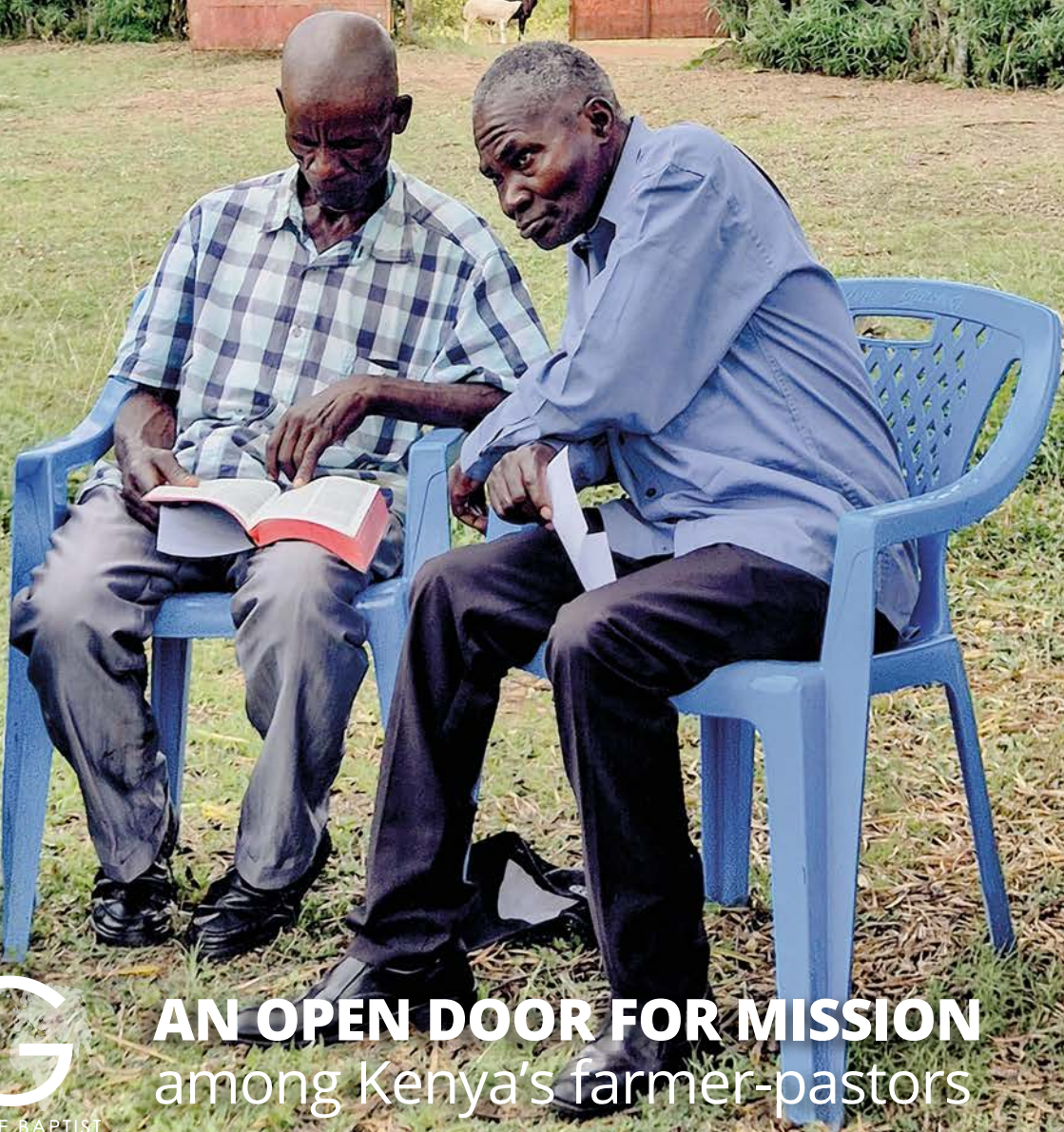


September 2026

h HERALD

The magazine of
Grace Baptist Mission



GRACE BAPTIST
MISSION

AN OPEN DOOR FOR MISSION
among Kenya's farmer-pastors



FROM THE
CHAIRMAN,
TOM FORRYAN

God's great, unchanging love

The good news of God is very good indeed—much better than we can easily appreciate. It tells us about a God whose love for us is so great that he gave his own Son for us and plans to give us every other good thing with him. It tells us that this love is unbreakable—a love we can rely on absolutely.

Consistent with this is a second great truth: if you do God's work the way it should be done, you will get hurt. Suffering, pain, hardship, distress, isolation and conflict are all normal. Here are a few examples from the New Testament:

A well-known Christian leader is due in town.

Perhaps to the surprise of the local Christians, he arrives in custody and is immediately placed under house arrest.

A missionary in prison has to send a request for warm clothing.

In a certain place, the authorities gain favour with the local religious leaders by executing a high-profile Christian.

A missionary prayer letter mentions in passing that the writer doesn't always have enough to eat.

Two church leaders are detained, beaten across the back with whips, and then released.

A new church in an urban centre experiences explosive growth before coming under the leadership of two biblically-minded men. Then new missionaries arrive and begin to insist on a legalistic version of the Christian faith.

A highly capable missionary arrives in the capital city, whereupon certain local Christians set about causing trouble for him.

A worker who has led many people to faith later finds that the vast majority of them want

nothing to do with him.
A Christian leader is up in court. Sadly, not one fellow-believer comes to support him.
A domineering local church leader does his best to make sure that no one in his church welcomes the visiting missionaries.
In a particularly dark and satanic city, a man witnesses faithfully for Christ but pays for his witness with his life.

