



**EMBRACE**  
the Middle East

THE CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT CHARITY TACKLING POVERTY AND INJUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

# EMBRACE

SPRING 2026

Meet the  
young Climate  
Leaders cultivating  
lasting change in  
their community

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# WELCOME

“We help because we have the love of Christ in us...He wants us to show His love to everyone. That is our primary motivation, and we feel it is the least we can do.”

**These are simple words from our Lebanese partner, MERATH, spoken as they once again moved to provide blankets, food, and shelter to their neighbours amid the war. Simple words – yet carrying a profound message of compassion, grace and steadfast faith.**

You can see this same message echoed in all the stories we share in this issue of Embrace magazine – the team of specialist therapists working in Gaza to help children with life-changing injuries, even as the impact of war there remains a daily reality; the teaching staff

sharing their expert knowledge on special educational needs to work for inclusion for all in Lebanon’s classrooms; and the Christian Medical Fellowship bringing healthcare to communities in rural Egypt.

It is your compassion, grace and steadfast faith that help make this work possible. Thank you for walking alongside us, for your generosity, and for your prayerful support.

As I write, new ceasefires are bringing respite, but long-term peace in Lebanon, Gaza, and the West Bank still feels a very

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long way off. In these dark and difficult days, when hope feels fragile, I pray that we can continue to faithfully serve as the one household of God, engaging with the world's troubles, even when it hurts, and showing that God's light continues to shine.

Every blessing,

*Jamie Eyre*

**Jamie Eyre,**  
CEO, Embrace the Middle East

## Join us on this year's **Olive Harvest Trip**

**16-27 October 2026 \***

Travel with us to the West Bank to pick olives with local families, experience Palestinian culture, and learn from local organisations. Taking part in the harvest is a simple act of solidarity that connects your prayers, learning and advocacy to everyday life on the land.

Price per person £1,694.20 (based on double occupancy - single supplement applies)

For more information, contact:  
**[visit@embraceme.org](mailto:visit@embraceme.org)**



\* In light of the changeable situation on the ground, please be assured that your safety is paramount. The trip will only proceed if our assessments indicate that conditions are safe for participants.

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# In the shadow of yet another war



## Reaching out with love and practical support

As war rapidly engulfed the Middle East following US and Israeli strikes on Iran, our Christian partners across Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine and Israel faced renewed danger and displacement in their own lives. But, as they have done so many times before, they immediately reached out to their neighbours with compassion and practical support.

In the words of our partner Caritas Jerusalem:

**“[We] remain committed to accompanying the most vulnerable, responding to emerging needs on the ground and delivering assistance that protects dignity, strengthens resilience, and offers hope in the midst of adversity.”**



## **EMERGENCY BLANKETS, SHELTER AND MEDICAL CARE AS THOUSANDS DISPLACED IN LEBANON**



In Lebanon, in retaliation for Hezbollah strikes, Israeli forces invaded the south as well as striking many targets across Beirut. In the first few days of the conflict, hundreds of thousands of families fled. Many of our partners' staff were directly affected and some of their centres also had to be closed and evacuated because of the danger. The areas around Beirut which were considered to be safer saw a huge influx of people desperately seeking refuge.

Several of our partners converted their centres into emergency shelters. Others distributed mattresses, blankets and food. The medical teams from Embrace partners the Karagheusian Association and Tahaddi quickly began visiting shelters to provide vital care:

**“Experience tells us that respiratory infections, unmanaged chronic illnesses, and stress-related conditions escalate quickly in displaced settings. Early intervention is essential.” Tahaddi**

The solar panels at Karagheusian's healthcare centre meant they could also offer people a place where they could charge their mobile phones (vital to be able to keep up with any evacuation orders and stay in touch with family members amid the chaos).

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## DISPLACED FOR THE FIFTH TIME: AMIR'S STORY

Amir is one of the thousands who fled with their families from south Lebanon.

