



TWR Europe and CAMENA

ANNUAL REPORT · 2022



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photo by IMB.org

Introduction

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” Isaiah 9:2

A few weeks ago, at church on Sunday, I was introduced to a mother with her young adult daughter and her young son. The friend in the congregation who introduced me knew that I work for TWR, and he had just learned that this mother and her daughter are also serving in Christian media, producing Arabic programs for women.

When I heard that they were from Yemen, they immediately got my full attention. The word “Yemen” made me remember hearing stories about followers of Jesus suffering for their faith. In the reputable World Watch List of Christian persecution, Yemen is rated third among places where Christians are most persecuted. Yemen is a dark place.

Amazingly, it was not the stories about persecution in their home country that kept me on alert. Instead, it was their radiant joy and passion that came across when looking into their eyes and reading their body language. They were full of Jesus, and I sensed their eagerness to serve Arabic-speaking women and help them see *the Light*.

Like these ladies from Yemen, the world needs more believers who shine Jesus’ light to those desperately lost in the darkness of war, climate disasters, political unrest – you name it. In darkness, Jesus is the Shepherd who promises us that “even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).

We want to thank you for your interest and support of God’s work through the media ministry of TWR. This report is an opportunity to intentionally stop for a moment, counting the blessings. I think of *Precious and Beloved*, our ministries in places like Ukraine and Yemen, *The Roma Discipleship Tool* and *The Way of Righteousness* to name a few.

We are thankful for the ways God has used you in our ministry as we take the gospel to what are often very dark places. In this crazy world, let us not lose hope, but instead continue pointing people to Jesus!

Dirk Müller
International Director TWR Europe

About TWR Europe and CAMENA

Who We Are

TWR Europe and CAMENA (a regional abbreviation for Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa) is a division of TWR International. Collectively, TWR uses mass media to share the gospel message in more than 230 languages and dialects, to over 190 countries worldwide. Our vision is to tell as many people as possible about God's gift of eternal hope while providing discipleship resources.

Every day, the two regions of Europe and CAMENA broadcast biblical programming in over 50 languages and dialects.

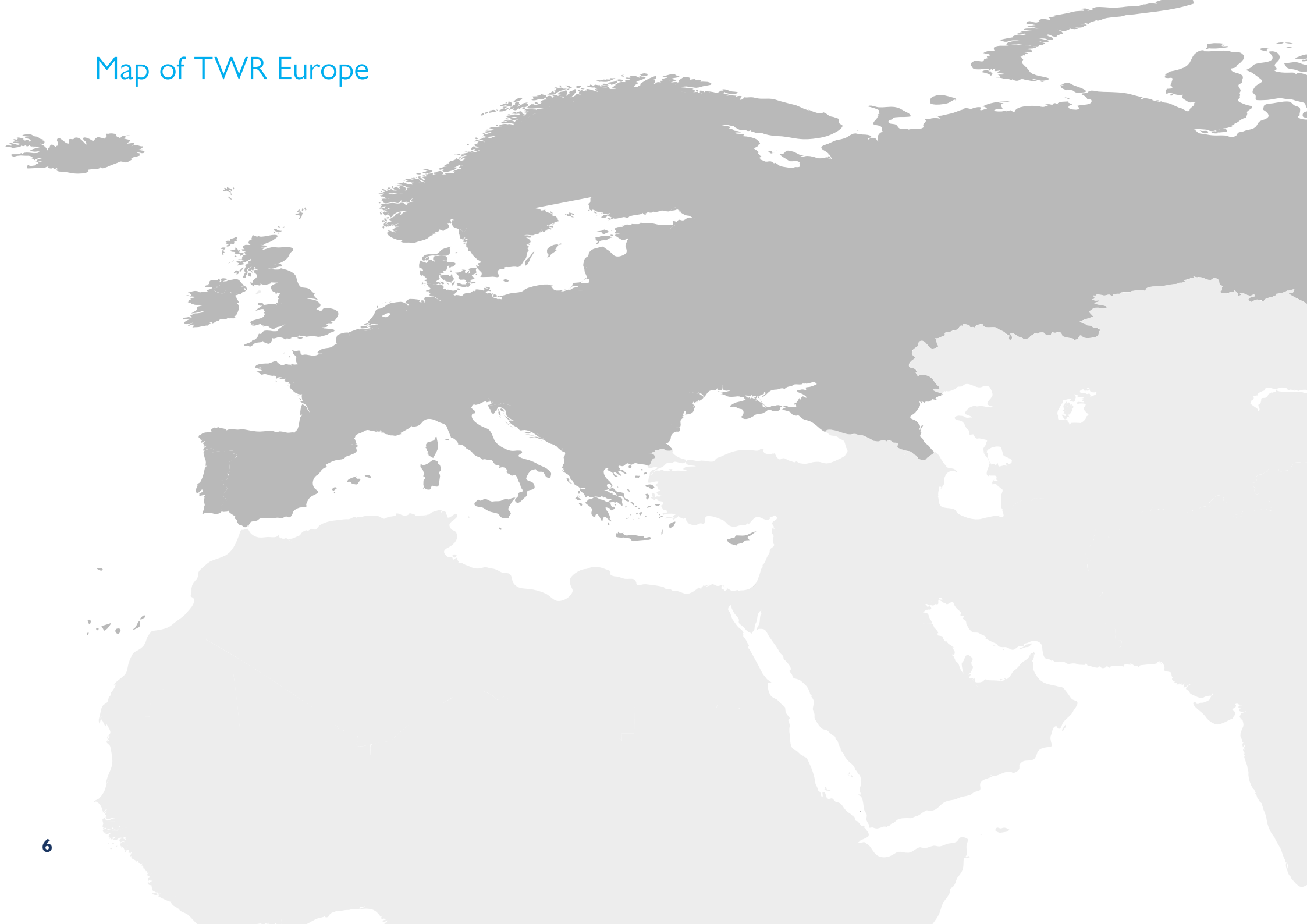
How We Work

TWR Europe and CAMENA works closely with more than 30 national partner ministries to identify unique needs, implement life-changing gospel media programs and provide necessary follow-up with listeners. Yet this work would not be possible without the faithful generosity of individuals, churches and corporate sponsorships.



