



Annual Report 2023

| TWR EUROPE AND CAMENA

Editorial direction

Alenka Stephenson

Cover design and typography

Anna Laura Visser

Page layout, writing and editing

Jade Alger

Photo credits

Anna Laura Visser, cover photo (left)

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Jade Alger, pages 4-5, 6 (woman in orange) 12, 13, 14

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Introduction

After their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas sailed back from Attalia to Antioch. “On arrival, they got the church together and reported on their trip, telling in detail how God had used them to throw the door of faith wide open so people of all nations could come streaming in” (The Message, Acts 14:27,28).

In this annual report we give an account of the year 2023 and show how God worked through TWR to bring the good news to all peoples through media.

In 2023 there were heavy earthquakes in Türkiye and Morocco and a war broke out in Israel. What better response can we have than to proclaim God as our refuge and strength! The war in Ukraine continued and Alexander Chmut, TWR’s leader in Ukraine, expressed that God has blessed us to be able to preach the gospel so freely—what an amazing testimony.

We give glory to God, our Father. He is the Master of all things and allows TWR to shine his light in the darkness.

Bernard Oosterhoff
International Director TWR CAMENA



photo by TWR, Jade Alger

About

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 200 languages, 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.

Europe

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



Central and East Europe

Our Central and Eastern European Ministries (CEEM) region consists of 15 countries and 18 language groups. We reach culturally diverse audiences through radio broadcasts and web-based distribution of programs. In 2023, our ministry grew at a steady pace through new projects and increased audience interactions, especially in the Balkan region. Our national partners in countries neighboring the war in Ukraine continue to struggle financially because of decreased local donations.

Year in Review

Our Lithuanian partner, **Good News Center** (GNC), suffered particular impact, losing seasoned colleagues due to financial constraints. In spite of these challenges, they persevered in publishing and broadcasting. The team explored a new online ministry tool, *Radio Base*, working closely with Thru the Bible to resolve any technical challenges.

Impuls Polska, our Polish partner, underwent a leadership change at the beginning of the year. The team maintained a steady pace with publications, medium-wave broadcasts and audience engagement all year long.

TWR Czech announced a leadership change scheduled for the end of the year, but they also

welcomed a new team member who will focus on audience engagement and marketing. Digital audio broadcasting (DAB+) reaches 70 percent of the country and is expected to improve significantly in the coming years. However, the associated costs are rising, prompting the team to seek effective fundraising strategies to sustain DAB+.

TWR Slovakia upgraded by renovating one of their studios, launching a new version of their mobile app and moving to a more inviting space. These changes have expanded their online presence and opened up new opportunities for sharing video content on social media. They've also engaged with listeners in person by organizing open-air concerts in multiple Slovak cities.

MERA, our partner in Hungary, broadcasts daily medium-wave programs in Hungary and beyond its borders, including the Zakarpattia region in western Ukraine, reaching Hungarian-speaking audiences affected by the war. They also connect with hundreds of thousands of listeners across the world through online content via social media, their homepage, streaming platforms and publications. This allows them to share God's love and teachings with their audience every day.

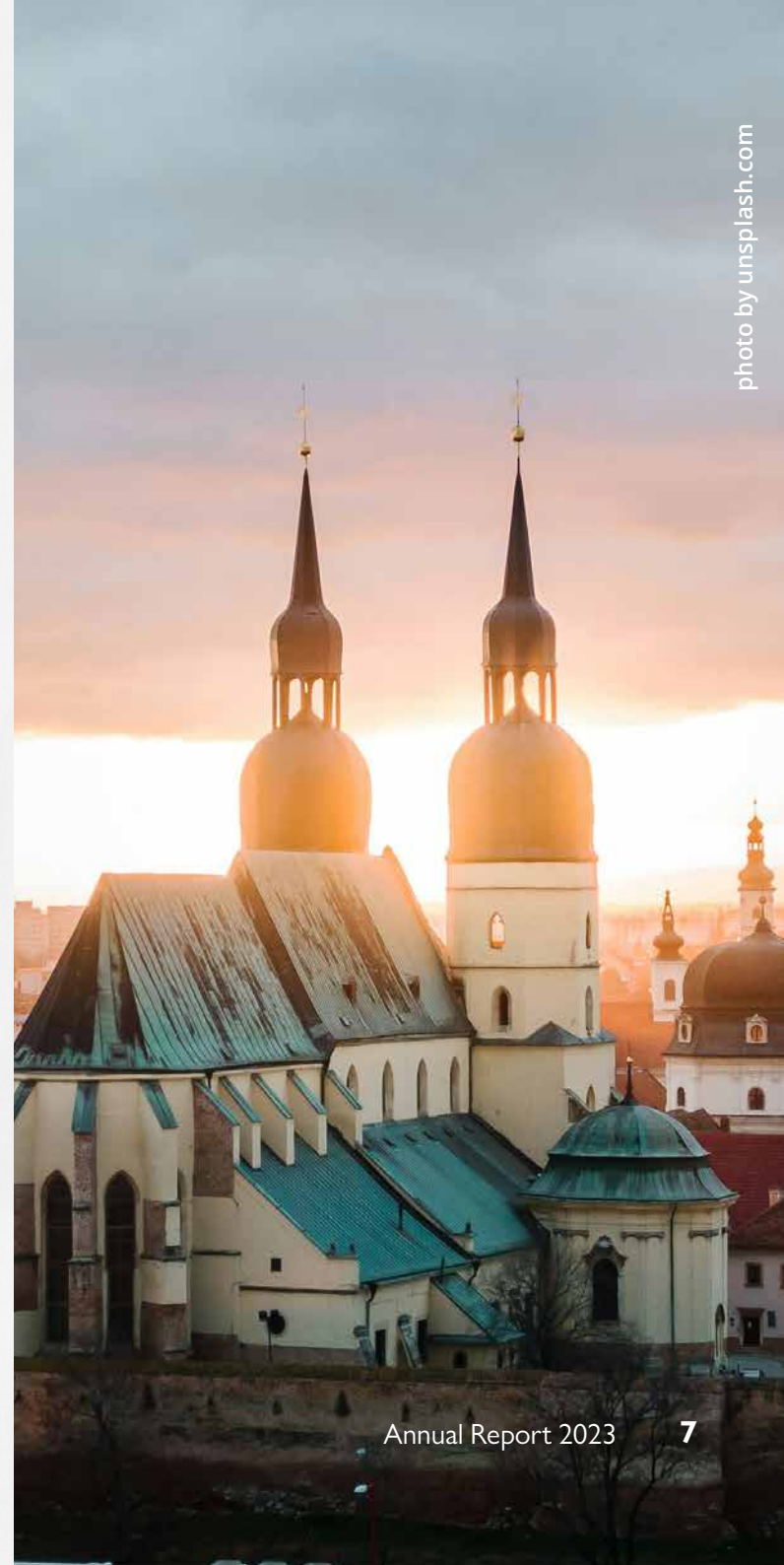


photo by unsplash.com

TWR Romania focused on a shift toward digital broadcasting and program distribution, leveraging their success in engaging audiences through social media and online channels. They started or completed various new projects, such as The Roma Discipleship Tool video podcast, the short *Thru the Bible (TTB) New Testament*, and *Love Worth Finding*. Although the programs are currently broadcast on several radio stations, the team is increasingly exploring web-based distribution for the future.

