

THE MAGAZINE OF THE MESSAGE

the message

flow



**More
Than We Can**

ASK OF

Imagine

Stepping up mission across the UK and around the globe

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE [ONLY JESUS](#) | [TRAIN. GROW. GO.](#)

'This is my one shot in all eternity to reach these beautiful people for Jesus'

Dear friends,

My birthday this year came at a time when, for lots of reasons, I was reflecting on the fact that, here on earth, I've got a lot more time in the rear-view mirror than on the road ahead.

This is not a depressing thought for me as I am confident in where I'm going when my time on earth ends.

It is, however, a spur to make this life count because in heaven there will be no lost people to reach. This is my one shot in all eternity to reach those who don't know Jesus with the gospel and bless the poor.

It's in this spirit, that as a leadership team and with our Trustees, we have launched a bold vision for the next three years, through which we want to step mission up even further.

It means that if God continues to bless our work over the next three years, we hope to be training 1,000,000 evangelists around the world, helping feed 100,000 families right here in the UK, continuing to see tens of thousands of decisions for Christ through our creative mission teams, and moving hundreds more workers to live in our most deprived neighbourhoods through the precious work of Eden - and so much more.

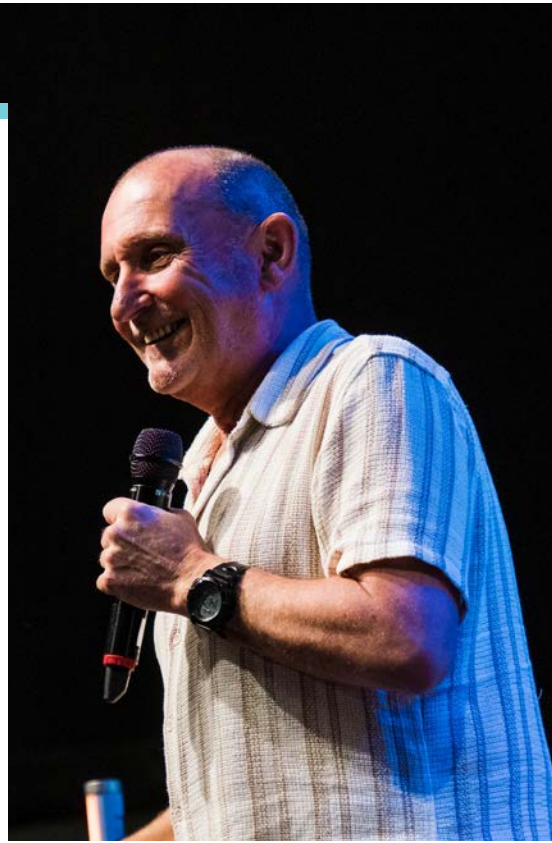
So many of you reading this edition of Flow have allowed these bold, faith-filled goals to

become a possibility by praying for us and giving to our work. Please do continue to pray for us as we step mission up even further, that God not only provides for all the practicalities but that he'll do 'even more than we ask or imagine' and all for his glory.

God bless,



Andy Hawthorne
Founder & Global CEO, The Message Trust



flow

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17 Only Jesus
A family reunited by God

IN THIS ISSUE

6 Introducing Proximity

Here to resource everyone for urban mission



21 We're the World Wide Message Tribe

On mission across the globe



25 More than we could ask or imagine

Read our exciting three-year vision



27 Our God is able

Racheal Mutesi inspires us to remember God's incredible power when life gets tough



P.S. Want to hear more about our three-year vision? Head to **page 25**



OUR COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

The paper used for Flow is manufactured using pulp sourced from sustainable sources from within Europe. It is 100% TCF (Totally Chlorine Free) and is manufactured to ISO14001 standards.



01

‘...AS HE PULLED THE BIBLE OUT I COULD SEE THAT IT WAS **ALREADY LOOKING WORN FROM ALL THE USE**’

JAMES, EDEN TOP VALLEY

**925
363
TONNES**

AMOUNT OF FOOD SAVED FROM GOING TO WASTE BY THE COMMUNITY GROCERY

02

‘I THANK GOD FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY...’
GANGSTAR BARISTA GRADUATE, SOUTH AFRICA

170,000
ADVANCE GROUP MENTORING
EVANGELISTS BEING EQUIPPED THROUGH ADVANCE GROUPS

03

WHAT YOU ARE DOING HERE IS WORKING, IT'S HAVING AN IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY AND THE KIDS LOVE IT’

623,329
46,971

NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE SEEN IN SCHOOLS

COFFEES SERVED IN THE MESS CAFÉ AND NEAL STREET ESPRESSO

73,323

IN THE LAST YEAR

04

‘I WANT TO GET BAPTISED SO I CAN BE **WASHED** CLEAN AND BE **NEW**’

127
00

RESPONSES TO THE GOSPEL AT GIGS



READ MORE AT
message.org.uk/impact

01. ‘Ten young people have been coming along to our Youth Alpha course. One week we gave each of them a Bible. That Sunday, Harry was desperate to tell me about the passages he was enjoying reading.’

02. ‘When we speak about humble beginnings, I think of my hard journey. Coming from prison and now being a qualified barista, it makes me proud of myself to be able to stand up and make those positive choices.’

03. Said a member of the local council as they saw the Message Bus in action in Caerphilly.

04. Prison’s worker Emma got chatting to three lads. As she told them about Jesus, they all responded to the gospel. Every night since, they’ve been praying together and have signed up for the Christianity Explored course.

Introducing Proximity

HAVE you checked out Proximity yet? If not, grab your phone or laptop and head to proximityhub.org

'What is Proximity?', you may ask. It's a brand-new urban mission resource hub, packed with free resources for anyone who's involved in urban mission or desperate to see our nation's estates and cities impacted by Jesus.