*"When I left my house at 3am...I had to leave the most precious things I have, my livelihood and everything. In a moment I left everything I had and came here, hoping my family would be safe."*

It is the fifth time Amir has been displaced in his life, and the second time since he became a father: *"It's harder when you're with a family. You fear for your children more than yourself...the situation is very difficult but, thank God, we are grateful to you for helping us."*

Amir and his family made it to a shelter where our partner MERATH (Middle East Revive and Thrive) were distributing emergency supplies. One of their volunteers told us of the immensity of the needs:

*"We brought blankets, mattresses, and socks ... since they have nothing to keep them warm...we have elderly people and families who came with nothing. They don't even have hot water for a shower."*

As each new crisis unfolds, MERATH and all our partners across the region continue their steadfast work, adapting and responding:

**"We help because we have the love of Christ in us... He wants us to show His love to everyone. That is our primary motivation, and we feel it is the least we can do."** MERATH

These words from MERATH so beautifully sum up their mission, but also that of Embrace as we stand with them.



**We are still in need of funds for our emergency appeal to help our partners quickly respond to ongoing needs - please give if you can: [embraceme.org/emergency-appeal](https://embraceme.org/emergency-appeal) or call our Supporter Experience Team on 01494 897950 to donate by telephone.**



# Mobile Medical Clinics in rural Egypt

Many families in rural Egypt lack easy access to medical care. Travel to clinics is difficult and treatment is expensive, so the Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF) takes medical services directly to rural communities through their Mobile Medical Clinics!

The clinics offer a range of services, including free consultations, tests, medications and dental treatment.

The arrival of the mobile medical clinic in their communities means people can not only get treatment for serious conditions, but can get minor ailments checked early, preventing them from developing into serious complications.

Alongside medical care, the clinicians also run education sessions and provide advice on a range of topics, including hygiene, nutrition, and disease prevention.

The CMF currently run 16 clinics, reaching up to 2,400 people each year. We're proud to be able to start a new partnership with them and support this vital service.



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# NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES



YOUNG  
CLIMATE LEADERS  
CULTIVATING LASTING  
CHANGE IN THEIR  
COMMUNITY

In 1928, when John Crum began his Easter hymn ‘Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,’ the words ‘climate change’ had barely been uttered.

The hymn celebrates the risen Jesus and yearns for the same awakening in our own hearts. His environmental imagery of green shoots emerging from dark earth remind us of the importance of faith through hardship and that growth is always possible.

Like a hymn in the minor key, ‘climate change’ can strike a negative note; we nervously anticipate a list of depressing environmental statistics. Yet there is cause for hope. In the Ankawa region of Erbil, Iraq, climate change means something very different. Young Climate Leaders explore

how small but significant changes in their own behaviour, and their wider communities, can have a lasting positive environmental impact.

The Climate Leaders programme actively involves children – encouraging them to become champions for change in the environment and their own lives. By taking ownership, drawing up proposals for environmental action and then working together on implementation, they bring lasting change for themselves, their communities, and future generations.

“

**“Even small steps, when taken with purpose, can lead to real change.”**

**Onel Kakona, Project Leader**



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“Love is come again like wheat that springs up green.”

*John Crum, 'Now the Green Blade Rises'*

Embrace partner Ankawa Humanitarian Committee (AHC) ran the programme in 4 schools this last academic year with over 300 students participating. The final initiative saw 500 dondonea shrubs, 70 eucalyptus trees, and 2 date palms planted in the Al-Rajaa Capella area, alongside a 40,000-litre water tank with drip irrigation system, ensuring sustainability.

10-year-old Lathan helped with the planting. He now dreams of becoming 'a businessman who can help heal the earth, planting trees,

launching recycling initiatives and creating a better future.' As project leader Onel attests, 'Lathan is proud of who he has become. The project helped him find his voice, values, and a sense of purpose. In his heart he's already thinking like a changemaker.'

