

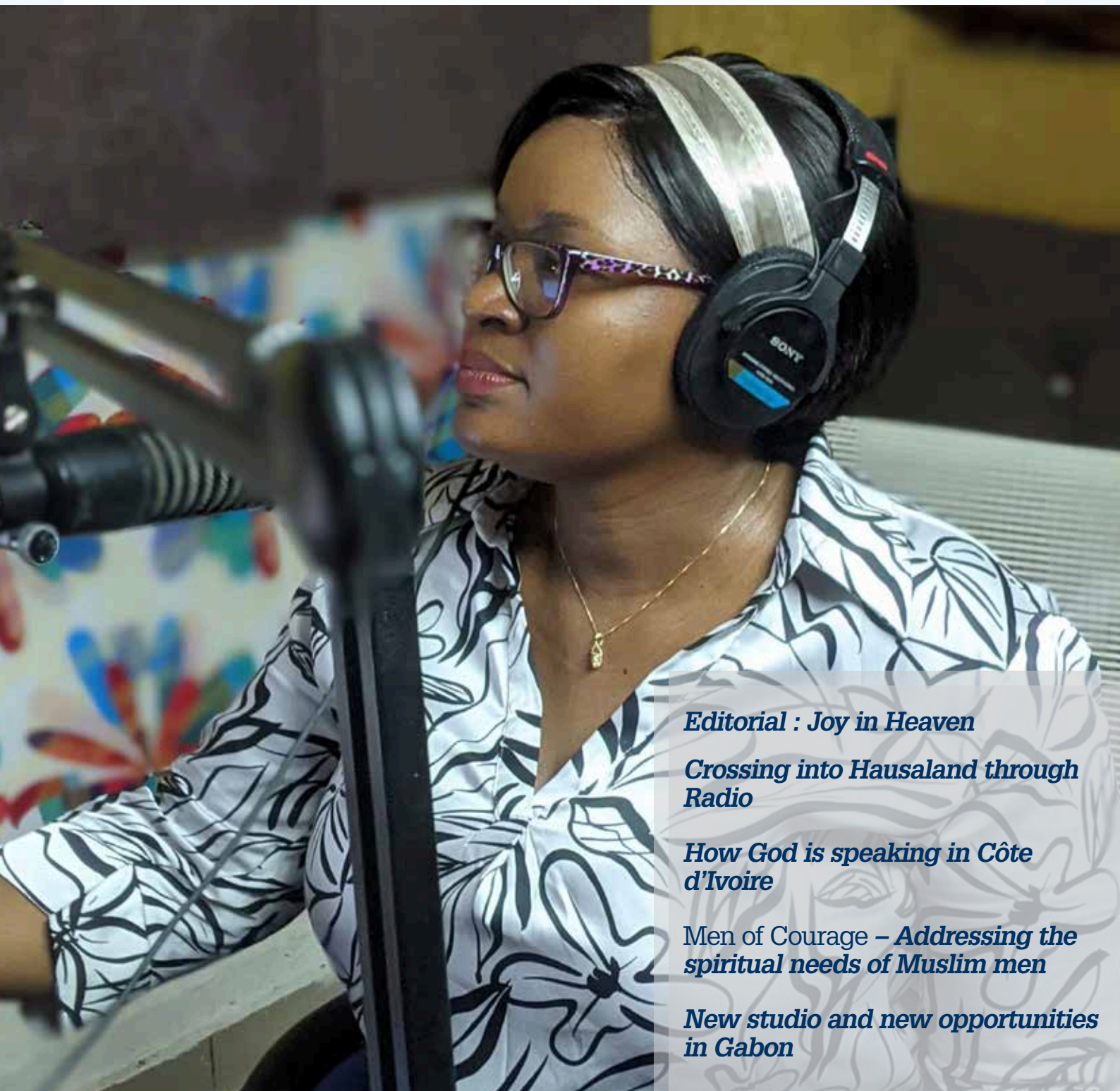
EDITION 5

2024


TWR-WECAF.ORG

Tanuli! Magazine

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT WHAT GOD IS DOING IN WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA



Editorial : Joy in Heaven

Crossing into Hausaland through Radio

How God is speaking in Côte d'Ivoire

Men of Courage – Addressing the spiritual needs of Muslim men

New studio and new opportunities in Gabon

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Tanuli!
Magazine

Imprint

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We share with you what God is doing in West & Central Africa.

