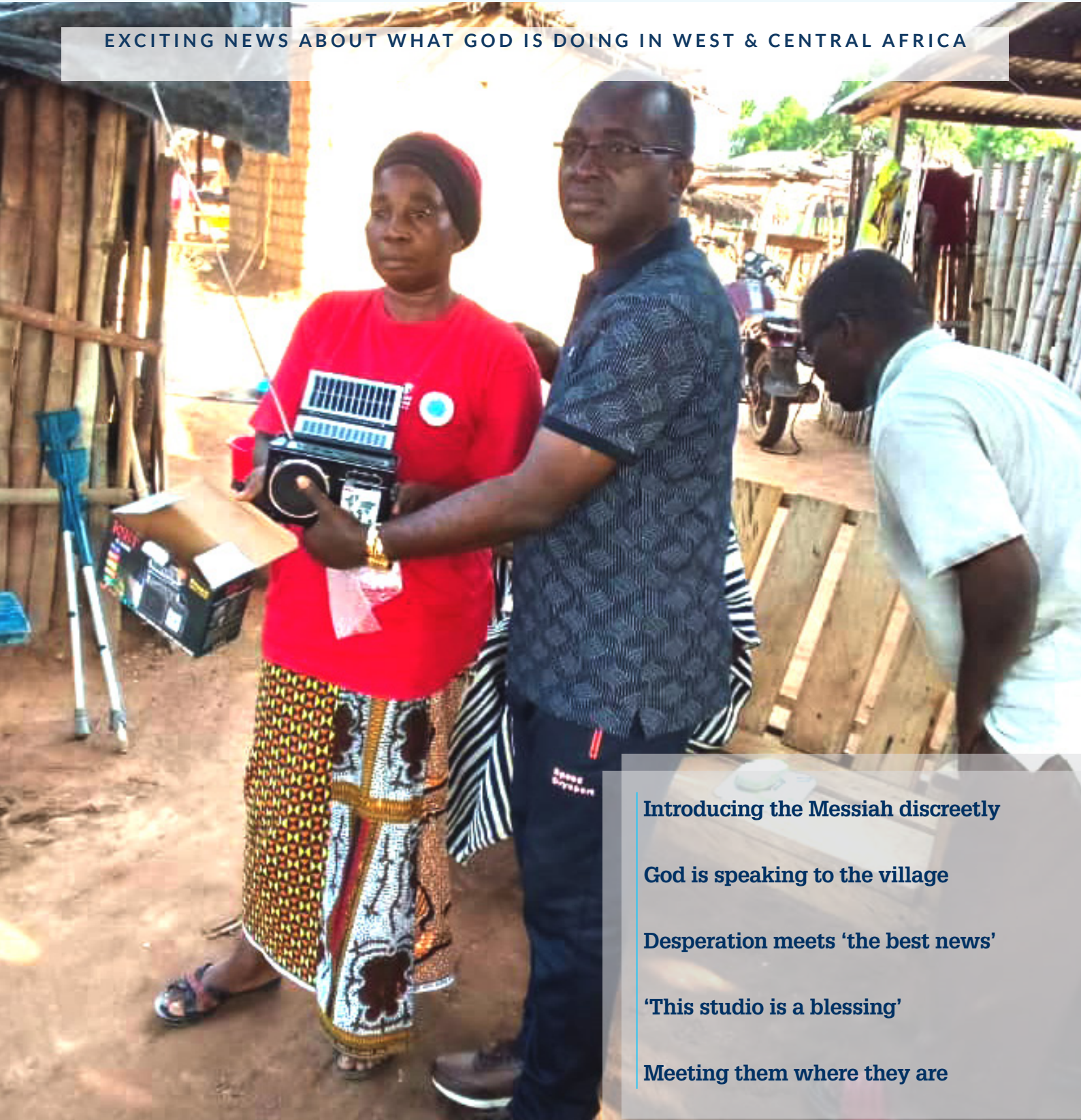


# ***Tanuli!*** **Magazine**

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



Introducing the Messiah discreetly

God is speaking to the village

Desperation meets 'the best news'

