

Knightrider Street News



OCTOBER 2025

MAIDSTONE
BAPTIST CHURCH



Taking the Good News of Jesus into our lives and into God's World
www.maidstonebaptist.net

Maidstone Baptist Church

Knightrider Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 6LU

Registered in England as a charity, no. 1128948

“Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!”

Genesis 1:31a (NLT)

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Church publications:

Monthly notice sheet:

Information for the notice sheet should be sent to the
General Administrator, c/o the church office.

***Monthly magazine:* Knightrider Street News**

Editorial Deadline: *Second Sunday of previous month:20.00hrs by e-mail only*

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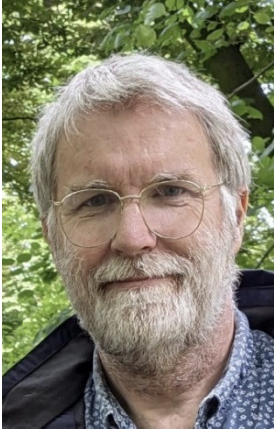
Views and opinions expressed in KSN articles are those of individual contributors, and are not necessarily those of the Church leadership or editor.



Pastoral Visits:

At Maidstone Baptist Church we are happy to offer pastoral visits - for prayer, communion, or simply a chat. We can meet at church, in your home, or elsewhere, such as in a park or coffee shop.

If you feel this would be helpful, please speak to Nigel or Al, or to your Pastoral Leader.



How do you view time? I think our perception and attitude to time differs with seasons of life. When we're young and waiting for our birthday or Christmas to arrive, time seems to stretch forever and we wish for the days to pass more quickly. Maybe, if you're a parent of young children, there don't seem to be enough hours in the day to get everything done, and you could certainly use a few extra hours sleep at night! Later, life might be filled with work meetings, social appointments, holidays. As we get older, or if our health is not what it once was, we may not have the energy or fitness we'd want, and sometimes we might even feel lonely: time may then seem to slow down as it stretches out before us. Maybe this is just a glib overview, but for each of us, although we have the same allotted hours in a day and the hands of the clock move at the same speed, our perceptions of time may be very different.

It's not wrong to reflect on the past or to plan for the future. But how many of us are good at living in the moment? God has given you this season, this day, this moment right now. How are you using it?

Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19

What has gone has gone. We cannot change it, but we can learn from it. We should not dwell unduly on the past, but move on. We look to the future, but not so much that we forget to live in this moment. What lies ahead is only known by God, but that does not mean we shouldn't wonder constantly where God is in whatever we are facing, and what God's preferred outcomes might be.

And God always has great plans: The *Message* version of the above passage says **"Be alert. Be present. I'm about to do something brand new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it?"** Be careful that you are not so wrapped up in the past or planning so much for the future that you miss what is happening in this moment.

I believe this is true for us as a Church Fellowship as it is for individuals. Yes, we need to give thanks for all that has gone before us. Yes, we need to collectively discern God's future plans for our Church. But we also need to collectively be in this moment and notice all that God is doing in the lives of our congregation, for our fellowship as a whole, for the community around us. We need to give thanks and pray and act.

God is on the move in Maidstone Baptist Church, He's about to do something brand new - Hallelujah!! It's bursting out, do you see it? I feel God's presence very powerfully in Church and many of you have commented that you do too. Let us all be alert, be present and be focused on, and listening to, God. Let our prayers and praise be worthy of our almighty God.

Nigel

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A message from the Smalls.

Thank you so much for your generous gifts & lovely cards welcoming us with many blessings to our new home in Holbeach. We have ordered & bought a few things already & particularly from garden centres. Tommy has worked hard knocking the garden into shape. It's been fun decorating & unpacking boxes, so it's beginning to look a lot more like home each day (2 months now).

We love being here in Holbeach & are enjoying more of the surrounding areas too. Also slowly starting to feel part of The All-Saints Church just along the road. Very different from MBC though. No vicar at the moment. Holly has moved into her own flat in Chelmsford, nearer work. Hannah is here with us finishing off her PA course.