IKONOS in Serbia has coordinated multiple teams across the former Yugoslavia region to develop new programs in Bosnian, Croatian, North Macedonian and Romani languages. New members have joined these teams, and

the younger generation is enthusiastic about enhancing their online presence. They have focused their efforts on increasing their visibility on social media platforms. Additionally, significant social media work has been conducted for Roma ministries, including discipleship programs, children's programs featuring original songs and videos, and Bible teaching programs.

TWR Albania continued to engage Albanian and Roma speakers through *Women of Hope* programs and a variety of others. The director regularly meets women in person, both at churches and the domestic violence center. There are several radio stations broadcasting in the region, and the team has made efforts

to strengthen their online presence and reach new audiences.

Studio 865 in Bulgaria completed the production of the short *Thru the Bible (TTB) New Testament* during the year and approval to proceed with work on the Old Testament means they can finish the production of this series next year. The team continued reaching speakers of Balkan Romani languages through medium-wave broadcasts and online. They continue to publish programs on social media to present the gospel.



photo by TWR, Anna Laura Visser

Russia, Ukraine and Belarus



Ministry in Russia

The past year was filled with remarkable moments for our ministry in Russia. Despite daunting challenges brought forth by the ongoing war, our dedication to the Lord and his church within Russia remains firm.

To reach the Muslim community, we've started a new initiative in Tatarstan known as *Shatlyk* in the Tatar language, which translates to "joy." Our goal is ambitious: to connect with over 8 million Muslim individuals, hoping to leave a lasting impact on the regions of Tatarstan and Bashkortostan. Through our FM broadcasts and active engagement on the VK social media network, we want to introduce the Tatar and Bashkir populations to Jesus Christ. Our Muslim outreach team launched an additional ministry channel, encouraging more personal connections. We also celebrated a significant milestone when a family of former Muslims joined our ministry team, bringing insights and experiences with them that enrich our content.

Moloko, meaning "milk", our 24-hour digital radio stream, was launched to address the spiritual needs of non-believers across Russia. *Moloko* draws inspiration from 1 Peter 2:2, which equates pure spiritual milk to essential nourishment for growth in salvation. *Moloko* helps fill the void of spiritual emptiness and provide clarity of purpose through Jesus. Our FM broadcasts reach an extensive audience in 10 cities, and for the longest time we examined ways to truly connect with these individuals. Now, we invite them to join our *Moloko* digital stream, where they can learn basic truths about Jesus in a safe space.

During the Christmas season, our Muslim ministry coordinator had the opportunity to minister to hundreds of children and their parents from Muslim villages in the Northern Caucasus. The Christmas story presentation, enacted by our local team, opened a door for many to learn about Isa (Jesus), sparking curiosity and engagement.

We're delighted by the addition of a new presenter, whose daily radio shows have attracted a growing audience. In fact, the number of listeners tuning into our live shows has doubled, a testament to the appeal and relevance of our programs.

We received an unexpected message from an Orthodox believer named Sergey who expressed how much of a blessing our content has been in his life. It's not often that we receive feedback from the Orthodox community, and Sergey's message encourages us to continue praying for him and others who find biblical answers and support through our broadcasts.

Lastly, we're thankful for our new team members who have already made significant contributions to the ministry. We look forward to the ways in which the Lord will use our collective efforts for his glory.



photo by unsplash.com

Ministry in Ukraine

In 2023, TWR Ukraine continued adapting its media content to address the current needs.

“Sometimes it seems like the whole of Ukraine is watching us,” said Alexander Chmut, director of TWR Ukraine. Today, they know about us. And God has blessed us to be able to preach the gospel so freely.”

The team continued growing their audiences through diverse media channels and programs. *Point of Resistance* focused on Kyselivka, a village affected by shelling, highlighting the resilience of its residents. *Living On* featured personal testimonies of overcoming hardships through faith.

The team successfully concluded all 10 episodes of the *Yak vi tam?* project, which literally translates to *How Are You There?* but in context could mean *How Are You Surviving This?* The team interviewed Christians in war-torn cities, demonstrating how God gives courage and hope amid ongoing conflict. Because the *Yak vi tam?* project is a medley of personal stories that many Ukrainians can relate to, it's been a fruitful platform for candidly speaking about God.

The team engaged in outreach through media and events, such as presenting at youth conferences and TV interviews, reaching new audiences and gaining exposure. They translated a practical handbook on soul care, orga-

nized family events addressing generational sin, and conducted interactive Bible studies with prominent Christian figures.

In the face of ongoing challenges, such as intermittent shelling in and near Kyiv, the team persevered, producing programs like *Studying the Bible Together* and *Another Point of View*, continually adapting the formats to remain relevant and impactful.

The team continued distributing radios and SD cards loaded with biblically sound teaching. They were strategically distributed to benefit the local church and those searching for spiritual answers.

TWR Ukraine also facilitated evangelization efforts for young people in the Carpathians and participated in forums to address the wounds of war.

Other programs to note are *Women of Hope*, which gives women spiritual teaching for their daily lives, *Bible Battle*, which quizzes participants on their Bible knowledge, and *As With a Friend*, which gives men a safe space to have honest, open conversations. What's more, *Mondays with Chmut* is a series hosted by Director Alexander Chmut himself.

Each program, whether in the format of a talk show, interview, Bible study or even game show, is a quality production.

Ministry in Belarus

In Belarus, 10 weekly programs are broadcast on medium-wave (AM) radio and on the internet.

The Belarusian team has continued donating speakers, flash drives and SD cards loaded with biblical content to families, orphans and the disabled. In the Brest district, 210 speakers loaded with programs were prepared for the blind. Misha, an 11-year-old disabled boy, repented after listening to the programs on a flash drive.

One lady named Olga expressed her gratitude: *“Thank you for such an unusual and useful gift! Our youngest daughter listens all day from the time she wakes up. The first thing she does in the morning is turn the receiver on.”*

The Belarusian branch of the mission Jews for Jesus bought speakers loaded with content for a Jewish audience.