'This studio is a blessing'

Meeting them where they are

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**Tanuli!**  
Magazine

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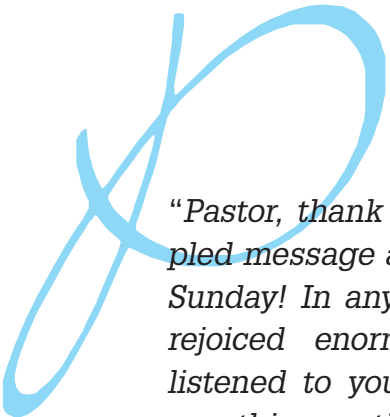
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*We share with you what God is doing in West & Central Africa.*

# INTRODUCING THE MESSIAH DISCREETLY

*Editorial by  
Dr Sangho Abdoulaye*



*"Pastor, thank you for the coupled message and testimony of Sunday! In any case, my heart rejoiced enormously when I listened to you. May the Lord use this practical message for us and for all those who have heard it or already heard it on the airwaves. Andrew, a great discreet investor. This is the first time, in more than 54 years of walking with the Lord, that I have heard such a testimony about Andrew (Andrew, brother of Simon Peter the Apostle). Thank you and continue to be blessed... My frater-*

---

May the Lord use this practical message for us and for all those who have heard it or already heard it on the airwaves.

---

*nal greeting."* Brother Attoungbré Vincent, Côte d'Ivoire

Brother Vincent had just listened to a message that we delivered in his church. He is an elder of the church and very involved in the life of this community with his wife and children.

A message based on the text of John 1:35-42  
*"The next day John was there again, with two of his disciples; he looked at Jesus as he passed by, and said, Behold the Lamb of God. The two disciples heard these words*

*and followed Jesus. Jesus turned around. He saw that they were following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi, which translates to Mas-*

*ter, where do you live?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he lived; they stayed with him that day... Andrew, brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who had heard John and followed Jesus. He first finds his own brother, Simon, and he says to him, "We have found the Messiah – which translates to Christ." He led him to Jesus..."*

↘



## Introducing the Messiah discreetly



Andrew did not write any of the books found in the Holy Scriptures. He did not enjoy fame but it was he who led the Apostle Peter to Jesus, *“and then it was Philip’s turn to believe and pass the message to Nathaniel.”*

It was again Andrew who found the young man whose loaves and fish were used to feed more than 5,000 people.

Even today we continue to write the continuation of the book of the Acts of the Apostles with non-extraordinary acts.

Simply present the *“Lamb of God”* to the narrow and the broad, the neighbor and the far away and souls are discreetly won.

I simply invite you to do as we do, in the legendary discretion

of Andrew, to make people discover the Messiah, the Christ.

Dr Sangho Abdoulaye  
TWR-WECAF International Director

twr

---

I simply invite you ... to  
make people discover  
the Messiah

---





# GOD IS SPEAKING TO THE VILLAGE

*Danite people of Côte d'Ivoire are hearing the Word and responding*

In the little village of Meapleu, teaching about a new religion draws fierce resistance.

*“Any evangelization group that ventured there was pursued with stones,” said Missionary Pastor Philippe Makaye, Dan Region manager for the Facility Foundation Côte d'Ivoire, a TWR partner. “But radio evangelism uses the airwaves to reach the hearts of the most hostile men in their homes.”*

The message of the gospel through radio has brought families to Christ and transformed an entire village, Makaye said in an email.

The majority of the world's nearly 2 million Dan people live in Côte d'Ivoire, according



There are approximately 700,000 members of the group and their largest settlement is Man, Ivory Coast. Neighboring peoples include the Krahn, Kpelle and Mao. They are officially known as Yacouba (or Yakouba) in Ivory Coast. In Liberia, they are also known as Gio (Bassa for “slave”), which is considered a derogatory exonym.