EDITORIAL

JOY IN HEAVEN

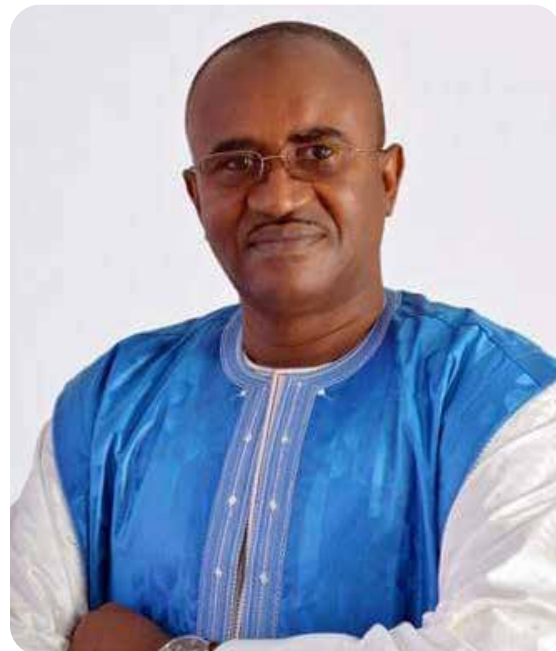
Jesus during his earthly sojourn often reminded his disciples and other listeners of this: *“Likewise, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.”*

Luke 15:7

In the West of the Ivory Coast, in the middle of a tribe which bears the illustrious name of the “*Danites*”, a village called Bampleu of 475 inhabitants has just given itself to Jesus Christ thanks to the radio broadcasts produced in the Trans World Radio studios in Ivory Coast. The lost sheep coming home. What joy in heaven!

What joy in Jesus during his earthly sojourn often reminded his disciples and other listeners of this: *“Likewise, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.”* (Luke 15:7)

Now almost five hundred people enter heaven together. I imagine the noise this caused in heaven. The joy expressed by the Lord and his angels. I also imagine the wel-



come they will give not only to these but to all those who contributed to this happy event. Our technicians, our presenters-messengers, our ministry leaders, our administrators, our donors, and I forget some. God forgets no one.

Realise: the angels have a deep interest in sinners who are spiritually restored! We must rejoice with them and continue this task tirelessly. The blows can be hard, the sources can sometimes dry up, the temptations numerous and the falls inevitable but we must never stop this noble mission that God has entrusted to us: *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matthew 28:19). We pursue it through thick and thin, and with the Lord we see everlasting fruit.

And the wonderful thing to note is that you are part of this success which will be forever recorded in the book of life.

Dr Sangho Abdoulaye
International Director TWR-WECAF

CROSSING INTO HAUSALAND THROUGH RADIO

Nigeria

“They lock the gate and then tune the equipment to the highest volume in there,” said Joshua (full name withheld for security reasons) of Hausa Christians in northern Nigeria. “So, passers-by on the road hear the messages. They are not seeing the people, but they listen to the messages.”

In the part of the world where more Christians are killed for their faith than any other, the gospel is being proclaimed loud and clear.

“They lock the gate and then tune the equipment to the highest volume in there,” said Joshua (full name withheld for security reasons) of Hausa Christians in northern Nigeria. “So, passers-by on the road hear the messages. They are not seeing

the people, but they listen to the messages.”

Then Joshua, TWR Nigeria director, laughed. *“And they are like: This is good.”*

In “Hausaland,” the region straddling the border of Nigeria and Niger in Western Africa, the term “Hausa Christian” might seem to be an oxymoron. Joshua Project, an agency that keeps track of people groups and the extent that they have embraced Christianity, reports only 0.46 percent of ▶



Crossing into Hausaland

▶ the Hausa people – less than one in two thousand – are Evangelical Christians, and only 0.1 percent of the Hausa in Nigeria.

For those who are Christians, northern Nigeria can be a dangerous place to call home. Open Doors, in its 2024 list of countries where Christians face the most extreme persecu-

tion, ranked Nigeria sixth. But it is No. 1 by far in one area.

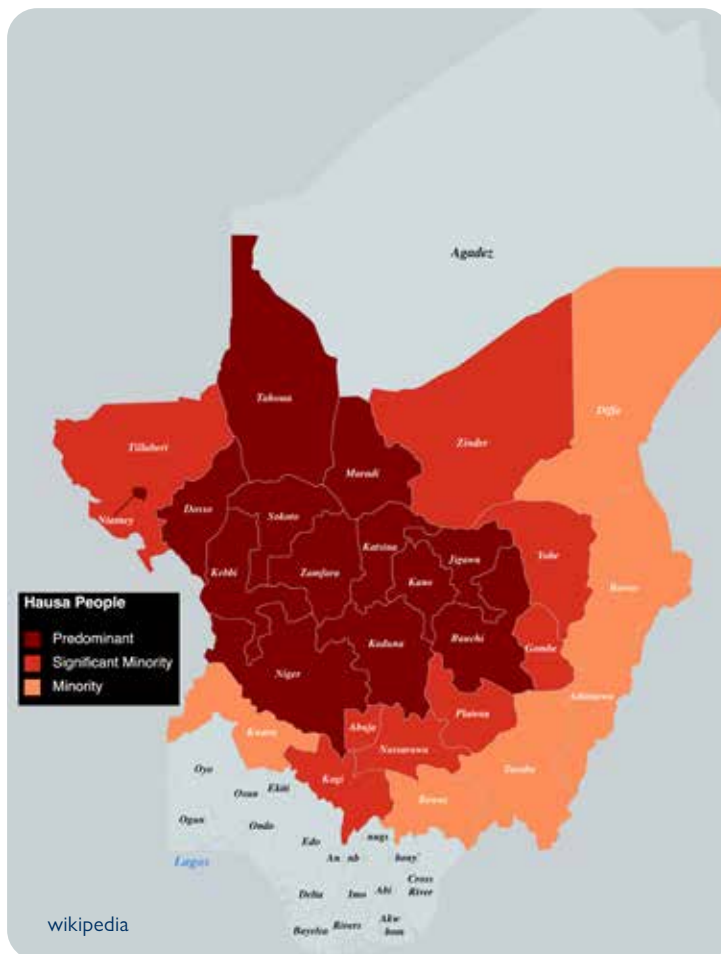
“More believers are killed for their faith in Nigeria each year than everywhere else in the world combined,” the authors of the report state.

