



how
God's
love

LIFTED

a dying
tribe

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INSIDE

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Mission 66 keeps expanding PG 10

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INTERIM PRESIDENT

Cassius Smith

CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Tim Klingbeil

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

David McCreary

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Jon Hill

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

John Lundy

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Nicole Hughes

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TWR announces major leadership transition

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support of TWR's global outreach.

We want to share with you some important decisions that have been made and actions taken regarding a major leadership transition in TWR's ministry.

Below is a portion of a recent announcement sent to TWR staff and national partners on behalf of TWR Board of Directors Chairman Jeff Jones.

After extensive, warm and gracious consultations between our beloved leader, Lauren Libby, and the International Board of Directors, I am announcing that Lauren will assume the title of TWR strategic adviser effective immediately.

As you may know, Lauren remains in a local rehabilitation facility following the major stroke he suffered at the end of August. He and June need time and space to enable him to heal and recover his physical well-being. As such, the board does not wish to burden them with the weighty concerns of a global organization that must rapidly move forward to take advantage of ministry opportunities and fulfill our calling.

Also effective immediately, our acting president, Cassius Smith, is assuming the role of interim president. Cassius' stable leadership through this transition is deeply valued. At the same time, the board is beginning the search process for a permanent president.

Lauren was named TWR's fourth president in October 2008, coming to the organization from a senior executive position with the international discipleship ministry The Navigators. His leadership has had a profound impact on TWR and its staff.

Looking forward, we will rely on God's guidance and provision as the ministry always has. We will continue to pray for and stand with Lauren and June in the days ahead as we continue reaching the world for Christ.



Vickie Faircloth, Jeff Jones, Lauren Libby and Cassius Smith at a 2019 board meeting



When the TWR board entrusted the position of interim president/CEO to me after our brother Lauren Libby suffered a stroke, I was humbled, honored and amazed all at the same time. Humbled and honored that the board would entrust this multinational ministry to me. I'm amazed at looking back to see how our Lord had prepared me for such a time as this. What a privilege it is to serve our Lord in this way.

I know that my friend Lauren worked diligently and traveled often to maintain relationships, assist partners in ministry, and raise funds for TWR. Praise God, regional conferences and a board of directors meeting were already on the calendar for fall 2024. As a result of these gatherings, in the past several weeks I've had the privilege to meet, in person or virtually, with co-laborers in each of the ministry's global regions and multiple times with the board and Executive Team. What a blessing that has been to me as I'm coming back up to speed on the ministry.

It's been wonderful to renew old friendships and start new ones, and I'm impressed with the commitment, confidence and drive evident among leaders and staff alike to keep TWR on course. We're praying for Lauren's recovery, and all the while we are determined to fulfill our calling of reaching the world for Christ through mass media so lasting fruit is produced.

My goal is that the ministry continues well during this time of transition, and for us to be well-prepared for new leadership. Lauren was dedicated to leadership development, and that is reflected in the character of the staff at TWR. The support I'm getting from the staff is encouraging. It's also a tribute to people like you who have prayed diligently for the work, encouraged us often and partnered with us generously. I'm confident that God

has already prepared the person who will be the next president.

There's so much more I'd like to say, but allow me to briefly pay tribute to Lauren for a few of the amazing accomplishments that occurred on his watch:

- A significant increase in the supporter base and income level, putting the ministry on a firm financial foundation and providing resources to grow its outreach. The number of donors grew from 13,700 when Lauren became president to nearly 24,000 today.
- An enlarged staff and team of missionaries to respond to God's calling on the ministry. This growth is partially discernible in the creation of new ministries under the TWR umbrella, TWR MOTION and Every Man A Warrior.
- An expanded reach across the planet, proclaiming the gospel in more than 200 languages to a potential audience of over 4 billion people. In fact, the reach encompasses virtually every country when factoring in the twr360.org Christian media content portal, which was developed and launched during Lauren's tenure.
- Major upgrades of our broadcast facilities, including those at Eswatini, Guam, Bonaire and Central Asia. Lauren wanted TWR to be a "big voice for Jesus" around the world.

You'll find lots of great information in this issue about all that is happening at TWR, and one initiative I'm especially excited about is our documentary *Lifted*. After the premiere in Cary, at least two people dedicated their lives to missions.