(Source: <https://www.101lasttribes.com/tribes/dan.html>)

to the Christian people group chronicler Joshua Project, with fewer in Liberia and a very small representation in Guinea. Within Côte d'Ivoire, one in three of the Dan people is a Christian adherent and about 15% are evangelical believers. The percentages are smaller in Liberia and Guinea. The majority of the Danites still follow ethnic religions.

Meapleu is part of a string of villages in the 18-mountains region of western Côte d'Ivoire, a region where the Danites and those fear-based religious beliefs

## God is speaking to the village

Country	Population
Côte d'Ivoire	1 748 000
Liberia	286 000
Guinea	1 500
Totals: 3	2 036 000

Source: Joshua Project

↘ have predominated. The people remain, but their beliefs and lifestyles have started to change since 2018-19 when TWR broadcasts began to be heard in some of the villages, Makaye said.

*"Among the first villages to hear the good news via radio was Bampleu, not far from the border with Liberia. Before the gospel broadcasts began to be heard, insecurity and fear were common among the 475 inhabitants," Makaye said.*

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

*"The village had a Christian presence, Makaye said, "and even church 'annexes' planted by pastors from the*

*surrounding area. They appointed faithful believers to lead these small churches, but they were leaders with no pastoral training and limited biblical knowledge."*

*"When the broadcasts began, these leaders were avid listeners", Makaye said, drawing inspiration for their own messages. "Everyone else was listening, too."*

*"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 15-minute evangelistic messages are based on biblical passages and make listeners aware of their need to be*

↘

## God is speaking to the village

↳ *reconciled to God, Makaye said. Each message ends with a call to conversion.”*

*“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. People in nearby villages are attracted by what they see, he added.

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

Meanwhile, in Meapleu, the villagers are devoted to masks, Makaye said. According to the nonprofit 101 Last Tribes, Danite masks embody spirits from the forest and are worn during masquerade rituals. The spirits may be either peaceful or warlike but in any event are mysterious and unpredictable. The traditional belief of the Dan people also includes reincarnation.



It was this backdrop that made the people of Meapleu resistant to the gospel. But the seven members of one family were listening to the messages on their radio.

↳



## God is speaking to the village

“After a teaching on repentance in January of this year, all seven decided to commit to following Jesus,” Makaye said. “A missionary is discipling the family.”



### OTHER REPORTS FROM THE REGION ARE SIMILARLY ENCOURAGING:

- Bin-houye Radio, named for the town in which it is located, is followed by more than 120 listening groups, including some with as many as 200 members.

- Another 32 listening groups have formed in Liberia.
- The station has around 50,000 regular listeners.
- In the village of Wheleu, a family of five came to faith in Christ.

*“After listening to one of our broadcasts, they became aware of the state they were in and decided to change their lives.”*

Makaye's desire is that more radios will be provided so that more among the Danite people can hear the message.

“Radio programs help pastors to move forward more quickly in winning lost souls,” he said.

“We estimate that with at least 2,000 radios we can still help villagers in neighbouring villages to be in contact with the radio stations broadcasting the Word of God.”

TWR



# DESPERATION MEETS 'THE BEST NEWS'

## Mauretania

"I was desperate in life," the caller said over the phone.

"I thought everything ... in my life is bad, and I will never succeed. I am almost 40 years old and still not married or [have] a job which can feed a family. But your message gives me hope."

*"The gospel of Jesus  
Christ is the best news  
I ever heard."*

The call in June 2023 came from a listener to *The Way of Righteousness* in Hassaniya Arabic. The call was from Mali, where among the 294 000 people who speak Hassaniya, none is officially counted as evangelical Christian, according to Joshua Project.

The situation is slightly better



Population	4 061 000
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	
<b>Black Moors</b> (Haratines – Arabic-speaking descendants of African origin who are or were enslaved by White Moors)	40%
<b>White Moors</b> (of Arab-Amazigh descent, known as Beydane)	30%
<b>Sub-Saharan Mauritaniens</b> (non-Arabic speaking, largely resident in or originating from the Senegal River Valley, including Halpulaar, Fulari, Soninke, Wolof, and Bambara ethnic groups)	30%
<b>Main Language</b>	Hassaniya
<b>Largest Religion</b>	
Islam	99.90%
Christian (Evangelical)	0.10%

Sources: Joshua Project, The World Factbook. CIA

next door in Mauritania, which has by far the largest Hassaniya-speaking population of any country: 0.1% of the population is made up of evangelicals.