(BIBLE REFERENCES: Acts 28:16; 2 Timothy 4:13; Acts 12:1-3; Philippians 4:12; Acts 5:40; Acts 15:1; Philippians 1:17; 2 Timothy 1:15; 2 Timothy 4:16; 3 John 10; Revelation 2:13.)

All this, then—unfair and unpleasant as it may be—is normal and to be expected. More than that, it was God himself, in his immense and unchanging love, who led these faithful gospel servants into such difficulties and this is still his way today, with all of us: 'and if children, then [we are] heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us' (Romans 8:17-18).

Let's not be overwhelmed, then, when our missionary friends suffer hardship. Let's love them, care for them and do everything we can to help them—but let's not speak, act, think or pray as if something has gone terribly wrong. Instead, let's remember that God's great, unchanging love for them is still real. Let's also accept that similar experiences may well be ours and, if so, that all is well—we, and they, are indeed loved with everlasting love.

GBM exists to help churches support their missionaries worldwide, in ministries of evangelism, church planting, training, compassion and radio



- 4 Ebola and atrocities** Trusting the Lord amid DRC's horrors
- 8 Is this a conversion?** Biblical guidance from Bordeaux
- 12 Heroes for one day?** Daryl Jones reflects on thirteen years with GBM
- 16 Praying for rain** A visit to Kenya's farmer-pastors
- 22 Farewell to Daryl and Julia Jones** Moving on to a new season of service
- 24 Refreshing and encouraging** The 2026 GBM missionary conference
- 27 GBM family news** From our churches and our Mission
- 31 Annual Mission Day 2026** How shall they hear?



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Cover: Two men listen intently as Graham Jones leads the Sunday afternoon men's Bible study in the grounds of Maranda Church, near Bondo in western Kenya. Paul Brunning reports on his visit to Graham and Sally and the rural churches that they have served for twenty years—see page 16.

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REV. JONAS



JEAN-LUC



PASTOR MICHEL



PASTOR GHISLAIN



PASTOR ISAK

EBOLA AND ATROCITIES

Trusting the Lord amid DRC's horrors

Ian Flanders, producer of GBM's French-language Bible teaching radio programme *Espérance Aujourd'hui*, presents some translated extracts from the many messages that he and Hélène receive from contacts in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of Congo—messages that give a moving insight into the lives of people there

REV. JONAS, 26 APRIL 2026:

I am currently visiting three rural districts where I have been invited to lead evangelistic missions... In my absence my family has been attacked at home. Bandits came in the night. They broke down the doors and windows and have taken everything of value including mobile phones and other electronic items, clothes, and savings that my wife had put aside from her commercial activity. My wife was beaten with machetes but fortunately has no open wounds. She is in shock and being treated at home.'

JEAN-LUC, 26 MAY 2026:

We regret to inform you that Rev. Jonas K passed away last night; his older brother, also a pastor, and the daughter of his sister also died.'
(The cause of death—Ebola.)

These two stark messages illustrate the faith and the suffering of the church in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Rev. Jonas K was zealous for the gospel of Christ and showed great courage by taking it into villages in districts where rebel militias hold sway and commit atrocities. He was appreciative of the *Espérance Aujourd'hui* booklets that he received from us, and used them for evangelistic and discipleship purposes in contexts where few other good Christian resources are available.

His death in the early days of the Ebola outbreak arose from his compassion and love for his neighbour, as he undoubtedly caught the disease bringing spiritual comfort and prayer to the sick and dying, unaware that Ebola was the cause. We have heard of other pastors who have contracted the disease in the course of their duties; some have died. These losses will inevitably weaken the church, but the Lord will raise up others to serve.



Rev. Jonas distributes New Testaments in Bunia



Despite many troubles, people are coming to faith

PASTOR MICHEL, 25 SEPTEMBER 2025:

Maman Claudine's brother, a member of our group, has been kidnapped by the ADF [armed rebel group] and the family are being asked for \$10,000 for his release, but we do not know if he is still alive.'

PASTOR MICHEL, 29 SEPTEMBER 2025:

This brother has been set free, but during his five days with the ADF he was tortured and made to walk day and night carrying heavy loads. He was barely given anything to eat. He is exhausted and traumatized and is being treated at a clinic. He will follow trauma therapy with a psychologist.'

The 'group' that Michel refers to is a WhatsApp group composed of numerous pastors and believers of the region. They

receive digital copies of our booklets and audio resources through this platform.

PASTOR MICHEL— A PRAYER CONCLUDING THE ABOVE MESSAGE:

O God, teach me I pray how to live in a way that honours you. Teach me to love others as you have loved me. Grant me wisdom to know how best to live for you and worship you. Amen.'

PASTOR GHISLAIN, 26 MAY 2026:

The killing has picked up again. Just this week more than ten people were killed in the district of Béni and another ten or so in the district of Biakato, where one of the victims was a deacon in the church. The perpetrators appear to be jihadists, for they have been heard reciting Islamic prayers, and they spare Muslims

whilst targeting Christians.

In an incident elsewhere six members of a pygmy church were slaughtered.

It is all so stressful, and people live in permanent fear. I am responsible for overseeing thirteen churches but many of these are now inaccessible as they are behind rebel lines. The situation affects the churches; it is difficult to make progress under these circumstances.

May the Lord intervene on our behalf!