Finally, I'm enthusiastic to be back on "active duty" with TWR, and I plan to serve until the board's search for a permanent president is completed and successful. Please join me in praying for the ministry, for the search, and for June and Lauren as he recovers. I appreciate your prayers for my wife, Valerie, and me as well.

Thank you for your continued support.

Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His faithfulness to a thousand generations for those who love Him and keep His commandments." – DEUTERONOMY 7:9 (NASB)



The moment that inspired a film

BY JOHN LUNDY
TWR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The email included four videos, but it was the one in the lower right corner that caught Alex Lemus' eye.

It was the summer of 2020, and Lemus was early in his career as assistant video producer for TWR's Global Marketing and Communications Video department in Cary, North Carolina.

The video showed an elderly man, who appeared unwell, on a hammock. The language spoken was unintelligible, but it looked like Bibles were being presented.

That was the seed for what would blossom on Oct. 11 at a theater in Cary: the premiere of TWR's first full-length documentary.

At top: With the collaboration of indigenous leader Nuwahe (right), Ivan Schoen developed a written language for the Wayana and translated the Bible into it. At right, a cross is erected on their first church.

The story

Lifted: A Dying Tribe Encounters New Life tells the story of a young family from the United States who arrived in the Amazonian jungle in 1961 among an indigenous people group that was suspicious of outsiders, had no concept of a loving God, feared the spirit world and was dying out because of those fears.

Using interviews, photos and film footage shot by the family from the earliest days of their mission, it tells how Ivan and Doris Schoen and their children Dan, Becky and Tom lived in a tent for nine months before being invited to settle in a tribal village. It recounts their discovery that they were near two tribes, the Wayana and the Trio, and the painstaking process of learning their language.

It explains how the tribes came to understand the gospel, along with the yearslong process of teaching the tribes how to read their own language and of translating the Bible into their language.

The Schoens' efforts culminated in the video clip on the email feed. A short piece on it was made for TWR staff.

'Just blown away'

Inspired by what they'd seen, a TWR crew traveled to California to meet with Tom Schoen. The youngest of the Schoens, he had served as a pastor but never lost track of the Wayana and Trio people with whom he grew up. The tribal leaders knew about radio and thought it would

On June 23, 1968 at 2:30 P.M. the Trio exploration party excitedly returned to the jungle camp to relate to the other Indians and missionaries that they had finally located...

THE TRIBE THAT ALMOST GOT AWAY

BY IVAN SCHOEN
as told to MAX INGLES



Five missionaries, five Wayanas and five Trio left to make contact with these Stone Age Indians. Women were taken along to show they were not a war party.

SEVENTY INDIAN TRIBES have completely disappeared from the Amazon jungle since 1900. One tribe, however, has not. More primitive than those living on the coast of South America 2500 years ago, the nomadic group, thought to be the Wayankules, unwittingly made known their whereabouts in June of this year.

Local Indian folklore stories had always depicted the Wayankules as people of great stature, carrying

huge hunting bows no ordinary Indian could draw. Wayana and Trio tribes feared meeting them. But after receiving the message from "God's Paper," both Wayana and Trio Christians began to sense a spiritual responsibility for these forgotten ones. Missionaries of WIM's concern.

In October of 1965 WIM missionary Ivan Schoen with a group of Wayanas set up camp in the

jungles of central Suriname near where the suspected Wayankules were hiding. Along the creek they found pieces of pottery and fresh footprints — but no Indians. Again in September of 1966 Schoen made another survey, and in November of 1967 — then Ford took a small expedition party inland, search of primitive life were very evident, though the tribe itself kept hidden. Further expeditions were made without success.

Wayana tribesmen, traveling by dugout to and from Brazil, are always on the alert. They were not attributing to legend what might prove to be a formidable meeting. They were convinced that the Wayankules were lurking near some inland stream, by some quiet river. And it was Wayana belief, Kapalikia, writing at the Laysa Station after a trip to Brazil, who had a story to tell. And the story was of such importance that missionary Wilma Ford had no time in hooking up the antenna to her two-way radio in reply to her husband's remark at Tapoa (surprise) what her ears could hardly believe.

Kapalikia tells me that on their way home from Brazil, they made contact with a strange tribe of Indians. While they were quietly

Wildland Harvest 5



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SCHOENS

A U.S. newspaper reported on the fascinating expedition that discovered a small, hidden tribe called the Akurios, one of whom is shown in the center photo. At right, Ivan Schoen collaborates with another Wayana man.

be a good way to continue in their discipleship and evangelism efforts. Schoen found a willing ally in Steve Shantz, who at that time was TWR's international vice president for Latin America, Caribbean and U.S. Spanish ministries. Schoen joined the TWR team to spearhead the project of bringing two radio stations to Suriname, where the tribes are located.