Just under 5 000 Christians were martyred for their faith in Nigeria last year, according to the organization. That is an average of more than 13 a day.

“There are many places at the moment that are no-go areas,” acknowledged a Hausa man who is founder of a ministry in northern Nigeria. *“So, one of the things we are trusting God to do ... is to [reach people] on media, radio.”*

THAT IS WHERE TWR COMES IN.

“If they are afraid to go to church, they can still tune in on our stations and hear



Crossing into Hausaland

▶ *the Word of God,*” Joshua said.

Since Feb. 1, 2020, the Oasis Transmitter has been broadcasting the gospel in Hausa and five other languages widely spoken in Nigeria, said Garth Kennedy, station director for the West Africa Transmitting Station. It supplements the original WATS transmitter, which reaches nine countries, currently in 22 languages.

Although the original transmitter could always be heard in Nigeria, “Nigerians were very vocal about wanting programmes in their languages,” Kennedy said.

TWR broadcasts more than 12 hours of programming weekly in the Hausa language.

That includes *The Way of Righteousness, In Touch Ministries, The Word Today* and locally

generated programmes, among others.

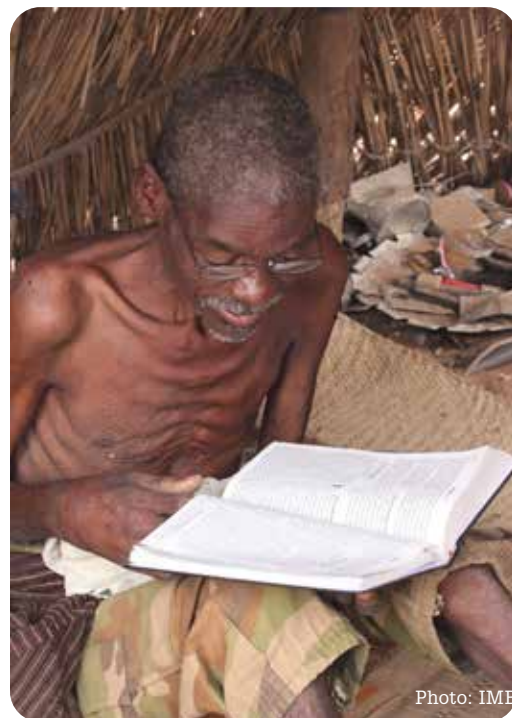
TWR is also developing a programme of testimonies called *My Story with God*, said the Rev. Abdoulaye Sangho, TWR West Africa director. “I am confident this programme will reach many people and touch many people’s lives,” he said.

But according to Joshua, TWR is involved in reaching to this people group in other ways:

■ *Distribution of about 2 800 Hausa Bibles (with the support of the Heralds of Hope ministry).*

■ *Radio distribution.*

■ *Creation of listening* ▶



A Hausa man reading the Bible for the first time

Photo: IMB



Crossing into Hausaland

- ▶ groups.
- Establishing an Every Man a Warrior Discipleship group in one Nigerian state.
- Starting Women of Hope ministries in two Nigerian states.

Some of the radio and Bible distributions occurred in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, developed as refuges for people fleeing from insurgency in the North.

“And some of them began confessing they thought life was finished for them after they were displaced,” Joshua said.

“But when TWR came with Bibles, came with messages [so] they could tune in and listen to the Word, they said hope began to come back to them. ... People started giving their lives to Jesus.”

“The Holy Spirit clearly is working among the Hausa,” Joshua added.