Young Iraqis like Lathan are the green blades rising, fresh shoots of hope emerging, transforming the landscape. Their determination, ingenuity and love for the environment will truly effect lasting change.

Find out more about the project and watch their video update at [embraceme.org/blog/climate-leaders](https://embraceme.org/blog/climate-leaders)



# A Legacy of Hope for Future Generations

For more than 170 years, Embrace the Middle East has walked alongside local Christian partners to bring hope, healing and opportunity to communities across the region.

**Today, one in four of the projects we support is funded by gifts in Wills, quiet acts of generosity that continue to transform lives long after they are given.**

Legacy gifts are powerful because they reach people at their most vulnerable. Children like Ghadi, who arrived at the Tahaddi Community Centre in Beirut having never spoken a word, are given the chance to flourish thanks to the compassion of those who choose to leave a gift to Embrace. After months of dedicated speech therapy, Ghadi now communicates with confidence, a miracle his family could only hope for. His story, like so many others, shows how one gift can touch generations.



**Leaving a legacy is more than a financial decision.** It reflects our faith, our values and our hope for the future. Many supporters tell us that including Embrace in their will feels like extending their love and commitment to the Holy Land and its people beyond their lifetime.

To make leaving a legacy gift easier,, we offer free and discounted Will writing services through our trusted partners The Good Will Partnership and Octopus Legacy. They provide online, phone and face-to-face support. There is no obligation to leave a gift to Embrace when using this service, but we are deeply grateful for those who choose to.

***A legacy gift plants a seed. By God's grace, that seed grows into transformation which lasts far beyond our own lifetime.***



To find out more about legacy giving and our free and discounted Will providers, please visit [embraceme.org/legacies](http://embraceme.org/legacies)

# Effects of war still a daily reality

The World Health Organisation has estimated that over 10,000 children in Gaza have sustained life-changing injuries in the recent war. Thousands more have chronic conditions and disabilities that have deteriorated over the past two years, because they've been unable to access the medical support they need.



**T**he satellite unit of our partner the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC) at Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City is one of the few places still able to offer treatment.

But it's not just the medical expertise that make the unit so important. It's a place of safety and comparative normality where children, whose lives have been turned upside down by war, can concentrate on positive steps and celebrate achievements. Yousif, the team's physiotherapist, told us:

*"Despite fear and exhaustion, children still come to therapy with determination.. Their determination gives us the strength to keep going, no matter how difficult the circumstances are."*

The JPBC team have provided specialist care throughout the war – giving assessments and treatment, even when displaced and facing famine conditions themselves. They told us how immense the challenges have been:

*"Every day requires persistence, creativity, and a profound commitment to the belief that care must continue, even in crisis."*

From the safety of the UK, it has been hard to watch the unfolding events from the sidelines, but the generosity of Embrace's supporters has meant we have been able to help JPBC fund their work and expand the team. New staff include a dedicated play specialist, who delivers essential mental health intervention for what the team



Above: The JPBC Gaza Team

“Every day requires persistence, creativity, and a profound commitment to the belief that care must continue, even in crisis.”

The JPBC Gaza Team (pictured above)

describes as *“unparalleled levels of trauma and distress ... with fearful, angry and withdrawn children unable to sleep, speak, play and participate in life.”*

A nutritionist has also been recruited as the long-term health complications from malnutrition or limited diets are particularly acute for children with chronic conditions.

What's next for Gaza is still unclear but the ceasefire has meant more families feel able to travel to seek treatment.

The JPBC team is working to meet the range of needs, including rehabilitation for burns.