Excitingly it's into these places that God's calling a growing number of people, and where you'll find Christians being the hands and feet of Jesus as they do life with their community. But there's no denying it, urban mission can be hard and, at times, lonely. This is what Proximity wants to stop, by resourcing people as they step out on mission and connecting them with one another.

From spoken words, videos and devotionals to Bible studies and teaching, there's so much for you to use and share. Everything on the site has been created by urban missionaries, for urban missionaries, so will speak to your heart and your community.

With hundreds of resources available it's hard to shine a light on everything, so here's just five of the things you'll find on Proximity.

1. Prophecy: imagining the prophet Ezekiel walking through an estate, this video prophesies life, hope and community into the places that often have other labels given to them.

2. Proximity podcast: listen as we get real and chat all things urban mission with fantastic guests. In the first season, Sam Ward and Natalie Williams from Jubilee+ unpack Luke 4, asking how we can be the good news of Jesus to those experiencing poverty.

3. Common prayers: urban mission has many shared challenges. For those moments when inside you may cry out 'God, help' we have a series of prayers and thoughts that will draw you back to God's heart.



4. Around the houses: for many, door knocking is a thing of the past, but it's a great way to build friendships with your neighbours. Watch as Ben Woodfield shares how ringing doorbells has led to evangelism and baptisms on his estate.



5. Mark's gospel: this performance will bring the Bible to life and help you engage with scripture in a new way. It's free to watch and use on Proximity either as one performance or broken down into a 30-day devotional that you can journey through individually or with others.

Head to proximityhub.org to explore it for yourself. And by signing up for a free account, you can like and save your favourite content for the future.

The great thing is, Proximity is about more than just online resources, it's about community and bringing urban missionaries together too so that they can support and cheer each other on. Which is why we've got free gatherings planned around the country, as well as three retreats a year. We can't wait for you to get involved.



EXPLORE PROXIMITY FOR YOURSELF TODAY
proximityhub.org

COMMUNITY GROCERY

More than food

MEMBERS at a Community Grocery have been enjoying cookery classes run by our mate on a mission, The Flava People.

As they've come along, members got to learn how to turn the ingredients they find in store into healthy, affordable meals. Every week, loads of courses and events just like

this run in groceries across the UK where people of all ages get to learn new skills and connect with the partner church too.

See more of what happened at the Flava cookery class [on page 12](#)

THE SCATTERING

Sharing Jesus

WE LOVE seeing young people stepping out telling people about Jesus. In July and August, young people from across the UK headed to the North East and London for mission weeks and saw 69 people give their lives to God!

In Sunderland, one team got chatting with 10 young people and decided to be brave and share the gospel with them. As Gabe and Jonah spoke, Theo prayed for everyone to experience the love of Jesus. Several people said they felt something change in them and five young people gave their lives to Jesus!

After answering some of their questions about faith and linking them with a church, the



team left feeling so encouraged that they started chatting to another group of people about Jesus. As Jonah and Gabe shared their testimonies, one lad, Leo, said how much he related to Gabe's story. The team got to pray with Leo and he decided he wanted to give his life to Jesus. As this was happening, Jonah also led another lad to God!

Want to take part in the 2025 mission? Visit message.org.uk/thescattering



NO MORE KNIVES

'I now have a hope, and his name is Jesus'

THESE were the words that Kye shared with over 150 school pupils as the No More Knives tour headed to the West Midlands, running lessons for 2,500 young people in schools.

In 2018, Kye's brother was tragically killed in a knife attack. Wanting to use his story to help others, he joined the Message team for a couple of lessons. As young people listened to Kye's story, the room was silent.

He said, 'I failed all my GCSEs and didn't know what to do with my life, but then I found faith. I now have a hope and his name is Jesus. I'm doing new courses and my life is moving forward.'

On the tours, each young person our team meet in school is invited to a gig where they get to hear more about Jesus. This is where OTC team member Tomi met Nadia.

As Tomi was sharing her testimony of how God changed her life, she felt it was important to share about how she'd struggled at university. Later in the evening, Tomi went outside to get some fresh air, and bumped into Nadia. After saying 'hi', they got chatting about Jesus, faith and the Bible. Tomi could see that Nadia was struggling and felt it was right to say, 'I know you have questions and a lot going on right now, but I just want you to know that Jesus sees you and is with you.' Nadia's face lit up and she shared how she was a Muslim but had big questions about whether she's connecting with the real God. She also shared that during her GCSEs, she'd hit rock bottom and lost hope. Hearing Tomi's story earlier had impacted her. Tomi grabbed the chance to say that Jesus is



with Nadia, cares for her and loves her, and they prayed together.

They headed back into the gig, just as James (another band member of OTC) was sharing how he'd grown up in a Muslim home but discovered Jesus' love for him.

As the gospel was being shared, every young person was given the opportunity to respond. Straight away, Nadia put her hand up and gave her life to Jesus, along with 47 other young people!

Tomi was able to pray with Nadia and link her up with a local club where young girls who live in Muslim homes, but believe in Jesus, are able to go and find out more about faith. Nadia is excited to come along and to find out more about Jesus!

Find out more about the No More Knives tour at message.org.uk/nomoreknives

Football and faith



DAY in, day out, Eden teams are sharing the love of Jesus in word and action at every opportunity with their neighbours. And they're seeing God use them as they step out for him.

In Newcastle, the Eden Byker team helps out at The Byker Pantry where, similar to the Community Grocery, people can get the discounted food they need and enjoy a brew with volunteers from Life Vineyard Church. It's a great way to connect with their neighbours and chat about Jesus.

It's here Nathan from Eden Byker met James. As they talked, Nathan discovered that James was a huge football fan so invited him along to the community football sessions the Eden team run each Wednesday. That week, James was there and brought his mate Daniel too.