Tyler Church, then TWR's Global Video department director, made the trip to California along with Clay Perry, then a TWR videographer, and Savannah Prince, an intern who first spotted the video along with Lemus. A 10-minute video resulted from that trip, along with the conviction that 10 minutes wasn't enough to tell the whole story.

"We came back, and I think several of us independently thought this could be

WANT TO HELP?

We invite you to help bring radio stations to the jungle.
See twr.org/suriname-stations.

something bigger," said Church, now TWR's vice president of digital ministry.

"We were just blown away; absolutely blown away," said Perry, who later stepped into Church's role as video department director. "When we heard the fullness of the story of their family moving to the jungles of Suriname in 1961, the bringing their little kids into the jungle, and then every story from there just got crazier and crazier.



This drone image by Christian Schoen shows an indigenous village clearing in the dense jungle.



*Due to space constraints, names of island nation in the shaded area above could not fit on the map.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

“When I say crazy – crazy in that the Lord worked in some powerful ways. ... Just the faithfulness of God to the ministry and what they did was incredible. I mean, it just leaves you worshipping.”

16 hours of interviews

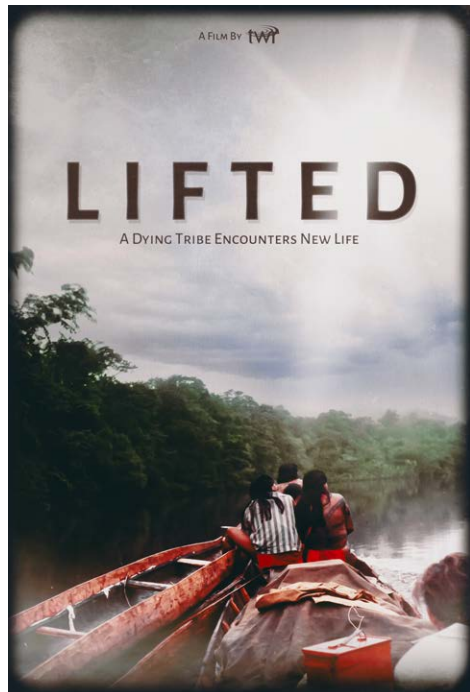
The one-hour, 15-minute documentary that resulted was the work of five people – Perry, Lemus, Church, Prince and Brandon Hall, the newest member of the video department. But amid role changes and comings and goings, usually no more than two members were working on it at a time.

The work included traveling to Texas to interview the aging Ivan and Doris, and traveling to Colorado to interview Dan. (The fifth member of the family, Becky, is deceased.) They brought a suitcase full of archival photos and film footage home with them from Texas.

“We had over 16 hours’ worth of interview footage that we had to crank through,” Perry said. “And this isn’t like, oh, fast-forward through this piece. It’s like every story could make it into this documentary.”

In the jungle, the Schoens were doctor and dentist, linguists, teachers, evangelists, hunters and fishers. But they also managed to document their work, shooting footage that was ahead of their time.

Often historical documentaries only have photos, Perry said, and even those may not be from the original source. “When you watch this documentary, you are there in the jungle.”



SEE THE VIDEO

View *Lifted* online or consider showing it at your church or small group.

twr.org/lifted

People who hear and see the Schoens’ story will come away knowing that if it wasn’t for “God’s heart, God’s love, God’s steadfastness toward all peoples,” their story never could have happened, Perry said.



ABOVE: Christian, Tom and Dan Schoen (from left) respond to audience questions. The moderator was TWR's Tyler Church.



ABOVE: TWR retired missionary Sally Rork greets TWR Latin America's Maralina Alfonso. BELOW: TWR Interim President Cassius Smith (center) chats with Chris Whary (left) and Tim McElhaney.



ABOVE: Dan Schoen (right) talks with TWR board member Bert Stokes.

Cary Theater often is host to small concerts and independent movies. But on one night in October, 150 people filled the theater for the first showing of *Lifted*.

TWR PHOTOS BY MORGANE ERISMAN



ABOVE: Members of the Schoen family and the TWR creators of *Lifted* share a moment under the theater marquee.