Yet as the phone call transcript and others being received from Hassaniya speakers,

## Desperation meets ‘the best news’

▼ demonstrate, they are hearing the gospel, and some are responding.

*“We are always convinced that the Lord calls us to make known the good news of salvation also to the people whom the Lord loves and sacrificed his son for,”* said the Rev. Dr. Abdoulaye Sangho, TWR international director for West and Central Africa.

Hassaniya is spoken by 29 people groups in 11 countries, according to Joshua Project. The largest group speaking Hassaniya is the Moors.

Hassaniya speakers are deeply rooted in their religion.



By Ferdinand Reus from Arnhem, Holland  
Madrasah pupils

Religious observance is woven into the fabric of daily life, from the five daily prayers to the celebration of Islamic festivals and rituals.

Christians among the Hassaniya speakers need to navigate a complex landscape shaped by religious diversity, cultural traditions and societal norms. Open Doors, an agency that monitors persecution of Christians, placed Mauritania 23rd on its 2024 World Watch List of the countries where Christians face the most persecution.

*“Various examples are reported of Mauritanian Christians imprisoned and tortured,”* Sangho said.

---

*“Missionaries [are] murdered or expelled from the country for proselytism.”*

---

*“More recently, two of our local contacts were thrown in jail for trying to convert other Mauritians by distributing Bibles and Christian-message content.”*

**Yet Hassaniya-speaking Christians show remarkable resilience and faithfulness.**

While their numbers may be small, their

▼



## Desperation meets ‘the best news’

↓  
impact as salt and light within their communities is profound.

This is what another listener to Hassaniya-language programs in Mali wrote in December 2023:

---

*“After listening to the radio several times with your messages, I have decided to follow Jesus. I know it won’t be easy since my parents are Muslim. But I am truly determined to live from now on with Christ as Lord and Saviour.”*

---

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# 'THIS STUDIO IS A BLESSING'

## Gabon



As Jean-Anath and Charlene Ndoukou revel in the broadcast studio now available to them at TWR in Gabon, they continue to come up with new ideas about how to use it for God's glory.

Reach out to Muslim women? Check.

"We are ready to start production even now" for *Precious and Beloved*, Jean-Anath said.

Disciple believers? Check.

The Ndoukous are awaiting approval to begin producing *The Word for Today* in Nzebi, Jean-Anoth's mother tongue and a language that is widely spoken in Gabon, a majority-Christian nation.

Ethnic groups	
Fang	23.5%
Shira-Punu'Vii	20.6%
Nzabi-Duma	11.2%
Mbede-Teke	5.6%
Myene	4.4%
Kota-Kele	4.3%
Okande-Tsogho	1.6%
other	12.6%
foreigner	16.2% (2021 est.)
Languages	
French (official), Fang, Myene, Nzebi, Bapounou/Eschira, Bandjabi	
Religions	
Protestant	46.4%
(Revival Church	37%
other Protestant	9.4%)
Roman Catholic	29.8%
other Christian	4%
Muslim	10.8%
traditional/animist	1.1%
other	0.9%
none	7% (2019-21 est.)

Source: The World Fact Book CIA.gov



## ‘This studio is a blessing’

▼ But the Ndoukous and their staff of 10 are thinking about another group as well.

*“Now we are thinking also about the children,” Jean-Anath said. “We want to also produce a programme for kids. They need also the gospel of Jesus.”*

---

Jean-Anath and Charlene’s dream for a studio in Gabon came to fruition in October 2023 with help from Nate McGurk, TWR team leader for audio and acoustics on the Global Engineering team.

---

Paul Van Egdom, global training consultant for TWR, arrived in late January to lead training and since then has offered additional support online.

