Muhammad, and reflect on oppression, they are questioning their faith's divine origins and turning to Christ.

10 Indigenization
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28: 19-20)

Movements to Christ may begin with outside stimulus, but new believers own and advance the Lordship of Christ themselves. Christian outsiders will need to be encouragers, vision casters, servant leaders and trainers of local leaders to engage all the hidden issues of Muslims that outsiders can scarcely imagine. We believe Christ's promise that the power of the Holy Spirit will lead them into all truth (John 16: 13) and the word of God will render them fully equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3: 16-17)



Highly recommended

Looking for some good books to read or give away as Christmas gifts?

Some of our colleagues have provided reviews of their favourite books – books that have helped them in their work and in their relationships with their neighbours in the Middle East!

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity
By Nabeel Qureshi

I loved this book! I loved it because I love my neighbours, most of whom are Muslims.

Nabeel Qureshi invites us into his family's home to experience for ourselves some of the love and respect, as well as devotion and obedience to God that characterizes many Muslim homes.

Mr. Qureshi's bright mind, extraordinary sincerity, original research, and a willingness to follow the trail of evidence led him, almost against his will because of the huge consequences for his family life, to the cross of Christ.

I would wholeheartedly reinforce the words of Fouad Masri, President and CEO of the Crescent Project who says: Nabeel describes the yearning in the hearts of millions of Muslims around the world. This book is a must-read for all seeking to share the hope of Christ with Muslims.

Turn Back the Battle: Isaiah Speaks to Christians Today
By Elizabeth Kendal

Ms Kendal uses the first 39 chapters of Isaiah to challenge people to examine God's guidelines for responding when under threat. I liked the way she uses Isaiah to shed insight on various contemporary issues affecting political situations today and draws parallels between situations in Isaiah's time and now, citing how history so often repeats itself. She challenges readers about our assumptions underlying the way of working with those being persecuted and I appreciated her honesty in analysing what has helped and what has hindered. I also appreciated the way she takes God's words to Isaiah and challenges us to think differently than the world, to fear differently from the world and to walk differently in the world. In this way she says the battle can be turned back at the gate. This is a book of hope, as well as challenge.

The Crescent Through The Eyes Of The Cross: Insights from an Arab Christian
By Dr. Nabeel Jabbour

This is one of the best books I have read in the last two decades. Getting beyond common Western reactions of fear and misunderstanding, often with accompanying responses of aggression and confrontation, and

going well beyond the politically correct calls for mere tolerance, Dr. Jabbour challenges Western Christians to a more biblical and appropriate response, of understanding, compassion and practical love for Muslims. He helps us not only better understand how Muslims think but to appreciate how they feel – including how they feel about Christians!

Light Force: A Stirring Account of the Church Caught in the Middle East Crossfire

By Brother Andrew, Al Janssen

I would highly recommend this book, especially if you have read God's Smuggler, because it makes for an interesting contrast with Brother Andrew's experiences behind the Iron Curtain. I love his honesty as he discovers that serving the Church in the Middle East confronts him with very different challenges. Many of his experiences resonated with ours and at the same time his perseverance and determination to make the most of every opportunity for the Gospel challenge me deeply. It would also be worth reading his other related book - Secret Believers.



A NOT-SO-TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS

Want to have a more meaningful Christmas? A colleague shares how living in the Middle East helped her do that.



Do you groan every September when you see Christmas cards in the shops and hear Jingle Bells played over and over in department stores? There came a time when I used to dread the approaching festive season, and from the depths of the pudding-stirring, I prayed: 'Lord, please forgive me for getting sucked into the materialism. Help me to rejoin the ranks of the faithful and joyful.'

He took me at my word. He led me to the Middle East, where Christmas is celebrated by the faithful, given nodding acquaintance by the ex-pat community, and looked upon with mild curiosity by the national population.