History Lessons is a program for schoolchildren, students and intellectuals which looks at history from a Christian perspective. So far, 150 interviews have been recorded as part of the program.

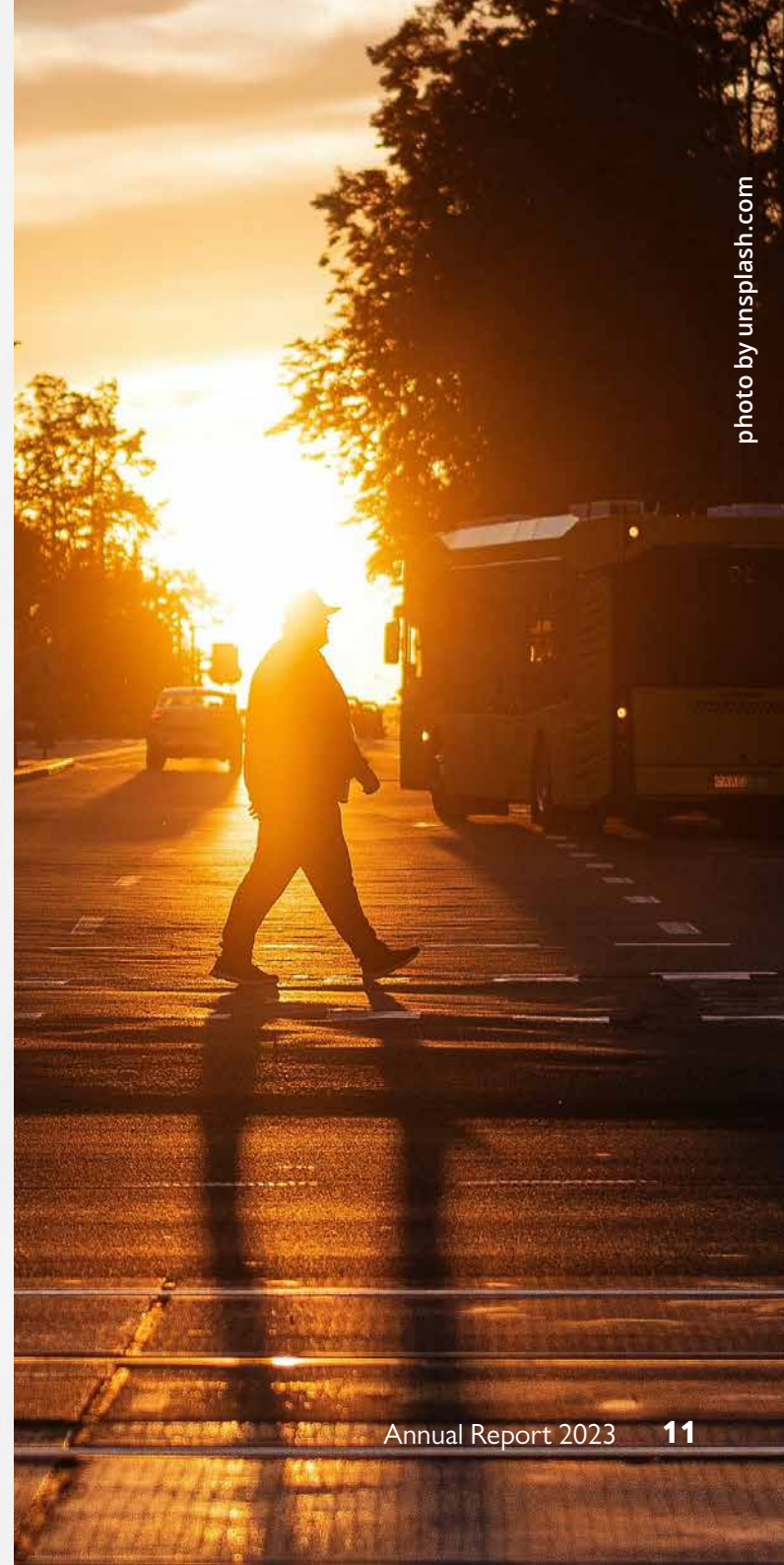
History Lessons is also available in book form, based on the TWR Belarus program of the same name. The book includes 50 thematic illustrations and QR codes of TWR sound files.

Still Waters, produced by Pavel and Irina Tupchik, remains one of the most popular TWR Belarus programs. The producers frequently travel around the country to present the program and minister in churches. The content is used by preachers and printed in the Christian magazine, *Krynitsa Zhytsya*.

A man named Andrei distributed audio speakers loaded with the *Still Waters* program to a secular meeting of people with vision impairments. After that meeting, the demand for the audio speakers grew and 150 speakers have now been given out to the blind and vision-impaired in this region.

In June, the team visited a central church in Zhabinka, a small town located 20 kilometers from Brest. The attendees were genuinely interested in the ministry of TWR. At the end of the service, a woman approached the team to express her thankfulness for an audio speaker she had received which came right in time to encourage her ill mother with biblical truth.

For TWR Belarus, 2023 was a year of major developments in digital media. A new app was launched along with a dedicated YouTube channel. Programs range from evangelistic to daily Bible studies, some designed specifically for children and young adults.



South Europe

Our South Europe region (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Cyprus) has a high percentage of media consumption spread across various platforms. As a result, we are developing a multichannel strategy to reach different audiences based on their location and preferences. Our goal is to create a culturally sensitive and contextually relevant approach to evangelization through media in Southern Europe. We strive to address the underlying reasons for the decline of Christianity in the region and bring about a spiritual awakening.

Established in 1994, **CRC** (Centro di Radiodiffusione Cristiana ETS), TWR's Italian partner, received numerous stories of changed lives in 2023 through their faithful work on radio and digital platforms. A key achievement was the finalization of the first European video version of the 5-minute *Thru the Bible (TTB)* program, available now on YouTube in Italian.

Spain is a country where Christianity once thrived and held significant political influence. Yet today, secularism prevails, and an increasing number of people identify as atheist or agnostic.

Despite this, TWR's Spanish partner, **Canal de Vida**, with a radio ministry called Radio Encuentro, spreads the gospel through radio

as well as partnerships with national broadcasters such as Radio Intereconomía and Radio Solidaria. They have also expanded their digital presence, notably through platforms such as Escuelabiblica.com, a Bible study website with millions of yearly visitors.

They have also maintained their collaboration with **RTM Brazil** on the production and distribution of *Ruta 66 (Mission 66)*.

Our partner **Radio Colombe** remains a robust ally in France, notably due to their significant contributions in 2023 toward the translation and production of several CMM programs such as *Thru the Bible (TTB)*, *Grace To You* and *Love Worth Finding*. Following a period of transition marked by the departure of key personnel in 2022, Radio Colombe successfully welcomed a new director, Romain Viallard, who has extensive experience in the radio industry. Lastly, an impressive achievement worth noting is the remarkable 57 percent increase in Radio Colombe's audience engagement compared to 2022.