“We need prayers,” he said. *“Seriously, because when the Spirit of God works it opens up the hearts of these people.”* ■



Photo: medium.com
Hausa men in traditional dress



Photo: IMB

Street vendors

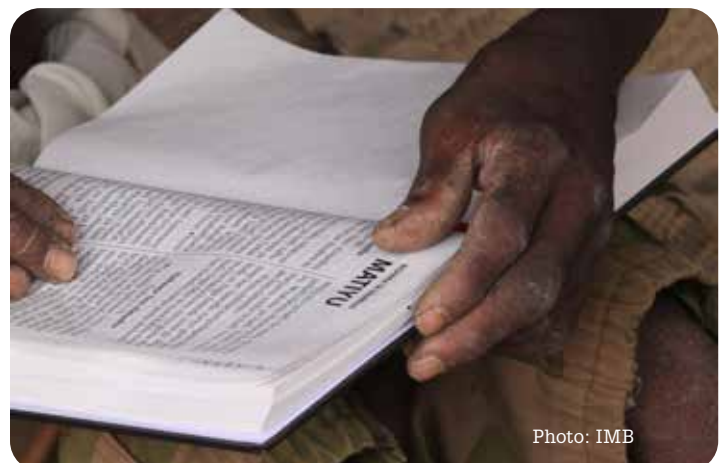


Photo: IMB

Hausa Bible

HOW GOD IS SPEAKING IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Côte d'Ivoire

*S*angho, director of Radio Evangile FM in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, wasn't in trouble. "He really wanted to talk to me and tell me how it has been impacting his life," Sangho said of the officer.

The police officer came looking for David Sangho.

Twice.

Sangho, director of Radio Evangile FM in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, wasn't in trouble. "He really wanted to talk to me and tell me how it has been impacting his life," Sangho said of the officer.

That's an example of the kind of response Radio Evangile has received since July 22, 2022, when the TWR (*Trans World Ra-*

dio) partner began operating its own FM station for the first time.

Speaking in French through a translator, Sangho and Florence Mbamba, national director of Radio Evangile, shared their excitement about the work God has called them to in Côte d'Ivoire.

With an estimated population under 200 000, according to World Population Review, Yamoussoukro is dwarfed by the city of Abidjan (*estimated population 3.6 million*). The ▶



Left: The offices and transmitting tower in Yamoussoukro.

Photo: TWR Archive



How God is speaking in Côte d'Ivoire

▶ latter might have seemed to be the natural place to start a radio station.

The road to obtaining any FM license anywhere in the country, however was long and hard. David's father, the Rev. Abdoulaye Sangho, who is TWR international director for West Africa, first applied in 1996. It was not until January 2021 that the license finally was granted – for Yamoussoukro. The airwaves of Abidjan were saturated.

In a separate interview, Abdoulaye Sangho said Abidjan already has strong Christian radio stations. He sits on the board of one, which broadcasts TWR content.

“So having the station in Yamoussoukro where we can reach people in ... the centre of the country of Côte d'Ivoire, I think that's a good plan from God,” he said. *“Sometimes, his plan is*

not our plan, and his plan is always the best.”

Being in the smaller city has turned out to be a blessing, David Sangho said. *“The fact that we're in Yamoussoukro makes it easier to get close to listeners.”*

For example, when the station has contests, participants are invited to come to the station to pick up their prizes. It allows for interaction with listeners, he said.

Radio Evangile Côte d'Ivoire also has connected with potential listeners by distributing radios in the region. So far, 500 radio sets have been distributed ▶



Photo: TWR Archive

Abdoulaye Sangho, who is TWR international director for West Africa, first applied in 1996. It was not until January 2021 that the license finally was granted – for Yamoussoukro.

How God is speaking in Côte d'Ivoire

► in 10 villages, Mbamba said. But they have 270 villages to serve. *“We are waiting for new ones to come so we can do it again.”*

Each set also has a place for an SD card, Abdoulaye Sangho said, so if people are beyond the range of the FM signal (*60-70 kilometres*), they can still hear the content. Across the region, 50 listener groups have formed to discuss the teachings, he said. They number anywhere from 10 to 50 people. There's even an adult-led children's group that meets to listen to and learn from a programme intended for them.

When people hear the programmes, they receive content that makes a difference, both for evangelism and discipleship.

Many pastors in the region live like nonbelievers and even quit

preaching because they don't know what to say, Mbamba said. But a pastor came to her and told her he had learned how to preach appropriately by listening to Radio Evangile, and he had gone back to teaching in his church.

A blind man approached Mbamba saying he had stopped going to church because he was mad at God. He couldn't understand why God wasn't taking care of him.

“But starting to listen to Radio Evangile changed his mind,” she said. *“It was like: The problem was not God, but him. Now he's back on track, going to church, and he's believing again.”*



TWR Archive

Training in Radio Evangile Studio

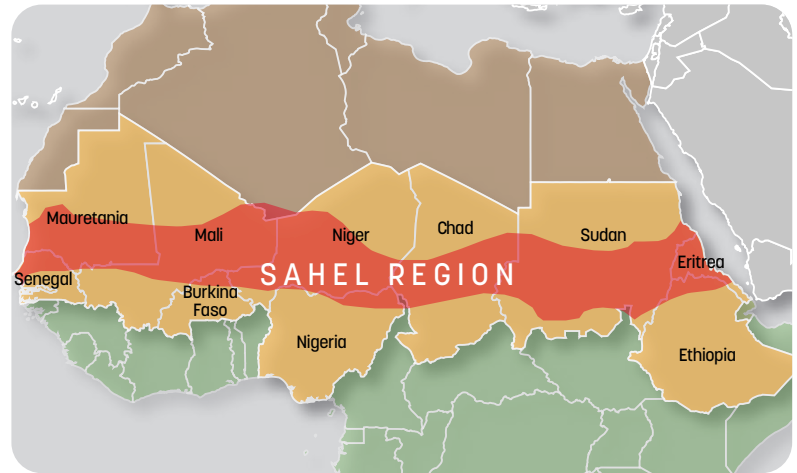
MEN OF COURAGE – ADDRESSING THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF MUSLIM MEN