You are all in our thoughts & prayers a lot & we look forward to seeing you up here in Holbeach sometime. We do so miss you all.

With lots of love & every blessing,

Tommy & Barbara (the Bossy one).

Harvest Festival

Gifts of non-perishable food produce – tins, packets etc

[illegible]

9.00 am – 3.00 pm. Cost: £10

“Journeying with God”

Places limited to 40. Please book with Nic Weller or Sheila Smith

[illegible]

Sunday 12th October

Bring a dish to share with others or food for yourself
if you have a particular dietary requirement

Everyone welcome – especially newcomers

A simple line drawing of a bowl of soup. The bowl is filled with a light-colored liquid, and several dumplings are visible. One dumpling is broken open, revealing a yellow filling. Steam is rising from the bowl. To the left of the bowl is a small pile of red, round objects, possibly tomatoes or radishes. To the right is a green, leafy vegetable. The entire illustration is enclosed in a rectangular box.



Thirteen years ago, on my retirement from the Salvation Army William Booth College, I founded Juneberries Schools in Suleja (a few miles north of the Nigerian capital city of Abuja) in order to work with families and children. You might have a moment to check out the school website: <https://juneberriesschools.org/>

However many of the children in our school come from poor homes and often they do not have access to the educational equipment and materials they need in order to give them the best possible chances of achieving a bright future. That bright future will benefit not only the boys and girls themselves as they grow into adults, but may well also have a beneficial impact on the communities around through the work these adults will be able to carry out.

However, the Nigerian government has mandated that from 2026 onwards all secondary school public examinations will be moving to an online format - pens and papers will not be used! Students with no access to laptops are therefore in danger of not being able to sit their national exams at the end of their time in secondary school. We would therefore be extremely grateful for any gifts of used computer equipment (desktops, laptops tablets, or projectors). There is also a request for mini-whiteboards and pens and ring binders, and we may also be able to send financial support directly to the school. if you feel God is calling you to help in this way.

Please pray for the work of Juneberries Schools, and do please talk to Rose or to Nigel if you think you may be able to help in the practical ways outlined above.

With grateful thanks in advance for any donations you can manage.

Ijeoma Rose Opara (Othello's grandma)



Prayer Points

October 2025

Wed 1st May we thank God for his continued leadership in our lives as we reach the end of the summer months.

Thur 2nd Pray that the heavenly comforter will be with all who are mourning the loss of family in this country and abroad, particularly the family of Charlie Kirk.

Fri 3rd Let us remember the church's role at this turbulent time when so much is going on, and uncertainty is always before us with the global instability.

Sat 4th Remember our Boys' and Girls' brigade as they start another autumn of programs and projects along with their educational commitments. Pray for the leaders and teams as they plan a new term.

Sun 5th Pray for our young people who started new schools and colleges this autumn and who may be feeling lonely or fearful. Pray for them. Also for those who may not have achieved the school of choice and possibly having trouble making new friends.

Mon 6th Let us pray for a return to experience the beauty of holiness and the joy of salvation as it were when we first believed.

Tue 7th Pray today for people who are still trying to escape from violent countries such as Libya, Iraq and Yemen, that governments will show mercy when they arrive at their ports.

Wed 8th May we remember those in our church who are suffering ill health

in any form and who are under special medical management from the hospital. Remember the terminally sick and those who are receiving palliative care in hospice or home.

Thur 9th Pray for elderly members in our church and outside in the community at large, that they will get the care and support they need, particularly those with mental health problems as we approach the winter months.

Fri 10th Let us pray for our minister Nigel as he leads the church here in Maidstone with the many challenges which this position holds.

Sat 11th Pray today for those of our church who are in nursing homes and care centres receiving care 24 hours a day. Remember the social services department.

Sun 12th Pray for our church leadership team and deacons who are involved with planning; for guidance in their decision making for the church's future.

Mon 13th Pray for our local hospitals and emergency services as they prepare for a busy winter ahead, remembering the accident and emergency department when the winter pressures begin.

Tue 14th Pray for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted in this country and abroad because of their Christian beliefs'.



