

Mission and Outreach Group News – September 2026

This is the second update focussing on our partnerships with a limited number of mission agencies. Most of the information we receive is internet based. If anyone cannot access this material and would like to see it please contact the office.

The missions we support via Holy Saviour Church are **Church Mission Society (CMS)** [<https://churchmissionsociety.org/>], **Embrace the Middle East** [<https://embraceme.org/>], and **Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF)** [<https://maf.org/>]. We continue to support our Parish Link, **Namalembe** in Uganda. In addition, we support **Southampton City Mission (SCM)** [<https://southamptoncitymission.co.uk/>] by regularly collecting produce for distribution and by providing gifts at our Harvest services. Finally, we donate a Christmas Collection to a humanitarian agency such as **Tearfund** [<https://www.tearfund.org/>] and a local charity. **If you would like more information how to give to these societies, please speak to Jo in the office or follow the links on the websites mentioned below.**

The following are brief updates since June in relation to each of the missions. If you would like to receive regular updates from any specific agency, please sign up via their website links or contact the office for more information.

Church Mission Society (CMS)

The visit from Marcio and family in September has regrettably been deferred. We will update you as soon as we have more news. In the meantime, paper copies of an update on their ministry in Brazil is available, on the table by the stairs, in the church. (also available @

https://churchmissionsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Ciechanovicz_UE_5.pdf)



Embrace the Middle East

Dear Holy Saviour family,

Thank you for your continued generosity, prayers and support for Christian communities across the Middle East. Your gifts are helping local churches and Christian organisations provide healthcare, education, humanitarian aid and hope to people facing some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. At a time when many crises have faded from the headlines, your support remains a powerful reminder that they have not been forgotten.

Gaza

In Gaza, the humanitarian situation remains catastrophic. Although a ceasefire came into effect in late 2025, the crisis is far from over. Most families have experienced displacement, often multiple times, and many continue to live in temporary shelters with limited access to clean water, sanitation, food and healthcare. Medical teams report rising levels of disease, malnutrition and trauma, particularly among children and pregnant women.

Despite these immense challenges, our partners continue to serve with extraordinary dedication. The Near East Council of Churches (NECC) provides primary healthcare, prenatal and postnatal care, nutritional support and medicines for some of the most vulnerable families. During the conflict, two of its clinics were destroyed and staff members themselves were displaced, yet services continue. NECC staff report increasing numbers of children suffering from anaemia and malnutrition, while many mothers struggle to access even the most basic nutrition.

Caritas Jerusalem continues to provide healthcare, psychosocial support and emergency cash assistance, enabling vulnerable families to purchase food, clothing, medicines and other essentials according to their own needs. Meanwhile, Al Ahli Hospital, part of the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, remains a vital lifeline, continuing to provide emergency and outpatient care despite repeated damage to its facilities.

Particularly inspiring is the work of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre's rehabilitation unit in Gaza. Staff support children living with disabilities, severe injuries and trauma, providing speech therapy, psychosocial support and rehabilitation services. Their commitment offers hope to children and families facing life-changing challenges.

The West Bank

In the West Bank, communities continue to experience economic hardship, movement restrictions and growing insecurity. Against this backdrop, our partner Anar is investing in young Palestinian Christians, helping them develop leadership skills, confidence and resilience. Through mentoring, community activities and emotional support, young people are being equipped to become leaders within their churches and communities.

At the same time, Musalaha continues its ministry of reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. By creating opportunities for dialogue, friendship and understanding, it offers a powerful witness to Christ's call to be peacemakers in a region marked by division.

Lebanon

Lebanon continues to face profound challenges following years of economic collapse, political instability and conflict. While there have been some encouraging political developments, many families displaced by the hostilities of 2024 remain unable to return home. Communities in southern Lebanon continue to experience insecurity, while the country remains under enormous pressure from hosting large numbers of displaced people from neighbouring Syria.

Our partner MERATH reports that many vulnerable families are experiencing increasing financial hardship and emotional exhaustion as displacement continues. In response, they are providing food parcels, blankets and other essential supplies, helping families maintain dignity and hope amid ongoing uncertainty.