by David Irondi

Undoubtedly, the data shows that the increase in Islamic terrorism in the Sahel was dramatic, increasing by over 2 000% in the last 15 years. Furthermore, the political situation in the Sahel, the military coups, adds to this increase, with 7 coup attempts since 2021, of which 6 were successful (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Guinea Conakry, Sudan and Gabon).

According to a Reichman University report published in 2023 – The African continent has become a central hotbed of violent Islamic extremism, with a significant increase in terrorist attacks on the continent in recent years.

The peak of extremism is expressed in the violent struggle between many radical Islamic terrorist organizations operating under the umbrella organizations of radical Islam on the continent... The Sahel region of sub-Saharan Africa recorded



more deaths from terrorism in 2022 than both South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa combined.

The African continent, despite the extensive deployment of initiatives to combat Islamic terrorism in recent years, remains an arena for the rise of international jihad.

According to a study by the African Centre for Strategic Studies conducted by Dr. Claudia Piper Cruz, published in February 2023, violence related to militant Islamist groups in Africa increased sharply, by 22% during 2022, with 6 859 incidents. This is a new record of extreme violence, and it has more than doubled since 2019. ▶

Addressing the spiritual needs of Muslim men

► Deaths in the Sahel accounted for 43% of the global total in 2022, compared to only 1% in 2007. Of particular concern are Burkina Faso and Mali, which accounted for 73% of terrorist deaths in the Sahel in 2022 and 52% of all deaths from terrorism in sub-Saharan Africa.

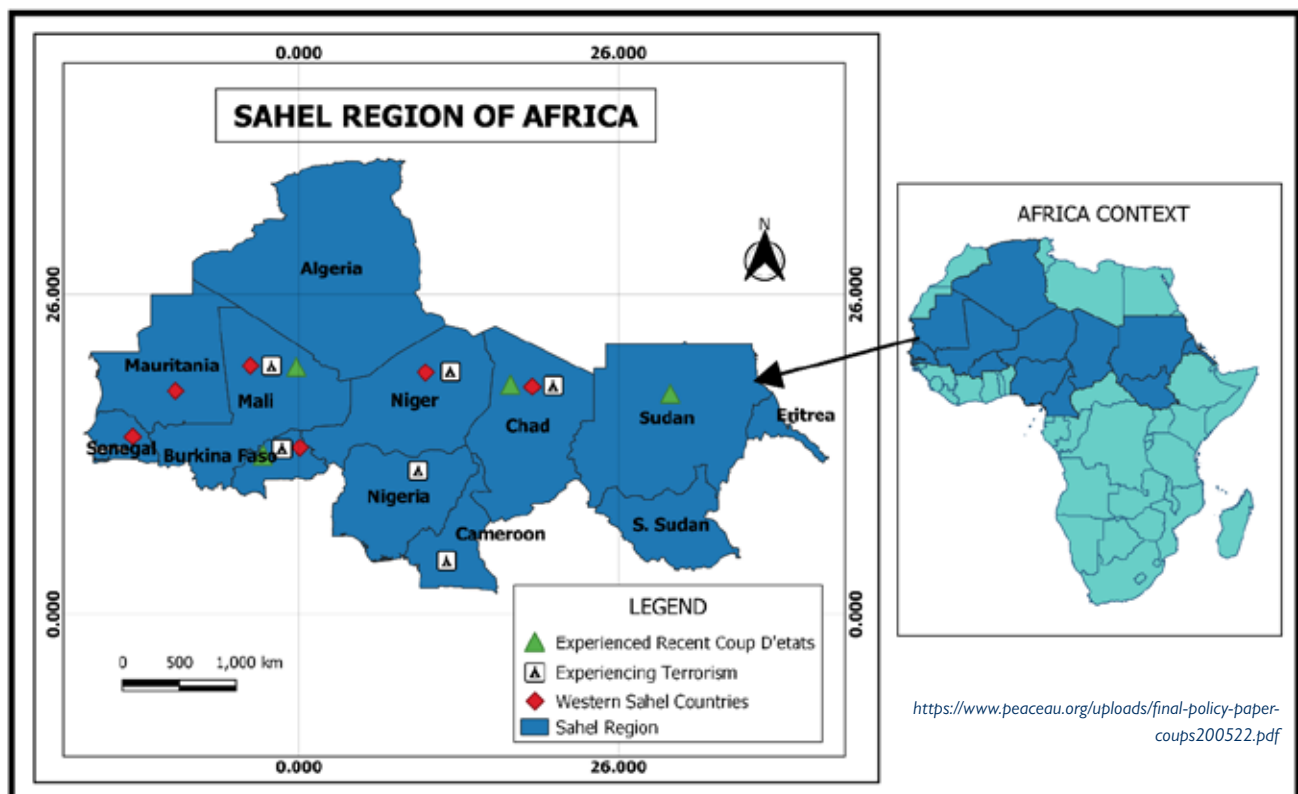
Both countries recorded a significant increase in terrorism, with deaths in Burkina Faso increasing by 50% to 1 135 and in Mali by 56% to 944. Attacks in these countries are also becoming more deadly, with the number of deaths per attack increasing by 48% from 2021. Most attacks in these countries are attributed to unknown ji-