Another exciting development in France is the expansion of our partnership with the broader **Phare FM** network, to which Radio Colombe belongs. Phare FM is a French-speaking Christian radio network of stations that broadcasts

across France, Belgium and Switzerland, and has an impressive reach to nearly 20 million people. TWR and Phare FM's initial joint project is focused on the upcoming 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, scheduled for the summer of 2024.

TWR Hellas, our partner in Greece, assists the evangelical church in Greece by making Christian radio programs available through a network of radio stations spread across the Greek territory. They produce, distribute, promote and engage with listeners of *TTB* long and short versions on FM platforms, while managing their online ministry through the Discover Life website.

RTM Portugal, our ministry partner in Portugal, is involved in various media-related ministries. *TTB* is a flagship program of Portugal known as "*O som do livro*" (The sound of the Book) and is broadcast across Portugal through seven radio stations and distributed on major digital platforms.

Rubino, director of TWR Portugal, shared the following story:

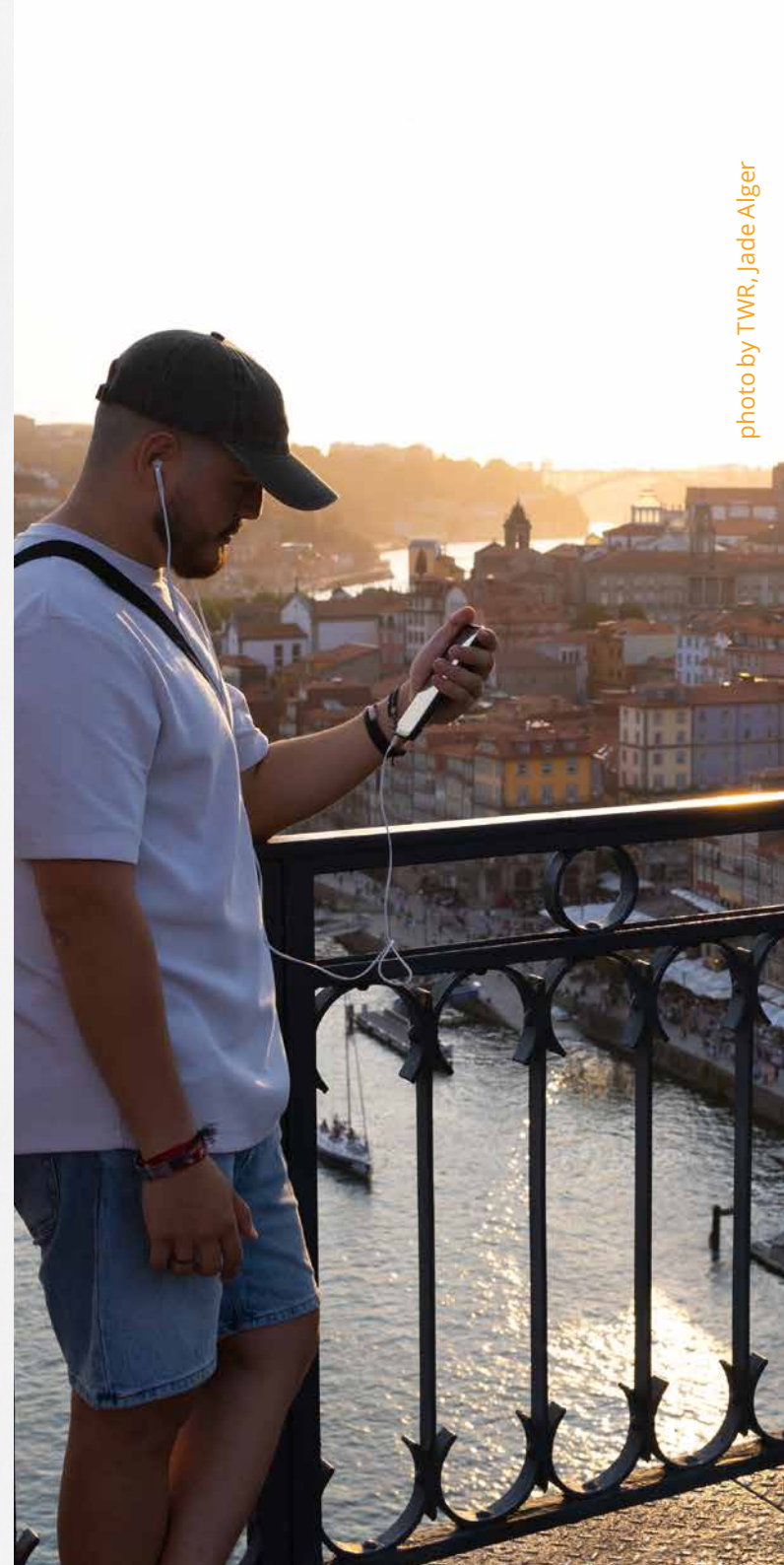
"Rita was a witch in Southern Portugal and everyone in town knew about her. One day she tuned in to O som do livro. She had been immersed in

the world of the occult but was now hearing a new and very different message.

She also sought help from the village priest, but stopped meeting with him after a month because she was learning so much more from the daily 30-minute radio program. Then the day came when Rita yielded to Christ and became a new creation!

She dumped her occultist books and paraphernalia and is now a member of a local church. One day she met Rubino and fell at his feet weeping when she found out who he was. That is how grateful she was for the radio program that changed her life."

The Women of Hope ministry also experienced tremendous growth in 2023, not only in their digital communication channels but also on their team. God has indeed raised up several women with a heart of service and compassion to dedicate their time to this ministry.



Northwest Partners

TWR Europe and CAMENA has 10 national partners in nine countries of Northwest Europe, producing and distributing Christian programming 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.

ERF Medien Austria

www.erf.at

ERF Medien Austria, also known as NOW Radio, deals with topics worth living for, with exciting life stories to motivate and inspire their listeners. They are able to broadcast across all of Austria using digital radio, which was launched in 2019.

Sansa Finland

www.sansa.fi

Sansa works to bring God's Word to closed countries through media, broadcasting across the 10/40 window. Their programming includes *Hope for Women*, encouraging and supporting women around the world, and *Bible Cover to Cover*, which walks through books of the Old and New Testaments alternately.

Norea Mediemiission Denmark

www.norea.dk

Norea Denmark supports Christian mission projects through media to spread God's Word to those who are difficult to reach. They support TWR Women of Hope in Albania, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, and have an online radio available on their website.