After a few weeks of getting to know each other and having some chats about faith, Nathan invited James and Daniel to the Alpha course the partner church were running – and they both said 'yes!' They really enjoyed the sessions, getting to hear more about Christianity and having their questions answered.

One week, Daniel told Nathan about some of the struggles he faced with his mental health, sharing how he was feeling. This gave Nathan

the chance to pray with Daniel for him to experience the hope, peace and freedom of Jesus, and invited him along to church that Sunday, too.

Although Daniel didn't come that week, Nathan carried on chatting to him about faith and invited him along to church again. This time, Daniel came and said how much he enjoyed the service. Afterwards, he asked the team to pray for him and said he felt like he was holding back tears. This gave Nathan a great opportunity to tell him about the Holy Spirit and how God was always with Daniel, sharing the gospel again. There and then, Daniel gave his life to Jesus. Since then he's continued connecting with the Eden team and church, and is growing in his faith!

If you're passionate about sharing the love of Jesus in your community, why not find out more about joining an Eden team at joineden.org



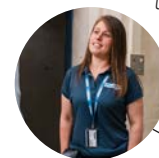
Reaching our nation

Catch up with the latest Message news from across the UK

EAST MIDLANDS

Finding faith in prison

PRISONS worker Abi and musician Nick Shahlavi headed into a local prison to run a spoken word event. Whilst hearing Nick's testimony and the gospel, three women accepted Jesus into their lives for the first time, 10 recommitted their lives to God and seven signed up to a the4points course to find out more about faith.



NORTH EAST

Step on board

2,543 young people have climbed on board the Message Bus for over 100 hours of sessions in the North East. As teenagers have enjoyed all the activities they find on the bus, we've been able to share the gospel with every single one of them, seeing many respond and get connected with the local church.



WALES

40 days of mission

FROM beach mission and LIFT evangelistic gigs to Respect ME schools days, Message Wales partnered with churches for 40 back-to-back days of mission. Whilst on a Love Where U Live project in Bridgend, Alice got chatting with a group of girls and, after she shared the gospel, four of them gave their lives to Jesus right there in the street!



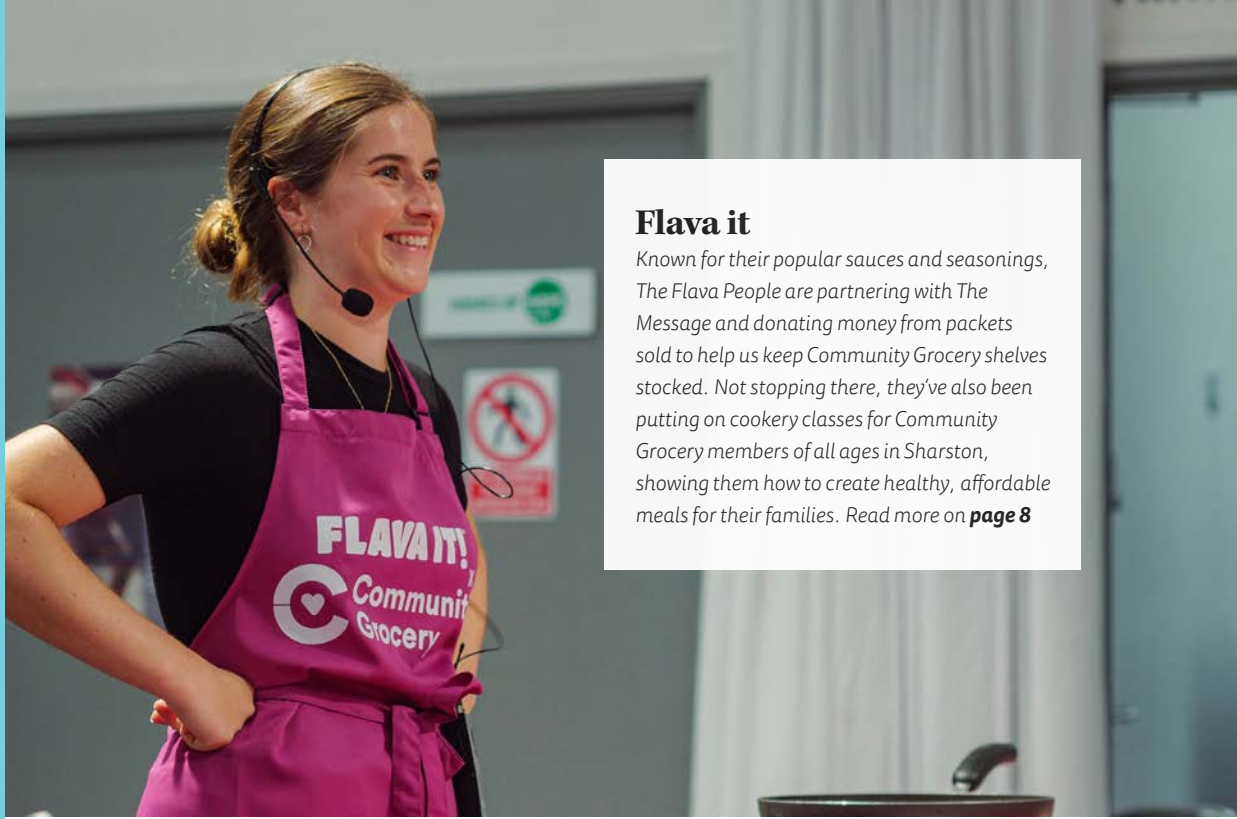
LONDON

Coming to faith

EDEN Gurnell Grove's work supporting local Iranian refugees has continued to grow. As relationships are built, they're seeing many come to know Jesus and 20 people have been baptised in the last year!