The Word turns fear into praise

A village with only 475 residents might sound like a peaceful place.

But in Bampleu, a village in what's known as the 18-mountain region of Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa, insecurity and fear were common, according to Missionary Pastor Philippe Makaye, Dan region manager for the Facility Foundation Côte d'Ivoire, a TWR partner.

"Thefts were frequent in the village, to the point where the population, or at least some of them, were losing sleep," he said.

That started to change in 2018-19, when TWR broadcasts began to be heard in some of the region's villages, Makaye said. Bampleu's villagers were eager to accept the Word.



"In the large meeting area of the village, there is a large radio and large loudspeakers," Makaye said. "From this station all those who do not have receivers [in] their different huts listen to the message broadcast in the Dan language every Sunday and Thursday morning with rebroadcasts in the evening."

The majority of the world's nearly 2 million Dan people live in Côte d'Ivoire, according to the Christian people-group chronicle Joshua Project, with fewer in Liberia and a very small representation in Guinea. Within Côte d'Ivoire, 1 in 3 of the Dan people identify as a Christian and about 15% are evangelical believers. The percentages are smaller in Liberia and Guinea. The majority of the Danites still follow ethnic religions.



Pastor Philippe Makaye, left, and TWR have brought radios and the gospel to the village.

But the 15-minute evangelistic messages from TWR made the Dan people of Bampleu aware of their need to be reconciled to God, Makaye said. Each message ends with a call to saving faith.

"When the program starts, everyone knows that God is speaking to the village," he said.

During his team's last visit to the village, the entire population turned out, Makaye said.

"They welcomed us with shouts and applause."

Village Chief Kpan René, a regular listener, told his visitors the village was being transformed.

"The fear of God has taken hold of many in the village, and the behavior of young people and adults is changing," Makaye said. "Today, it is difficult to find cases of theft in their village."

Villagers say Bampleu is calmer and more peaceful than in the past, Makaye reported, and they attribute the change to the impact of the Word of God.

"The whole village has come to know the person of Christ, his mission and his sacrifice," Makaye said.

BY JOHN LUNDY
TWR ASSOCIATE EDITOR



BECAUSE YOU GAVE

EXTENDING THE REACH OF THE GOOD NEWS

BE 107 FM Batam, Indonesia

Your generous gifts to BE 107 FM totaled \$282,000, and TWR will build a new office and studio hub in Batam, Indonesia, already the home of this popular ministry and only Christian station available to Singaporeans. Dynamic hosts provide an English morning show followed by programming in the Bahasa Indonesia language throughout the day. Surrounded by Singapore, Malaysia and the islands of Indonesia, the potential audience soars beyond 7 million, and many are listening. Thank you!

Shine 800 AM Bonaire

Listeners throughout Latin America depend on the spiritual food from TWR's powerful transmitter on the island of Bonaire. Thank you for giving \$310,000 to help TWR maintain the radio station and towers that make it possible. More than 30 programs in Spanish and several other languages air each week, including over the entire nation of Cuba. A listener in Brazil said, "I discovered the radio when I was 5 years old, and today I'm 47. Now I turn the radio on for my children." A listener in Venezuela wrote, "May God give you wisdom so you can continue spreading the good news of salvation!"

Mission 66

TWR's global effort to broadcast *Mission 66* in some of the world's most-spoken languages is off to a great start, thanks to your generous support of \$502,000! This study of the entire Bible in over 600 episodes is airing in Spanish, Mandarin, Portuguese and Japanese. English will launch this year in South Africa, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Malawi and over DStv and U.S. local stations. Indonesian will launch on 11 FM stations in that country and over KTWR Guam's shortwave. African French is being translated to air in West Africa. Please pray for each listener who will be touched by these broadcasts.

anniversary milestones

During the second half of 2024 and first half of 2025, we honor these colleagues at TWR who are celebrating milestones of five or more years of service. Join us in praising the Lord for their faithful service.