Wed 15th Let us pray for all those near us who feel unfulfilled and desperate about their life and who may be discouraged on their journey due to personal failures or issues with close family members.

Thur 16th May we remember the organisers of the street pastors who go out each week: pray for their safety.

Fri 17th Let us pray for our relationships within our neighbourhood and friends as we try and shine Jesus light to them in this dark world.

Sat 18th Remember in prayer the many people who are suffering as a result of the wars in Gaza and Ukraine. Pray for world leaders as they try to negotiate peace deals between Ukraine and Russia, Israel and the Palestinians.

Sun 19th Pray for all those who have recently lost loved ones and are now bereaved, both young and old inside and outside the church.

Mon 20th Pray for our youth club, all the youth and the supporting team involved in their management.

Tue 21st Pray for all our members who are finding things difficult at work either because of bullying, victimisation or overwork asking God to grant a quiet time for refreshment and recuperation as he sees fit.

Wed 22nd Let us pray for all those who are commencing new careers and new jobs and those who are taking final exams.



Thur 23rd May we pray today for a closer walk with God in these troublesome times when to be a Christian can be challenging.

Fri 24th Pray today for families in and outside church who have young children to guide in these difficult times.

Sat 25th Pray for those of our members who are not able to get out each week to church, that their spiritual needs will be met.

Sun 26th Pray for wisdom as we speak to our friends and colleagues in the workplace so that it will reflect the love of Jesus.

Mon 27th Pray for our pastoral area coordinators who give support and encouragement to all who need it at various times.

Tue 28th Let us pray for a closer walk with Jesus as we go into our individual place of work, school, college, office, hospital or board

meeting.

Wed 29th Pray for all those who are sleeping rough and are homeless here in Maidstone. Pray about the planning for the winter shelter project.

Thur 30th Pray for our social services here in Kent as they are often overwhelmed with demand for emergency support, especially with children of families arriving from trouble and war torn countries.

Fri 31st Remember our church family here in Maidstone as we are all one in the Spirit, that we will be united when we witness daily.

[illegible]

BMS Birthday Scheme.

October 2nd
October 15th
October 16th

Tommy Small
Barry Tucker
Barbara Williams



Happy Birthday to you all!

[illegible]

Deadline for November Knightrider Street News:

Sunday October 12th

Please e-mail contributions to the address on inside front cover

No later than 20.00hrs on this date



KALONDA: MOTHER, FARMER, CHAMPION FOR PEACE IN THE DRC

Kalonda is a peace champion, trained by Tearfund as part of Artisanes de Paix, a peacebuilding project in the DRC.

Kalonda's not sure we'd be able to believe it if she described to us the abuse some people have faced as part of a longstanding ethnic conflict where she lives – it's that awful. 'Sickening' is the word she uses to describe it.

A Twa woman, living in Nyunzu Territory, Tanganyika Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kalonda has lived through years of conflict between her own people, the Twa, and their neighbours, the Bantu people. Sometimes, it's been a war of words and ethnic slurs, at times it has been physically violent and deadly.

Consistently physically, economically and socially damaging, the long-standing conflict has now been the focus of a series of peacebuilding activities initiated by Tearfund and working with local partners. 'Now,' Kalonda says, 'we are seeing a change in attitudes and behaviour that differs from what we experienced in the past.'

Conflict between the Twa and Bantu: land disagreements and discrimination

The conflict between the two groups started some years ago, with land ownership disagreements and discrimination, which led to violence and counter-violence, being some of the main causes for the situation.

'We remember the consequences that left scars of pain related to ethnic and land conflicts throughout our villages for many years,' mourns Kalonda.

It's a conflict that has cost lives, destroyed homes and livelihoods, and kept children out of schools – further pushing people into poverty and

reducing their hopes of finding a way out of it. ‘Until now,’ Kalonda explains, ‘we have been living in difficult and unbearable conditions in terms of food security, and many of us have remained living in poverty and stripped of the possessions that we need to survive because of the conflict.’ But, things are changing.