ERF Germany

www.erf.de

ERF Germany calls itself ERF Der Sinnsender ("meaningful broadcaster"). Their mission is to help people get to know God so he changes their lives. ERFs 150 employees create radio, TV and online content. The weekly talk show *ERF Mensch Gott* broadcasts personal faith stories. About 2,500 people join the monthly *ERF Mensch Gott* prayer events online, with an average of 75 people committing their lives to Christ each month.



photo by TWR, Jade Alger



TWR Netherlands & Belgium

www.twr.nl

TWR Netherlands works alongside TWR to spread God's Word across the globe. They produce a daily program called *On the Road with the Bible* and a 5-day program called *The Bible Door*, which is broadcast through Groot Nieuws Radio.

Norea Mediemisjon Norway

www.norea.no

Norea Norway works with their local partners to bring the gospel to the unreached through electronic and digital media. In 2023, they launched their app, Good News Medvandrer, which is an evangelistic tool for Norwegian Christians to use in sharing God's Word with immigrants they meet.

P7 Kristen Riksradio Norway

www.p7.no

P7 partners with TWR to spread the gospel in Spain, Italy, Greece, Venezuela, as well as other South American countries and Central Asia. They launched a new app in 2021 that allows users to access their program library from their TVs and smartphones.

Norea Sweden

www.noreasverige.se

Norea Sweden uses media-based tools to partner with congregations, organizations and individuals to spread the gospel in Sweden and abroad. Their most popular local program is a Swedish version of *Thru the Bible (TTB)*. Their programs are distributed through their app Norea Play.

ERF Medien Switzerland

www.erf.ch

ERF Medien Switzerland produces content on faith and life experience, reaching many people in German-speaking Switzerland who are looking for faith and meaning in everyday life. They launched 12 podcasts in 2023, including *Matter of Faith*, *Researched*, which covers social issues, and *Finally Live*, about the shortness of life.

TWR United Kingdom

www.twr.org.uk

TWR UK broadcasts Christian content, including news, current affairs and Bible teaching throughout the United Kingdom. Programs include *News from our Manchester Studio*, *Insight for Living* and *Discover the Word*.

CAMENA

Central Asia · Middle East · North Africa



Central Asia

Guided by the wisdom of Proverbs 10:11 (“*The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life*”), our Central Asia ministries made significant strides last year in creating content that is a source of life for listeners. We expanded our reach through our broadcast platforms, participated in important community initiatives and witnessed lives being changed by the Word of God.

In Kyrgyzstan, our team began pairing video animations with sign language to reach deaf children and teenagers. These Bible-based animations quickly circulated within the Deaf community. Recognizing the need, our Kyrgyz team has plans to adapt other programs for the Deaf community such as *Noble Thoughts* and *Straight Talk*.

Audio dramas are popular in Kyrgyzstan, so our team creates them to teach Christian values. An example titled *Prodigal Son* is the story of a father’s love and compassion toward his son who is walking down a troubled path. One such video has over 71,000 views.

Last year, the Women of Hope conference was held in the region, bringing together 70 women to encourage and support one another. *Women of Hope* programs have gained significant traction in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

One of the main challenges has been the rapid price increase of goods and services. Global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and wars have had a significant impact on Central Asia.

Security also remains a significant concern. In Kazakhstan, protests in January 2023 led to hundreds of deaths and unrest in Almaty. In Tajikistan, many people fear the influence of the Taliban from neighboring Afghanistan. And Turkmenistan remains a closed country, making communication and movement challenging for its people.

Yet, our teams used the power of digital ministry in 2023 to reach more people for Christ. Digital channels in Kyrgyzstan are growing, and we’re exploring innovative technologies like AI to enhance our ministries.

Our Kyrgyz team consists of around 10 people, while our Kazakh team has 7-8 members and our Uzbek team even fewer. So we would like to grow the smaller teams. Uzbek is the most popular language in Central Asia besides Russian, so expanding the Uzbek team will have a big impact on reaching more people for Christ.

photo by unsplash.com



Last year, a radio project in Tajikistan secured funding to continue distributing radios and USB sticks loaded with nearly 300 programs tailored to a variety of audiences. People attending home groups, women, youth and individuals with disabilities gained access to spiritual food through these devices and programs.

In Turkmenistan, churches are growing as a result of persecution because the hardships compel believers to draw nearer to God. Programs such as *Power in Persecution* and *Christian Youth* encourage listeners.

In Karakalpakstan, there's a huge need for God's Word because it's nearly impossible to own a Bible or any Christian literature. That's why programs such as *Radio Bible Project* and *Springs of Living Water* are so important in providing biblical teaching.

In the process of using both radio and digital media in Central Asia, we've found that a combination of both seems ideal for the region. While digital platforms are gaining traction, radio remains relevant, especially in remote areas where internet access is limited. In Kyrgyzstan, FM radio stations are widespread, indicating its lasting relevance.



Middle East

The Arab world is a diverse region with rich cultural heritage and significant socio-political complexities. Despite its diversity, it faces various challenges, including political unrest, economic disparities and social issues.

Many countries in the Arab world continue to grapple with political instability, resulting in conflicts and humanitarian crises. The ongoing conflicts, such as those in Syria and Yemen, have led to immense suffering and displacement among civilians.

We rejoice in the divine trust placed on us to deliver the message of hope, especially in a time when it is more crucial than ever. Gratitude fills our hearts as God has graciously provided us with the tools to proclaim this message, touching hearts and yielding lasting fruit for his kingdom.

Our online radio platform has seen significant growth in reach without any promotional efforts. The updated format has played a crucial role in expanding our audience base. According to insights, listenership increased by 30 percent compared to the previous year. We've also seen growth in our one-hour live show.

Our podcast channels continue to experience a surge in downloads, even without promotions, with 257,380 downloads of program episodes in 2023. This indicates a growing interest in our content and a widening audience reach.

Through strategic efforts on social media platforms, we've successfully reached individuals who were previously unreached by the gospel. Through the team's dedication and hard work, interactive conversations are happening every day, and the team presents the gospel to each person. We've seen a harvest of spiritual fruit in Arab countries like Yemen, Saudi, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco and Algeria.

Our website has undergone a refreshing makeover, giving visitors a new and engaging experience when accessing our resources.

Following the earthquake in Syria, our team embarked on a mission to provide aid and support to affected families. Alongside distributing necessities, we shared messages of God's love and provided information about our ongoing programs, including *Hope for Syria* and *Youth in Mind*, utilizing QR codes for easy access.



photo by IMB.org

Hope for Yemen, our weekly program tailored to the current situation in Yemen, continues to lead people into relationship with our loving God who delivers us from the bondage of sin. Encouraging feedback from Yemenis, despite potential persecution, highlights the impact of our programs.