40 YEARS

Marvin and Landrie Heath; Tim McElhaney

35 YEARS

Paul Stobbe; Daryl and Carol VanDyken

30 YEARS

Dave and Carol Butler

25 YEARS

Julia Hall, Ralf Stores

20 YEARS

Sterling Ottun, Larry and Barbara Petersen

10 YEARS

Madeline Bunga; Mike Cook; Anna Harris; Candace Mackie; Valerie Marsh; Rachel Mehlhaff; Kayla Schlipf; Amy Walker

5 YEARS

Alex Lemus; Kelly Cunningham; Sandi Goodrich; Hunter Hartung; Steve Hodgson; Neal Manning; Sam Napier

PANI broadcasts

When you support TWR's broadcasts into Pakistan, Afghanistan and North India (the PANI region), you are introducing Jesus to those who don't know him yet. After hearing a program in the Dari language and being discipled by our team, an Afghan man said, "I want to pray with you to receive Jesus and to thank him." He meets regularly for discipleship and is memorizing Scripture. Thank you for giving \$385,000 to join TWR in the PANI broadcasts.



MISSION 66 BREAKS NEW GROUND

BY JOHN LUNDY
TWR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Mission 66, the radio teaching program created by Brazilian theologian Luiz Sayão, became available to more than 400 million additional listeners on a single day in October.

Oct. 28, 2024, was the debut of the 613-episode Bible survey in English – the first language of 380 million people – and in Indonesian – the first language of 44 million.

It also marked the first time that a full-length TWR program in English was heard on U.S. radio stations.

“To me, that’s groundbreaking,” said Scott Hollinger, Media Content Creation Team leader for the Global Content Team in Cary, North Carolina. “This is a teaching program that is meant to educate and encourage listeners spiritually through daily teaching in the Word. And we’ve never done that before in English in the U.S.”

Sayão, a scholar and Bible translator, first developed the program in collaboration with RTM* Brazil in his native Portuguese as *Rota 66*. It has been aired for more than a decade in various RTM outlets. It’s also heard in Spanish, Mandarin and Japanese.

From left: Kimberly Yepes, David Silva and Johnny Perez compose the Mission 66 Spanish recording team, which receives plentiful audience feedback. (Photo by Viviana Baz)

The agreement

In March 2023, Sayão signed an agreement with Lauren Libby, TWR CEO and president, giving TWR the authority to develop the program in more languages, with the world’s 10 most-spoken languages the first priority.

The English-language version is heard on TWR stations in Africa, Asia and Europe, as well as on several stations in the United States. The station roster continues to grow. Online access is at mission66.org, TWR360.org and on major podcast apps.

A free, downloadable study guide is available to listeners at mission66.org.

TWR already broadcasts on Spanish-language stations in the United States and carries short programs in English. But each episode of *Mission 66* will be 25 minutes, marking a new venture for English-language TWR programming in the U.S.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, the world’s fourth-largest country by population and home to the largest Muslim population, the program is broadcast in the Indonesian language on shortwave from KTWB on the island of Guam and on affiliate station BE 107 FM.

It goes beyond that, said Daniel Saputra, an Indonesian who is TWR’s international

director for Southeast Asia. TWR's Indonesian national partner will send the program to 15 commercial radio stations across Indonesia.

The 26 million Jesus followers in Indonesia need the sort of discipleship that Mission 66 provides, Saputra said.

"In some places the church grows quite fast," he said. "We don't have enough trained church leaders. Having this kind of program will help them grow spiritually."

One year in Spanish

Oct. 28 also marked the one-year anniversary of the program's new Spanish-language broadcast, which has a potential listening audience of 200 million, said Annabel Torrealba, TWR international director for Latin America and the Caribbean. It's also available online at mision66.org.

A Spanish-language version had been heard for six years, Torrealba said. That version was recorded in Spanish as it's spoken in Spain, which sounds foreign to people in Latin American countries.

But perhaps the biggest difference is stylistic. The newer version is presented less as an exposition and more as a dialogue among three voices.

The presenters – Kimberly Yepes of Colombia and Johnny Perez and David Silva of Uruguay – have clicked, Torrealba said.

"It's beyond expectation," she said. "This is the first time I've seen a project have so much feedback in just one year."

The English version

The English version also was blessed with top-rate vocal talent. Both John Matthews, who is from Wales, and Esther Sisulu, from South Africa, emerged as the best among a number of fine candidates, Hollinger said.

There was no attempt to "Americanize" their accents. "It's an international show; it's not American," Fugler explained. "We wanted it to be as broad as possible."

Listeners will notice the authenticity from the pair, Fugler said.

"They have internalized and owned the material, so they are speaking from their hearts and not just communicating information," he said. "And you sense that by how they deliver the content."