‘We are now embracing a new reality of peace in our daily lives and have turned the page on everything that plunged us into the depths of hatred. Through what Tearfund has done, we are now determined to move forward, and this second and new chapter reflects the two communities living together in harmony, expressing lasting peace in our communities, our families and elsewhere.’

Artisans de Paix: peace champions and renewed mindsets

‘The arrival of Tearfund has removed these obstacles to our well-being,’ Kalonda points out. ‘The old mindsets of seeing some people as better than others according to their ethnicity, have been dispelled – even amongst young boys and girls – because of the awareness-raising and mediation messages that have been shared by the peace committees in our villages.’

Kalonda is a farmer and a mother, and she is now also part of one of these village peace committees. She is one of 50 ‘peace champions’ trained by Tearfund as part of a peacebuilding project, called *Artisanas de Paix**. The group of 50 is made up of 23 Twas and 27 Bantus and includes 25 women, and their role is to facilitate conversations within their community on how to live together peacefully and resolve conflicts. Having 25 peace champions who are women is also helping to adjust some difficult gender issues and is giving women a voice where they tell us they have struggled to be heard or taken seriously in many instances before.

Between them, the 50 peace champions hold 12 discussions every week. Through these meetings they’ve reached more than 8,000 people, and this has helped the Twa and Bantu communities build bridges and start to work

together, leading to fewer human rights issues and a more peaceful coexistence.

‘During the harvest we share the crops equally, without discrimination,’ says one participant in Tearfund’s *Artisanas de Paix* peacebuilding project in the DRC.

Within the *Artisanas de Paix* project, Tearfund also worked with local partners to help the community establish land committees, develop a local land charter, and map land rights to resolve the underlying land disputes clearly and practically.

‘All the reconciliation actions we have taken part in have been good for us,’ says Kalonda. ‘Communities now understand the importance of change and the effort required to achieve it. In short, the obstacles we face are being overcome thanks to the actions of the *Artisanas de Paix* project.’ ‘What we are experiencing now is no longer what we experienced before. The situation has changed in terms of security and social conditions: there are no more kidnappings or uprisings and no more discrimination – the old insults that people used to shout are now silent.’

‘We are now embracing a new reality of peace in our daily lives and have turned the page on everything that plunged us into the depths of hatred. Through what Tearfund has done, we are now determined to move forward, and this second and new chapter reflects the two communities living together in harmony, expressing lasting peace in our communities, our families and elsewhere.’ ‘We have nothing more to say other than to express our gratitude to Tearfund. This expression of peace that reigns is the result of your actions.’

Local church, lasting change

To carry out peacebuilding endeavours like this one, Tearfund often collaborates with local partners who have a vital, close-up understanding of the context. In this instance, we have particularly worked with an

organisation called Congo Initiative, which has experience in land reform. We also work with Eglise du Christ au Congo, an umbrella organisation for Protestant churches in Congo, believing that churches and faith leaders play a crucial role in peace-building due to their trusted position in communities. Faith leaders are involved in dialogues and in spreading messages of peace.

The *Artisanas de Paix* project has had a significant impact, bringing together people who were previously divided by conflict and violence. Communities and families now work together, including in communal gardens where diverse groups grow crops. While conflicts still exist, the project has sown seeds of change and transformation which Kalonda hopes and believes will lead to long-lasting peace.

How Tearfund sees peacebuilding: following Jesus to peace

Tearfund's approach to peacebuilding is rooted in our Christian faith and following Jesus in creating and nurturing a culture of peace.

Our work focuses on restoring relationships by identifying and understanding the factors that cause conflict between people and then looking for ways to address these – building bridges between diverse groups and helping them to identify shared challenges and work together to solve problems.

And we believe that the church has a central role to play in bringing change and hope.