Responding promptly to the earthquake in September 2023 in Morocco, in partnership with Biblica, TWR's Arabic ministry initiated the 12-week program called *When Your Whole World Changes* for those facing challenging situations. Content was also distributed on SD cards in collaboration with local believers.

The focus of our Christmas 2023 campaign was on the birth of Jesus, symbolizing the beginning of a reconciliation era between God and humans. We translated a booklet into Arabic that was originally produced in English by the ministry of Thru the Bible and promoted it on our social media platforms. Over a thousand people expressed interest, providing numerous opportunities to spread the message of God's love through the birth of Jesus.

Our teen-focused radio program in Egypt, *How Are You?*, was revamped with a new look and approach. We also conducted training sessions for 21 young adults, focusing on content writing and social media management. This empowered them to be involved in producing and promoting the program and inspired them to minister to their peers.



North Africa

The Amazigh in Algeria

Our ministry to the Amazigh people of North Africa has been a source of blessing amid challenges. Our primary focus in 2023 has been on the Kabyle people of Algeria. The country is steeped in Muslim traditions, making it a difficult and potentially dangerous place to practice Christianity.

Since 2017, the Algerian church has faced increasing measures restricting the gathering of believers. Many churches have closed that were once officially recognized as part of the EPA (Evangelical Protestant churches of Algeria). Even local house churches are prohibited, although they still continue to grow.

We collaborate with a team of local believers who create and produce content, engage in social media outreach, and regularly visit believers who respond to our programs. Our primary method of spreading the gospel is radio. However, we want to see more intentional engagement through online platforms which give listeners a secure way to interact with our follow-up team.

We establish personal connections with Kabyle listeners through social media when they have questions about a program or topic. Our follow-up team encourages, disciples and prays

with listeners who respond, often through personal visits to their homes.

Currently, four different 30-minute Kabyle programs are broadcast from Monte Carlo. These are *Thru the Bible (TTB)* airing from Monday to Friday, *Women of Hope* on Saturdays, and *The Way of Righteousness* and *Names of Jesus* on Sundays. Starting in April 2024, a new program called *Power in Persecution* will be broadcast in the place of *Names of Jesus*. Though there are only 40 programs that make up the series, they are a compilation of many testimonies from believers around the world who share their journey of walking with Christ through times of great persecution. We are eager to see how the Lord encourages Kabyle believers through this program. *Names of Jesus*, though coming off the broadcast schedule to make way for *Power in Persecution*, will continue to be available through digital media platforms. *Names of Jesus* has brought a new awareness of the attributes and character of God to many people.

In 2023, we collected information needed to develop an app for the Kabyle community. This app will complement the RadioKabyle website and offer an alternative platform for users of both iOS and Android.



photo by unsplash.com

Kurdish Ministry

The year 2023 was challenging in many ways. The earthquake in Türkiye significantly depleted our personnel resources as our efforts were spread across the impacted areas. This led to the delay of program productions and social media interactions.

Although 2023 was a year full of challenges, we were able to meet most of our goals when it comes to translations and production. The

Kurdish program blocks are very diverse, featuring different moderators and various types of Kurdish Christian content.

Thru the Bible (TTB) started airing in Kurdish and just a few weeks later, listeners from a car park, a bakery and a variety of other places reached out to the local pastor who is the voice of the program, expressing their appreciation for the content. They also requested that the program

be rebroadcast at different times so they and their colleagues could listen.

We are thankful that people irrespective of their faith are interested in the program. We pray that this would be an encouragement for the believers in the region and a message of hope for those who do not yet know Christ.



Women of Hope

The year 2023 marked a significant transition period for TWR Women of Hope on a global scale. At the end of 2022, the organization witnessed a substantial turnover in personnel, resulting in a streamlined global team, with only one out of five members remaining from the previous year. Notably, the departure of Dr. Peggy Banks marked the end of an era. However, the organization welcomed Susie Pek as the new global director in February, bringing fresh perspectives and leadership to the team.

Europe

For several years, we were restricted by COVID-19, but Women of Hope Europe was finally able to organize a conference. Dozens of women gathered in Norway for the event themed “Holy Ground,” bringing together people from the Nordic nations and Albania.

The first quarter of 2023 saw the reassembly of the team and ongoing development of Part Two of the *Hidden Treasures* project. New additions to the team included Susie Pek as global director, Ilona Mailer, Paula and Walter Ferreira and Elina Uusikylä, complementing the existing members: Peta-Ann Small, Miia da Silva and Pilar Hussman.

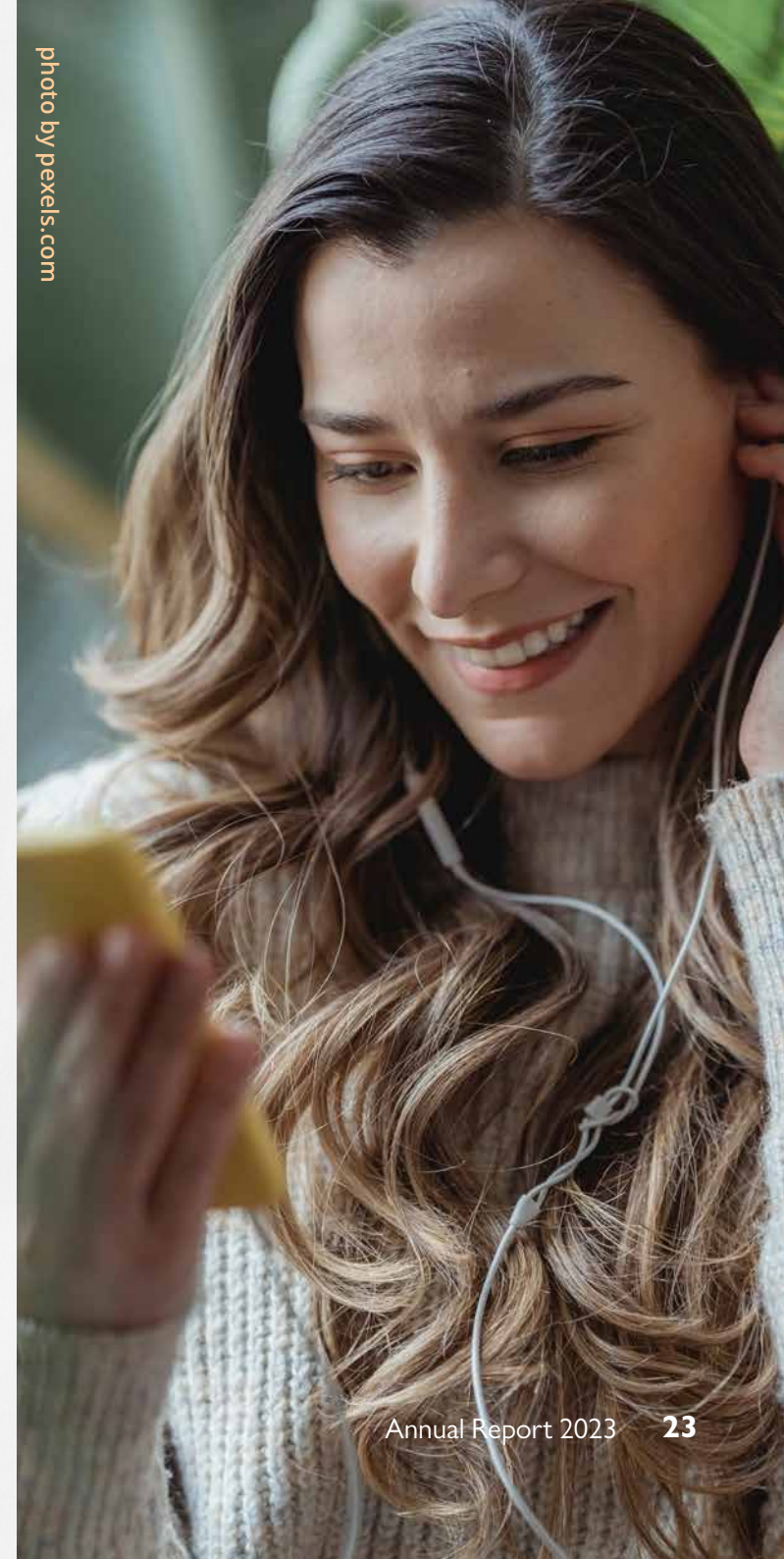
The addition of a new coordinator in Sweden and the initiation of ministry in North Macedonia marked significant steps forward in expanding Women of Hope’s reach across Europe. Notably, the production of *Precious & Beloved* resources in Russian for the North Caucasus demonstrated our commitment to serving M communities.

