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## MERF’s Strategic Fourfold Ministries



Africa); Nuer (South Sudan); Urdu (Pakistan); and five major Indonesian languages (Javanese, Sundanese, Makassarese, Bugis, and Toraja). Hundreds of thousands are reached and the responses are overwhelming. *Pray for the teams of indigenous believers preparing messages and following-up listeners, website visitors, and social media participants.*

### 2. Church Extension

Church extension is the natural fruit of biblical evangelism. Scores of new fellowships of gospel media listeners are springing up even in closed lands like Saudi Arabia and Iran. Quietly existing national churches are discipling and catechizing growing numbers of Muslim converts. Volunteers from local fellowships give their time and efforts to nurture these new believers in God’s Word.

To enhance this, MERF publishes and makes available

*Left: Ghada and George in MERF’s center in Lebanon connecting online with Arab listeners. Below: Sound biblical literature is a vital part of MERF’s ministries.*

**BY LISA ATALLAH**

Last century pioneer missionaries succeeded in translating the Scriptures into Arabic and other major languages of the Middle East and Muslim lands. Through these, healthy, Bible-believing national churches were established. Yet, they are a very small beacon of light in places where the gospel is largely unknown. MERF’s vision is to stand with these faithful indigenous brothers and sisters in Christ to bring the Gospel to their own people. This is both productive and cost-effective as these brethren do not need to learn a new language or adjust to a new culture; nor do they need visas or work permits. The Lord’s blessing on this approach is heart-

warming. The Fellowship focuses on a fourfold ministry: evangelism, church extension, biblical training, and diaconal aid.

### 1. Evangelism

Evangelism is carried out in a two-pronged effort: by equipping national evangelists through their churches and by using the media (literature, radio, and the internet) in key languages. Numerous needy pastors and evangelists receive regular MERF support through their churches. The gospel is proclaimed even farther via radio and the internet. Short and medium wave radio, multiple websites, and social media are currently utilized in thirteen national languages. The Arabic ministry is the largest and most developed, as it is the major

regional language and key to Islam.

MERF media ministries also share the good news in Farsi (Iran, Afghanistan, and the Gulf States); Somali, Oromo, and Amharic (Ethiopia and Horn of



relevant, sound biblical literature. The Arabic Sunday school curriculum, based on a simplified version of the Shorter Catechism, has been completed and is widely used by hundreds of local churches.

### 3. Biblical Training

Biblical training is the backbone of MERF's work. Grounding spiritual leaders of national churches in God's Word has been foundational in all of MERF's growing ministries. Intensive Bible study courses are held regionally as well as at MERF Centres in several countries. Experienced pastors and teachers from faithful churches around the world serve as short-term guest instructors sponsored by their home congregations.

The Lord has continued to bless MERF's Centre in Lokichoggio (northern Kenya, near South Sudan). Since its opening in 2003, it has provided much needed solid training for over 900 South Sudanese, Kenyan, Tanzanian, and Ethiopian pastors, evangelists, and

other spiritual leaders. The John Calvin Centre in Cyprus hosts Bible training for neighbouring Arab and European Christians desiring to reach their Muslim neighbours. In Indonesia, biblical training courses are given for church leaders at MERF's Centre in Makassar. A new centre has recently been established in Jakarta with even more ministry opportunities. *Pray for the Lord's provision of a resident instructor there.*

### 4. Diaconal Aid

This year MERF has stepped in to help alleviate hunger due to severe drought in Ethiopia and Somalia and the ongoing civil war in South Sudan. These crises have brought suffering to thousands, overwhelming the resources of local congregations. Diaconal aid is carried out by local church committees and volunteers, which provides a practical manifestation of the love of the Lord's people who support MERF's gospel ministries.

MERF has also supported the ministries of local



*Top: Ministering to spiritual and physical needs of Somalis; Left: The new Jakarta centre has many biblical training opportunities.*

churches in Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus to needy Iraqi and Syrian refugees and displaced people. Diaconal aid projects in Indonesia include micro-projects in poverty-stricken rural areas.

Praise God for the opportunity to stand beside and encourage faithful churches in the Middle East and other Muslim lands through your prayerful support. The Lord has answered prayer and raised up a new generation of godly leadership on the fields. *Please continue to pray especially for His provision of qualified Bible instructors.*

*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

—Acts 2:42



#### MERF—England & Wales

25 Church St., Willingdon, Eastbourne, BN20 9HR [www.give.net/MERF](http://www.give.net/MERF)

#### MERF—Ireland

(charity no. 103181) 5 Mount Royal, Donaghadee, Co. Down BT21 0QY [www.give.net/20221778](http://www.give.net/20221778)

#### MERF—Scotland

63 Broomhouse Cres., Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 7GL [www.give.net/20035868](http://www.give.net/20035868)

#### International Evangelical Church

Sundays 10:30 am & 6:00 pm – John Calvin Centre  
57 Stylianou Lena St., Larnaca, Cyprus