photo by TMB.org

Map of TWR Europe



Europe



Central and East Europe · Russia, Ukraine and Belarus · South Europe



Central and East Europe Ministries

“Those who look to him are radiant.” Psalms 34:5

Challenges Stir Opportunity

TWR's Central and East Europe Ministries (CEEM) covers 15 countries and 18 language groups. We cooperate with nine national partners in these countries. In 2022, the Ukraine-Russia war brought new challenges. The massive influx of Ukrainians into border countries shifted attention to the immediate needs of refugees, and rightfully so. But as funds were redirected to help in the humanitarian crises caused by the war, many of our partners struggled financially. That said, these economic hardships also sparked tremendous growth for some.

Good News Center (GNC), our ministry partner in Lithuania, is involved in various media-related ministries. Last year they restructured, bringing book publishing, radio ministry, music projects and the organization of leadership conferences under a single umbrella. In doing so, GNC was able to broaden their reach.

In Albania's patriarchal society, men desperately need Christian role models and mentors. Together with **TWR Albania**, we found a local coordinator for Every Man a Warrior (EMAW), a men's discipleship curriculum. The first EMAW conference was launched, attracting pastors and teachers who are excited to invest spiritually in the lives of men.

MERA, our partner in Hungary, broadcasts over three hours of programs weekly. The ministry director faced a serious sickness, but was miraculously healed.

Our partner in Bulgaria, **Studio 865**, launched a digital media school to train young students in audio-visual media and internet promotion. With a 10-15 student capacity, the school prepares Christian students for media work in churches.

Established in 1994, **Impuls Polska**, TWR's Polish partner, received numerous stories of changed lives in 2022 despite the added stress of the Ukrainian refugee crisis on the nation.

TWR Czech is a steady voice of faith in a nation where most of the population do not believe in God. Our partner in the Czech Republic entered the world of digital broadcasting (DAB) in February of 2022. Not only is DAB more efficient than other broadcast methods, but it's also the radio standard in Europe. This technical upgrade will expand their reach significantly, allowing more people to tune in to Czech Radio 7 programs.

In nearby Slovakia, **TWR Media**, locally also known as **Radio 7**, operates its own 24/7 FM network. In 2022, Slovak Radio 7 acquired a new broadcast frequency in the city of Poprad. The station now has a total of 11 frequencies scattered around various parts of Slovakia. Going forward, the team is excited to pair existing radio programs with more digital ministry.



Reaching Women

A **Women of Hope** tour took place in Southeast Europe. Two conferences were held in the Bulgarian cities of Sofia and Lom. Dr. Peggy Banks, TWR's Women of Hope global director at the time, prayed for many women who responded to talks about the subject of abuse. From there, the team visited a shelter for abused women in Romania before heading to Serbia. Another conference in the Serbian city of Leskovac was a time of spiritual empowerment, bringing over 150 women together. The pastor was so encouraged by reports from the women, that he wants to organize a larger conference in the future.

IKONOS is TWR's Serbian-based ministry partner that oversees media ministries in most of the countries of former Yugoslavia. In collaboration with TWR, the team organized a digital ministry promotion workshop. Team members from Croatia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Serbia gathered for a two-day training to refine their digital media skills.

Roma Ministry

As one of the most consistently persecuted minorities in Europe, the Roma don't have many ways to access biblical teaching in their own languages.

Together with **IKONOS**, we are developing **The Roma Discipleship Tool**. Since the Roma come from a culture based on oral stories rather than written text, the focus of the program is to appeal to the Roma people through oral scripts. Instead of simply translating content that wasn't designed for a Roma audience and isn't relevant to them, this new tool takes scripts that are written by Roma pastors and records them in video interview format. The content is meant to inform and transform every area of life, often including humor or cognitive dissonance to engage listeners.

The cultural nuances and habits of the Roma people vary greatly from region to region, so **TWR Romania** started recreating and contextualizing the oral scripts for their listener base.

At the end of 2021, **IKONOS** visited a Roma studio in the Serbian town of Leskovac which has been in operation for around 15 years. The electricity in the room as well as the studio equipment wasn't up to standard. After praying about how the quality of the programming could be improved, God provided the finances to renovate the studio, which was completed in 2022. As a result, the team in Leskovac reevaluated their content structure and began producing Women of Hope programs.

When Miki and Misha, two Roma pastors and musicians, started brainstorming ways to reach Roma children, they decided to produce 20 original Serbian Roma songs and 20 animations. In October, the CBN coordinator for Superbook animations in the Balkan region agreed to cooperate with us. The plan is to use Superbook animations for our Roma children's ministry, and we've already secured the copyrights and talked with two production teams.



photo by IMB.org

Russia, Ukraine and Belarus Ministries

“I say to you that many will come from **the east** and the west and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 8:11

Ministry in Russia

In the face of unforeseen obstacles, the Russia team continued proclaiming the gospel to their potential audience of 145 million listeners.

The Russia-Ukraine war meant new risks to the ministry: the risk of closure, the risk of being tagged a foreign agent, the risk of team members being drafted, etc. What’s more, many social media channels were prohibited, dramatically decreasing media avenues. For example, Meta (the company that owns Facebook and Instagram) was deemed an extremist organization.

Even so, the team finished the year well. The ministry takes a three-fold approach, using digital media, FM and medium-wave radio to reach Russian speakers both inside and outside of Russia. This includes people in Ukraine, Belarus, the United States, Moldova, and over 25 other countries.