One priority is on hold while

*The Word for Today* is being prepared, but it remains close to Jean-Anath’s heart. That is Gabon’s young people. Many, he said, are making wrong choices and turning from the gospel of Jesus Christ.

*“Many of them are doing bad things, and we want to bring them back from the darkness to the light. ... This is a great need that we are facing now in Gabon.”*

Gabon, which went through a sudden transition when a military junta seized control of the government on August 30, 2023, has been stable, Jean-Anath said. He’s asking for prayer that his country remain peaceful.

Pray, also, that the studio will be used to its fullest potential.

*“We want to do good things for the Lord,” Jean-Anath said. “That’s why this studio is a blessing for us, and now we are using this studio for the blessing of the people of God.”*

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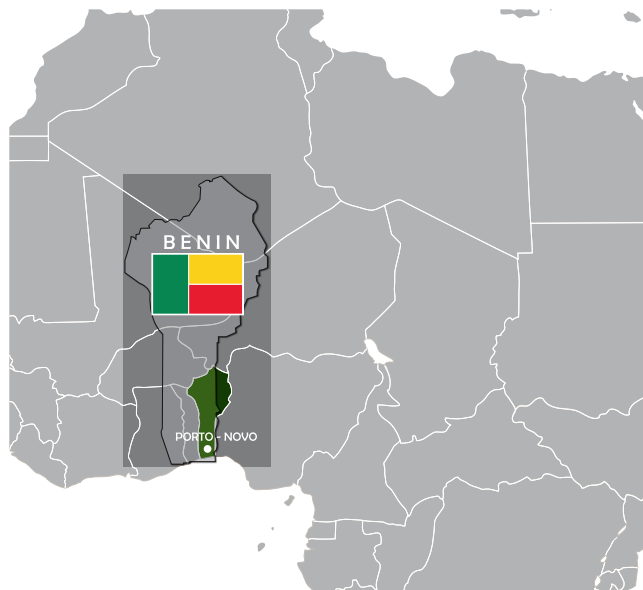
TWR West Africa

▼



# MEETING THEM WHERE THEY ARE

## *Digital ministry in Benin*



Nehi<sup>1</sup> loved religion from an early age. *“My zeal was known and appreciated by all,”* he related.

But as a newly married young adult, apprenticing in a key position for his church, Nehi started to experience doubts about *“the real questions about identity, the reason for my presence on earth as well as the question about eternity.”*

---

As he struggled,  
Nehi came across  
a programme on a  
radio station in his  
community in Benin.

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<sup>1</sup> A fictitious name. Nehi's story is derived from a January 2023 text to TWR about *Thru the Bible* Fongbe. The quotations are taken directly from the text.

The programme was *Thru the Bible*, and it was broadcast in his Fongbe (or Fon) language. Over a few months, Nehi's understanding began to change. *“By the grace of God, I really understood many truths about the gospel,”* he wrote.

Yet, Nehi had more questions. He found the place for answers: TWR partner Média Évangélique du Bénin (MEB) had a group on the social media site WhatsApp.

*“I must admit that they gave me answers that were as Scriptural as they were convincing, showing me each time that my religious position was not biblically approved by God,”* Nehi wrote.

The WhatsApp group is an example of digital ministry's increasing importance in MEB's strategy to reach the diverse nation of Benin for Christ.

*“What we notice is that young people are*

## Meeting them where they are

“*found on mobile phones,*” said Virgile Ouendo, MEB’s director, in an interview. “*We direct our message to the youth on mobile phones, via TikTok for instance so that they can be reached through that channel.*”

As the nation of Benin increasingly embraces digital media, MEB has been coming alongside to meet people where they are. It started with Facebook, Ouendo said, though that platform so far has not proven to be a strength.

But the MEB WhatsApp group is vibrant, with daily discussions, teachings and a Bible quiz. Testimonies are posted. About 700 people participate.