**JEAN-LUC—DIRECTOR OF RADIO RÉCONCILIATION,
NYANKUNDÉ, ITURI—18 MAY 2026:**

Since the official announcement of the Ebola outbreak people are deeply worried and are taking preventive measures. But false rumours and fake news abound and there is much suspicion of official communiqués.

The situation at the hospital of Nyankundé, located close to our radio station, is very concerning. The number of cases diagnosed, and deaths, mount day by day. A key American missionary doctor caught the disease and has been expatriated to Europe for treatment. Other doctors and nurses have been infected. There is

a risk that we may have to close through lack of medical staff.

People are running scared and, between this disease and the ongoing atrocities committed by the ADF, they feel they are being punished twice over.

Here at Radio Réconciliation we are redoubling our efforts to combine the teaching of the gospel with good hygiene advice. We are hammering home the message that faith and prevention go together.'

Ebola is spread by touching bodily fluids. However, touch is a deeply rooted part of the local culture. People find it difficult not to shake hands when greeting each other. Similarly, traditions around burial involve touching the deceased's body. There have been tensions and outbreaks of violence around morgues as the bodies of those who have died of Ebola are not given to their families for burial according to ancestral practice.

It has been particularly difficult to bring this outbreak under control, in part due to these cultural taboos, and the mistrust arising from them, but also because of ongoing rebel

activity in the region that makes some districts inaccessible to medical teams.

Espérance Aujourd'hui is regularly aired by Radio Réconciliation and by a dozen other radio stations in the afflicted areas. It has been broadcast for over twenty years in this part of the world, is well known, and the content much valued.

PASTOR ISAK, 26 JUNE 2026:

People have been returning to a village abandoned following massacres eight years ago. Many of the traumatized have turned to alcohol but twenty-five believers have asked for help to restart the church and to reach out to villagers trying to rebuild their lives.'

Pastors and other Christian workers face huge pressures as they seek to care for the suffering church and hold out the gospel of life in the face of so much death—all while bearing their own burden of suffering. I commend them to you for prayer and trust that their example of courage, faithfulness and hope might inspire us all. I allow them to have the final words.

PASTOR MICHEL, 25 SEPTEMBER 2025:

Psalm 145:14—'The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.'
'I pray, Lord that you will uphold me in all that I will pass through today. I pray that you will lift me up when I feel bowed down. I pray this for all who believe in Christ. Amen.'

PASTOR ISAK, 25 JUNE 2026:

In the context of violence and Ebola I am trusting in the God who says: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). And I am teaching my nine congregations to do the same.'



A band plays during a baptism in Lake Albert

Is this a conversion?

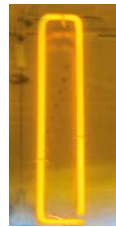
By James Hammond



Anne was an atheist. She felt that her life had no meaning. One day while mindlessly scrolling on TikTok she came across a Christian video. It spoke of Jesus. She began to watch several one-minute messages on the Christian faith. She learned that God is a personal God who loves her. He wants a relationship with her. He can make her into a better person. He has a wonderful plan for her life. Anne learned that if she gives her life to Jesus, God will give her the fulfilment she longs for. The videos encouraged Anne to pray, and when she did, she immediately felt a connection. She already feels better about herself. She has found a sense of purpose and peace. Anne shows up to your church, and after a few Sundays, asks to be baptized.

Is this a conversion? Would your church baptize her? Missionaries want to see conversions and, if you are reading this article, you want your church to see conversions too.

Testimony



In my church, an elder would meet with Anne to hear her testimony. He would then share it with the other elders. If they agree that Anne has understood the gospel, they then propose to the congregation to vote for her acceptance into the church family. It is the gathered members who have the final say in recognizing credible professions of faith.

If the congregation has the authority to recognize professions of faith, then we must ask: are our members equipped to evaluate them? What criteria are they using when they vote 'Yes' or 'No'?

Here in Bordeaux, the elders are seeking to equip the members to understand conversion through the following four points:

1. The need for conversion (Romans 1:18-32)



Each person has a different story, background, hurts and battles. But what is common for each person is their attitude towards God.

By nature, we suppress the knowledge of God revealed in creation. We have become darkened in our minds and hearts. We don't honour God as Creator. We don't thank him as the giver of life. Instead, we worship things in creation like money, sex and power. And what is God's response? Wrath. In his wrath he 'gives us up' to our sin and idolatry, which plunges us deeper into spiritual ruin, moral chaos and death.

So why do people need to be converted? Because humanity is not thoroughly *good*, but thoroughly corrupt in mind, heart and will. We live in rebellion against God. We are under his wrath.

We want the members of our church to listen to testimonies and examine whether a person has understood their desperate situation under God's wrath because of their sin.

2. The nature of conversion (John 3:1-15)



Jesus tells Nicodemus that he 'must be born again'—born of water and the Spirit—if he wants to see and enter God's kingdom. In other words, Jesus is telling Nicodemus that his Jewish

background, education and position in the Sanhedrin makes him no more acceptable to God than the prostitute on the street. Jesus is telling Nicodemus that he can't save himself.

To understand what it means to be 'born of water and the Spirit' we must look to Ezekiel 36:25-28, which speaks of God washing us of our idols and removing our heart of stone for a heart of flesh. Conversion is divine surgery. It's a spiritual heart transplant that the Spirit alone operates. We need the spiritual bath of regeneration. We need the Spirit to breathe new life into us.

Jesus finishes his conversation with Nicodemus by telling him that he must behold the Son of Man lifted up just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness.