The team continued broadcasting the good news in the North Caucasus region, and shared hope with the region’s Muslim population through social media channels. Remarkably, the team airs Christian programs on a secular radio station in Mongolia to a Buddhist audience. Programs are also aired in Spain for Russian speakers living in Barcelona.

A demo version of a new radio station, designed for a secular audience, was developed last year. A prototype for a music streaming service was also created to accompany it. Preparations are underway for the release of the first version of the project.

Because of the large number of non-believing listeners in Russia, Finland, Spain and Mongolia, the team wants to expand their work in these countries.

Here are three listener stories out of many that have reached the team:

“I’ve tried listening to various Christian radio stations, but I always come back to yours. This radio station is beyond competition. Excellent hosts, modern Christian music, and super-classy podcasts. There’s a lot of unique, spiritual content to ponder.” — Roman

“Excellent radio and app! I love the teachings between the songs (very interesting and edifying). They make you think and don’t leave you empty. Blessings from God to the entire radio team.” — Marina

“This is what I’ve been looking for. A very good selection of songs. Other Christian radio stations aren’t very good, but this one is super! It’s great that there are also sermon excerpts, testimonies and Bible quotes.” — Viktor



Ministry in Ukraine

Against all odds, **TWR Ukraine** produced 70-80 audio programs every month in 2022. The team also produced daily recordings, podcasts and videos for YouTube and other social media platforms. Their lives were in danger many times, but they persevered under trial. Their goal to bring people closer to God remained at the forefront of every action and decision.

In the early days of the Russia-Ukraine war, Alexander (the team's director) shared from his heart:

"In the present world, life has changed. The world is not going to be the same, and we don't know what to expect. But I know that God has already planned the end of the world and human history. He has promised us that everything will be for our good."

The war led to a higher demand for Christian programs. TWR Ukraine distributed radios and preached the gospel in the countryside and along the front lines.

At the end of February, TWR Ukraine set up a temporary basement studio in a private house on the outskirts of Kyiv. This was due to the danger of missile strikes in the city.

Later, it also became dangerous for the team to remain in the basement studio so they journeyed farther west. Despite the grim news, in early March TWR Ukraine began broadcasting from another medium-wave (AM) transmitter, increasing their signal coverage.

In late March, Alexander recorded a message commemorating the 30th anniversary of TWR Ukraine. Just nine days later, a 24/7 livestream for Ukrainian refugees was launched, consisting of worship music and Scripture readings. Ukrainians from around the world volunteered to serve as translators and speakers, and the livestream went from idea to reality in less than a month.

Even before the war, TWR Ukraine had been praying for new opportunities to preach the gospel to young people. As the nation braced for war, it only took one short video published by TWR Ukraine to see that God wanted to use them in ways never imagined. The video provided a big boost to their online presence.

Over the course of the year, the team's media platforms saw an exponential increase in audience engagement. Instagram followers increased by 11.5-fold, Facebook followers by 23.5-fold, and YouTube subscribers by sixfold. Today, the total combined audience of these three platforms alone is over 100,000. In the first days of the full-scale invasion, people were desperately searching for answers to tough questions, and the team created relevant content to meet those needs.

Due to the unpredictability of electric power and internet access, the team often worked by headlamps and candlelight to produce Christ-centered content.



photo by IMB.org



Ministry in Belarus

TWR Belarus reaches millions for Christ through life-changing media content. Ten programs totaling over three hours of weekly airtime are broadcast on medium-wave (AM) radio and streamed over the internet.

One such example is *History Lessons*, a program geared toward schoolchildren, students and intellectuals, which studies history from a Christian perspective. Popular among podcasts, it gained new listeners in 2022, and the team decided to publish a book containing 50 interviews about Belarusian history. To date, the text for the book has been prepared and edited, and an artist from Brest has created 50 thematic illustrations.

Two 15-minute children's programs, *Little Seed* and *Treasure Seekers*, continue to attract new listeners. The episodes are used by parents in raising children and by churches for Sunday school lessons.

The year 2022 marked the second annual *Light of the Star of Bethlehem* event; an outreach to family-style orphanages. Our colleagues donated 400 pre-programmed wireless receivers to orphans and disabled children during this evangelistic project.

TWR Belarus donated 550 receivers containing pre-recorded biblical teaching to church ministry teams. These receivers were contextualized with specific

content, some designed for children and others for adults. While on the road, the team had the opportunity to encourage foster parents by singing Christian songs and sharing their own fostering stories. They also ministered to orphanages and adult rehabilitation centers, bringing the message of hope everywhere they went.

Another open door for TWR Belarus has been ministry to the blind. Pre-programmed receivers were prepared and donated to the Blind Association in Pruzhany with hopes for future cooperation.





photo by LMB.org

South Europe Ministries

Although culturally vibrant, the South Europe region (France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece and Cyprus) is becoming more and more spiritually dry. The growth of religious skepticism has left many people searching for answers. But TWR's national partners are finding innovative ways to bring hope. And a steady influx of refugees from various cultural backgrounds has opened new ministry opportunities.

Sparking Conversations about God Through Video Content

In October 2022, after pandemic-related delays, *Thru the Bible* (TTB) began publication of the first European video version of the program on YouTube for an Italian audience, produced by **CRC Italy**. These five-minute, Bible-based programs have already received a high number of listener responses.

