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# MERF News

October 2024



Middle East Reformed Fellowship—“Declaring the Whole Counsel of God”

“Faithful, Fruitful and Cost-Effective Indigenous Missions!”

## Praise & Prayer



MERF Arabic Media Ministry team Bible study session

**M**ERF encourages and enables faithful local, indigenous Christians and churches in Arab and Muslim lands to deepen their biblical knowledge and become more effective in witnessing to Christ. The backbone of MERF’s ministry is **Biblical Training:**

- Short regional Bible study conferences
- Translation, publication and distribution of Bible study materials
- *MERF Augustine Programme* is an intensive basic Bible study course for church leaders taught over 3 months, 3 times a year just over the border from South Sudan at MERF’s Lokichoggio, Kenya ministry centre and in other formats in Ethiopia and Tanzania.

**Evangelism & Church Extension** includes helping

to support local pastors and evangelists through faithful local churches and **Media Ministry** in a dozen languages via radio and internet.

When diaconal needs are too great for faithful local churches, MERF **Diaconal Aid** supports their volunteer efforts to help the neediest in the name of Christ.

A 3-minute MERF overview video is at the bottom of the MERF newsletter site: [www.powerofchristatwork.net](http://www.powerofchristatwork.net) (OR directly: [www.merf.org/3min](http://www.merf.org/3min))

### PRAISE & PRAYER

**Farsi Media Ministry** – Praise God that the ongoing Farsi ministry of translation of Bible messages and sound materials benefits several online groups. Pray for these to be shared more widely to build up the growing young churches in Iran and

Afghanistan and beyond. Pray also for the provision of a qualified team leader for this ministry.

**Arabic Media Ministry** – Praise God for two new indirect gospel online radio programmes on [Dardasha7.com](http://Dardasha7.com), one uses discussion of personal legal problems to provide Christ-centred answers.

Pray for inquirers from all over the Arab world eager to learn about Christ at the direct gospel site: [Issa-alMasih.com](http://Issa-alMasih.com). W.A. asks “How do I follow the Christian faith and live with my family, safe from persecution?” Pray for him and others struggling with this issue.

Give thanks for **MERF-ArabicLibrary.com** which freely provides solid Arabic Christian publications to spiritual leaders. Pray for this to bring more blessing to

converts in many countries, including in closed lands, like Saudi Arabia.

Praise God for the interest in both town and village churches in the Arabic Sunday school curriculum *Bible Building Blocks of Faith* based on a simplified version of the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Pray for the next generation to be blessed by becoming solidly grounded in God’s Word.



MERF-ArabicLibrary.com  
Foundations of Faith  
by William Guthrie



Ethiopia - Book Distribution to Church Leaders

*“Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.”*

— Psalm 33:20

**Amazigh North Africa Ministry** – Praise God for good responses to Amazigh language evangelistic online video programmes. Many show keen interest to know more about Christ. Pray for divine wisdom and protection of those providing spiritual nourishment to new converts.

**Diaconal Aid** – Praise God that this year MERF has partnered with local church volunteers for small diaconal aid provisions mainly to needy Christians displaced by fighting in **Sudan** and in southern **Lebanon** near the northern border of Israel. Pray for lasting peace and the end of suffering caused by these destructive military conflicts.

**Ethiopia** – Praise God for good responses to gospel radio broadcasts and for distribution of Scriptures

and Christian literature in 3 major languages, Amharic, Oromo and Somali. Also, give thanks for the many Ethiopian churches eagerly receiving the first units of the *Ten-to-Teens* Shorter Catechism-based Bible study curriculum published in the Amharic and Oromo languages. Pray that this useful tool brings blessing to many thousands.

**South Sudan** – Praise God for good responses to the daily Nuer language gospel and Bible teaching radio broadcasts. Pray for God’s Word and Spirit to guide spiritual leaders to be peacemakers in tribal conflicts.

**Lokichoggio, Kenya Ministry Centre** – Praise God for more than 20 years of biblical training of South Sudanese and other East Africans church leaders through the Augustine Programme. Pray especially for the Turkana tribe churches established in northern Kenya by programme graduates.

**Tanzania** – Praise God for the determination of two Tanzanian graduates of MERF’s Augustine Programme, in Lokichoggio, Kenya to establish the basic biblical training course in their mother tongue for local Tanzanian church pastors and evangelists. The first group gradu-

ated last year and the second is expected to do so in a few of weeks. Please pray for this programme to continue to be a blessing, especially to Tanzanian churches in remote villages.

**Makassar, Indonesia Ministry Centre**- Praise God for gospel broadcasts prepared in 4 local languages and for ministries to children. Pray for the activation of the MERF’s Augustine Programme of biblical training at the centre.

**Jakarta, Indonesia Ministry Centre** – Praise God for the online and in-person Bible programmes for young people in the Javanese and Sundanese languages as well as the national Bahasa Indonesia language. The Lord is also richly blessing the training of Sunday school teachers. Pray for the editing and completion of a Christ-centred Bible lesson storybook for children and teachers.



Amharic language Ten-to-Teens Westminister Shorter Catechism-based Bible study course



Indonesia Vacation Bible School event

**MERF-Australia**

Rev Chris Athavle (Chairman), Rev Terry Flanagan (Clerk),  
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Rev Dr Dennis Muldoon, Mr Basil Yakoubi, Rev Shane Gooch  
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