

EDITION 4

2023

**twr**  
TWR-WECAF.ORG

# ***Tanuli!*** **Magazine**

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



## ***Editorial***

***Taking the gospel to the  
'Venice of Africa'***

***Changed lives in a  
dangerous place***

***Sharing Jesus with  
Cameroon's Pygmies***

# CONTENTS

## 3 EDITORIAL

## 5 TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE 'VENICE OF AFRICA'

## 9 CHANGED LIVES IN A DANGEROUS PLACE

## 13 SHARING JESUS WITH CAMEROON'S PYGMIES



**Tanuli!**  
Magazine

### *Imprint*

Chief Editor: Abdoulaye Sangho

Contributors: Marietjie Prollius, David Irondi, Abdoulaye Sangho, John Lundy

Design: Eberhard Haberkorn

✉ [wecaf@twr.org](mailto:wecaf@twr.org)

🌐 [twr-wecaf.org](http://twr-wecaf.org)

📘 [twrwecafpage](https://www.facebook.com/twrwecafpage)

📺 TWR WECAF

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

## God's love for humanity, All humanity



*So faith comes from what we hear, and what we hear comes from the word of Christ. But I say, have they not heard? On the contrary! Their voice has gone out into all the earth, And their words to the ends of the earth.*

Rom. 10:17

Radio, in the thinking of today's generation and digital addicts, is already part of media history. While this may be true in technologically advanced countries, it is certainly not the case in any African countries.

This magazine presents three countries that are typical of this reality, with a narrative that differs from the commonplaces told today.

From a small territory in West Africa where God decided to install a powerful regional radio station to reach West Africa, TWR West Africa Station, we broadcast the Good News daily to men and women living

in areas virtually inaccessible other than by radio. Villages on stilts, and camps set up in areas with no access other than on foot for historical reasons of security when tribes used to wage war against each other.

Our teams on site had to use all the means at their disposal to penetrate these no-go areas and bring the instrument for capturing the waves - a radio - so that the "*Way that cries in the desert*" could also cry out on the mountain and over the water. The result is breathtaking. God acts and saves lives.

In northern Nigeria, so many lives have been lost to terrorism and jihadism. Eighty-nine percent of the Christians killed worldwide were killed in this country, the most populous in Africa. We have no choice but to proclaim the Gospel of salvation and peace in this country. This is TWR's biggest project in Africa. The challenges are many, but our Lord is the ruler





## God's love for humanity

of the universe, with a boundless love for this country and its people. Our vision and calling has brought us to where the lost are. To save Nigeria is also to save Africa. We will do it with your prayers and support.

Cameroon is another reality. Here, too, lives a special people, found not only in Cameroon but also in Gabon, the DRC, the Central African Republic and the Congo: the pygmies. It's also to this people, whom many describe as primitive, that we set out to bring the Gospel. How could we do so without the radio, the players and memory cards that can contain the message of life and the reminder of God's love for humanity, all humanity.

God amazes us every time we obey his command to go *"to the ends of the earth to proclaim the Good News"*.

I invite you to read the testimonies of our missionaries, your missionaries in the field. And continue to pray for them.

Dr. Sangho Abdoulaye

*TWR-WECAF International Director  
From Dakar, 7 October 2023*





# TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE ‘VENICE OF AFRICA’

## Benin

Villagers in a place established as a refuge from slavery are discovering freedom from sin, thanks to the outreach of TWR’s partner in the western Africa nation of Benin.

Ganvie, built on stilts in the middle of Benin’s Lake Nokoué, means “*We survived*” in the Tofinu language, the language of the Tofin people group. The village people is known as the “*Venice of Africa*” and attracts

10 000 tourists annually, according to a Euronews article, which was published online in 2022.

But Ganvie originally was built on stilts not to attract people. It was built to scare away people who had an evil intent. It was founded in the 1800s, according to Euronews, when the Tofin people were trying to evade soldiers from neighbouring kingdoms who sought to capture and sell them to Portuguese slave traders.

The tribespeople knew the soldiers believed a terrible demon lived below the surface of the lake. The soldiers’ superstition made life on the lake a safe place for the tribe.





## Taking the gospel ...

The threat died out, but the Tofin people remained in their village on stilts. Not surprisingly, their primary source of subsistence was fishing, supplemented in recent times by tourism. What most of them don't have is a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.