hadists even though both ISIS and JNIM operate in these countries. The escalation of violence in Burkina Faso has also spread to neighbouring countries, with Togo and Benin recording their worst GTI (*Global Terrorism Index*) scores.

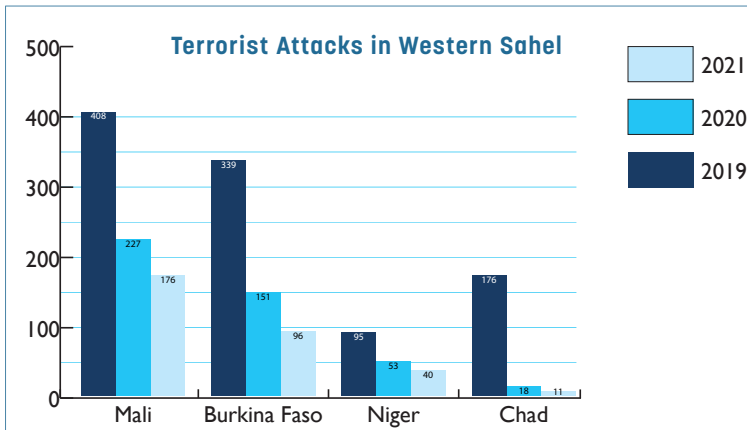
Undoubtedly, the data shows that the increase in Islamic terrorism in the Sahel was dramatic, increasing by over 2 000% in the last 15 years.

Furthermore, the political situation in the Sahel, the military coups, adds to this increase, with 7 coup attempts since 2021, of which 6 were successful (*Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Guinea Conakry, Sudan and Gabon*).

(<https://ict.org.il/situation-report-2023-on-the-growth-of-islamic-terrorism-in-africa/>) ►



Addressing the spiritual needs of Muslim men



Source: ACSRT Terrorism Database, 2022

► In the heart of West and Central Africa, a transformative initiative is taking root. TWR *Men of Courage (MOC)*, a pre-evangelistic programme with a global scope, is emerging as a beacon of hope for Muslim men facing the challenges of extreme social pressure. Tested in Turkey and Indonesia, this ground breaking ministry is now gearing up for a French version to reach the Francophone region of Africa.

At the helm of this ambitious project is Dr. Konate (*last name withheld for security purposes*), a pastor and theologian with a unique background – he hails from a Muslim family. Out of his 11 siblings, 8 have already embraced



the teachings of Christ. Dr. Konate's personal journey adds a profound layer to his leadership, bringing a deep understanding of the cultural and religious intricacies involved.

Recently, the TWR *Men of Courage* global leadership team led by David Carlsen and Wolfgang Brinkmann descended upon Abidjan to conduct intensive training workshops with Dr. Konate and the WeCAf leadership team. From the 8th to the 12th of January, this collaboration unfolded, unveiling a vision that goes beyond traditional evangelism.

Men in the Muslim world grapple with the weighty respon- ►



The WeCAf Men of Courage team

Addressing the spiritual needs of Muslim men

► sibilities of leadership in both society and family. They are the breadwinners, culturally bound to maintain face and avoid casting shame on relatives and relationships.

This struggle often leads to suppressed emotions, loneliness, and frustration. It is within this crucible of challenges that TWR Men of Courage aims to bring a fresh perspective.

The MOC initiative is a double-edged sword, sharpened not just to penetrate the hearts of local audiences but to empower local ministry partners to create culturally relevant content. It is designed around five pillars, each reinforcing the mission: audience focus, a standardized blueprint, equal partnership, empowerment through train-



© Jonathan Banks/eyevine/laif

Above: Youth of Burkina Faso engaged in cultural activities

ing, and the flexibility to adapt to local needs.

The **heart of MOC lies in its three-part episode structure**, carefully crafted to resonate across various platforms. An appetizer of 10-30 seconds sets the stage, followed by a 3-5 minute drama that captivates, and finally, a 15-30 minute podcast/talk show that delves deeper. This format ensures engagement while delivering Christian values subtly, pointing men to Christ and biblical principles.