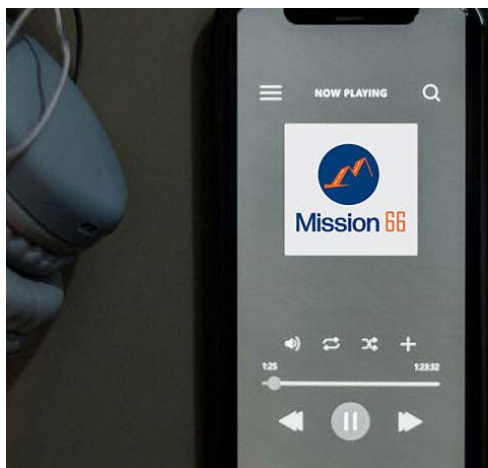
Both the English and Spanish versions of *Mission 66* have Facebook and Instagram pages.

More to come

The completion date for presenting *Mission 66* in the 10 most-spoken languages depends on how soon the money is available to get the job done, Fugler said.

The urgency of achieving that goal is derived from the way people have responded to *Mission 66* in existing languages.

"I am a journalist. I am 23 years old," a *Mission 66* listener from Venezuela wrote. "Listening to your program ... there has been a profound change in my life. I was desperate, discouraged with no desire to continue living, but thanks to God, I believed in Jesus, and you were the channel to make that decision."



HOW TO LISTEN

- Stream on mission66.org
- Find radio stations carrying *Mission 66* on mission66.org
- Download podcasts via Apple, Spotify, Amazon, YouTube

Partner with us to expand *Mission 66* into more languages: twr.org/global-66

* RTM – or Radio Trans Mundial – is the Portuguese and Spanish version of TWR.

RADIO + DIGITAL

= media missions today

BY JOHN LUNDY • TWR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In the shadows of war, the TWR Ukraine team continues to create short videos, posting them on YouTube to reach younger audiences.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the presenter of the French African version of *Men of Courage* presents a live broadcast on the social media app TikTok, engaging with the audience in a question-and-answer session.

In Egypt, the TWR Arabic Ministry produces *The Way Companion*, a 15-minute radio program intended to speak to youth. But it's recorded in short segments that are placed on social media with the intention of attracting young people to the entire message.

Bulgaria's Studio 865 is using podcasts and YouTube.

"All throughout history Christians have redeemed the use of technology for the furtherance of the gospel," said Tyler Church, TWR's vice president for digital ministry. "I have personally seen God use digital platforms to reach people even in countries that are typically resistant to the gospel."

In 1952, when Paul Freed founded what became Trans World Radio, redeeming the use of technology for the furtherance of the gospel meant radio. In the fast-changing 21st century, it means radio plus digital, reflected in the fact that Church's title didn't exist at TWR until a few years ago. He's the second person

to hold the position, having succeeded Steve Shantz in February 2024.

The four pillars

Church previously served as Global Marketing and Communications video director for TWR and before that as part of the MOTION team, which produces animated videos to tell God's story in cultures that are unfamiliar with the gospel. It was in his early days with MOTION, Church said, that he traveled to the Middle East and met a church-planting team who were using media to connect with unbelievers online.

"Our team even met someone while on that trip whose journey to follow Christ started when she encountered a video online," he said.

In a recent in-house conference, Church outlined four pillars of digital ministry:

- **Content** – This means, in part, repurposing content to be used in a number of ways.
- **Digital channels** – These refer to the various platforms used to share the content.
- **Audience engagement** – "One of the most effective methods to build an audience is to interact with them," Church said.
- **Promotion** – "We truly unlock the potential reach of our content when we pay to promote our content," he said.



In the Middle East

TWR's Arabic Ministry is a perfect example of using these pillars for effective ministry, Church said. "I had the opportunity earlier this year to visit the Arabic Ministry team, and I left in awe at the clear impact they are having on the people in the Middle East."

The Arabic team first dipped its toes in the digital waters about two decades ago, its director* said, when they created a website designed not to promote the ministry or recruit potential missionaries, as earlier websites had done, but to carry a message to the audience.

Some years later, the Arabic Ministry added a mobile app so that people could access their content on their phones. Later still, the team added internet radio, providing streaming content 24/7. Then, social media.

"Now we have about eight websites, maybe 10 Facebook pages, YouTube channels and podcasts," he said. "And hundreds and hundreds, thousands of people are making downloads and using [our content]. ... A Saudi man or a Yemeni man or a woman in Qatar or a man in Bahrain can tune in and listen to the message. ... God speaks through these devices."