Prayers from Tearfund's peacebuilding team

- Pray for healing and lasting peace for divided communities. Pray that God will soften hearts, restore broken relationships and raise up local peacebuilders who build bridges across conflict lines, ethnic tensions or religious divisions. 'For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.' (Ephesians 2:14)
- Pray for a transformation in how the world understands security. Pray that leaders at every level will start to see things in a new way and

turn away from fear and militarisation and toward security rooted in justice, dignity and care for one another and particularly for the most vulnerable. ““Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the LORD Almighty.’ (Zechariah 4:6)

- Pray for Tearfund’s peacebuilding work. Ask for God’s blessing over Tearfund’s country teams and partners working to reduce tensions, prevent violence and embody Christ’s peace in fragile communities. ‘Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.’ (Galatians 6:9)

Tarryn Pegna, 16th September 2025

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE 020 3906 3906
info@tearfund.org

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“A CITY OF EMPTINESS”

BMS weekly update, 28 August 2025

Maria, Khadijo and Xana are all 24 years old.* They’re bright, imaginative and chatter away in excellent English. So far, so wonderfully ordinary.

But Maria, Khadijo and Xana have had to make a decision no 24-year-old should have to make. They’ve left the country they call home because of the risk of conflict-related sexual violence in the midst of war. “The city I left was a city of emptiness,” Maria tells me.

I met Maria, Khadijo and Xana in Cyprus, where they’ve come to start their lives again. That morning, they’d had the chance to pick up some clothing from a distribution hosted at a BMS World Mission-supported welcome

centre for refugees in Larnaca. It was a touch of normality: trying on new outfits with friends.

“We want peace,” Maria told me. “We didn’t want to leave our country.”

But no 24-year-old can stand up to the conflict, drought and food insecurity that has caused the displacement of nearly three million people and a dire humanitarian crisis in Maria’s home country. That’s without mentioning the threats of gender-based sexual violence and female genital mutilation that has left the girls particularly afraid.

Maria studied economics for six years, but now women in her country have very little opportunity to work. The welcome centre in Cyprus is the first step towards a new life, one where Maria and her friends can use their God-given gifts and walk down the street without fear.

(If you would you like to be part of Maria, Khadijo and Xana’s story visit BMS’ Refugees Welcome appeal.)

**Names changed for the safety of Maria, Khadijo and Xana. We’ve also redacted the name of the country the girls travelled from due to the dangers that still exist for their families there.*



**Thank you for your ongoing prayer and support for
God’s mission in the world**

BMS Weekly Update, 28th August 2025



“THEIR GOAL WAS TO ELIMINATE CHRISTIANITY”

Jemal and his family in Ethiopia were forced to flee when Islamist militants attacked. Their home was ransacked and their businesses burnt down. “In just one hour, they destroyed everything,” says Jemal. “In a single day, they turned everything to ash.”*

Jemal will never forget the day that Islamist radicals attacked his village in Ethiopia. The day he lost his home, his livelihood and his safety. But though that day was a shocking escalation of violence, it wasn’t the beginning of the persecution.

“A very good life”

Jemal and his wife, Fatima*, grew up as Muslims. When they were young parents, they encountered Jesus and made the life-changing decision to follow Him. Like most converts from Islam in Ethiopia, they faced some opposition from their families and Muslim neighbours, but it wasn’t severe. They had a strong faith community, and were thankful for their day-to-day stability and blessings.

“We had a very good life,” says Jemal. “My whole family and I go to church and worship God.” His woodworking and steel manufacturing businesses were flourishing, and his customers included both local Christians and Muslims. Life was peaceful.

That started to change when visiting Muslim clerics began sharing radical messages at the local mosques.

Economic exclusion

“The clerics began by isolating us,” Jemal remembers. “They told the community not to talk to us. They made the community afraid by saying, ‘Whoever talks to them or sits with them will not have a proper burial ceremony.’” This was a very serious threat, since your burial site is particularly significant in Islam.

For the first time, Muslims began to avoid Christian businesses. “They isolated the Christians from the Muslims,” says Jemal. “They told Muslims in my town, ‘Don’t buy anything from them but let them buy from us. If you buy from them, they will become richer.’”

Economic exclusion is often used as a weapon to marginalise and impoverish Christians in parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The hope is to pressure Christians – particularly Christian men, who are most commonly the financial providers for their families – to either convert to Islam or leave the area. Last year, at least 7,100 shops or businesses belonging to Christians in sub-Saharan Africa were attacked, destroyed or forced to close during the research period. This was hard enough. But the persecution was suddenly about to escalate.