The collaboration between the global MOC team and local partners lays a solid foundation for innovation and creativity. The initiative goes beyond a one-time effort, intending ►

Addressing the spiritual needs of Muslim men

► to develop a pack of “*legacy scripts*,” guidelines, and templates. These resources, born out of the collective wisdom of the TWR global *Men of Courage* team, will empower local teams to produce unique, context-sensitive episodes for the future.

In the midst of this transformative journey, Dr. Konate stands as a bridge between worlds. His personal story, his understanding of the challenges faced by Muslim men, and his commitment to the TWR *Men of Courage* mission make him a pivotal figure in the endeavour to bridge faith and culture.

As the global MOC team witnessed firsthand the challenges of reaching Muslim men in this part of the world during their recent visit to Abidjan, conversations with other ministry leaders further enriched the understanding of the unique burden faced by those aiming to minister to Muslims



Photo: TWR Archive

A typical Muslim Friday prayer gathering

and converts from the Islamic religion.

The TWR *Men of Courage* initiative in the Francophone region signals not only a strategic move to address a pressing need but also a commitment to empowering local communities. Dr. Konate’s passion, coupled with the collaborative efforts of the global and local teams, paints a vivid picture of a ministry that goes beyond borders, cultures, and languages. It is a testament to the power of media in advancing the message of Christianity, bringing a fresh perspective on life and eternity to those who need it most.

As the MOC initiative unfolds in West and Central Africa, the significance of the project becomes increasingly clear. ►

Addressing the spiritual needs of Muslim men

► Dr. Konate's role as the champion in the Francophone region adds a unique dimension. His background as someone who emerged from a Muslim family and has seen the transformative power of Christ within his own kin positions him as not just a leader but a living testimony to the impact TWR *Men of Courage* can have.

In the quest to reach Muslim men, the TWR Men of Courage initiative is not isolated but part of a broader conversation among ministry leaders.

The firsthand experiences shared during the visit to Abidjan echo the collective burden felt by those dedicated to reaching and ministering to Muslims. It is a shared journey, a collaborative effort to address a profound need in the hearts of those living under the shadow of societal expectations and religious pressures.

As the TWR *Men of Courage* initiative gains momentum, the story unfolding in West and Central Africa is not just about media production; it's about transformative ministry. It's about the intersection of technology, media, and faith – a powerful combination that can shape perspectives, inspire change, and, ultimately, bring individuals one step closer to Christ.

In a world where the power of media is often harnessed for various purposes, TWR *Men of Courage* stands out as a beacon of positivity and transformation. It's not just a programme; it's a movement – a movement that recognizes the power of stories, the impact of personal journeys, and the potential of collaboration to bring about meaningful change.

As the TWR *Men of Courage* initiative continues to unfold, it's a testament to the timeless truth that transcends cultures and languages – the truth that there is hope, redemption, and courage found in Christ, and that this message, when delivered through the right mediums, has the power to resonate in the hearts of those who need it most. ■

NEW STUDIO AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN GABON

Libreville
– capital of Gabon

“Since two years ago ... we were praying about this programme, praying about this project,” said Jean-Anath, TWR Central Africa coordinator, during a January interview.

There’s almost no limit to the things Jean-Anath and Charlene Ndoukou would like to do in the name of Jesus for Central Africa.

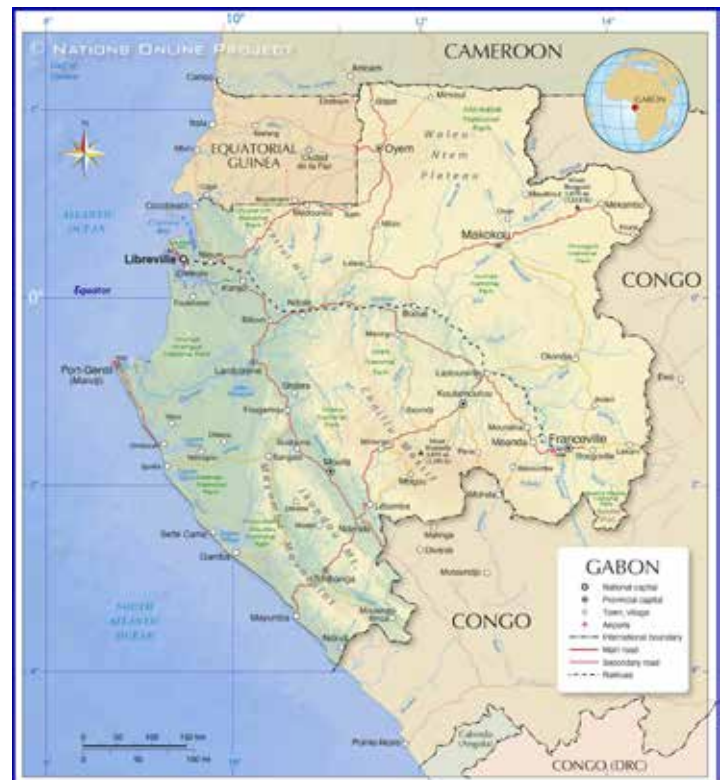
Now they’ve got the studio to do it with.