*“Amid uncertainty and harsh conditions, our commitment is unshakeable. The courage of our staff, the resilience of families navigating life's challenges with dignity and hope, and the generosity of our friends and supporters who walk alongside us mean that together, we illuminate a path of growth, transformation, and possibility.” JPBC team*

You can hear more from the JPBC team at [embraceme.org/blog/gaza-impact-of-war-still-a-daily-reality](https://embraceme.org/blog/gaza-impact-of-war-still-a-daily-reality)



# SOUP, SCRIPTURE & STEADFAST SUPPORT

*The Christians helping Tel Aviv's homeless*



*"Our beginnings were very small. We set up a simple table in one of Tel Aviv's parks where drug addicts gathered, and we began to feed them. Those were our first steps – simple, without experience, without resources."*

These are the words of Dov Bikas, whose faith prompted him to found Aviv Ministry over 20 years ago. Since then, the growth of that small mustard seed has been extraordinary. Embrace has been partnering with Aviv Ministry since 2014, and they now have a drop-in centre, a residential rehabilitation centre, and a women's shelter.

Hundreds of people come to their drop-in centre in down-town Tel Aviv each month.

Open 7-days a week and staffed by a dedicated group of volunteers, it's a place where the city's homeless and addiction sufferers can get hot food, medical care and clean clothes.

More than that, it's where people struggling with substance abuse and all that goes with it – depression, self-loathing and fear – can find true welcome, dignity, and a community who will walk beside them as they battle to overcome their addiction.



**Above:** The Aviv Ministry Centre offers hot meals, medical care and support, including prayer ministry for those who wish.



**“Who are these people who care so much about someone others would call “useless”? That was the turning point for me.”**

**Viktor, who is now at Aviv Ministry’s rehab centre**

Some find that embracing the Christian faith can bring them the hope and strength they need to break free from addiction. The Ministry team offer prayer support and Bible study and are happy to talk about their faith to all who have questions.

For Viktor, it was the kindness of the volunteers, many of whom are former addicts themselves, that made the difference:

*“When I saw how the rehab’s servants cared for my friend, a complete stranger, visiting and supporting him at hospital, praying and worrying for him, that made me stop and ask: Who are these people who care so much about someone others would call “useless”? That was the turning*

*point for me. On the street, it’s everyone for himself – but here it’s completely different. I’ve now been in rehab for 3.5 months.”*

Dov puts the extraordinary flourishing of Aviv Ministry down to one thing:

*“Looking back on the journey of these 20 years, one word stands out: ‘faithfulness’. God’s faithfulness toward His lost sheep; The faithfulness of our friends and supporters, who have prayed for us and stood with us all these years; The faithfulness of our staff, who have served tirelessly in His fields: And finally, God’s faithfulness toward us...there were times of uncertainty, lack of resources, and many challenges. And yet, the Lord carried us through them all.”*



**Please keep the Aviv Ministry team and all they serve in your prayers**



**TAKE ACTION TO**  
**STOP TRADE**  
**WITH SETTLEMENTS**

Over the last four years, Israel has significantly accelerated its settlement construction and land appropriation in Palestinian territory - there are now over 700,000 Israeli settlers living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Settlements are illegal according to international law. The international community, including the UK, does not recognise them. Their existence fragments the West Bank and the Palestinian population, and constitutes one of the main obstacles, along with the occupation itself, to the self-determination of the Palestinians.

For this reason, Embrace the Middle East has joined an alliance of more than 80 civil society organisations in launching the Stop Trade with Settlements campaign. Together, we are calling on governments to ban all trade with illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including trade conducted by multinational companies and financial institutions that sustain settlement expansion.



# STOP TRADE WITH SETTLEMENTS

**Pictured:** The football pitch of Um Al Khair with the portacabins of an encroaching illegal Israeli settlement behind.

But we cannot achieve this without you. To encourage the UK Government to act, we need constituents to write to their MPs and express their concern. Your voice can help ensure MPs urge the Government to take meaningful action to curb settlement trade.

## Ask your MP to press the UK Government to:

- Introduce legislation explicitly banning trade—including services and investment—with settlements.
- Review and amend bilateral agreements with Israel to exclude trade, services, and investments linked to settlements.
- Prevent UK-based financial institutions and corporations from investing in settlement-based companies or in companies that support or sustain the occupation.

You can take action easily at <https://embraceme.org/stop-settlements> or by scanning the QR code (right).