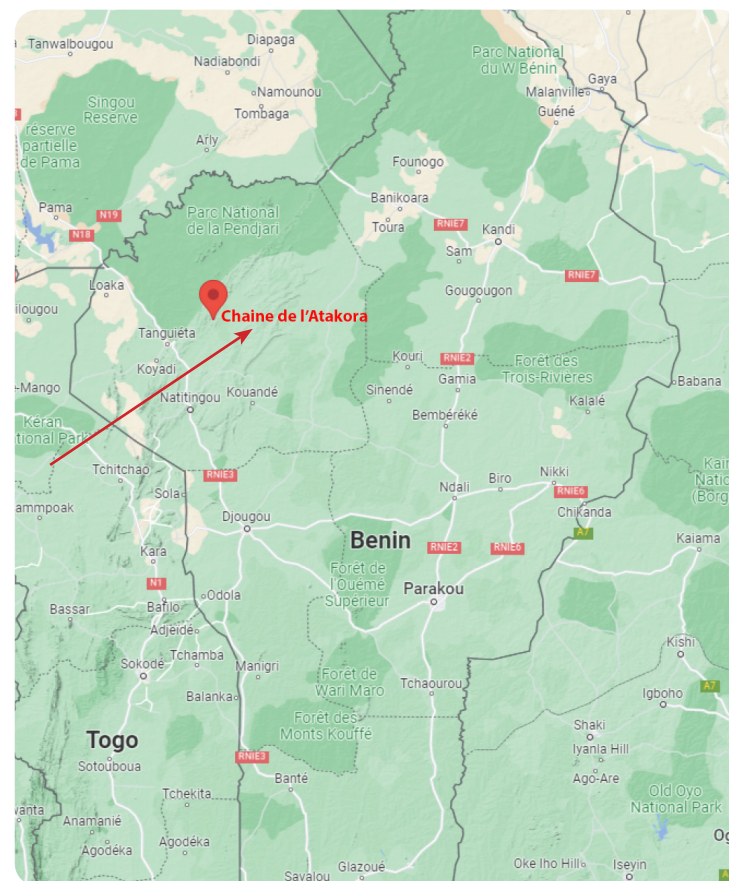
All 167 000 of the Tofin people live in Benin, according to the International Missions Board. Most still practice animistic religion, and fewer than 2% are considered evangelical Christians. They speak the Tofin Gbe language.

A separate people group, the Berba people, are found in what's considered the “no-go area” of the Atakora Mountains in the northwest of Benin, according to Media Evangelique du Benin (MEB), TWR's partner in Benin. Originally animistic, this people group has evolved so that about half now follow ethnic religions, almost one-third are Muslim and about 17% are Christians.

An MEB team went to both areas earlier in 2023, distributing Bibles and radios for the

purpose of bringing Jesus to these people groups.

This was part of a larger effort from April to June to reach out to twenty-two districts



## Taking the gospel ...

and/or people groups with the following objectives:

- Reach the unreached.
- Allow people to hear the Word of God so that lasting fruit can be produced.
- Broaden the coverage map of the MEB ministry.
- Generate new ministry opportunities.
- Stay connected with local partners in Benin.

The team aims to reach two more special groups in Benin: the military and high school students.

Teams were able to achieve their goals with fifteen of the groups or districts. Planned visits to prisons were held up for bureaucratic reasons. The rainy season prevented some

planned distributions, and conflicts with other activities put some on pause.

Still, teams were able to visit a wide variety of groups, including military forces, partner pastors, *Every Man A Warrior* pastors, Women of Hope groups and students. Among the Berba, they reached several villages and outposts.

The Word did not return void. After a small MEB team arrived in Ganvie – by boat, of course – Bibles and radios were distributed and the MEB director prayed over the Tofin people there. And six of the people of Ganvie responded by surrendering their lives to Jesus.

Throughout the Berba villages, the team also received powerful, encouraging feedback. A

woman whose only faith was a form of animism began weeping as soon as she started listening to the Word of God in the Biali language using an audio Bible on an SD card. Asked why she was crying, she said she had never imagined she'd be





## Taking the gospel ...

able to have a radio. She began to pray, asking that God would bless those who sent radios with God's Word on them.

A Berba Muslim man said he was happy to receive a radio and a Bible even though he was not a Christian. He told the MEB team that he had always believed that Christians were enemies to be avoided, but the gifts proved to him that Christians love Muslims.