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message.org.uk/news



Flava it

Known for their popular sauces and seasonings, The Flava People are partnering with The Message and donating money from packets sold to help us keep Community Grocery shelves stocked. Not stopping there, they've also been putting on cookery classes for Community Grocery members of all ages in Sharston, showing them how to create healthy, affordable meals for their families. Read more on [page 8](#)



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TRAIN GROW GO

7,000 people hearing the gospel. 66 school lessons. 23 youth groups. 8 assemblies. Hundreds accepting Jesus into their lives! This is what Message School of Evangelism (MSE) is all about

Coming from eight countries, across five continents, 28 MSE students, all with a heart to tell people about Jesus, have been trained, equipped and sent to share the gospel with the least, the last and the lost. And as they've done this, many have had their lives changed by God.

As they dug into the Bible and learnt more about sharing their faith, the students got to put everything they were learning into practice from day one. From doing talks in youth clubs to running gospel-packed schools lessons, they headed out on mission sharing the hope of Jesus with those they met.



One group of students headed into primary schools with a pantomime musical that told the kids more about Jesus in a fun and accessible way. At the same time, another group of students headed into the local community making over gardens. As they tidied their garden one student, Tobias, got chatting with the family and the daughters said they'd seen

the pantomime in school that day. As they shared what they'd learnt, the girls said, 'Jesus is the best person in history. We love him!' It was great to see how the work of the two teams overlapped, showing the family Jesus' love in word and action.

Wanting to grow in boldness and pray for her community, Naomi went out on a prayer walk. As she prayed, she asked God to direct her to who needed to hear about him and felt like she should talk to Kelly. It turned out that Kelly had just started going to the local church because she wanted to find out more about Jesus! Naomi offered to pray for her and looked out for her at church that Sunday.

After the service, Kelly signed up for Alpha and gave her life to Jesus while on the course. Kelly's now been baptised, serves



regularly in church and is bringing her friends and family along too, so that they can experience the love of Jesus in the same way she has! It's amazing to see what God's been doing in Kelly's life since Naomi felt she had to speak to her.


Also out prayer walking, another MSE student, Hallimat, met Louise who shared some of the challenges she'd faced in life. She said, 'I wouldn't have survived if someone higher wasn't looking out for me.' Hallimat was able to grab the opportunity to share that she believed it was Jesus protecting her and about how much he loved her. She invited Louise to church and as they prayed together, Louise said she'd love to come.

**'Don't give up on God.
HE SEES YOU'**

Whilst these can often seem like small conversations, each is a seed planted for Jesus. Over the course, the students had thousands of moments like this praying for people, encouraging them, inviting them to church and sharing Jesus' love with them.

As the course went on, the students spent more and more time on mission, heading out on placements across the UK as well as internationally. This year, students headed to Zambia, the Netherlands and Germany. >

GO



'Jesus is the BEST PERSON in history'

The students that went to Germany spoke at festivals, schools and conferences, getting to share the gospel with 2,200 people and seeing 75 give their lives to Jesus! Whilst in schools, they led lessons on identity and resilience, performed truth-filled tracks and shared their testimonies of what God has done in their lives. Every young person was invited to an end-of-week gig and 110 came along to hear more about Jesus. There, 25 accepted Jesus into their lives!

In Zambia, a group of students travelled to remote villages where they got to spend time doing crafts, chatting to the villagers about Jesus, and sharing their stories. As they did this, people responded to the gospel. Many, having not heard about Jesus before, had questions so the MSE students started impromptu Bible studies where they unpacked the Bible for the villagers and pointed them to scriptures that would encourage them.

On their way to another village, the team got to go into a school and share the gospel with 60 pupils. The students asked if any of the young people wanted to give their lives to Jesus and 20 of them said 'yes'!

As well as heading overseas, the students got stuck into placements across the UK using every chance to tell people about Jesus as they worked with Eden teams, in Community Groceries, ran creative mission workshops, and so much more.

Whilst in Sheffield, some students met Nixon. As they talked, he shared that he was feeling a lot of shame from things he'd done in the past. The students were able to tell him about the forgiveness and hope they had found in Jesus, and prayed that God would set Nixon free from all that he was battling. After they prayed, Nixon immediately said he felt a change in himself and gave his life to Jesus! The team connected him with a local church so that he could continue growing in his faith.