Why does Jesus end the conversation this way? Because new birth happens through the message of the cross. It is the work of the Spirit, through the preaching of the gospel, that quickens sinners to lift their eyes and believe in the crucified Saviour. Conversion is not our work, but the work of God.

We are not looking for a person to understand the finer points of God's sovereignty in salvation, nor asking someone to pinpoint the exact moment when they were born again. But we are examining whether they have understood that they can't save themselves. Do they look upon the cross of Christ as the only means by which they can be saved?

3. The pattern of conversion (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)



Paul says that the conversion of the Thessalonians has become 'an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia'. The word 'example' can also be translated as 'model' or 'pattern'. In other words, the pattern of conversion in this passage should be evident in any conversion testimony.

So what's the pattern?—'how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come' (v. 9-10).

The pattern of conversion is repentance, faith and obedience. True repentance is when we turn away from our idols to worship and serve the one true living God. True faith means trusting in God's promises, trusting in Jesus whom

God raised from the dead, believing that he will return to judge the living and the dead, and that he has delivered us from the wrath we deserve.

We see this in other conversion stories. In Luke 5:27-32, 7:36-50 and 19:1-10, the sinful woman, Levi and Zacchaeus all share the same pattern of conversion: they turn from sin, trust in Jesus and follow him.

4. The fruits of conversion (1 John 3:1-10; 4:7-21)



Conversion is not a mere 'decision' or 'prayer'; it is a joyfully transformed life. And this transformation must be evident. So what are the fruits of conversion?

1 John 3:1-10 tells us that we are born again. We have a new family. We have a new Father. The child of God has new spiritual DNA and begins to obey his heavenly Father. John is not expecting perfection, but he is looking for

marks of a life that went from habitually sinning (works of the devil) to a new-life-orientation towards obeying God's commands (works of God).

The other fruit of which John speaks is love for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Because God loved us, we are to love one another. And if someone doesn't love their family in Christ, then they don't love God. Therefore, a conversion is not merely a private affair, but a public demonstration of a new allegiance to Christ, new priorities, new commitments and new relationships.

Was Anne converted?



With these four points in mind, what do you think: was Anne converted?

Maybe. Maybe not. Maybe she is still on the journey. Maybe she has believed in a therapeutic self-help gospel. Her experience

is probably a mix of biblical truths, superficial TikTok teaching, and her own

cultural beliefs and baggage.

The point is that her testimony is not so much wrong as it is unclear, lacking, incomplete. We don't know what Anne believes about her sin. We don't know if Anne understands the cross. We don't know if Anne has humbled herself under the lordship of Christ. We don't know if Anne is showing the fruits of conversion such as faith, hope and love.

So the elders should propose that Anne continues to come to church to hear the gospel preached. They can offer a course such as Christianity Explored to help clarify the main points of the gospel. A lady in the church can come alongside Anne and read the Bible with her. The congregation is not passive—they can get involved in her life and show the love of Christ both in word and deed, showing patience, gentleness, kindness, grace and hospitality, persevering in prayer that Anne would be clearly grounded and rooted in Christ Jesus as her Lord and Saviour.



Heroes for one day?

In his final article before he retires from GBM, **Daryl Jones** reflects on the missionary heroes he and Julia have known, and the true hero behind them all

There is a song with the repeated line, 'We can be heroes just for one day.'

It strikes me, after thirteen years of serving with GBM, that our missionaries are heroes—but definitely not for just one day, rather for every day! They face things that we don't here in the UK. These things will rarely be mentioned by them or even appear in a prayer letter. Having visited each continent where our missionaries serve, I want to take you further into their world so we might pray even more diligently for them.

Extremes

The first thing that strikes you as you visit a missionary is that they are living in a different culture with a climate that is often in extremes. We find a UK heatwave difficult to cope with but

now, as you read this, those hot summer days are fading from our memory. However, often the missionary's experience is of months of temperatures at the top or at the bottom of the thermometer. The extremes of unrelenting heat or bitter cold, for months on end, is exhausting and can wear the missionary down.

But it is not just the climate; it can also be the geography. Whether the uncertainty of volcano eruption, earthquake tremors, torrential rain leading to floods or violent winds (typhoons), there is an ongoing unpredictability to endure. High altitude is something that needs to be experienced to know how strange it is: the effect on appetite, the grinding headaches and the breathlessness that hits you every time you return to high altitude. Altitude sickness,



along with other illnesses, have caused many a missionary to make the tough decision to leave the people they love and the work to which they feel called.

All part of life

And talking about health, I know we can be frustrated with the NHS—but to have expert

healthcare with no cost is something few missionaries enjoy. The expertise in some places is much reduced, even where you might expect to get it. Thus, the fear of you or your children becoming suddenly ill and being unable to get good treatment is a worry.

In our travels we have not only experienced illness but have also heard missionaries say, 'We don't put this in our prayer letter as it's just part of life for us.'

Out of the corner of my eye something ran out from under the picture on the wall. I looked again, and spotted another one—geckos! Just the sort of pet you want! The missionary explains that these lizards eat the mosquitos which are much more dangerous as their bites can cause malaria or dengue fever. There are other unwelcome creatures such as spiders that find their way under the mosquito net, or snakes or rats that creep into the room next door and worse... Welcome to missionary life! It's time for sleep in the unbearable tropical heat but the unseen insects nearby make such a noise that the sound of the barking dog next door is drowned out. Before that you need to clean your teeth—not in tap water but rather the filtered or bottled water.



