



# Equipping and encouraging where followers of Jesus are in a minority



There are places in our world where it's particularly tough – even perilous – to follow Jesus.

In some places, Christianity is viewed as an "outsider" faith. Elsewhere, ancient communities of Jesus-followers are being persecuted and scattered, so numbers have fallen to a fraction. Our call is to follow Jesus to the edges, where Christians are under immense pressure to leave their faith and homelands. At these edges, we provide support and community that followers of Jesus need. We have seen that walking alongside Christians under pressure can help them remain resilient and flourish in their faith. Across the Middle East and North Africa, we help Christians follow Jesus and share the gospel with others. Christian communities are impacting the wider culture in extraordinary ways. Join with us to equip and encourage where followers of Jesus are in a minority.

## The people you are supporting

As a Global Edge Church, you will be supporting CMS partners around the world equipping and encouraging people at the edges. Mission partner Baher Botros, working for the Together Network across the Middle East and North Africa, will share regular updates about what God is doing across the Together Network. And introduce you to other CMS partners who work alongside Christians in places where following Jesus is dangerous. Meet Baher:



Location: The Together Network operates across the Middle East and North Africa

- What we do: Supporting
  and equipping the local
  church in the Middle
  East and North Africa to
  multiply disciples through
  evangelism, discipleship
  and leadership training
- Equipping and encouraging where followers of Jesus are in a minority

I am passionately working to build a unified network that equips and empowers Christian leaders across the the Middle East and North Africa.

Despite persecution of Christians interest in the Christian faith is growing. New believers are drawn to Jesus through dreams, visions and the loving kindness of Christians they meet. God is on the move. But new believers face many obstacles.

Even where there is less official government opposition, those who turn to Jesus from a Muslim background often face intense pressure from family, friends and colleagues. They need people to journey alongside them.

I work for the Together Network (TN). With the local church, we train others to deliver leadership, discipleship and mission movement training to Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) so they can, in turn, disciple others.

I aim to strengthen the church's impact, raise a new generation of servant leaders, and create spaces where faith, generosity and community transformation thrive.

The Together Network works with people who have been pushed to the edges. We want to see them included in God's family.

Meet more people who, with your support, are are equipping and encouraging:

With Jesus
With each other
To the edges

## The impact you're having

As a Global Edge Church, your generous gifts and prayers will help Baher and other CMS partners equip and encourage people as they meet Jesus...



People like Misha\* in Nepal, who decided to follow Jesus when her daughter was healed through the prayers of local Christians. Misha has started a church in her village, thanks to the experience and confidence she gained through training with CMS partners.



People like Mariam\*, a Syrian refugee in Lebanon who decided to follow Jesus despite opposition from her Muslim family. With encouragement and training from a CMS partner, Mariam is now discipling other women from a similar background.



People like a steadily growing church community in South
Asia, who have been supported by another fellowship as they give educational help to families in their marginalised community.
CMS partners have trained young pastors to lead and plant churches like this one.

# How we'll help your church connect with mission

- Through a **welcome film** introducing Baher and CMS's work to equip and encourage where faith in Jesus makes people outsiders.
- Written updates from Baher three times per year, with news and stories from the Middle East and North Africa and from his CMS colleagues around the world in this area of work.
- Inspiring stories and prayer points from people whose lives are being touched and transformed thanks to your generosity, and tips on how to share these with your church.
- **Display materials** for your church noticeboard.
- The opportunity to welcome a **CMS speaker** to share about work to equip and encourage where faith in Jesus makes people outsiders.



#### With Jesus. With each other. To the edges.

When we look at the life of Jesus, we see that he spent time with people at the edges, often to the astonishment of the establishment. Sick people, poor people, tax collectors, those who were often avoided due to their "sinner" status – Jesus welcomes them. He offers grace, healing, restoration, love – and he invites them to be part of his story.

Church Mission Society is likewise called to connect with people at the edges: the edges of church, the edges of society, the edges of our comfort zones. And we're always looking for others who will join us at edges near and far, to help share God's love in creative ways, knowing that person-by-person, community-by-community, this is how we will see our world made new.



# With Jesus With each other To the edges



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