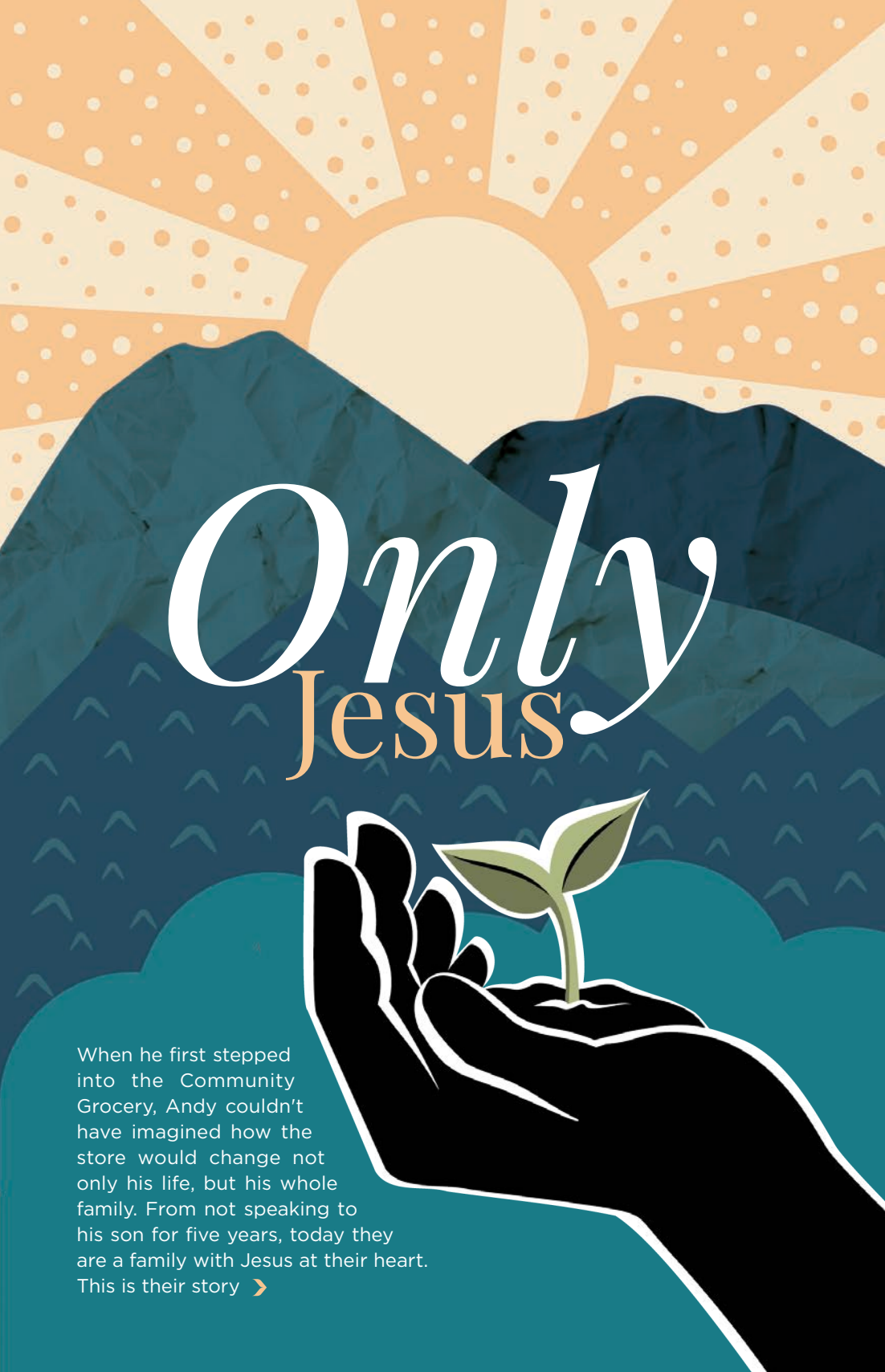
Out in Wythenshawe town centre, student Rinki felt God encouraging her to chat to Dawn who she'd spotted walking past her. As they got talking, Rinki felt God saying that she needed to tell Dawn, 'Don't give up on God. He sees you and is with you in everything.' Hearing this, Dawn started to cry and told Rinki, 'You're the third person who's said this to me. It feels like everything is against me right now. I was in an abusive relationship, got kicked out and now I'm on the streets with my one-year-old child. Things are so hard, but I think God is trying to speak to me and telling me to put my trust in him.' As Rinki chatted more with Dawn, she invited her along to church – and she came! Since then, Dawn's been regularly coming to church, finding the support she needs and growing in her faith as she discovers more about Jesus. ❶



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO'D LIKE TO JOIN US ON MSE? VISIT message.org.uk/mse



GO



Only Jesus

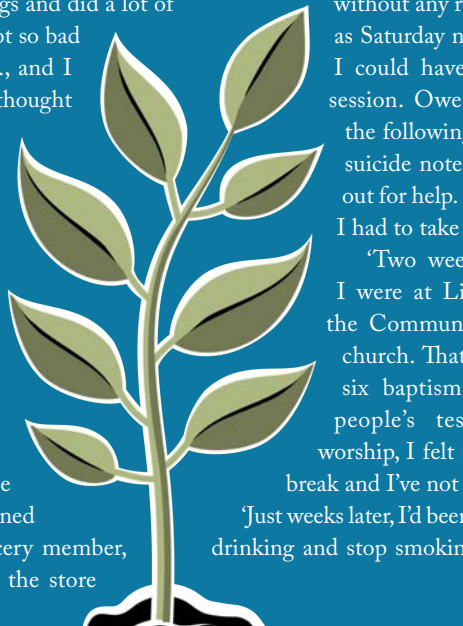
When he first stepped into the Community Grocery, Andy couldn't have imagined how the store would change not only his life, but his whole family. From not speaking to his son for five years, today they are a family with Jesus at their heart. This is their story >



Andy: 'I've always believed in God and went to church until I was 17 and going out with my mates took over.

'Over the years, life wasn't easy. Yes, I have an amazing wife, Karen, and fantastic kids but I struggled with drink and drugs and did a lot of things I wasn't proud of. It got so bad that my eldest son, Andy Jr., and I barely talked for five years. I thought I'd lost him.

'In 2022, knowing money was tight, my daughter said I should go to the Community Grocery. "They do great deals that would help you," she said. I was blown away by the choice in the store and what I could get for £5, but what caught my eye more than anything was the huge 'Welcome Home' sign in the church that the grocery is joined to. As I signed up as a grocery member, Dan not only told me how the store



worked but about the support courses and church services too. It sounded good, but if I'm honest I didn't think much more about it.

'Around this time, my son Owen started asking if he could go to church. I kept saying "yes" without any real plans to take him, as Saturday night was the evening I could have a serious drinking session. Owen kept asking, then the following May, we found five suicide notes he'd written crying out for help. Straight away, I knew I had to take him to church.

'Two weeks later, Owen and I were at Lighthouse Church – the Community Grocery partner church. That Sunday, there were six baptisms. As I listened to people's testimonies and the worship, I felt something inside me break and I've not looked back.