“No Christian home was safe”

As tensions continued to grow between the Muslim and Christian communities, the local authorities intervened – but, rather than bring peace back to the town, it had the opposite effect. The extremists were furious – and it provided the spark to light the fire that was to consume the whole community. “Mobs of people went from house to house, singling out Christian homes and businesses.”

“They began the attack on Monday night,” Jemal says. “By Tuesday, they even tried to kill me.”

At first, Jemal wasn’t sure what to do. “My sister, also a Christian, begged me to leave my belongings behind,” he remembers. “I wanted to stay and

protect my house and business, but we had to leave and we found refuge in a Muslim's house. Because no Christian home was safe."

The kindness of Jemal's Muslim friend showed there was still friendship in the community, even though the radical Islamists tried to obscure it with their hatred and violence. It was a gesture Jemal would remember through the rest of the ordeal.

Hundreds forced to flee

On the second day of the ambush, the arson began. "Mobs of people went from house to house, singling out Christian homes and businesses, destroying whatever they could find and setting it on fire," says Jemal. "In a single day, they destroyed everything I owned and had built up over the years."

At least 215 homes of Christian families were destroyed. Hundreds of people lost their means of livelihood, and at least 375 families were forced on the run. Jemal's home was ransacked and his businesses were burned down. He had nothing left. The attackers hoped that this financial ruin would shame the Christian men into giving up their faith. "They believed that, after our property was destroyed, Christians would convert to Islam," says Jemal. "They did not want Christians to remain in the town. Their goal was to eliminate Christianity." But they didn't reckon on Jemal's faith.

Overwhelmed

Jemal knew he wouldn't turn back from following Jesus – but, displaced and distraught, he was extremely anxious about the future for his family. His mind was racing with questions. "What work can we do in the future? Where can we live? How can I feed my children?"

He and his family were taken in at a church compound in a nearby town, alongside almost 30 other families. It was a safer environment, but the

physical conditions were hard – he had to sleep on the floor in a small, bare room with 12 other men for two months, and his daughter had a newborn. Seeing his family in these conditions deeply impacted him, and he knew it couldn't be a long-term solution. It didn't answer the questions he couldn't keep from his mind. "It was a tough moment for me," he says. "I was overwhelmed and paralysed. It deeply affected us psychologically; we were very afraid and anxious."

One of the things that hurt most was that the attackers were men Jemal had known for years. "We were born and raised in the same village," he says with great sorrow. "We were family; we had shared meals and lived together. It truly made us feel heartbroken."

How violence affects men

This brutal incident isn't unique to Jemal's village. "The violence in East Africa is increasing," says Fikiru*, an Open Doors research expert for the area. "Christianity is growing fast in our region, and these adversaries feel that they are losing ground. So they want to stop Christianity by persecuting." It's why Open Doors' Arise Africa campaign is so vital, to respond to this crisis.

"The violence in East Africa is increasing."

Persecution impacts men and women in different ways, Fikiru explains: "Men know that whenever there is a persecution incident, they will be the first target. The attackers know that, if they attack men, they will deny the family the breadwinner. And they will make an impact on the leadership, as well as the fellowship, of the church." He adds: "When I meet some of these persecuted believers, they are really emotionally impacted. If they are not able to defend their family, they feel as if they're disappointing their friends, their colleagues."

Forgotten by the world?

Last year, Pastor Barnabas made a memorable clarion call that 'nobody is talking about this'. Fikiru hears the same, time and again. "The world does

not pay enough attention to East Africa. It seems the persecution of Christians is forgotten,” he says. “When we speak to them, they always say to us that the most painful situation is not the persecution incident itself. Rather, it’s the misunderstanding they face from the church.

“I met a pastor recently. He asked, ‘Are we still in the hearts and minds of believers around the world, praying for us?’”