Syria

In Syria, the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024 created new opportunities for recovery after fourteen years of devastating conflict. Millions remain displaced, poverty is widespread and infrastructure has been severely damaged. While some refugees and displaced families have begun returning home, the scale of need remains enormous.

Through local churches and partner organisations, Embrace continues to support food assistance, healthcare and community programmes. Particularly important are Child-Friendly Spaces, where children can learn, play and receive emotional support. For many Syrian children, conflict has been the only reality they have ever known, making these safe spaces a vital source of healing and stability.

Egypt

Alongside these projects, Embrace also supports vulnerable communities in Egypt, where economic hardship continues to deepen. More than a third of the population lives in poverty, inflation has risen sharply, and refugee arrivals from neighbouring conflicts have placed additional pressure on communities. Many Egyptians and refugees face significant barriers in accessing healthcare, education and employment.

One of our partners, Life Vision for Development, supports children with visual impairments by providing educational opportunities and rehabilitation services. Their work helps children who might otherwise be excluded from education to develop confidence, independence and hope for the future.

We also support organisations providing healthcare to vulnerable communities, including refugees in Cairo, and projects that help young people gain vocational skills and access employment opportunities. Humanitarian programmes assist refugees and families struggling to meet their basic needs through food distributions, shelter support and emergency assistance.

Across the Middle East, our Christian partners continue to embody God's love through practical action. They are caring for the sick, supporting displaced families, helping children overcome trauma, creating opportunities for education and employment, and working tirelessly for peace and reconciliation.

Please visit our [partner updates page \(https://embraceme.org/partner-updates\)](https://embraceme.org/partner-updates) for recent news, and if you would like to give financially to the important work of our partners, please do so by visiting [here \(https://embraceme.org/give-general\)](https://embraceme.org/give-general).

Thank you for standing alongside our brothers and sisters across the Middle East. Please continue to pray for peace, justice and protection throughout the region, and for all those who serve their communities with courage and faith.

With very best wishes, Rowena Worthington

Church and Community Fundraising Lead, Embrace the Middle East

Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF)



We are pleased to be able to advise that we hope to see the Walls family, sometime from the end of July through to mid-September 2027. We are working to find a date which works for our church family and combines the visit of the Walls family with the arrival of MAF's land-based aircraft and their flight simulator. MAF currently have good availability for the aircraft throughout that period. The timetable will be something like, Friday: the plane arrives and schools can visit. Saturday: plane open to community. Sunday plane here during the day.

Richard and the family have provided all their recent news and updates at <https://mailchi.mp/841d65bab757/septembernewsletter>.

Namalembe

We continue to work in partnership with our friends in Namalembe. Having successfully raised funds to build the Operating Theatre at the Namalembe Health Centre, we are now turning our attention to ensuring that it is self-sustaining.

Currently we are waiting on the decision of the Uganda Government in relation to the upgrading of the Health Centre. If granted, this will bring additional Government funding for staff, as well as for running costs.

In the meantime, we have facilitated a meeting between representatives of the Health Centre and Musana, a charity based in Chandlers Ford which has experience in setting up and running health facilities in Africa including Iganga, not far from Namalembe. The focus being on professional local management. We have received a positive report of their meeting and will be looking at ways to provide practical support where we can.

We continue to contribute towards staff funding for both the Namalembe Health Centre and for the nursing staff at Bumoozi Health Centre.

On August 5th we sadly received news of the death of Samuel Kakaire, head of laity at Bumoozi and a long-standing trusted friend and contact. We understand that elections will now be held in Bumoozi to appoint his successor and we look forward to building a similar partnership with whoever that may be.

We have also now learnt more details of Charles Kibumba's (another long-standing and trusted friend) high blood pressure and consequent illness. He has been in our prayers, as have all our friends in Namalembe.

Personal connection and friendships mean that those who have been to Namalembe often feel conflicted. Paying for treatment for individuals would be simple, but we must be conscious of causing jealousy and inequality.

We are pleased to confirm that once again we are organising a Barn Dance in church, this time all profits will be shared between all supported Mission Groups of Holy Saviour. The date of Saturday 7th November has been agreed, and we are already in planning mode! We hope that this event will be as enjoyable and as successful as the one held last year.