'Just weeks later, I'd been able to cut down my drinking and stop smoking weed – something



Owen kept telling Andy Jr. about how his mum and I had changed. As he dropped them home, Andy Jr. reluctantly agreed to come into the house. I took him into a room and said the only thing that mattered. "I'm sorry." I told him I'd not been the dad he needed and that I wanted to make a new start. I also mentioned that Karen was getting baptised the next week and that we'd love him to be there.

I'd tried to do before and failed. Every Sunday, I was in church.

'One week I said to God in my head, "I need Pastor Rick to pray with me." The next thing I knew he was there and praying. The floodgates opened. I knew God had heard me and loved me. I gave my life to Jesus, and I shared my biggest desire – I wanted Andy Jr. back.

'Owen had been coming to church with me every week and you could see how much he loved Jesus. A few weeks after, he decided to get baptised and invited the whole family to come and watch.

'I didn't think his mum, Karen, would come but, to my surprise, she said she would go to support Owen but wasn't going to become a Christian! What a day it was.

'As Owen shared his story, you could see how God had changed him from a young man battling dark thoughts to someone full of hope. As we celebrated, Karen said how much she'd liked church and to our surprise started coming along, and gave her life to Jesus on Christmas Day!

'Despite not talking to me, Andy Jr. regularly spent time with Owen and our daughter Teagan.

'That Sunday, he came saying he needed to "see the change to believe it." In front of 300 people, Karen shared how Jesus had turned her life around, before turning to Andy Jr. and apologising to him in front of everyone. After seeing his mum come out of the water, Andy Jr. got out of his chair and went up onto the stage, grabbed the microphone and said, "the change in my mum can only be Jesus."

'We've not looked back. I have my son back. He and Teagan have become Christians too and every day our family WhatsApp group is filled with Bible verses and worship songs. Jesus is my whole life, my saviour and number one.' >



'Every day our family WhatsApp group is filled with Bible verses and worship songs'

'I have the family I always wanted'

Andy Jr.: 'Growing up, life was tough. Home was very volatile, and I was badly bullied at school. The only place I felt safe was at Nan and Grandad's, so when they offered to take me to Sunday School I jumped at the chance – not because I wanted to hear about Jesus, but because I got to spend time with my grandad.'

'As I got older, I developed a temper, getting kicked out of three schools, which didn't help at home as it put more pressure on Mum and Dad. As a teenager, I got caught up with drink and drugs, and was regularly in fights. When I was 17, my grandad died and I spiralled.'



'For the next four years, I was in and out of work and my relationship with Dad went from bad to worse. At 21, I saw an advert for the Royal Navy and decided it was my way out.'

'A month into my Navy training something happened, and I got kicked out. I felt like a failure and was in a dark place. I was determined I wasn't going home, so moved away from Telford with my partner, and stopped talking to my parents.'

'But I knew I still needed to be there for my brother and sisters. As we spent time together, my brother Owen told me he and Dad were going to church. Knowing he was having a hard

time, I thought it was good for him. But then Owen started saying, "Mum and Dad are doing better, you should come and see them." I wasn't ready so said, "no". A few weeks later, Owen mentioned he was getting baptised and begged me to go. But I couldn't, I wasn't going to ruin Owen's special day with an argument.'

'The next time I saw him, Owen said Mum was going to church too. Then I knew it was serious! Dropping them home, I didn't plan to go in, but when Mum opened the door, she looked totally different. She looked happy. I found myself getting out of the car saying, "Owen's been asking me to come in, is that OK?" She quickly said, "yes."

'Inside, Dad took me into the living room and it was like I was talking to a different person. He gave me the one thing I wanted more than anything, an apology. "I'm sorry for how things were when you were younger", he said, before telling me it wasn't my fault. A huge weight lifted off my shoulders. As we talked, he invited me to Mum's baptism.'

'Seeing Mum stand up at her baptism and say sorry to me in front of so many people broke me. I needed her to know I forgave her, so found myself on the stage telling people the change in her could only be Jesus.'

'Seeing what God had done in my family made me start asking questions about Jesus and going to church. As I read my grandad's Bible and listened to worship songs, the words hit home and things in me shifted, until one day I knew I needed to give my life to Jesus. A few weeks later, it was my turn to get baptised. What a day! As I came out of the water my anger had gone and I felt deep happiness instead.'

'Jesus is my saviour. He's saved me from myself. God pulled my family back together and I have the family I always wanted.' ●



READ MORE STORIES LIKE THIS AT
message.org.uk/communitygrocery

We're The World Wide Message Tribe



33 years ago, Andy Hawthorne and the team started heading into schools sharing the hope of Jesus through music as The World Wide Message Tribe. Little did they know how God was going to grow and multiply this mission to not only reach the least, last and lost across the UK, but to also reach the nations ➤

AS GOD opened doors and connected Andy with like-minded mates on a mission, today The Message truly is a worldwide movement, with seven international hubs passionately heading into schools, communities and prisons every day with the gospel, whilst also training up the next generation of evangelists through Advance.

We continue to be amazed by all God is doing in and through The Message and wanted to encourage you with a snapshot of the transformation he's been doing around the world.

Andy and the team's legacy, keeping creative mission, young people and schools work at the centre, is what inspires Daniel Eduardo, Hub Leader of Message Brazil. Earlier this year, the team ran their first ever schools tour, heading into three schools with truth-packed lessons about identity and invited every student along to the evangelistic end-of-week gig. Here, the young people came for an evening of music, testimonies and the gospel – which 40 responded to! And God keeps opening doors for more schools tours, with another happening this autumn outside of Rio. He's also made a way for the team to launch their first Eden team into a favela in Santa Marta. We're so excited to see how they share the love of Jesus in word and action with those living and working in the favela so please be praying for them.

