

MARK OF MISSION 1

Sharing the Good News...

through supporting Phil & Sylvie Good and Emil & Reem Bourizk, working with CMS in Lebanon.



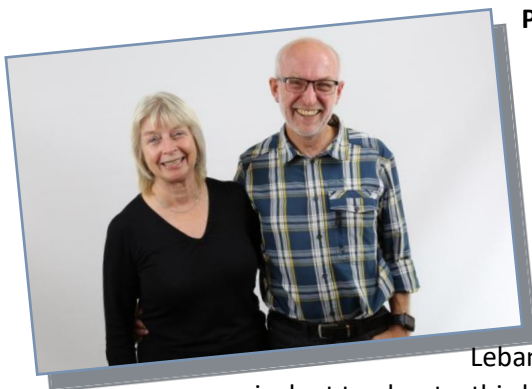
If we are honest many of us find it daunting to speak to others about our faith. This is especially the case in our current Western context where personal faith has been relativised and seen as a matter of individual choice, rather than leading us towards ultimate truth. Thus, it is good for us to hear of others who are sharing their faith in creative and sensitive ways in various challenging situations. We can find ourselves encouraged to be more open to sharing our own faith when we hear the testimony of others.

To help us grow in this area we are supporting the **Church Mission Society**, established back in 1799 and still working around the world as well as in the UK. Visit churchmissionsociety.org to find out more.

CMS increasingly supports **Local Leaders** - Christians working in their own cultures and countries. They can get to places where Westerners aren't always welcome and are more familiar with the surrounding language and culture. But God still calls people to go overseas and there is great value in people from differing cultures joining together in

God's mission. So, CMS still sends **Mission Partners** from the UK and, where possible, arranges for Mission Partners and Local Leaders to work together.

We have just started supporting CMS financially in 2020, and over the coming months we hope we can get to know and pray for two CMS couples working together in Lebanon.



Phil and Sylvie Good describe their call as Mission Partners: Sharing the love of Jesus with refugees in northern Lebanon and supporting churches in Beirut through managerial and accounting advice, communications and coming alongside the hopeless. "Our call has come out of a deep hunger to serve others. For years we thought we were just too ordinary for mission work, but we have learned that God uses ordinary people from every walk of life." They are responding to what Antonio Guterres, secretary-general of the United Nations, has called the 'worst humanitarian crisis of our generation'. Since 2011,

Lebanon has taken in nearly two million Syrian refugees, a number equivalent to about a third of its population.

In the past, Phil taught irrigation in Africa with VSO before moving into full-time corporate work and, more recently, Sylvie has worked with refugees in the Calais "Jungle". In their 60's, they have 4 grown-up children, and their UK home is in Dorset.

Since mid-2020 Phil and Sylvie have been working alongside **Emil and Reem Bourizk**, Local Leaders linked with CMS. Originally from Lebanon, they lived in North Africa for several years, returning to Lebanon in 2014. Their call is to show God's love to Syrian refugees in Lebanon, and they found their house was surrounded by Syrian families living in tents, with nobody to care for them. These refugees had no furniture, almost no food and some children didn't even have shoes. They began holding school lessons in their home, before spilling over into their garage as more children joined.



Now, the two couples have opened a new building, converted from an unfinished and unused house. This provides space for The Good Shepherd School to serve its 140 students from struggling families. It has space for eight classrooms, including a kindergarten for pre-school age children, kitchen facilities and staff accommodation.

You can read more about these two couples by searching for their names on the CMS website at churchmissionsociety.org. Watch an exciting video about the school by searching for 'Love in Lebanon' on the same website.