“Since two years ago ... we were praying about this programme, praying about this project,” said Jean-Anath, TWR Central Africa coordinator, during a January interview.

Now with a studio in Libreville, the capital of Gabon, the

Ndoukous say they’re excited to develop the programmes that speak specifically to the needs of their region.

Although Gabon, a former French colony, is bordered by the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, it’s considered part of the central region, along with Congo Brazzaville, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, ▶



New opportunities in Gabon

► Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe.

Jean-Anath and Charlene returned from Côte d'Ivoire to his native Gabon in October 2020, when TWR invited him to join its work. In their first nine months, Jean-Anath had programming agreements with eight FM radio stations and Charlene had set up 55 Women of Hope prayer groups.

They quickly saw the need to develop their own programmes, hence the need for a studio.

“We have partners in Congo Brazzaville, we have partners here in Gabon,” Jean-Anath said. “Now we also have partners in the Republic of Central Africa. ... So, we partner with them, and we will send them the programmes so that they’ll reach more people there.”

The studio was completed in October 2023 with help from Nate McGurk, TWR team leader for audio and acoustics on the Global Engineering Team. Paul Van Egdome, global training consultant for TWR, arrived in late January to support the Ndoukous’ programme development.



Charlene plans to present the *Women of Hope* programme *Precious and Beloved*, with Muslim and other women ►



New opportunities in Gabon

► living in trauma in the Central Africa sub region in mind.

Another demographic group also needs to hear the Word, Jean-Anath said.

“Even here in Libreville we have many young people,” he said. “The youth, they are going through many difficulties, too. So, we want to introduce Jesus among young people.”

The Ndoukous’ plan to provide programmes to meet the particular needs in various coun-

tries, including people scarred by war in the Democratic Republic of Congo and special needs faced by women in Cameroon.

The Aug. 30 military coup in Gabon has been received cautiously in the West, with the U.S. cutting off most aid to the government. But Jean-Anath said the coup so far has only enhanced the presentation of the gospel.

“The Word of God can be preached easily, freely in Gabon,” he said. “We can reach more people through the radio programme, so it’s really a blessing.”

Jean-Anath asked for prayer for his nation’s leadership.

“We want you to pray for more partners,” Jean-Anath said. “We also want you to pray for the programmes that we will start. ... And we also pray for our listeners so that when they receive the gospel, they will give their lives to Jesus. ... We want the Word of God to bring them from the darkness to the light.” ■





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Tony EVANS
 THE URBAN ALTERNATIVE

Radio
 evangile
 Côte d'Ivoire 105.4 FM

La radio qui change les vies.

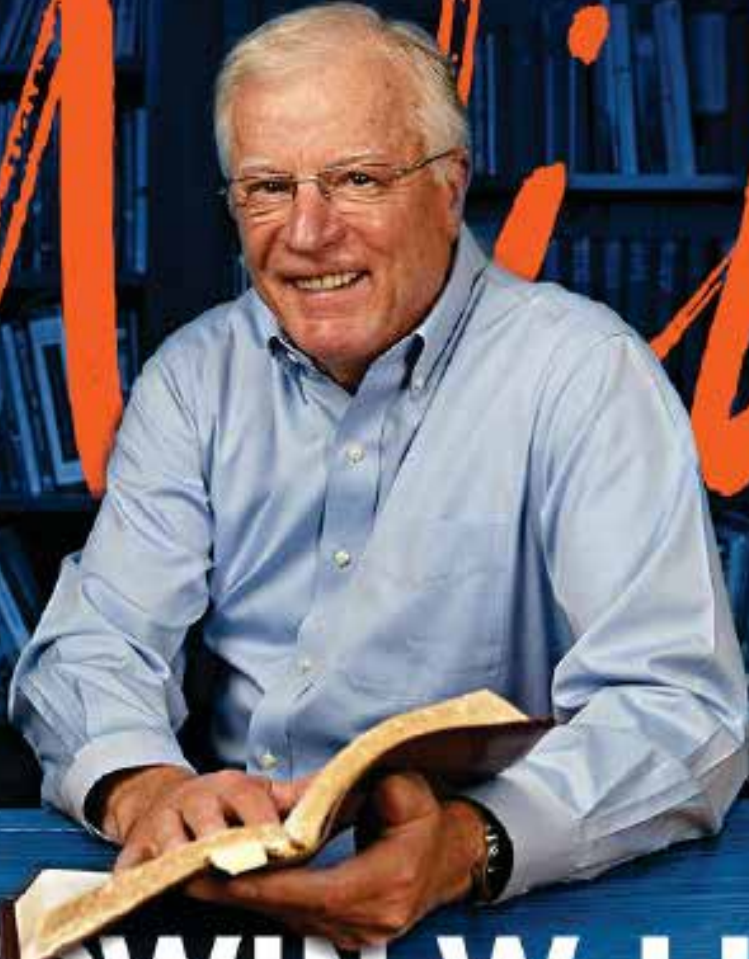


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EDITION 5

2024