Unusual and unexpected

Everything is so different, whether it is unusual food, or food cooked in unusual ways. How would you feel about eating the much-prized delicacy of guinea pig offered by your host, when into your mind flashes your daughter's pet?

Travel can be alarming as vehicles use roads in unexpected ways. There are sights that puzzle

you, like a coffin on the back of motor bike so that it is now as wide as a truck, or four gas bottles strapped to the rear of a bike. Sadly, we were once mugged—but such security risks are common. Some missionaries have to live behind security gates while in the

distance gunshots can be heard. From time to time protests may occur that make use of rocks, fire and occasionally guns. The only option is to stay locked behind doors and gates.

It can sometimes seem that the authorities are putting endless obstacles in your way, hindering you from doing what God has called you to do. There's the work permit that requires sponsorship from a local church, or a visa which requires hours filling in forms, waiting in bureaucratic queues, being passed from one official to another and then being asked to provide an 'administrative fee'.

Disconnection

Most missionaries will, at times, long for home. Far away from family there is an awareness that the distance brings a growing disconnection with grandparents, parents, siblings and even children. The issue of education can weigh heavily: 'Will our decision to be in this place affect our children's lives? Will the



homeschooling I am doing be adequate?

Such doubts press in, and the words of the apostle Paul ring so true: 'on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure' (2 Corinthians 11:26-27).

Worth it?

But it is all worth it for the work progresses as people are converted and baptized, pastors and servant-hearted men and women are trained, and God's kingdom is growing.

Or is it? The missionary hears of other churches that are thriving, growing, influencing and are wealthy, but where you serve not much seems to be happening; things are small and somehow you need to share this in a prayer letter to faithful supporters. And there can be a sense of 'supporter guilt', where you need to justify yourself in the work because others are sacrificially giving to support your ministry. The spiritual battle is immense as the evil ones seek to distort your thinking. Thoughts swirl around:

'Why is there success *there* and not *here*? Why with them and not me?' Perspective slowly dwindles.

Paul puts it like this: 'apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches' (2 Corinthians 11:28). The weight of the churches falls on him, as does his own sinfulness: 'Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?' (v29).

Where can the missionary receive help and encouragement? It must be from us.

As I've sometimes preached in the churches, we need to be like Jonathan who, we read in 1 Samuel 23, helped David to 'find strength in the Lord' (v23, NIV). That is what we must do.

Heroes?

It is tough and always has been tough to be a missionary. They are heroes—not just for one day but every day.

However, they would want to say to us: 'Don't look at us but see what the Lord is doing. We might be weak, we might be sinful, we might be burdened by the weight of the work—but see that the Lord is building his church.' He is the true hero.

PRAYING FOR RAIN

a visit to Kenya's
farmer-pastors

KENYA



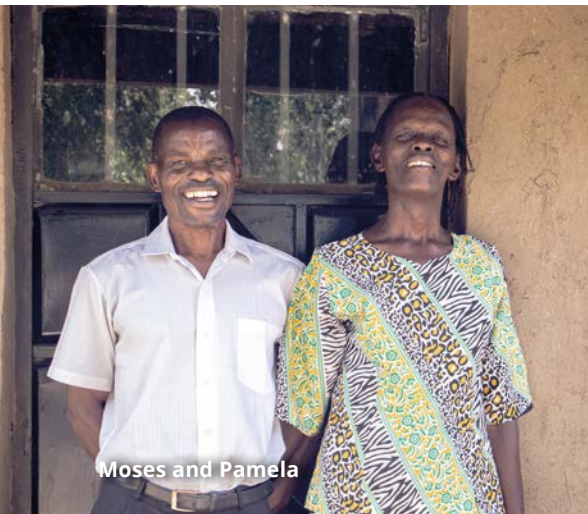
Pastor Moses uses his pond for irrigation, stocking fish and baptizing new believers!

Graham and Sally Jones have been serving in western Kenya for twenty years. During his visit in June, **Paul Brunning** heard from the rural pastors about their two big desires—for good rains and more missionaries

As I write this in August, our town (Abingdon) and most of England is in drought. Since the spring, we have had less than half the usual rainfall. The river is very low, and gardens all around are wilting. But are we going hungry? No. It is difficult for farmers, of course, but our supermarket shelves are still well stocked.

One evening during my time Kenya, I was sitting in a circle with a group of pastors who were attending the fraternal that Graham and Sally organize. It was a warm night. As the geckos scuttled across the walls, we had been singing hymns—some in English and some in Kiswahili.





Moses and Pamela



In Moses' home



Graham and Sally with Moses and family



Othoo church



Washington and Esnas



The men's Bible study at Maranda

We had been praying together for some of the other GBM missionaries, using the videos and information from our recent Week of Prayer; we prayed for peace in Kenya as the next round of anti-government protests were due to take place that week. Then Graham asked the men how we could pray for them and their ministries. Various church matters were mentioned, but several of the men also asked prayer for rain. Rain is often on their minds. Good rains mean a better harvest from their shambas; insufficient rain could mean that these men and their families face hunger and hardship.

Sunday at Maranda

Graham and Sally work with rural pastors in western Kenya whose lives are very different to a typical British pastor, as I began to see when we visited Maranda Church near Bondo. The church had been planted by a senior pastor in the area, Washington, supported by his wife Esnas—who had recently retired from her work as the local chief. Washington has moved on to plant churches elsewhere, most recently in Usigu and Imbo. Maranda Church is now led by Pastor John Mark, but Washington and Esnas were present to welcome us that day. The service was led by another brother, Charles. We sang in Luo, and John Mark translated my preaching into Luo. The Sunday School children also recited memory verses (in English) and sang some songs (in Luo and English)—which was, of course, delightful! Sally has invested much time and energy into training and encouraging Sunday School teachers in the rural churches, helping them to plan, prepare and run their classes.