* Name withheld for security reasons.

Help boost digital

Our project Reaching the Smartphone Generation in Central Europe needs your support. See twr.org/digital-europe.

Transition in Europe

In some places that can mean a transition – and it's not without pain.

Broadcasts that began in 1996 from Grigoriopol, Moldova, came to an end on Sept. 30, 2024. The site, initially broadcasting only in Ukrainian, had a solid run, with programs eventually going out over a 1 million-watt AM transmitter in multiple languages, including Romanian, Bulgarian and Romani.

Now, TWR is offering multiple digital options to people in countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia and Romania. The online content will reach a broader audience, including young people and those in remote areas. It allows for more focused outreach and community building.

But TWR and its partner ministries are grappling with reaching older audiences that are less familiar with digital technology. We also look to keep service in areas with limited internet access.

"Doing so is not easy, and it's not always smooth," said Samuel Lacho, TWR's ministry director for Central and Eastern Europe. But with the ongoing vision to meet people where they are, "change becomes even desirable."

In the Middle East, a huge audience remains for radio, the TWR Arabic Ministry director said, because not everyone has access to the internet and because of a high illiteracy rate.

The bottom line, he said, is not the means that are used but the message.

"Tools may change, players may change, but the message is still there, and the calling is still there," he said. "We want to spread the good news so that lasting fruit is produced. We want to see people's hearts, people's lives changed by what we're doing."

TWR Americas and TWR Europe staff writers contributed to this report.



Help us grow the fund

Your contribution will encourage missionaries, enabling them to remain focused on ministry.

Visit twr.org/mpf.

Staying focused on ministry, not high prices

When Grant and Jenna Hodgins became TWR missionaries and moved with their two children to Guam nearly 10 years ago, they managed to find living quarters to rent for \$1,500 a month.

Within a year, the Hodgins needed to move, and their rent shot up to \$2,450. Missionaries arriving after them faced similar rents. Gasoline today hovers at around \$5 a gallon, and milk is about \$13 a gallon, said Grant, the station director of KTWR. Guam is an ideal location for broadcasting via shortwave to restricted countries such as China and North Korea and other listeners across Asia.

Jenna explained that her usual cost-cutting measures back in the States mostly don't work on Guam. Generic products are scarce, and prices are roughly the same at all stores. On average, groceries cost twice what they do in the U.S., so families must adapt to having less quality and variety in the pantry and refrigerator, she said.

These experiences of the Hodgins and other missionaries are the reason TWR recently established the Missionary Partnership Fund. When they join the ministry, TWR missionaries are required to develop partnerships with churches and individuals committed to supporting them on the field through prayer and funding. If the living costs of missionaries in essential but increasingly

expensive locations overtake the amount of support raised, TWR's General Fund must make up the difference.

"If a missionary raises a substantial amount to live on Guam, for example, and the total cost ends up being 20% more per year, well, they're doing a fantastic job, but that extra 20% is still a cost to the General Fund," TWR Chief Personnel Officer Rick Weston said. "This program will be able to help cover more of that shortfall. That means the money in the General Fund can get spent on ministry elsewhere."