You will also find the campaign's joint report, which details how multinational companies and financial institutions are involved in sustaining the settlement economy.

The UK Government's recognition of the State of Palestine in 2025 was a welcome step, but real change requires follow through. Without action to challenge the occupation, recognition remains symbolic.

**Help us make a real difference for our Palestinian partners and the communities they serve, who face the daily reality of the occupation – email your MP today to ban trade with settlements.**

# The **invaluable impact** of inclusion

Lebanon's precarious economic state has been well documented in recent years. Since 2019, the local currency has lost over 90% of its value, alongside the collapse of the banking sector and hyperinflation. The World Bank estimates that a third of the Lebanese population are now living in poverty.

In this extremely challenging economic climate, many families struggle to access basic amenities – this challenge is further intensified for families with children who have additional needs, who are looking to access specialist educational provision.

This is where Embrace partner SKILD (Smart Kids with Individual Learning Differences) has the greatest impact.

**“ Acutely aware of the country-wide shortage of specialist staff and holding a deep desire that every child deserves to be valued, included and empowered in their learning to unlock their own unique potential, SKILD decided to start a ripple-effect through professional training.**

For many years, your generous donations have enabled children to receive high-quality specialist education provision at both the SKILD Centre in Mansourieh and SKILD's partner schools, but the staff at SKILD were adamant that this provision should not be restricted by their capacity as a team. Acutely aware of the country-wide shortage of specialist staff and holding a deep desire that every child deserves to be valued, included and empowered in their learning to unlock their own unique potential, SKILD decided to start a ripple-effect through professional training.

The Guided and Skilled course (accredited by Notre Dame University) equips teachers with the practical tools they need to meet the needs of every child in their classroom, covering essentials like curriculum adaptation, speech and psychomotor skills, social-emotional learning and the use of assistive technologies in the classroom.



**397**  
educators  
have completed  
the course

including

**9**

members of staff  
from Embrace  
partner  
organisations



To date, 397 educators have completed the course – including 9 members of staff from our other partner organisations in Lebanon, whom we were able to sponsor.

At a time when special education needs, particularly ADHD and

concentration difficulties, are reported to be on the rise among Lebanon’s children, this training empowers teachers with specialist knowledge and the skills they need to support every child in their care, ensuring full inclusion and the best access to learning for all.

# Masterful mosaics and handcrafted candles

In our January magazine, we told of the amazing resilience of our long-standing Lebanese partner, Al-Kafaàt, who moved their full range of disability services to a new campus, following devastating airstrike damage to their Beirut sites in the 2024 Israel-Hezbollah war.



Now we'd like to share some of the beautiful handicrafts produced by the students at Al-Kafaàt, who are known as the 'Villagers'.

Al-Kafaàt, meaning 'Abilities' in Arabic, offers craft workshops as one element of their rehabilitative services. Art has long been known to benefit emotional expression and a sense of well-being, as well as helping to develop motor skills and stimulate cognitive development. The creative abilities and talents of the students are beautifully showcased in these scented handmade candles and cut-glass mosaic crosses.

- 1** **Handmade Mosaic Crosses:**  
**Green and White** Size: 9 x 13 x 1cm  
 TB-HMCG **£14.99**  
**Dove** Size: 10 x 14 x 1cm  
 TB-HMCD **£14.99**
- 2** **Handmade Lotus-shaped Candles**  
 Size: 5 x 5cm  
**Green:** TB-HLCB **£6.99** *Lavender scented*  
**Red:** TB-HLCR **£6.99** *Rose scented*
- 3** **Alternative Gift: Learning to Thrive**  
*Help specialist education partners like Al-Kafaàt provide creative, compassionate and personalised learning for children.*  
 RE-AG277 **£14.00**

Visit the shop at [shop.embraceme.org/al-kafaat](http://shop.embraceme.org/al-kafaat).  
 To order by telephone call 01227 531262