What a relief and a joy to meet with believers on Christmas morning. We would applaud the children dressed up in the traditional tea-towel head-dress of the shepherds carrying white fluffy soft toys

(once, one was a dog), the wise men (one might be a girl) in cardboard crowns sprayed with gold paint, and a blushing Mary (very blonde) and Joseph wearing one of his dad's shirts. The lack of sophistication, due not to lack of talent, but to non-existent rehearsal time, is always endearing. The worship is warm and heartfelt. The people come out of choice, not tradition, and the statement we all make by being there warms our hearts more than chestnuts roasting on an open fire.

After the service, a group of thirty or so of us usually meet for Christmas lunch. Yes, there's turkey, but there's also a mouth-watering pot-luck selection of home-made contributions, not at all western in derivation. Little home-made gifts are given without any obligation and with no sense of competition regarding whose gift is the biggest, best, most expensive, most imaginative...

Some of us have the joy of receiving family members from home who fly out to join us for Christmas. Others make do with Skype, email, FaceTime and phone. We love messages from home; cards that make it by snail mail in time for the big day are a special treat. Less popular are those bulky parcels on which we have to pay heavy duty! But it's the thought that counts. One of the best presents we have ever received was a CD of our home church's service of nine lessons and carols. We could recognise the voices of the readers and we could sing along with all the carols.

Yes, we miss friends and relatives, but the Christmas celebration is whatever you make it, and we aim to make it a joyful, memorable time for present brothers and sisters, while leaving absent ones in His hands.

Please pray that during the holidays our colleagues will:

- Have time in their busy schedules to reflect on the birth of Jesus
- Have opportunities to share what Christmas is really about with friends and neighbours
- Have opportunities to open their homes to those who may be lonely or in need
- Be able to connect with family and friends in their home countries

OPPORTUNITIES

If you sense God calling you to the Middle East, you can be sure there is work for you to do. Opportunities to serve in the region usually require professional qualifications and the ability to speak or willingness to learn Arabic or Kurdish. This page gives sample of how people can serve churches and ministries in the Middle East. Some are specific, some are indicative as situations change frequently. Please note that in most cases these are volunteer positions and raising support to serve in the Middle East is required

TEACHERS

Qualifications: Teacher-training completed and at least two years' experience
Minimum Service: A full academic year, September to June
Language: English for secondary levels
Location: Lebanon and Egypt

AFRICA HOPE LEARNING CENTRE IN CAIRO

The centre is looking for a new principal, who will provide leadership, supervision and administrative oversight to promote the educational development of every student. Two of our MECO colleagues work in this Centre and testify to its strategic effectiveness. This is a volunteer position, and you will need to come financially supported.
Could this be you or someone you know?

REHABILITATION WORKER

Qualifications: Appropriate degree/diploma
Minimum Service: 2 years
Language: English and willingness to learn Sorani Kurdish
Location: Iraqi Kurdistan

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS, SPEECH LANGUAGE AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

Qualifications: Experience preferred
Minimum Service: 1 year
Language: English and willingness to learn Arabic
Location: Various countries

ORPHANAGE YOUTH WORKER

Providing leadership and imparting life skills and assistance to street children and orphans
Qualifications: Teacher or youth worker qualification plus TEFL, TESL or CELTA
Language: English, with a commitment to learn Arabic
Minimum Service: One academic year

CHURCH WORKER/ GENERAL ASSISTANT

Helping with practical matters relating to various church ministries, as well as teaching Syrian refugee children, aged four to 14, English and mathematics
Qualifications: Teaching and administration experience
Language: Some knowledge of Arabic
Minimum Service: Short or long term

RESEARCH MANAGER SAT-7 INTERNATIONAL

Location: Cyprus
Minimum Service: 3 years
For more details:
www.sat7.org/en/get_involved/positions

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR SAT-7 INTERNATIONAL

Location: Cyprus
Minimum Service: 3 years
For more details:
www.sat7.org/en/get_involved/positions

LANGUAGE LEARNING

Investing two or three years learning Arabic or Kurdish builds a vital platform for a lifetime of ministry in the region. You can study in universities or in recognized language schools. While studying, you will have opportunity to make friends with fellow-students, teachers and language helpers



For more information about these opportunities call your local MECO office or visit: www.mecoglobal.org
Please note that MECO volunteers raise their support in order to serve.