"I'm a new listener. I recently met Jesus, so everything is a little bit confusing for me, but thanks to Enzo (an Italian speaker) I can understand God's Word. At the end of the program, you said that you can give out a Bible for free. Is it possible to send me one?" — Listener from Italy

Reaching the Youth

In Spain, where most young people aren't interested in institutionalized church, giving them a safe place to

ask questions about God is important. *Esto Es Real Talk*, which translates to *This is Real Talk*, is a podcast in partnership with our Spanish partner, **Canal de Vida**, that examines difficult life issues in creative ways. Through interviews of well-known guests, the content stays relevant while addressing the questions of secular millennials. Over 20 episodes were produced in 2022 and published on a variety of platforms, with a focus on TikTok and Instagram. Our Spanish partner also implemented an influencer strategy to create personal interactions with the podcast's followers.

Through humor, irony and cartoons, *The Basics of the Christian Faith* deals with topics such as gender identity, politics and the environment. Developed by **RTM Portugal**, it includes a website, an app, a game app, a podcast series and a radio program.

In 2022, *Historias para los niños*—a 170-episode series created in partnership with Waters of Life—was finalized and is being broadcast and distributed on digital platforms.

Mille Color, developed by our Italian partner, aired in March 2022. With 13 episodes combining cultural education with Bible and missionary stories, the program is designed to reach children and families.

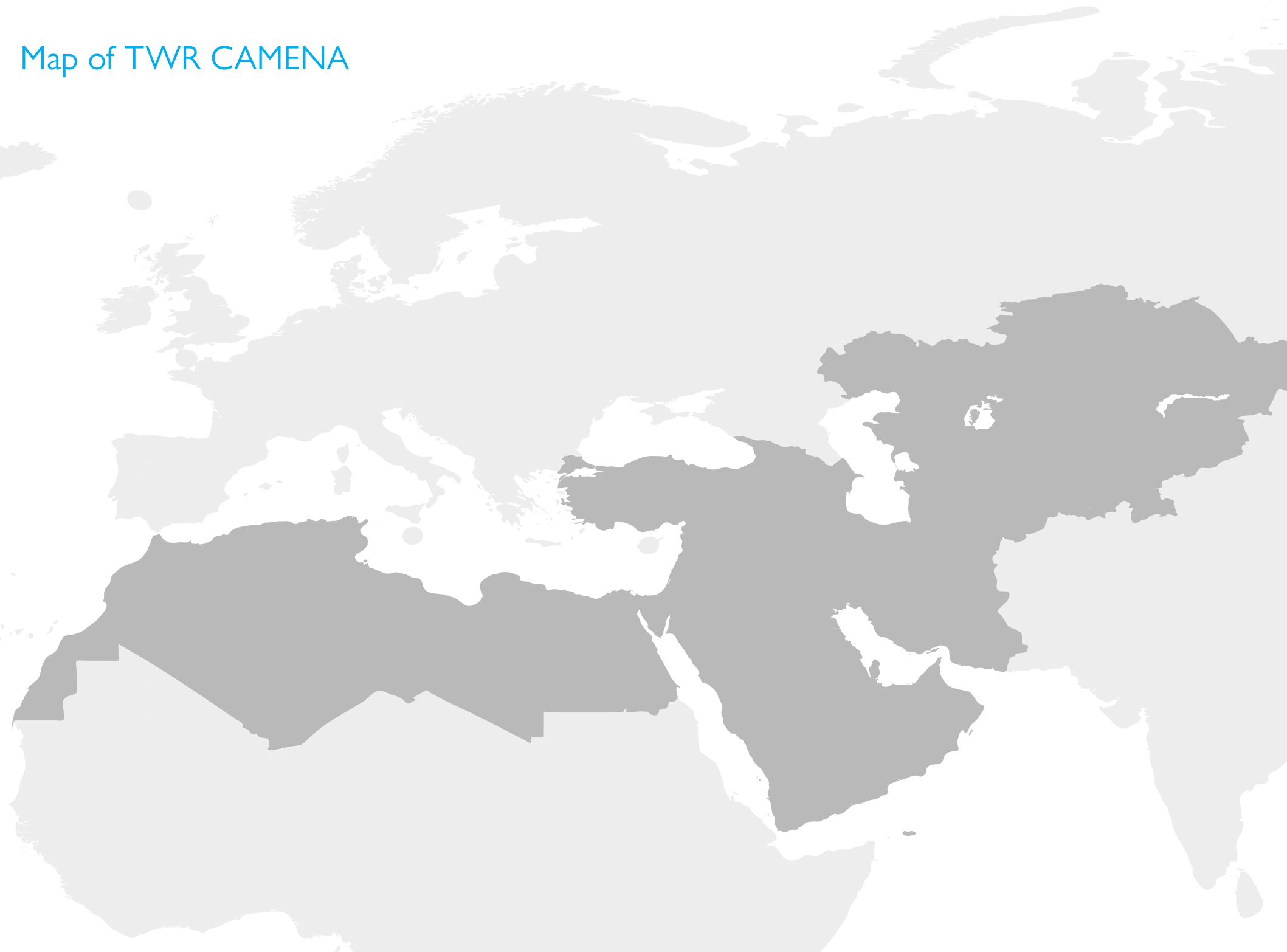
Northwest Partners

TWR Europe and CAMENA has 10 national partners in nine countries of Northwest Europe, producing and distributing Christian programming in their national languages. Many of them have a passion to reach the immigrants and refugees in their countries, and provide content in various languages to reach the diverse audiences at their doorstep. In partnership with TWR, they support numerous TWR projects around the globe. Together, we seek to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the nations.



Country	Partner	Website
 Austria	ERF Medien	erf.at
 Denmark	Norea Mediemiission	norea.dk
 Finland	Sansa	sansa.fi
 Germany	ERF Medien	erf.de
 The Netherlands	TWR Nederland & België	twr.nl
 Norway	Norea Mediemisjon	norea.no
 Norway	P7 Kristen Riksradio	p7.no
 Sweden	Norea Sverige	noreasverige.se
 Switzerland	ERF Medien	erf.ch
 United Kingdom	TWR United Kingdom	twr.org.uk

Map of TWR CAMENA



CAMENA



Central Asia · Middle East · North Africa



Central Asia Ministries

“I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, and from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’”

Isaiah 46:9-10

In our turbulent and uncertain times, this passage from Isaiah speaks of eternal stability. This truth gives us hope, confidence and motivation in our Central Asia ministries, knowing that God’s plans will come to pass.