*"This has changed the way he looks at Christians," the MEB team reported. "He will listen to the Word of God with the card reader."*

Across the fifteen districts and groups, the teams distributed 448 radios and 950 Bibles from April to June. But they are not ready to stop, making a promise to visit a place most people want to leave:

*"We will go to prison as soon as we get a license," they reported.*





### THE PEOPLE

- ✓ People name: Gbe, Tofin
- ✓ Country: Benin
- ✓ Their language: Tofin Gbe
- ✓ Population: 167 000

### ✓ MAJOR RELIGIONS IN BENIN

- ✓ Ethnic religionist 50.4%
- ✓ Christian 31.7%
- ✓ Muslim 17.4%



# CHANGED LIVES IN A DANGEROUS PLACE

## Nigeria

In the most dangerous region of the most dangerous country in the world to be a Christian, people are coming to faith in Christ.

*"I just received information from one of the core states in the North where people are listening to the radio programmes of TWR and where distributions have been made," wrote Obi [pseudonym for security purposes], a discipling believer located in Nigeria. "The Lord has brought a soul to himself, and we have been called upon that the new convert will be brought to us for discipleship."*

Of Nigeria's 213 million population, nearly half are Christians, according to Open Doors, which tracks persecution of believers. But in the North of the country, Christians are fewer, and

under attack: 89% of the 5 621 Christians killed for their faith in 2022 were killed in Nigeria, Open Doors reports.

When TWR's partner in Nigeria obtained 660 radios to distribute this year, they wanted to reach various areas, wrote the director of the TWR Nigeria partner.



*"More attention, however, is given to the northern parts of the nation," he continued. "These areas have been affected by insurgency, attacks on churches, Christians and the gospel, causing many to avoid churches for safety. We intentionally send more to these areas to give people access to the*







## Changed lives in a dangerous place

*Word as they tune in and listen to TWR."*

TWR broadcasts to Nigeria through its 200 000-watt Oasis Transmitter, which went on the air in 2020 from the West Africa Transmitting Site. Programmes are broadcast in Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba, Kanuri, Pidgin English, African English and Fulfulde (the language of the Fula-



ni people). Programmes are also broadcast on some FM stations in Nigeria.

Radio is effective at overcoming barriers, but in northern Nigeria those barriers are significant.

*"In a number of areas, hostile religious groups try to block their people from listening to Christian messages, even on radio," the director wrote.*

*"Sometimes, they trace the radio stations and threaten them, in addition to threats on the translators."*

To counter these challenges, the TWR Nigeria partnership sometimes uses translators who live outside of their home states, he wrote further. Sometimes, radio stations from neighbouring states are used to broadcast into perilous regions so that the stations are safer from attack.

According to him, messages on SD cards can be helpful, because people can listen to them in the privacy of their homes and offices. *"We are trusting God to be able to fund SD cards for mass distribution."*

In addition to the use of local FM stations, the TWR national



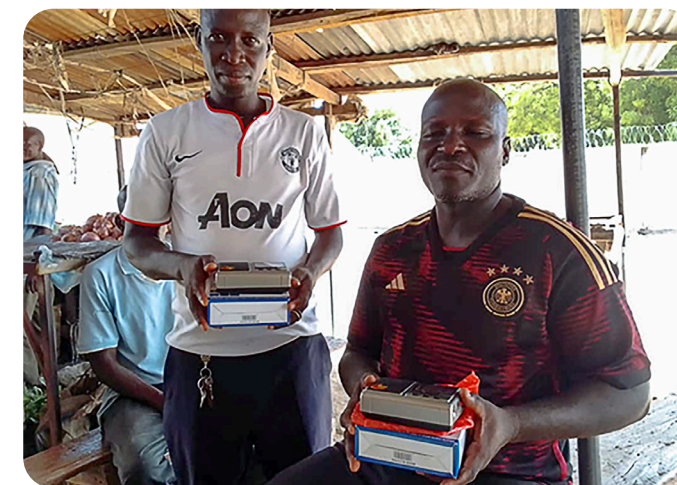
## Changed lives in a dangerous place

partnership in Nigeria is sending audio files via the instant messaging service WhatsApp, he continued. Listeners can download and listen to the messages and send feedback.

The Word is getting through, and it is not returning void.