In May 2023, our online digital initiative for Turkish-speaking women in Northern Cyprus received a significant lift thanks to enhanced efforts on Instagram and Facebook. This was achieved through the assignment of a local coordinator who also acts as a liaison between the project and the Women of Hope ministry. This collaboration reinforces our commitment to reaching and empowering women in the region.

CAMENA

The CAMENA region witnessed the successful conduct of the second *Precious & Beloved* training in Istanbul, bringing together women from Türkiye, China, Africa and the EU to enhance ministry outreach efforts.

Early in the year, an earthquake struck Türkiye and Syria, affecting areas where local



ministry personnel resided. Women of Hope CAMENA responded with resilience, extending support to affected communities and reaffirming its commitment to serving those in need.

The Central Asia conference this year provided a platform for collaboration, networking and knowledge sharing among team members, fostering unity and cohesion. It also included times dedicated to worship and prayer.

The Team

Our team welcomed Birgit Billau as a volunteer administrative assistant, whose contribution to reports and administration significantly

enhanced our team's operational efficiency, leading to more streamlined workflows and improved support structures.

Sandy Koop's continued volunteer efforts from the US, particularly in the development of devotionals for the Small Group Leaders Manual, showcased the power of global collaboration and shared commitment to the Women of Hope mission.

Lydia Smit's valuable contributions during her internship in TWR Bratislava office in September-December underscored the importance of nurturing young talent and providing opportunities for growth within the organization.

Miia Kallio stepping in as the interim regional coordinator during Miia da Silva's maternity leave, and Pilar Hussmann's acceptance of the role of *Hidden Treasures* project coordinator demonstrated the team's adaptability and resilience in navigating transitional phases.

As we reflect on the events and achievements of 2023, it is clear that Women of Hope Europe and CAMENA remain strongly engaged in furthering their mission to spread hope and healing in Jesus through prayer and media.



photo by unsplash.com

M Ministry in Europe

Sunday App

Throughout 2023, we continued developing the refugee and immigrant resource app, Sunday, and its content. The project was coordinated by our refugee and immigrant coordinator in Europe, who was employed in December 2022. Our project team consists of ministry partners across the Nordic and northwestern countries of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, the Netherlands and Canada. As the project entered the next phase of development in 2023, our team searched for a suitable name since the Farsi language app will be promoted and soft launched in the beginning of 2024.

The name *Sunday* was chosen because it is a day of rest and new beginnings:

"In the Bible, Sunday is the first day in the week and a day for a new start. Sunday is also the day when Jesus rose from the dead and made it possible for us to have a new life in which death has lost its power. In the western world, Sunday is a day of rest and through this app we hope that the users will find rest and peace wherever they are" (Claus Kristensen, TWR Europe refugee and immigrant coordinator).

Bridge of Hope Online

In May 2023, our online digital project, Bridge of Hope Online, received a significant boost, using platforms such as Instagram and Facebook to reach Turkish-speaking women in Northern Cyprus. The hiring of a local Women of Hope coordinator to manage the project marked a pivotal moment for us.

Throughout the year, we curated and shared attractive and relevant posts and reels to engage our audience. These efforts sparked numerous conversations and even facilitated connections with Christians and churches on-site for further follow-up. The Bridge of Hope initiative prioritizes building relationships with non-Christians, focusing primarily on pre-evangelism.

Our online interactions often delved deep, touching on sensitive topics. An Instagram user shared her struggle of feeling undervalued after being cheated on by her husband. The dialogue this user had with our coordinator proved meaningful and the Instagram user expressed gratitude for being listened to and valued.



photo by pexels.com



photo by IMB.org

Radio Havadis

Broadcasting began on our newly acquired FM radio station, Radyo Havadis, in Northern Cyprus at the start of 2023, and it has remained on-air ever since. Initially, the content mostly consisted of music programs and regular news throughout the day, but more Christian content is planned as the station strengthens its programming in 2024.

On November 11, 2023, a special celebration for the opening of the radio station was held, facilitated by Petra Media Group in Northern Cyprus. Guests included individuals from the local church network on the island, as well as from Türkiye, foreign partners, and TWR representatives. An international board of directors for Radyo Havadis was established, with representatives from both TWR and Petra Media Group.

Arabic Programs for Europe

In the second half of 2023, we explored ways to increase collaboration between TWR Europe and TWR CAMENA in reaching shared audiences. We specifically examined how to promote and utilize relevant content from the TWR Arabic ministry to connect with the many Arab speakers residing across Europe. To facilitate this endeavor, a task force was formed. We anticipate the rollout of some concrete initiatives in 2024.