After the service I chatted with John Mark and Charles about their lives and ministries, including how they choose what to preach on and how they prepare their sermons. I asked

other pastors about this at the fraternal—the answers varied of course, with some preaching systematically through a Bible book while others base their sermon on something they've read during the week or felt led to as they have prayed; but the common thread was that they typically have much less time to prepare than a British pastor would, and far fewer resources.

Farmer-pastors

These rural pastors tend to have very limited time for preparation and ministry activities because their churches are small, poor and unable to support them financially. The pastors, like many in their congregations, are subsistence farmers. One such farmer-pastor is Moses (see Graham and Sally's story in *Herald* January 2025), who we visited on the Wednesday. First stop was at Moses' church building in Othoo, about forty-five minutes' drive east from Kisumu. This humble structure, which Moses had built with his own hands, includes a small meeting room (complete with squeaking resident bats in the roof), a store and a little room that had once housed the modest church library. An additional corrugated iron hut will, Moses hopes, one day be used to house a watchman.

A short drive from there took us to Moses' house and shamba—his smallholding that he works to provide for his family. We were welcomed by Moses' wife Pamela and met other members of the extended family who live in their own houses on the plot. As well as enjoying Moses' and Pamela's warm hospitality, this was my opportunity to see more of a rural pastor's daily life as Moses gave me a tour of his shamba. He grows the staples of corn and beans, along with pawpaws, bananas, sugar cane, yams, peas and much more. A few years ago he had a lot of earth dug out for road building, and the resulting

hollow has filled with rainwater to make a pond that Moses uses for irrigation, stocking fish and baptizing new believers! Moses also keeps cows and chickens—some of the chickens are for his family and others he raises to sell. He has also joined a scheme to grow saplings which are sold through an NGO, giving an extra income stream.

All of Moses' agricultural work and farming initiatives make for long days of hard work, yet the rewards are uncertain—especially when the rains don't fall in season. These pastors like Moses need rain—so they pray for rain, and press on trusting the Lord.

The challenges of growth

One of the encouragements that Graham and Sally have seen is the church planting work that some of the pastors have been doing. During the pastors' fraternal I chatted to Fred, who has planted churches around Migori county. One of these is now pastored by Erick, who described Fred as his spiritual father and source of much help and encouragement. Erick's church remains small, with ten adult members and eight young people, so they appreciate fellowship with the group of other churches around the town.

Washington explained to me his church planting approach: 'We begin with tracts and correspondence courses from Sukesh Pabari when he was in Nairobi. We introduce these to the community and when we meet somebody who is interested, then we visit him, and start a Bible study there. We mobilize some of the other pastors as well, and make use of a basic course run by our missionary brother, Graham.' Once the work is getting established, Washington will visit regularly to preach, lead prayer meetings and carry out visitation. The places that Washington targets often have what are known as 'cursed churches'—cults that mix some biblical truth with a lot of serious error—but no true gospel church.

Washington reminded me that several years ago he wrote to GBM to invite the churches here to send another missionary to help with the work around Kisumu. As the number of churches has grown the needs and the scope of the work has grown as well. His invitation still stands—and was echoed by others during my visit.

An open door for mission

Graham and Sally share this desire for new missionaries to come and join the work. Looking back over their twenty years in Kenya it is clear that the Lord has helped them to accomplish a great deal. The courses, fraternals and training—and the individual help that they have given to pastors and their wives, Sunday School teachers, children and others in the churches—has built a strong foundation of biblical knowledge and theological understanding in many. Yet a range of Kenyan cultural pressures, and the daily struggle to make ends meet, has held some churches back from growing in number and even in Christian graces. The challenge for the next missionaries, Graham and Sally believe, may be to focus on more personal work with the pastors and other believers, to help them deepen their walk with the Lord and develop a culture of discipleship and committed service in the churches. A new missionary (or missionary couple), with ministry experience and the willingness and resilience to serve the Lord in western Kenya, would find an open door for mission among these welcoming brothers and sisters.

Will you pray for such new missionaries, and make it a regular prayer until the Lord graciously answers and raises up the people of his choosing? Could you even go yourself? The Lord asked Isaiah, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'—is he laying on your heart the readiness to answer, 'Here am I! Send me?'



At the pastors' fraternal



Fellowship with the pastors



The Sunday School at Maranda



Sally leads the women's Bible study



Preaching at Maranda



Pastor Fred

FAREWELL TO DARYL AND JULIA JONES



This year has seen a significant transition for GBM, as Daryl Jones retires after thirteen years' service as Mission Director and is succeeded by Adrian Brixey in the role as CEO. After a few months with Adrian shadowing him, Daryl worked part-time for GBM from May (alongside a new part-time role with the Pastors' Academy), then after the Missionary Conference in August he has been on sabbatical until his final farewell at Annual Mission Day on 24 October.

Alongside Daryl's official role as GBM Mission Director, Julia has played a valuable unofficial supporting role—especially as a listening ear,

encourager and faithful pray-er for and with GBM's women missionaries. Julia has many times accompanied Daryl on missionary visits, often teaching God's word to groups of pastors' wives and other women around the world. When visiting churches in the UK, Daryl and Julia usually travelled together and shared in giving their mission presentations.