In Kazakhstan, many people live in remote villages, making media a crucial avenue for ministry. For this reason, a new member joined the team who will assist with YouTube, Instagram and TikTok projects. Radio and audio devices continue to play an important role due to the weak internet signal in some areas. Many churches are using TWR’s media tools, allowing them to expand their reach.

Central Asia’s Women of Hope coordinator went to the *Precious and Beloved* training last year. Afterwards, she gathered key leaders from different Central Asian countries to pass on the main ideas from the training. A pilot program for Russian-speakers was also recorded.

Tajikistan is a nation where religious activities are strictly governed, but we are sharing hope through 16 Christian programs. TWR carried out a radio distribution project from June to December. The team gave away 190 radio receivers with 190 compatible USB sticks, each containing 260 pre-recorded audio

programs. Plus, the launch of a new Instagram account for our Tajik programs has already gained a lot of traction.

On a visit to Uzbekistan, TWR’s director for Central Asia met with many listeners of our programs to hear their stories. Uzbek Christians, often shunned or persecuted for their faith, are thankful for the testimonies that TWR shares from other believers in the region. *Christian Youth* is a program that examines difficult topics based on God’s Word. A listener shared his experience:

“Hello brothers and sisters. Thank you for the radio programs. I listen to them a lot at home and on the road. They are very convenient to listen to. We live in a village where there are no churches, but your radio programs help us grow spiritually. Since I’ve been listening for a long time, I’ve heard many of your programs several times. I like listening to the testimonies and sermons.”

Plans for Future Ministry

In the coming year, TWR’s Central Asia ministries are looking forward to more growth. The team wants to expand the reach of animated video stories for the deaf in Kyrgyzstan. More Women of Hope

Precious and Beloved trainings are planned, with the goal of reaching women who have been neglected by society. TWR MOTION videos will be translated into Central Asia languages and integrated into digital platforms. Because the need for radio broadcasts is vital in areas of intense religious restrictions, several thousand radios and pre-programmed SD cards will be distributed.

Challenges and Growth

Economic and political instability have worsened with the Ukraine-Russia conflict, increasing the prices of goods and dividing societies. On top of that, 2022 saw unrest in Kazakhstan and more border clashes between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Believers in Central Asia often don’t have access to biblical literature and live in remote areas. Even so, TWR’s ministries are growing and new opportunities are on the horizon.

Middle East Ministries

Reaching the Arab-speaking World

TWR's Arabic ministry is committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with people around the world. Our focus is on reaching all Arab people; those living inside and outside of the Arab world. We recognize that there are many cultural, linguistic and political barriers to sharing the gospel in this context. That's why we use mass media, specifically radio and online platforms, to overcome these barriers, and connect with people in their own dialects and contexts.

Our ministry has a long history of using radio as a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship, and we continue to innovate and adapt to new technologies and platforms, expanding our reach and impact. We strive to bring the gospel to those who have never heard it before and disciple believers who are hungry for spiritual growth and community.

The fruit of our ministry—people who decide to follow Christ and people whose lives change from defeat to victory—is the spiritual fuel that keeps us encouraged and moving forward.

Highlights

We signed an agreement with a local radio station in the Middle East, to have two programs, *Tamaltha* and *Women of Hope*, broadcast daily. The station also utilizes digital platforms, and we hope to expand this partnership in the near future.

We also signed an agreement with another local radio station after our listeners recommended the station, and we've been receiving encouraging feedback.

With a potential reach of 300 million listeners, SAT-7 is a ministry dedicated to reaching the Middle East and North Africa through satellite audio channels. Thanks to a new partnership with SAT-7, our Arabic programs are being broadcast 24/7 in remote areas where internet access is limited.

Ala's Diary, a program for youth, has continued to grow. With the addition of a new producer who is heavily involved in youth ministry, we are finding creative ways to reach teenagers. The episodes are produced in a 15-minute format, with the knowledge that the attention span of youth is becoming shorter. Each program consists of three 5-minute segments which can be used as stand-alone episodes. We receive daily messages, chats and calls in response to the content.

Hope for Sudan

Daily broadcasts through Eswatini to reach the Sudanese is going smoothly. The pastor we partner with is distributing radios to people living in the mountainous areas of Sudan.

The Sudanese people deal with witchcraft all the time, and even people from a nominal Christian background

adapted the ways of Islam into their daily lives. They are in need of a spiritual breakthrough, and our radio programs are freeing them from evil ties and earthly shackles.

Churches in Sudan are weak, and many of the pastors lack a true knowledge of the Word of God. The few listeners who respond give us insight into the power of the Word of God in reaching into the darkness.

Digital Media

We use podcasts, online radio, SoundCloud, YouTube, social media and other digital platforms to reach millions of Arabs who spend several hours each day on their smart phones, tablets and computers.

Our audio and visual content is changing the hearts of many and feedback through emails, apps, websites and messaging platforms have increased.

Listener Feedback

A 17-year-old young lady came across *Women of Hope* and shared that she's been imprisoned at home by her uncle and mother, who forced her to quit school and marry. Our role is to empower and encourage her. She wrote, "I feel like I'm ready to face whatever comes because Jesus is with me."