Supporting Jemal

With the gifts and prayers of Open Doors supporters, local partners in Ethiopia are able to show believers like Jemal that they have not been forgotten. When Open Doors partners heard about the violent attack on his community, they rushed to respond.

“I had completely given up. But God can restore what is lost.”

“Praise God, we didn’t die from hunger and thirst,” Jemal says. “The ministry responded promptly from the outset of the tribulation by providing food supplies.”

But it’s clear from Jemal’s experience that immediate aid – though vital – is not enough. Traumatized believers need spiritual and practical support for the long-term. When they saw the psychological toll the attack had on Jemal, local partners also invited him to receive Open Doors trauma care. It’s helped him begin healing: “It has greatly benefited me,” he says. “I had completely given up. But God can restore what is lost.”

“I really love this ministry”

Jemal also received new machinery and materials to restart his woodworking and steel manufacturing businesses. “We did not have any other means of surviving if the ministry had not bought us that equipment,” he says. “This ministry helped us to stand on our feet. You helped us feed our children. I really love this ministry and I wish to express my profound gratitude. May God bless you all!”

Knowing that people are praying for him around the world is a source of great joy and encouragement. “It makes you happy,” he says. “You say,

‘Oh, I have people of my own! We have family through Christ. We are of the same Father.’”

Stop the violence. Start the healing.

Despite the horrific persecution Jemal has experienced, he now has hope for the future. “Our God is the God of hope. He is a God who can do everything. Because of that, I am joyful,” he says. “Through all of this, my faith has grown stronger.”

Jemal needs long-term support and he knows there are millions of Christians in Ethiopia and the region who are clinging to Jesus in the face of persecution – and who also, desperately, need our help. The Arise Africa campaign aims to stop the violence and start the healing for these vulnerable believers.

“Let your aid stand by these people,” Jemal implores. “It takes a day for them to be hungry or thirsty. One Christian can be medicine for another Christian.”

Violent attacks in sub-Saharan Africa are increasing, leaving more and more of our brothers and sisters needing our support. Please don’t look away while the church is burning. Your gift and prayers today can help hope arise from the ashes.

Please pray

Jemal asks for your prayers:

- “My prayer request is for you to pray that God will change the area where I live. I have a strong desire for God to change that place.”
- “For Christians to be economically resilient.”
- “For us to have influence in our community, so we will be heard in various places. In every place I go, pray for God to give me boldness.”

Simon, Open Doors Team 1st September 2025

At the thanksgiving service for our dear friend David King, amongst many varied things he achieved in his long and interesting life, we heard about the association he had with Maidstone Orchestral Society from 1964 until the time of his homecall. He held a number of roles during this time, including becoming Chairman in 1988 and Vice President on his retirement in 1993.

The opening concert of Maidstone Symphony Orchestra's 2025 – 2026 Season, on Saturday October 18th, is to be dedicated to David.

The details of this for anyone wishing to attend are on the poster below.

Saturday 18 October 2025 at 7.30pm
Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre ME15 7RN

TCHAIKOVSKY
Romeo & Juliet

ELGAR
Sea Pictures

SMETANA
Vltava (The Moldau)

BORODIN
Symphony No.2

Susan Legg *mezzo soprano*

Brian Wright *conductor*

Tickets: £15, £25, £30
Students £5, 18s & under FREE!
On the Door, or reserve on
07817 429143 for payment on
the door (cash, cheque & card)
Advance Bookings by Card:
0333 666 3366 or
mso.ticketsource.co.uk



Pre-concert talk
presented by
Steve Migden,
6.40-7.10pm

Please note change
of soloist

mso.org.uk     **ticketsource** **Charity Reg. 1163384**

Regular Sunday Meetings.

Every Sunday: 10.30hrs In-person Worship at Knightrider Street

Services also streamed via Zoom and YouTube when possible.

Please Note: For safeguarding reasons photography and/or moving image recording, using any type of device, is **NOT** permitted in the church without **prior** permission.



Would you like to join
our Street or Prayer
Pastor Team?
We are always looking
for volunteers to join us.

Please email:
maidstone@streetpastors.org.uk for more information



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