“*You know it’s a very dynamic group,*” Ouendo said. “*Today we have 20 persons added, and tomorrow, five or 10 persons will drop. We keep adding, but also people keep withdrawing for various reasons. Some of them have a bad phone. So,*

*most of the time it’s not because they don’t want to be there.*”

That was reflected in this January 2024 posting from a group member in the Goun language: “*I was very sad when my phone was spoiled because I [knew] that I [would] miss many topics online. Now I am very happy to be back.*”

---

*“Even people who are illiterate participate on WhatsApp, posting audio messages,”* Ouendo said.

---

On TikTok, MEB offers abbreviated teachings to attract listeners, Ouendo said. “*And we follow it with a link in order to get to the full programme.*”



“*Radio continues to be vital in Benin,*” Ouendo said, “*particularly in rural areas where most people can’t afford a mobile phone. MEB has distributed radios to various groups in the past and wants to keep doing that.*”

“*But WhatsApp seems to be the sweet spot*

▼

## Meeting them where they are

↘ *when it comes to digital media in Benin.”*

*“I think that our WhatsApp group is the platform on which we have really made an impact,” Ouendo said.*

*“Every contact has his choice of platform. And WhatsApp is the one that people most use in Benin.”*

---

For Nehi, the answers came via *Thru the Bible* and the WhatsApp group

---

For Nehi, the answers that came via *Thru the Bible* and the WhatsApp group led him to challenge his family and the religious leaders he had known.

He came under criticism, he wrote. *“But I am grateful to God who finally helped me to get out of religion. Thanks to the guidance of [the] Média Evangélique team, I joined a*

*group of worshippers in my locality despite threats from those I considered as brothers or leaders in the Christian faith. ... Today I have become a missionary in the service of my Saviour, me who used to be [a] religious man destined to death, now serving the Lord as a missionary with my little family.”*

TWR





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17:47 UTC  
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*Tony* EVANS  
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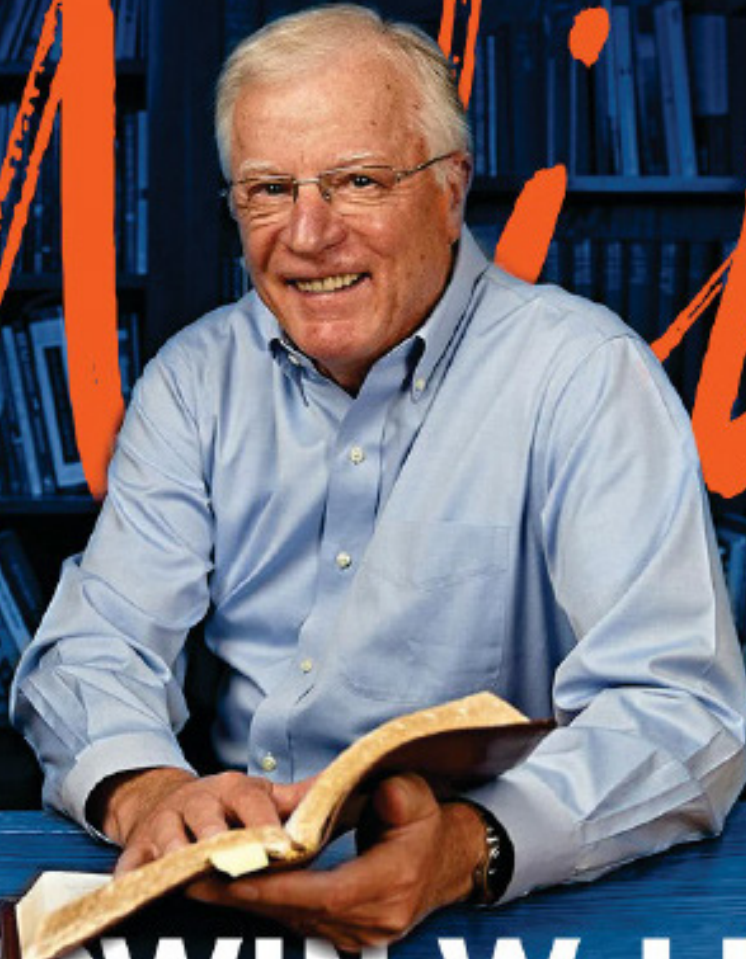


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