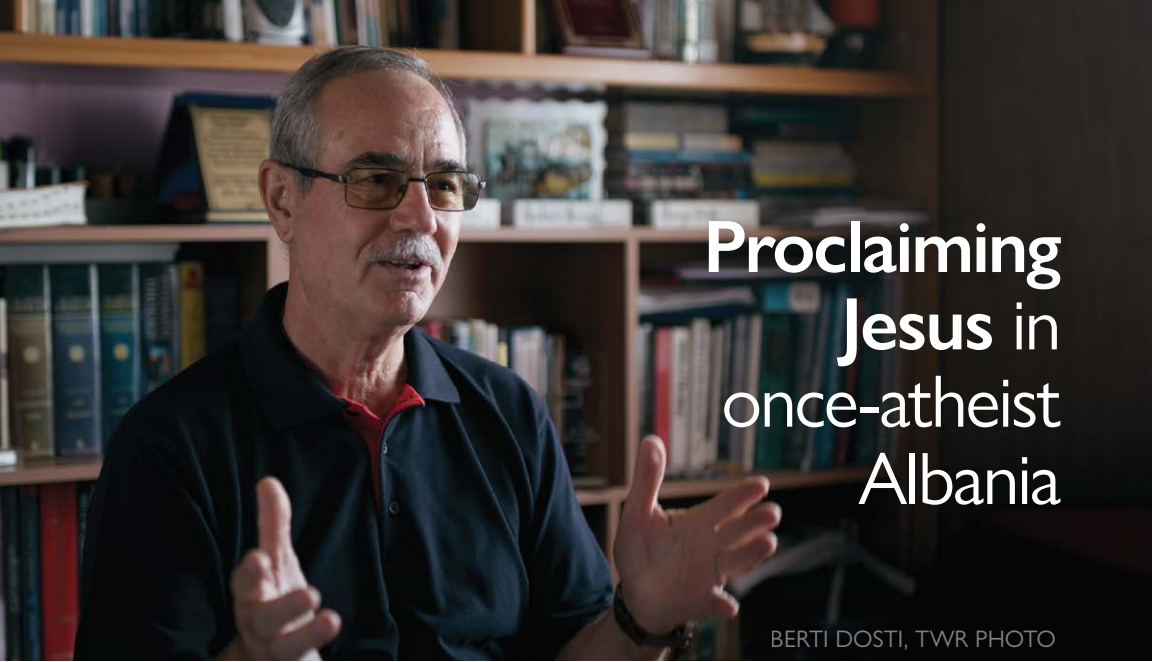
TWR Missionary Care Director Brad Livermon said missionaries often stay extremely busy.

"While [building and maintain partnership teams] is one of the roles we missionaries signed up for, with all the other responsibilities, that sometimes gets kind of pushed back," Livermon said. "With missionaries serving abroad, you've got a whole additional set of challenges living outside their home culture. The big picture is that the Missionary Partnership Fund helps relieve those challenges a bit."

— TWR Magazine Staff Writer



Top left: Grant and Jenna Hodgins have seen prices skyrocket since moving to Guam 10 years ago. Above: The Hodgins family: Matthew, Jenna, Grant and Rachel.



Proclaiming Jesus in once-atheist Albania

BERTI DOSTI, TWR PHOTO

If you've read the books *God's Secret Listener* or TWR's own *Making Waves*, you're aware of the intriguing story about the Albanian captain who stumbled upon a gospel broadcast.

In the late 1980s, Bert Dosti's military assignment was to scan the radio waves seeking signs that Western countries might be planning to invade his communist homeland. Ironically, the soldier tuned in one night to a program called *Way of Peace* from Trans World Radio Monte Carlo.

"What is this all about?" Dosti asked himself. "Who is this Jesus? Because I had never heard of him before."

That broadcast would set him on the path to a total life change. He tells his story in an engrossing 6½-minute video at twr.org/berti. Alex Lemus, a TWR video producer, traveled to Albania to interview and record Dosti.

"When you first meet him, you are struck by a feeling of welcome and belonging in his house and country," Lemus said. "It was a surprise to find out how many different roles he has in the gospel ministry in Albania and how many people he serves now."

Dosti's first encounter with the gospel is a fitting foretaste of the society that TWR's national partner in Albania reaches out to today. Its ministry was examined in one of the monthly features making up TWR's Reach the Last series.

"I've learned that there are many who still haven't heard the name of Jesus," TWR Albania Director Ledi Hebibasi said.

WATCH & READ

See the video: twr.org/berti

Check out the whole series:
twr.org/reach-the-last

Hebibasi and the ministry she leads use FM radio and digital media to share programs such as *In Touch Ministries*, *Truth in a Test Tube*, *Women of Hope* and *Men of Courage* with the Muslim-majority population.

Their work is having an impact, even in nearby Italy. An Albanian immigrant there wrote via social media to say she grew up surrounded by atheism and had unsuccessfully sought religious meaning in churches, mosques and shrines to saints. A doctor diagnosed her as having depression before a friend told her about Jesus, sharing links to gospel radio programs and praying with her to receive Christ in her heart.

"Thank you for showing me the first teachings with Dr. [Charles] Stanley [on *In Touch*]," she wrote. "Thank you for opening my eyes. ... God has found me, and I am so happy about this. I want to tell the whole world about this Jesus."

TWR Albania helped her find a church home where she was living in Italy, and she was still attending when she wrote.

— TWR Magazine Staff Writer



YOUR LEGACY

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