*"Listening to the Word of God on radio and reading the Bible which was given to me has helped to build up my faith in Jesus," wrote "Mr. G," who was recently released from prison. "I am growing strong in him. ... Please, I request that more attention be given to the people of my tribe – the Fulanis – to help them hear more of the Word of God. We pray that many of our people will come to know the Word of God. We pray that many of our people*

*will come to know the truth and be saved."*



*"The messages from TWR are changing our lives," wrote "Mr. J" from an internally displaced persons camp in a region dominated by a non-Christian religion. "People are coming to me asking for access to more of the radio programmes because we are enjoying every moment we listen to the Word of God. You know, many people here*



TWR Distributing radios during *Every Man A Warrior* Conference in Abia State







## Changed lives in a dangerous place

*in the camp are traumatised due to the experiences that brought them here. But listening to the messages is bringing healing to those going through trauma.”*

“Mr. A,” who lives in the same region, shared this exciting news:

*“TWR has changed the lives of so many members of the churches and many Christians here in the North. I know two people ... who were from a different religion, but through these programmes and the Hausa Bibles TWR shared to us, they started reading the Bible, and today they have given their lives to Jesus and become Christians.”*

The director asked for prayer that the eyes of those attacking the gospel in this region of Nigeria would be opened to see the light and embrace the truth rather than oppose it.

He also asked for prayer that the Lord would supply more resources. Many volunteers on the ground are eager to distribute materials, follow up and

disciple new believers even in volatile areas, he wrote. *“But we need to supply them the necessary tools and empower them for the assignment.”*

TWR



### POPULATION

230,842,743 (2023 est.)

### ETHNIC GROUPS

Hausa 30%, Yoruba 15.5%, Igbo (Ibo) 15.2%, Fulani 6%, Tiv 2.4%, Kanuri/Beriberi 2.4%, Ibibio 1.8%, Ijaw/Izon 1.8%, other 24.9% (2018 est.)

### LANGUAGES

English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani, over 500 additional indigenous languages

### RELIGIONS

Muslim 53.5%, Roman Catholic 10.6%, other Christian 35.3%, other 0.6% (2018 est.)

© Information: CIA Factfile



# SHARING JESUS WITH CAMEROON'S PYGMIES

## Cameroon

*In the beginning, the god Tore created all that we know: deer, pigs, hippos, elephants, bananas, coffee plants – all the animals in the great forest that hides us, protects us and feeds us.*

*Tore created us: male and female. The Big People call us the Baka Pygmy people. They say most of us live in Cameroon, but that name means nothing to us.*

*After making us, Tore lost interest, and departed to the sky. It did not matter. Tore had left all we needed to live well. The rainforest provided ample food and shelter. The rivers brought the water we needed and protein from the fish.*

*But now, all is not well. The Big People came with their great machines and cut down many of the trees. The animals that*

*provide our meat are harder to find, and our children are malnourished. The Big People brought diseases, such as AIDS and tuberculosis; they introduced alcohol and drugs to our young people. The neighbouring Bilo people used to enslave us. Now, it's these substances that enslave us.*

*Our Fathers told us that if we were in trouble, we should call upon Tore to return to us with a trumpet blast. We are in trouble now. But if we call Tore, will he come?*



## ➤ Sharing Jesus with Cameroon's Pygmies

The above account, drawn from TWR reports, a description from the Joshua Project and from England's Guardian newspaper, depicts the desperation and spiritual poverty of the Baka Pygmy people, who live in the dwindling tropical rainforests of Cameroon.

According to Anath Ndoukou, Central Africa ministry coordinator for TWR, these semi nomadic hunter-gatherers – best known for their small stature – are dependent on the trees.

*"The forest is their grocery store and pharmacy," he wrote. "Their extensive knowledge of the plants and animals is unmatched. But their way of life is threatened by rapid deforestation."*