North Africa Amazigh and Kurdish Ministries

A Living and Growing Community of Believers

Using every opportunity that the Lord provides to connect people to the Word of God is at the core of our focus for reaching people in North Africa and the Kurdish speaking world. God is working powerfully through media. In 2022, our team who ministers to speakers of the Kabyle language, spoken by the Amazigh people, began to invite listeners who can't attend local church to join online church sessions and fellowship with believers. As a result, we have seen the number of participants grow along with an eagerness to encourage one another. Here's a response from a lady who connected through social media:

"It was such a joy for me to participate in the online meeting, that I could not hold back my tears. Because I am still living with my parents in this small village, I suffer quite a bit with feeling isolated and lacking communion with other believers. A special thanks for connecting me with Kahina—it has been amazing to sing and worship together online."*

**Name changed for security*

Out of 47 churches that are part of the Association of Evangelical Protestant Churches in Algeria, over two-thirds of them have been closed since the authorities began a systematic campaign in 2017 to shut down church activities in the country. As a result, today many believers are joining or starting house churches and going online to find communities of Kabyle believers they can trust.

Leadership Growth

We are blessed to have deeply committed Women of Hope coordinators for our ministries to speakers of Kabyle and Kurmanji languages. In late 2022, our ministry friends at Shema Media Group in Türkiye appointed a young lady to help with the coordination of media projects for Kurdish speakers of Kurmanji. She brings a professional and passionate dynamic to the ministry and will raise the profile of our work so it has a greater impact.

Developing New Content

It was several years ago that the program series *Power in Persecution* was completed in English, and in 2022, the series was finally completed in the Kabyle language for Algeria. Several setbacks took place during the production when voice-over talents dropped out of the project. However, with persistence and creativity, the producer was able to finalize the series before the end of the year. We are deeply thankful that this series is available for future medium-wave broadcasts into North Africa. It is also available through the RadioKabyle website and app, as well as being distributed on SD cards and media players within North Africa.

New programs that started being written and produced and will continue in 2023, are *The Way of Righteousness* series in the Tamazight, Tarifit and Kurmanji languages, as well as *Power in Persecution* and *The Prophets* in the Kurmanji language.

A new limited series of *Thru the Bible* (216 programs covering 9 selected books) was agreed upon for the Kurdish speakers of Kurmanji. A local pastor and a Christian Kurmanji speaker are voicing the programs and are well into the production stage.

Audience Engagement

Our audience engagement (follow-up) team continues to respond to listeners requests and are utilizing TikTok as well as Facebook more and more to engage with those who are accustomed to these social media platforms. The most sought-after engagement, however, as expressed by our listeners, is when they are personally visited by our follow-up team. This is a priority for our team as these visits strengthen relationship, build trust, and allow our staff to experience the listening conditions of our audience. In doing so, the team is better equipped to address the questions and concerns they receive.

Resilience

Listeners are hearing our programs and responding, and we are continually thankful for the unique part each team member plays. It cannot be overstated that the ministry continues to grow and have an impact because of those who partner with TWR. Our team is grateful for all who are part of this great task of using media to speak hope to the world.

In mid-2022, under the guidance of our Kabyle coordinators, we had the rare privilege of a Kabyle team member and her husband visiting us. As she poured out her heart regarding the opposition she and her family have experienced because of their faith and active service, she chose to dwell on ways God is at work, even in adversity. She gave thanks and praise to the Lord for the chance to share the gospel and disciple believers in North Africa.

We praise the Lord for the individuals who serve at great risk so people can hear God's Word.



Listener Stories from North Africa:

“My brother and I have been encouraged by your ministry. Thank you for connecting with us online and through calls. We really appreciate the discipleship and prayers.”

— A Kabyle listener who engages through the online ministry.

“Thank you for visiting me in my village! It filled me with joy to welcome you and your wife. Thank you for encouraging me in person and for filling my house with the Word of God through the radio! You probably noticed all the verses I stuck on the walls of my room.”

— A Kabyle listener who messaged the team and received a home visit.

“I live with my Muslim family. Being a woman and having no freedom to go out or to be in contact with others is really hard. So you are my only hope for communication and to have an exchange [of ideas]. Due to my situation, it is hard to communicate freely. Please pray for me and for Christ to set me free.”

— A listener who messaged the Audience Relations team.





twr
WOMEN
OF HOPE



Women of Hope

“For you formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.” Psalms 139:13

In 2022, as COVID-19 cases started trending downward, there was finally an end in sight to the global pandemic. In ministry, we were able to travel more extensively to visit listeners, partners and colleagues, and in-person events were back on the agenda. At the same time, as some rejoiced in their newfound freedom of movement, others were forced into it by war. A long-awaited “return to normal” didn’t seem to be likely for 2022 after all.

There were also big changes for TWR’s Women of Hope. At the end of 2022, our global director, Dr. Peggy Banks, resigned from the position she had held successfully for six years. In addition, two other members of the global TWR Women of Hope team moved on to other ministries while in Finland, Miia Kallio was hired as the new national coordinator.

Europe

Bombs started lighting up the skies over Ukraine in late February, forcing millions of women and children to flee their homes, with loved ones left behind to

defend the land. One of these women was the new producer for the Ukrainian *Women of Hope* programs who found safe harbor in Germany. Even in war, the translation of the TWR Women of Hope prayer calendar continues as planned. A Ukrainian lady faithfully translates the text and shares the Russian version of the global prayer calendar with our teams in the North Caucasus and Central Asia.

On the Russian side of the border, many women had to say goodbye to their sons, brothers, fathers and husbands, and international sanctions made life even harder. Our team’s work in the North Caucasus went through a “social media shakeup” as many of the platforms we relied on for ministry suddenly went dark in Russia. For example, Instagram was blocked, and TWR Women of Hope’s carefully curated brand had to begin again on other platforms.

In the Balkans of southeastern Europe, TWR Women of Hope expanded its reach in 2022 with more cross-regional collaboration. Ministry coordinators from Serbia and Croatia attended the first *Precious*

and *Beloved* training with plans to use these audio programs, designed especially for M women, in the Balkan region.