'I'm so thankful God heard and answered my prayers'

Serving the poor through Eden is a heart shared by all our hubs, particularly in Canada. In Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Fari and the team lead an Eden team in partnership

with Coastal Church. Through their work in the community and running the Eden Café, they're supporting people from tough backgrounds and helping them get skills and discipleship, find a community and discover Jesus. People like Jason.



Addicted to drugs and living on the streets, Jason was at rock bottom when he prayed to God for help. 'I heard a voice telling me to go to Union Gospel Mission and there my new life started', he said. 'I got help for my addiction and met Pastor Fari who introduced me to Coastal Church, the Eden team and the Eden Café. I started coming along to Alpha being run by the Eden team and it was an amazing experience. After I completed my recovery programme, I applied for the training and employment programme at the Eden Café and got on! Here I completed discipleship courses, grew in my faith, developed new employment skills, found life-long Godly friendships and loved coming along to church each week, as well as taking part in prayer walks and outreach with the Eden team. I now have a permanent job with the Eden Café and I'm so thankful God heard and answered my prayers because discovering

Eden has been a blessing; it feels like a home with a good family.'

'I've found the solution... the only answer is God'

In each country, reaching the least, the last and the lost looks a little different as we adapt to the needs of those in each community. In South Africa, we have Community Hubs which act like Eden in communities where people struggle with gangsterism, addiction and poverty. Providing safe places for young people to come for educational support, sports activities and discipleship, the hubs shine the light of Jesus in their neighbourhoods. Throughout the year, the teams run Respect ME sessions, Bloom events to empower and support young women, and Genetik Sessions creative workshops. But this summer, Message South Africa have been especially busy, running three holiday clubs in the Parkwood (Cape Town), Citrusdal (Cape Town) and Jozi East (Gauteng) Community Hubs, and sharing the hope of Jesus with over 280 young people!

And this work is now spreading across Africa! This winter, we're so excited to be launching a brand-new hub in Uganda. Headed up by Racheal Mutesi, the team are already heading into schools to share the love of Jesus. As they've been doing this, they're seeing how God is using them. In one school, the team felt a deep sense of discouragement and despair among the students and teachers. They discovered that one young person tried to take their own life by setting fire to the school dormitory. Although the girl thankfully survived, there was enormous damage to personal belongings and the building. Not only that, half of the students were pulled out of the school due to malpractice from a teacher. 'The headteacher had lost hope and inspiration to push the school forward but God, by his grace, led us

here', Racheal said. 'We led students through worship songs, shared testimonies and told the young people about Jesus – and over 100 students gave their lives to God that day and many stayed after school to talk and pray with the team about things they were facing in their life.' Do be praying for Racheal and the team as they launch the new hub at Festival Bombo and continue sharing Jesus in Uganda and beyond.

Message Germany have also been seeing young people come to know Jesus, both locally and in Czechia and Austria, thanks to their growing international connections! Creative mission team NGHTNDAY served at an International Summer Camp with young people from Czechia and Germany, where they were able to lead Genetik Session music workshops. Young people from all faiths and backgrounds came along and, over the course of the week, our team prayed that God would move in the lives of all the young people who came along and for opportunities to be bold in their faith. On one of the days, team member Matthias was helping Carl write some song lyrics. As they chatted, Carl opened up about how he was feeling lost and overwhelmed, so Matthias grabbed the opportunity to share about the hope and love of Jesus, and shared his testimony. Matthias then encouraged Carl to think about what gives him hope to add this to his lyrics. >



Later, Carl ran up to Matthias and showed him the lyrics which were changed to 'I've found the solution... the only answer is God!' Matthias was able to keep journeying with Carl giving him a Bible and plugging him into a local church! How beautiful.

'I feel so on fire for Jesus and equipped to share him after just a few months being in Advance'

We love seeing young people give their lives to Jesus, and here in the UK as well as over in the Netherlands, we're also equipping young people to be bold and share their faith with others through Advance Youth. Partnering with local churches for Love Where U Live community mission and outreach, the Dutch Advance Youth have been prayer walking and sharing the gospel with those they met. They've shared the gospel with over 400 people and one young person said, 'It was so cool that I could pray on the street for someone'.

And it's not just young people we're training and equipping for evangelism. Through our Advance small group mentoring groups, men and women are learning how to share the gospel in their everyday conversations. One group member Julitta said, 'When I first heard of Advance, I wasn't sure it was for me because I'd never dared to share about Jesus in conversations and never knew what to say. But I'm now encouraging others in my church to also join Advance because I've seen God answer my prayers for openings. I feel so on fire for Jesus and equipped to share him after just a few months being in Advance'.

Through Advance, we're now in over 90 nations, reaching hundreds of thousands with the good news of Jesus in a language they understand. It's truly beautiful to see how God has taken a vision of a small band from Manchester, and turned it into a real worldwide Message Tribe. **i**



SOUTH AFRICA



READ MORE ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS CANADA, UGANDA, THE NETHERLANDS, SOUTH AFRICA AND BRAZIL, AND PLANS TO LAUNCH NEW INTERNATIONAL HUBS
message.org.uk/global

More Than We Can Ask Or Imagine



For 33 years we've been desperate to see every young person and community changed by Jesus. Looking ahead, we know God has so much more for us and we're excited for what's still to come

EXCITINGLY over the past few years, it's felt like even more opportunities are opening up to share Jesus, whether it's in schools with the No More Knives tour, through feeding families in Community Groceries, launching Eden into new neighbourhoods or training evangelists right around the globe. It really is more than we could ask or imagine.

Prayer and mission always go hand in hand at The Message. We're a charity that 'goes forward on our knees', asking God to direct us in what we do and how we can use every opportunity to tell people and communities about him.