With introduced diseases and substances permeating their

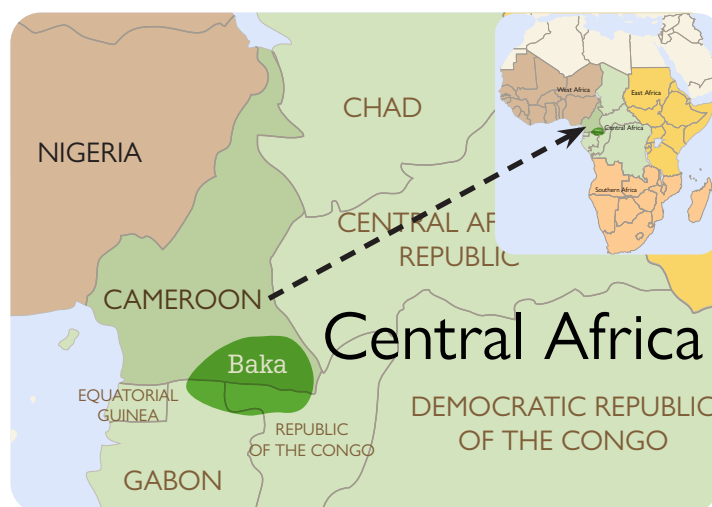
society, the average life expectancy of the Baka is 42 years, Ndoukou wrote, and 50% of the Baka people die before reaching the age of five.

Their population of about 60 000 lives in groups of no more than 200 people and are scattered across an area that is about the size of the U.S. state of Maine. (By way of comparison, Maine is home to 1.372 million people, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.)

There's even worse news: Most of the Baka people don't know Jesus. But in three days last May, Ndoukou's team started introducing them to a God who does see and hear them and will never lose interest in them.

Working alongside Barry Abbott, a locally based missionary with World Team, the group distributed 200 radios and 200 SD cards in six Baka villages. The cards come with an Old and New Testament in the Baka language, Baka music and the programmes *"Knowing Jesus"* and *"Walking With Jesus."* The audio content is ideal in a people group that is largely illiterate.

In each village, the team would first locate the chief and ask permission to distribute the radios



## ➤ Sharing Jesus with Cameroon's Pygmies

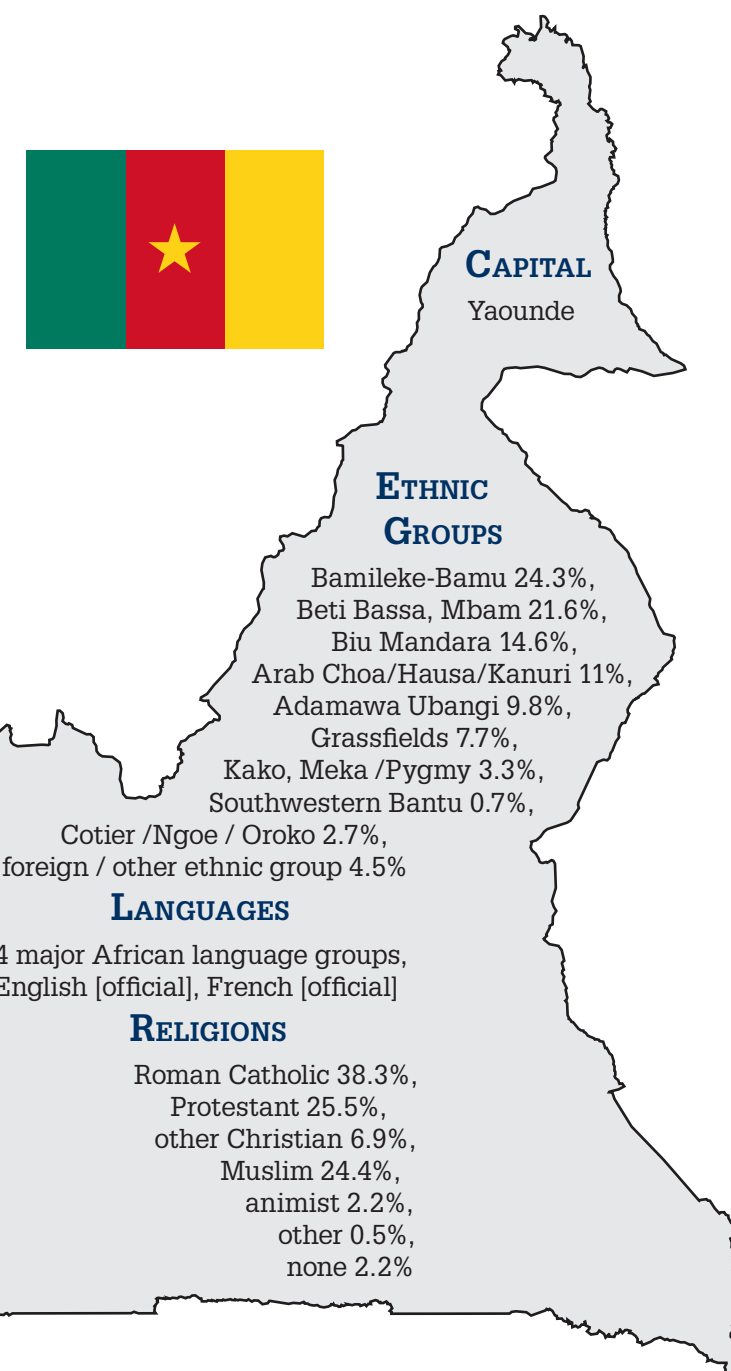
and SD cards. In five of the six, the chief was the first to receive a radio; and the group was never turned away.