Northern Cyprus is the focus of the newest TWR Women of Hope initiative in Europe. In early 2022, Bridge of Hope Online, a website of relevant, hand-selected Women of Hope programs in the Turkish language went live. We also began the search for a coordinator to develop ministry efforts on the northern part of the island, both for in-person outreach through small groups and online through the website and social media. The position hasn’t been fully filled yet, so we ask for prayer in finding the right person to carry the mantle of leadership on the island.

Said to be the “Las Vegas” of the Middle East, Northern Cyprus is rife with gambling and prostitution, and it’s becoming increasingly clear that topics such as trauma, violence and abuse need to be addressed. The decision was made to utilize *Hidden Treasures*, an 11-episode audio drama that ministers to sexually exploited women, as part of these new ministry efforts.

The *Hidden Treasures* audio drama became available in its 10th language: Spanish. Our ministry partners did a terrific job at the production and were even able to have actual survivors record the voice narrations, adding a genuine quality to the episodes. In 2022, in close collaboration with Norea Sweden, the team began the process of building a *Hidden Treasures* app to replace previously used MP3 players.

CAMENA

In Türkiye, the TWR Women of Hope programs continued to be broadcast through the FM network in many cities in the country. Every month, listeners write in to share their stories. Here is one of the testimonies we received:

"I'm a housewife and mother of three children. We got a nanny who was a Christian woman and I listened to her story. That's how I found out about your programs. Last month, I decided to become a Christian. Jesus gives me peace when I'm going through storms."

On the 26th of July, the first Kurdish Kurmanji Women of Hope program went on the air. This new ministry then carried out 23 weeks of broadcasting, with programs airing twice a week. The team worked hard to translate and contextualize the scripts. They wrestled with how to discuss difficult topics such as abuse and domestic violence, but the hard work bore fruit.

Arabic Women of Hope platforms enjoy a wide reach among a diverse audience. Some of the key topics in 2022 were the importance of self-care and self-

development, meditation on God's word, and positive self-talk based on Scripture. A team member writes: "By emphasizing the importance of being a daughter for the King of Kings, Women of Hope is encouraging women to prioritize their spiritual and psychological well-being."

Our Arabic Women of Hope coordinator is a key figure in the creation of *Precious and Beloved*, a new library of scripts specifically written for M women. By the end of the year, 13 scripts were written and another 13 were in the works. Women of Hope coordinators from Asia, Africa and Europe attended a training in Cyprus are already implementing the scripts into their local ministries.

In North Africa, we have an active team who loves to connect with listeners. Much to the team's relief, the year 2022 saw a return to in-person meetings following the COVID-19 pandemic. Our coordinator for North Africa wrote:

"Our team continues to be inspired by the very people we reach out to and by the Lord's continued grace that manifests in so many ways. Many of the women we have been in contact with are so brave in the face of hardships and the 'dangers' of believing in Jesus. Some have every right to be fearful and many are, yet they hold on to the hope they have in Jesus!"

Many people crave for hope without knowing how to find it. That is why we continue to share the message of hope in Jesus to women across the vast region of Europe and CAMENA.



photo by TWR - Morgane Erisman

M Ministry in Europe

God is Faithful

Looking back at a year of turbulence, unrest and global economic decline, it is amazing to see that even in times of darkness, God is bringing people into his light. Despite terrible circumstances, unforeseen setbacks and unanswered questions, God is faithful.

Northern Cyprus Radio Station

Shema Media Group, ministry friends of TWR, managed to acquire a radio station on Northern Cyprus with two FM frequencies. Through these frequencies, Northern Cyprus will be covered with Christian content in Turkish and English. Shema plans to assemble an international board of directors to lead and guide the ongoing development of this radio station. Christian broadcasts will begin in February 2023. Pray that God will provide and equip the right people for this important task.

Bridge of Hope Online

Launched in March 2022, Bridge of Hope Online is an outreach to Turkish-speaking women in Northern Cyprus. To better meet the needs of traumatized women on the island, a local counselor joined the project task force. The team also decided to start producing Turkish versions of *Hidden Treasures* and *Hope for the Journey* to meet the needs of the victims of sex trafficking.

Refugee and Immigrant Ministry

A multi-language app is being developed, together with local partners in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Canada. The app will give easy access to relevant pre-evangelistic and evangelistic content, and the users will be able to get in contact with local Christians and churches to learn more. The goal is to reach M background refugees and immigrants in Western Europe.

The first version of the app will be intended for Farsi speakers, especially those from Iran, and the second installment will focus on Somali speakers. A huge boost to the project in 2022 was the addition of a new refugee and immigrant ministry coordinator who will dedicate time to expanding the app's reach.

Men of Courage

Toward the end of 2022, Shema Media Group initiated the *Men of Courage* program (MOC) in the Turkish language. Soon after, the global MOC team visited Shema to go over the project details, an in-person training was provided for many of the staff members. Following the training, the team began producing episodes for their FM radio stations and social media channels. Within the first few months of MOC in Türkiye, listener responses started pouring in.

Türkiye

Last year, Shema Media Group acquired a new radio station in southern Türkiye, and broadcasts began in January 2023. Shema would like to purchase the land where the antennas are located. This would secure the broadcasts and generate income as other radio stations rent space on the antennas.

During the spring of 2022, Shema bought a small building within broadcast range of another city in southern Türkiye, but the cost to renovate was outrageous due to inflation and Shema was not able to do anything with it at the time. In Türkiye, the government claimed there was 85 percent inflation in 2022 (while private companies claimed closer to 140 percent).

While Shema did not see a growth in the number of people who contacted them last year, the conversations they had with people grew deeper. They also saw growth in average listening time, which increased to over one hour per session.