Southampton City Mission (SCM)

Hello Holy Saviour Saints,

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

This time I want to tell you about our day conference, where tickets are now on sale at an early bird discount; to let you know how we are making developments to some of our Basics Banks to increase and improve our shared outreach in those places, and give you a little insight into Grant funding in the UK in these days.

Southampton City Mission Conference 2027 “Making the Most of Every Opportunity”

Wherever we live and whatever we do, our lives are our mission field! Our friends, neighbours, family and colleagues are those we have been sent to love and bless with knowledge of God’s Kingdom invitation. At Southampton City Mission we excel at opening up even more opportunities for churches to be deliberately alongside others in the city and we are inviting you to join with us as we share more at our **3rd SCM Conference taking place on Saturday 6th February 2027 at Highfield Church, Southampton.** Come and hear about the frontline Christian outreaches on the Southampton mission field where church communities are finding new ways to connect with people in desperate need of the



Christian message, who never had the opportunity to hear it. Come and connect, be inspired, find your calling. **Book Today at:** www.southamptoncitymission.co.uk/scm-conference-2027 or just scan the QR code:

Basics Bank outreach improvements

As we have been running Basics Bank across Southampton for 30 years now, we have changed and improved the model a number of times. We are currently making minor adjustments to some of the venues, learning from our newer Marketplace projects, to improve the outreach opportunities.

Lordshill

At Lordshill Basics Bank on Fridays we are integrating the project much closer with our church host, [Lordshill Church](#). In partnership with Rev Tom Boulter and his team, we are creating more space for a welcome café area; inviting more advice agencies to attend regularly to provide our guests with support and signposting; and creating more relational pathways into the church family there and other activities they are already running. These new changes will be coming into effect on September 25th, so do please pray for us, that all would go smoothly and that there will be increasing Kingdom fruitfulness.

Lodge road Clothes Bank



In a similar fashion, the clothes bank at [Saint Mary's Lodge Road](#) is being tweaked. In order to allow more church staff and volunteers to be involved in the clothes bank, we are moving the day from a Friday to a Monday. This will also mean that (as it has done in the past) the clothes bank is then on the same day as the city centre Basics Bank. The Monday Basics Bank in Above Bar Church attracts more single adults and service users of other agencies and charities in the city centre. As these guests tend to have more need of the emergency clothes, we are making it easier for them to get everything they need from us on the same day, with the two venues just a short walk from one another.

Sholing

Next in line will be the Basics Bank hosted by [St Mary's, Sholing](#). This Grade II listed Victorian church building has been undergoing a big restorative building project, including new heating and increased welcoming space with new facilities. When fully open in Autumn 2026 the Basics Bank will move from the church hall to this new, improved welcoming space, separating the café style seating area from the food storage and packing in the church hall alongside.



Trusts and grant income

Charities like SCM receive their income from a variety of sources. We are very blessed to receive 46% from individuals and another 10% from churches, however we still had to go and find 31% last year from Trusts and Grant making bodies. Making applications for grants is a time consuming business with no guarantee of a result at the end. In the last few years though, post Covid and with the ongoing austerity and cost of living crisis, the Trusts and Grants market has collapsed.

“So what has changed in recent years? There is now much more competition, driven in part by organisations that have lost statutory funding looking to trusts to fill the gap. At the same time, AI is making it easy for charities to submit larger volumes of bids. This has increased applications across the sector. In response, trusts have been narrowing their criteria to manage the workflow, while some will not respond to new bidders or have closed down altogether. “Ben Ansell - Wootton George Consulting Having received fewer and fewer successful grants at Southampton City Mission has meant we have run a large deficit for the last few years, hugely depleting our reserves. We are now in the position of having to consider significant cutbacks, particularly in our Schools Team which is substantially underfunded. Please pray for us and if you are in a position to give to the Mission, you can set up a regular or a one-off gift through our website here:

<https://www.southamptoncitymission.co.uk/financial-giving>

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.

Duncan House - SCM CEO