As we look to the future, we've been praying about what's next. And God's given us our biggest vision yet, through which we're believing

we'll see tens of thousands of lives impacted by the gospel. Your prayers and support mean so much, so we wanted to share this with you. We hope you're as excited as we are.

OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS OUR VISION IS...

CREATIVE MISSION

We want every young person to hear the good news of Jesus, so from day one we've been heading into schools sharing the gospel. We're planning to double the impact of our teams sharing the gospel face-to-face with over **200,000 young people**, believing that at least **20,000 will respond** and become lifelong disciples. **>**



COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

- As people choose to join Eden and live long-term in some of the toughest places, we continue to see lives and whole communities transformed, so our plan is to launch **18 new teams** and see around **200 new missionaries** deployed by 2027.
- We're going to keep feeding families through Community Groceries. By launching **18 new stores**, we'll support over **100,000 families** and believe thousands will hear the gospel and respond to it as they connect with the partner church.
- As urban missionaries are built up and equipped through Proximity, we believe new ministries will be launched and that this could happen in **10,000 UK locations** over the next three years.

PRISONS AND ENTERPRISE

- Day in, day out, our prisons teams share Jesus in word and deed with men, women and young people. As they discover God's love, hope is breaking in. But there's more to do so we want to roll out work in **six more prisons**.
- We're going to continue giving ex-offenders the next step they need as they turn their lives around by **doubling** the number of members on our discipleship programme, providing each with jobs and support to grow in their faith and break free from the cycle of reoffending.

EQUIPPING AND TRAINING

- Equipping evangelists so that everyone can hear the gospel is at the core of our DNA. We're planning to keep growing Advance so that **1,000,000 evangelists** can be trained to

share their faith. As they grow in boldness, we believe we'll see **5,000,000 people** respond to the gospel.

- After young men and women have spent time being trained and equipped on MSE, they'll be released into a lifetime of serving Jesus. The stories of lives being impacted are incredible, so we want to see **twice as many students** able to join the course by increasing its size.

INTERNATIONAL HUBS

God's already opened doors for Message mission across different nations, and the impact he's having on lives is phenomenal. We've got lots more nations asking to partner with us, so, prayerfully, we hope to launch **five new international charities** by 2027 to see more nations impacted by the gospel.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

1. Pray – we need more people praying for us and the work of The Message as we step out on mission. Will you join our army of prayer supporters?
2. Stand with us – to make these bold, faith-filled goals happen, it's going to cost more and will mean we need more people stepping up to give towards making mission happen. Could you help us so that together we can see lives transformed now and for eternity? **🙏**



WATCH OUR VISION VIDEO AND SIGN UP TO PRAY AND GIVE AT
message.org.uk/vision



Our God is Able



When life is difficult, it can be easy to doubt the power of God and tempting to turn to other sources to try and see breakthrough. Message Uganda Hub Leader **Racheal Mutesi** challenges us to remember God's incredible power and faithfulness

EPHESIANS 3:20 serves as a climactic conclusion to Paul's prayer for the Ephesians, highlighting God's boundless ability to exceed our expectations and fulfil our needs. It is a declaration that God's ability is beyond human comprehension.

It reads, 'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.'

In our world today, there is a growing scepticism about God's omnipotence and omniscience. Many people often ask themselves,

'If God is powerful, and all-knowing and loving, why does he allow evil in our world?' However, in this passage, we're reminded that God is alive and active in the lives of the believers through the Holy Spirit.

Life's challenges like death, sickness, relationship breakdowns and financial struggles can cause doubts or lure prayerless believers to seek alternative sources of help or comfort. A respected lady in our congregation once told me, 'God helps those who help themselves.' In her mind, witchcraft could supplement my relentless prayers. She thought, 'God needs help'. No! In Ephesians, Paul reminds us that our prayers go directly to a God who can meet all our needs, and beyond what we could even imagine.

Last week, I met a pastor, who was a third-generation Kenyan of Indian descent. He shared his story of how God used a Muslim man, a Hindu woman and a poisonous snake to lead him to faith! **>**

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It was incredible. He went on to say that in 2009, a year after his conversion, he went on mission to Northern Kenya where he served for a year among the tribal groups. He saw a lot of devastation there. The rains washed away people's homesteads during the rainy season, and animals and people died in the desert when the rains didn't come. There was no electricity, hospitals or infrastructure to support people, and even the water was toxic and caused boils on people's skin.

'They will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well'

One morning, he was bitten by a poisonous snake. He immediately recognised the species and knew that he had just a few hours to live. In fact, he had watched three Masai warriors – tall, towering men – killed and buried in the same village after being bitten by this snake. He was carried to the dispensary where he was given paracetamol and some sleeping pills. There, he overheard the nurse whisper to his caregiver that he was going to die.

How incredible is the work of God

When he was carried back to his homestead, a spear was placed by his door to symbolise that he was dying and if the nurse came back in the evening and called three times without his response, they would know that he had died and would carry him to his grave.


The mission organisation he was serving with offered to repatriate him back to Nairobi for better medical care, but he declined because he didn't want his Hindu family to suffer the shame that their son had not only died as a Christian but also on a mission field in a strange

land, or for his family's last memory to be of him swollen and covered with boils. The pastor told me that, in that moment, he read the book of Job and desperately prayed to God, 'If you heal me, I will live to tell of your goodness and will take the gospel to my people – the Indians.'

He then heard God audibly speak to him with Mark 16:17, 'And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.'

God can meet all our needs, beyond what we can imagine

Moments later he was healed! Today he is an evangelist and trains other evangelists to reach Asian communities with the hope of Jesus. How incredible is the work of God – and certainly far beyond what we could ask or imagine.

So be encouraged today, that we pray to a God who is powerful, kind, able to heal and full of mercy. Spend time remembering his faithfulness and how he's answered prayers for you before, and seek him again today through prayer and in his word. 



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