As their time with GBM draws to a close, we give thanks to the Lord for their faithful and fruitful service. Please pray for Daryl and Julia as they continue serving him in this new season of life.



'Refreshing and encouraging'

THE 2026 MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

Four years on from our last missionary conference, the GBM family gathered at Highgate House (just north of Northampton) in the first week of August for a week of encouraging ministry and fellowship. The one hundred attendees included almost all the missionaries and associate missionaries,

plus the Support Ministries staff, Mission Council members, spouses and families.

Over the four mornings Matt Gamston—formerly a GBM missionary in the Philippines and now pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Gloucester—opened up Colossians chapter 1 for us, applying

this Christ-exalting passage very warmly and helpfully, with special application to those serving in missionary work. (The recordings are available on the GBM Media Podcast.)

The conference also included opportunities for the missionaries to share with us some of the highs and lows of mission life, which

fed into the heartfelt morning prayer meetings. Tirzah Jones from DayOne kindly led children's meetings each morning, while afternoons were free for games, outings, chatting over coffee or catching up on sleep!



Matt Gamston



The Tipismanas and Brixey

“I wanted to say how much I appreciated the conference. It was a really great week: the teaching was so helpful and the reports from all the missionaries were encouraging and insightful yet also challenging. It was such a delight to hear how Jesus is building his Kingdom around the world. We enjoyed

such times of fellowship and friendship. I want to say 'Thank you' to all who organized it and to say how pleased I am to be part of GBM—at times like this you see how worthwhile the work is and how much has been achieved in the last four years. To God be all the glory!”

“It really was a very special time for us and we returned to [our city] renewed in purpose and encouraged in heart. We very much appreciated the word ministry from Matt and have been reading and praying over our notes again. It was good to have time to talk with other mission workers, Council members and of course our

new CEO! The training sessions were helpful and the session from Thrive has given us action points to implement.”

“We are so grateful for the opportunity to visit England. The missions conference was so uplifting; we were encouraged by the message Matthew preached. It was so nice to be able to see the missionaries, the

staff of GBM, and the Council members. It was challenging to hear the reports of the missionaries.”

“We give thanks for a wonderfully refreshing and encouraging time at the conference. We were blessed by the ministry of God's word, helpful training sessions, updates from fellow missionaries, and sweet

fellowship with brothers and sisters serving Christ in different parts of the world, as well as the GBM staff and Council who support all the work. We are especially thankful for the reminder that we are part of a much wider gospel work and for the much needed strengthening the conference has brought us as we prepare to return to [our city].”

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Or scan and email to infodesk@gbm.org.uk



GBM FAMILY NEWS

From our churches and our Mission



Amsterdam church planting

Adrian and Abigail Yeboah's plans for church planting in south Amsterdam are gathering pace. Grace Church Amsterdam, where Adrian currently serves, has voted to invite a former ministry intern to become their next pastor. God willing, the transition will take place around March 2027, and this will release Adrian to focus on the Dutch church plant.

The church planting project has been named Project Zuid

(i.e. 'South', as it will be based in the Amsterdam South district). From September, the core team plans to begin meeting monthly. They will also move their weekly home group (which has run as part of Grace Church) from English to Dutch.

From January 2027 they hope to secure a venue to begin holding fortnightly preview services, then from March or April 2027 they would like to launch weekly worship services.

Please join Adrian and

Abigail and the others in the small team as they pray for additional Dutch speakers to join them, and especially for godly men who may, in time, develop into future leaders. Their goal is to have at least fifteen committed adults by March 2027.

Please contact the GBM Mission Centre if your church would like a visit from Adrian (in person or online) to share more about these plans. If you or your church are interested to give regular financial support for Adrian and Abigail, then please advise Andy Woods (andyw@gbm.org.uk) as this will greatly help with budgeting.



Calix and Bea preparing for Madeira

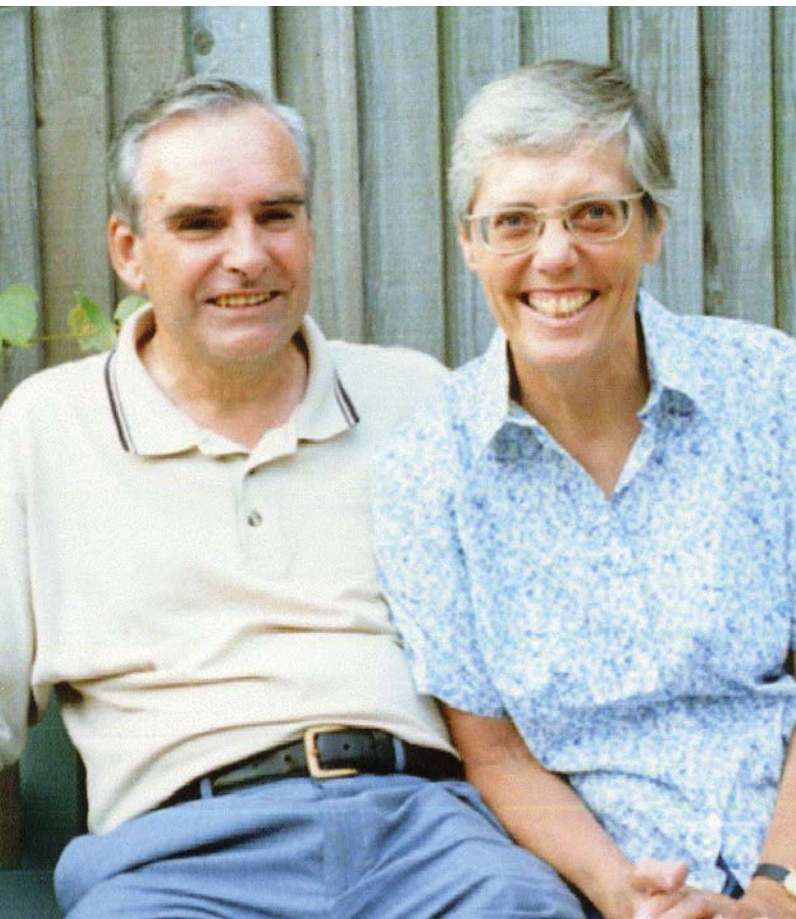
Calix and Bea Furus are continuing their preparations to move to Madeira, God willing, in November. Calix still has some availability for deputation at churches that may be interested to pray and support them in their new ministry among the Spanish speakers on the island. You can also hear from them at Annual Mission Day on 24 October.