The Baka of the Cameroon rainforest were eager to receive the Word, Ndoukou said.

*"After receiving the radios, they were listening [to] the gospel in the villages between families, [and it] was wonderful to see that," he wrote. They were happy to know that there is a God who loves them and [is] ready to save them. They opened their hearts to the Lord, and we prayed for them."*

It was not the first time a team led by Ndoukou had reached out to a Baka Pygmy population. Two years earlier, at the request of an evangelist to a Baka village in Gabon, the team distributed 200 radio players in that region, with good follow-up visits and a discipling programme.

Please pray that lasting fruit will be produced in the Baka communities of the Cameroon.







## Sharing Jesus with Cameroon's Pygmies





Sundays -  
04:47 UTC  
17:47 UTC  
Medium Wave 1476 Khz

*Tony* EVANS  
THE URBAN ALTERNATIVE

Radio  
evangile  
Côte d'Ivoire 105.4 FM

*La radio qui change les vies.*

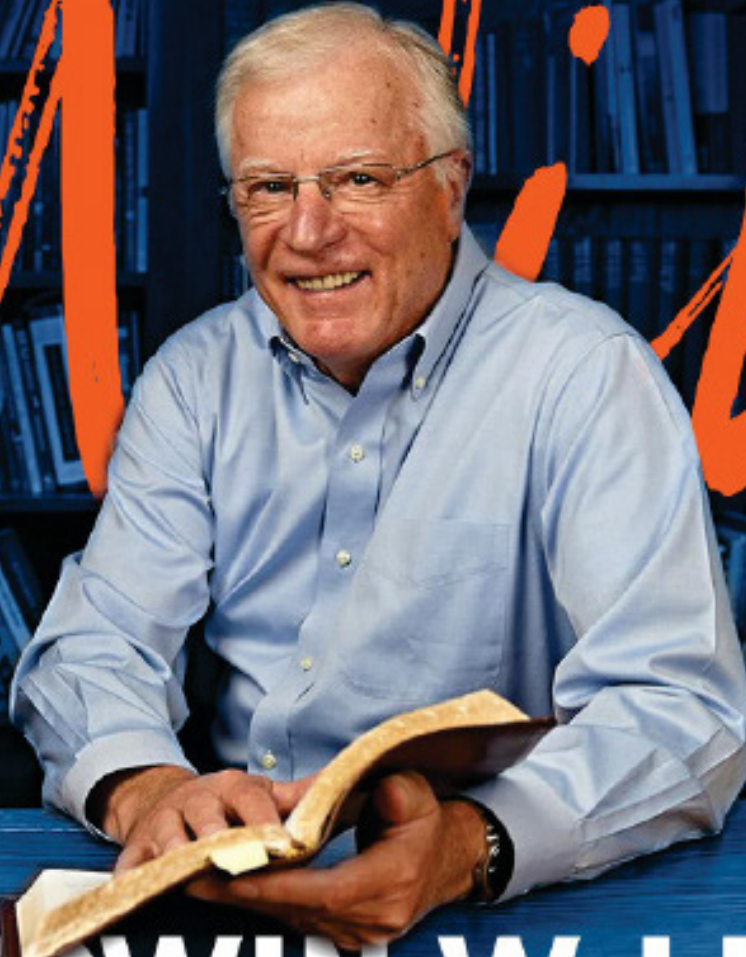


BP. 834 Yamoussoukro Email : [radioevangile.dp@gmail.com](mailto:radioevangile.dp@gmail.com)  
Tel. 27 24 34 46 14 / 27 35 97 59 89



twr

# RUNNING TO



# DR. ERWIN W. LUTZER

twr

**Tanuli!**  
Magazine

EDITION 4

2023