Men of Courage

We've seen strong growth in both interest and awareness of the pre-evangelistic global project *Men of Courage (MOC)* which reaches M men in a relatable and attractive way, giving them new perspectives on life and eternity. MOC began in 2022 with a pilot project in collaboration with Petra Media Group in Türkiye. They began to create, produce and broadcast MOC and as they got more experience with the concept, they adapted the format to be even more effective. This attracted more people to get involved in the development of the Turkish MOC.

Türkiye and Syria

The people of Türkiye and Syria had a tough year due to the devastating twin earthquakes that hit southern Türkiye and northern Syria on 6 February 2023, resulting in more than 50,000 deaths and erasing entire cities.

Amid this terrible disaster, the good news was shared indirectly with incredible impact as Christians and churches from all over Türkiye and beyond joined the relief efforts. Shortly before the earthquakes occurred, Petra Media Group was able to buy a local FM radio station in Antakya. After the earthquakes, despite a short time without electricity, they were able to broadcast messages of hope, comforting Bible verses, and trauma-related programs directly to the thousands of suffering people.

Farsi Ministry

Over the course of 2023, notable progress was made toward the development of several media outreach projects.

Pand

Pand, which means ‘wise words’ in Farsi, is a collection of programs, each designed for a specific purpose. They include programs on raising children (from infants through adulthood), Bible teachings for each day of the year, marriage counseling, discipleship, family and more. Each episode is between 15-30 minutes in length.

The *Pand* collection will continually evolve and change to keep up with current issues. Now that TWR has implemented WinMedia (a cloud-based software system), the *Pand* program schedule can easily be changed daily or weekly in response to current events or challenges.

Persian Word of God Radio

In 2023, progress was made toward the launch of Persian Word of God Radio. The radio stream will reach countries such as Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and parts of Iraq.

Each Bible reading will have immersive Dolby Atmos sound effects and music to go along with it, using the specific instruments of the region. Depending on the Bible story, the sound effects could be that of a horse or the sound of people on a street, for example. In this way, listeners will feel as if they’re in the middle of the story.

The hope is to have a different language or dialect for each hour. The team has already started working on content in the Gilaki and Balochi languages, spoken in northwestern regions of Iran.

Transform Iran, an organization dedicated to advancing God’s Kingdom in Iran, was involved in the translation of a Bible for Iranians. Hundreds of people worked on this translation, and Persian Word of God Radio is recording this Bible translation as dramatized audio in the Gilaki and Balochi languages in cooperation with Transform Iran.

Persian Worship Radio

Launched in 2023, Persian Worship Radio is set a continuous 24-hour online worship radio stream that integrates traditional instruments

from various areas of the Persian world. By using instruments specific to different cultural regions, such as the Setar or Santoor, the music will connect in a deep way with listeners. Along with worship music, the stream features insightful biblical studies on the subject of worship.

The immersive production of songs utilizing Dolby Atmos technology will deliver a three-dimensional audio experience. Currently, around 500 songs have been produced and will be played in a continuous loop, with additional songs being continuously added to the repertoire.

“In worldly music, we praise man in the place of God,” TWR’s Farsi ministry director said. He’s excited that Persian Worship Radio will teach people how to praise the Creator rather than worshipping the created. These songs are designed with the purpose of standing apart from secular music, avoiding any clear associations with specific worldly styles in the minds of listeners and fostering a unique, spiritually enriching listening experience.

Women of Hope

Throughout 2023, TWR's Women of Hope programs in Farsi have evolved to address the growing discontent with religiosity observed in recent years. Each episode begins with uplifting music, occasionally accompanied by a personal testimony. Contact information is readily available, inviting listeners to connect with the TWR Farsi team if they have questions or specific needs.

TWR's Farsi team needs more female staff. The team benefits greatly when young female staff come on board because these women are able to describe how they feel in society, and scripts are then produced to meet the needs of younger generations.

Topics about women's rights were heavily discussed over the past year through Women of Hope for Farsi speakers. More specifically, their rights in society, in family, as mothers and wives. "In this way, we show women how valuable they are to God," TWR's Farsi director said. In these episodes, the topics are matched with Bible stories that show how valuable women were in Jesus' eyes and how much He respected them while He was on earth.

An important goal for TWR's Farsi team is to begin airing *Hidden Treasures*, an audio drama series designed to help trafficked or sexually exploited women find freedom in Christ.



Further Updates

National Partner Conference

Our ministry partners gathered from across TWR Europe and CAMENA (Central Asia, Middle East, North Africa) for the National Partner Conference to discuss a pertinent if controversial topic: artificial intelligence (AI).

Dr. Jörg Dechert, CEO of ERF Germany, opened the event with a brief history of AI, a look “inside the black box,” and a kingdom perspective. This was followed by an AI panel discussion in which participants exchanged their views on the use of AI in ministry.

President and CEO Lauren Libby gave a global update, reinforcing the meaning of TWR’s partnerships. “When you unite around Jesus and the Scriptures, real unity can happen,” he said.

Though many of the TWR regions represented at the conference experienced natural disasters, wars and persecution in 2023, they raised their voices in worship together.

HR Highlights

In 2023 the Human Resources team further pursued the vision of seeing an organization full of people that are called, qualified, and

healthy. We provided member care to our staff who serve in 12 different countries in our regions and recruited several new missionaries.

We help teams to find more joy and fulfillment in their work using the 6 Types of Working Genius tool. With a few teams we dive even deeper in a year-long Team Mastery process. This helps them to work through a number of challenging yet vital questions to ensure long-term success.

Two Sneak Peeks into 2024

If you have been part of the TWR family for a longer period of time you might have heard about the Member Care Media ministry, launched by Siny Widmer in the late 90s. The focus of this ministry is to support missionaries and cross-cultural workers across the globe with professional care via media. In 2024 we’re beginning the revitalization of this important ministry initiative.

This year our Servant Leadership Training will be held online. As a TWR partner, you are invited to join this training. The next training will take place in October 2024. Together we’re

going to study and apply *Staying Focused in an Age of Distraction*.

If you are interested in joining the Servant Leadership Training, organizing a resilience training for your organization, or guiding your team into a development process, please reach out to Philipp Rüschi at prueschi@twr.org.

Global Playout Project

Over the past three years, we have been deploying WinMedia, a cloud-based hardware and software solution, to streamline the distribution of programs to various audiences, replacing four outdated systems. This involved establishing global standards across all TWR regions, including the week’s start day, time zone references, language codes and filename conventions. The Americas region transitioned first, closely followed by the EU/CAMENA region, which also served as a proving ground for the new system. TWR Africa and TWR Asia subsequently integrated the system. With the old systems now switched off, we can consolidate our experiences, personnel and procedures as we continue speaking hope to the world in a clear, reliable manner.



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reach*the***LAST.**

Reach the Last explores how TWR uses media to bring the gospel to some of the world's least-reached people groups.

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