Shema partners with believers and churches around the country. The relationship between Shema and the local church continues to deepen, and churches follow up with those who respond to Shema's broadcasts. Throughout 2022, many of Shema's program listeners

“For it is by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:8

joined Bible studies and churches, and many came to faith in Jesus. In the city of Samsun, the Christian church is experiencing a large increase of attendees, and the pastor believes it's partially due to the broadcasts. Many taxi drivers have Shema's radio station pre-programmed on their car stereos. Partially because it's the only Christian radio program in Turkish, Arabic, Kurdish and Syriac, Shema's broadcasts have been successful.

TWR's other ministry friends in Türkiye improved their website and social media platforms in 2022, and started renewing their youth program to increase engagement.

A 59-year-old Turkish woman named Alara wrote to tell her story:

“I've been listening to your program with joy for a long time. After I lost my husband, I moved in with my daughter-in-law because I couldn't pay my rent. Soon after, I accepted Christ and prayed the salvation prayer. Everything is very new to me; I feel like a child. I want to learn more about Christ, but I didn't tell my daughter-in-law because I'm afraid of her reaction. Please pray for me.”



Farsi Ministry

“When you share how Jesus related to women in the Bible, it gives Iranian women so much hope.”

Spoken by over 100 million people worldwide, Farsi is a wide-reaching language. It's the language of the people of Iran, an official language in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, and Farsi-speakers span the globe from Türkiye all the way to Canada. Religious and political volatility in regions where it is the official language make Christian ministry both challenging and rewarding.

Persian World Radio

The launch of Persian World Radio was a significant step forward for TWR's Farsi ministry. In Iran, the printing and distribution of Bibles in Farsi is strictly prohibited, yet a high number of Iranians are leaving Islam and searching for truth. When TWR's Farsi ministry director looked at statistics following the radio station's launch, he found that 50-62 percent of listeners are based in Iran.

Much of the program content is about finding our identity in Christ. “When you share how Jesus related to women in the Bible, it gives Iranian women so much hope because they don't have any rights or identity in Islam,” said the ministry director.

Warming Hearts is a 2–5-minute radio program based on the principle of comforting others with the comfort we've received from God (2 Corinthians 1:3-5). Over 200 scripts have already been produced, and the number is growing.

Notable progress was made last year in teaching 23 young Iranian students how to record and mix Christian music that is played on Persian World Radio. The goal is to begin 24/7 worship radio.

But it doesn't stop with radio. The team started developing podcasts and streaming programs on platforms such as Apple Music and Spotify, writing new scripts about current events. Last year the team started researching high-definition audio for their podcasts which allows for a more immersive listening experience, and they hope to produce HD audio programs soon.

A Safe Digital Space

In December 2022, the Farsi ministry team initiated metaverse development. The metaverse, a virtual

world accessible by way of virtual and augmented reality headsets, has opened new possibilities for sharing Christ. Young people can talk about faith in God in the metaverse, and because they have an avatar rather than revealing their true identities, they can safely ask questions about Jesus without the risk of persecution.

TWR's Farsi ministry director recognizes the importance of music in the Bible. Preparation for a program titled *Worship and the Bible* began in 2022. Episodes will use specific examples from Scripture to show that worship is a vital part of walking with God.

“I was a very aggressive person, but after listening to your programs, I gave my life to God and started reading the Bible. I became a much calmer person, and my parents became believers too.” — From a 27-year-old listener



photo by IMB.org



Further Updates

From Europe and CAMENA

National Partner Conference

Each September, TWR holds the National Partner Conference for Europe and CAMENA (Central Asia, Middle East, North Africa). After two years of meeting online due to the pandemic, 2022 was a special year of renewed face-to-face interaction. A highlight from the conference was hearing Isaiah 43:4 in five languages, including Spanish, Arabic and Finnish.

The theme was Media to Movement, which can be defined as bringing a listener from the initial media engagement to a real-life engagement. We focused on ways to connect our audiences with local believers who are trained in follow-up. The goal? To equip and nurture disciples of Jesus who make new disciples.

In a session dedicated to missions in crisis, two Christians from Belarus and Russia stood together in the front as TWR Ukraine's director joined via live video. It was an emotional moment as participants applauded—a show of unity in Christ.

Global Payout Project

TWR's Global Payout Project reached a milestone last year. By implementing WinMedia, a French cloud-based software system, TWR is standardizing the way content is delivered to our major broadcast locations.

In July, Brad Swanson, program director for our Bonaire station, announced a significant victory: "The WinMedia system is performing very well, feeding the Bonaire FM daytime schedule." This was a big step forward in a long line of smaller victories.

Later in the year, WinMedia was activated at multiple TWR broadcast sites in France, Estonia and Central Asia. After one final hurdle was overcome, the door swung wide open at these sites that house a combined total of six medium-wave (AM) transmitters and several shortwave transmitters.

As of October, the Europe and CAMENA region has transferred operations over from their legacy system.



photo by Anna Laura Visser

HR Highlights

In 2022, our fully staffed Human Resources team tackled quite a few projects. We put all our energy into four areas of HR ministry: recruiting, staff and leadership development, member care, and administration. Each is necessary to ensure that our staff are called, qualified, and healthy in pursuing TWR's calling.

Thanks to the addition of new staff members, HR Europe and CAMENA was able to focus and

invest significant resources into both personal and professional development. Through trainings, workshops, and coaching sessions, employees grew in their knowledge of topics such as resilience, strong teams, and healthy leadership.

As a TWR partner, you are invited to join this year's Servant Leadership Training on May 11-12 in Cyprus, and our virtual Member Care Days with Janet and David Kronbach in early 2024.

If you are interested in team development or resilience training, please reach out to Philipp Rüschi at priesch@twr.org.

If you know someone who is looking for an internship in HR, research, and ministry, we are looking for an HR research intern for some exciting projects.



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