Please contact the GBM Mission Centre if your church would like a visit from Calix, and if you or your church would like to give regular financial support for the Furus's then please advise Andy Woods (andyw@gbm.org.uk).



100Fold translation app

David Morrow and the team at 100Fold have developed a live translation app called Open Word, designed for use in churches and at conferences. Open Word can translate in real time from any of fifty source languages into more than 170 translation languages. It operates as a subscription service (although a free trial is available) and charities and churches get a discount. If this could be useful for your church, then visit openword.live to find out more or to test the system.



Les Beard (1938 – 2026)

Former GBM missionary Les Beard was called home to glory in July. Les and Ann served in and around Kisumu—where they are still warmly remembered—from 1999 until they retired and returned to the UK in 2004.

One of Les's theological students from Nairobi, Sam Oluoch, writes, 'I came to know Les back in 2000... We instantly built a relationship that surpassed teacher / student. In God's own providence, Les and Ann relocated to serve God in the very city where I was also serving God at that time [Kisumu]... Later, due to doctrinal differences with my elders, I resigned from pastoral

work ready to get back to my former job as an agricultural officer. Who would come by us at that time when we were so discouraged in life but Les and Ann, who helped us carry the burden and encouraged us to press on with the ministry... We are so grateful to God for Les and Ann crossing our path in life: our mentors, father (and mother), yet also co-elder serving together at Grace Baptist Church Kisumu.'

Please pray that the Lord's comfort will be with Ann and the wider family.



Envision



Envision team in the Philippines

In July a team of three—Vicky, Sophie and Leah—spent three weeks serving in the Philippines. Their main activities were in support of Christian Compassion Ministries in Manila. They made several visits

to the girls' and boys' homes, reading and playing with the children, helping them with homework, and taking turns to lead devotions at the end of the day. Each week the team joined in supporting the Drop-in Centre at CRBC, and they also went out to see the community

work in Manila's slum areas.

The three Sundays were spent worshipping and enjoying fellowship in Cubao, with Aries and Jodith in Valenzuela City, and with Reuben and Cathy in Santa Maria.



Above: Sophie, Leah and Vicky with Brian and Nocy Ellis and friends from Cubao

GBM ANNUAL
MISSION
DAY 2026

HOW
SHALL THEY
HEAR?

'How shall they hear?'—the apostle's question is one that should echo in every Christian's heart. Although the gospel has advanced further across the globe than ever before, billions of men, women and children remain lost in their sin and ignorant of Christ and his salvation.

Paul answers his own question with words that have motivated and mobilized churches and missionaries for generations: 'How are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?' (Romans 10:14-15).

Join us at Annual Mission Day 2026—on **Saturday, 24 October**—to hear from GBM missionaries who share this conviction and have been sent out with the life-giving message of Jesus. God willing, the missionaries will include **Daniel and Ellie Caballero, Reuben and Cathy Saywell, Adrian and Abigail Yeboah, Andrzej and Monika Kempczyński**, the **GBM Radio Team, James Hammond**, and friends serving in **West Africa**. We will also welcome **Calix and Bea Firus**.

The day will conclude as we mark some significant GBM comings and goings, then hear God's word preached and worship together with Christians from many churches.

PROGRAMME

11:00am – 12:30pm	AGM for Church Delegates
11:00am – 2:45pm	Choice of missionary presentations
2:00 – 4:00pm	Let's Go! Mission Club for primary-aged children
3:00 – 3:45pm	Farewells and welcomes—past, present & future
4:45 – 6:00pm	Closing meeting with worship and ministry. Preacher: Daniel Caballero

VENUE

Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ.

Friends House is opposite Euston Station and is a ten-minute walk from Kings Cross and St Pancras stations. The nearest underground station is Euston Square.

FOOD & DRINK

The Friends House café will be open, and there are many nearby outlets where you can buy food. Alternatively, you may bring a packed lunch.

LIVESTREAM

The plenary sessions from 3:00 – 6:00pm will be livestreamed (but **not** the AGM or missionary presentations). Register for online access at gbm.org.uk/amd



Grace Baptist Mission CIO, 12 Abbey Close, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 3JD

Web: www.gbm.org.uk Email: infodesk@gbm.org.uk Tel: 01235 520147

GBM ANNUAL
MISSION
DAY 2026

HOW SHALL THEY HEAR?



Join us for

GBM ANNUAL MISSION DAY 2026

Saturday, 24 October 2026

11:00am - 6:00pm

gbm.org.uk/amd

Friends House
173-177 Euston Road
London, NW1 2BJ



Preacher: Daniel Caballero