

A black and white photograph of a young woman with voluminous, curly hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a dark top and jeans. Her hands are holding a vintage-style portable radio with a speaker grille on the left and various buttons and knobs on the right. The word "HOPE" is overlaid on the center of the radio. The letter "l" in "living" and the letter "O" in "HOPE" are colored blue, while the rest of the letters are white.

# living HOPE

Responses to the global  
media ministry of TWR



living hope

The word 'living' is in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. The word 'hope' is in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are arranged in a staggered, overlapping manner where each letter of 'living' sits above and to the left of the corresponding letter of 'hope'.

RESPONSES TO THE GLOBAL  
MINISTRY OF TWR

**In his great mercy he has given us new birth  
into a living hope through the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

1 Peter 1:3



Speaking Hope to the World

## OUR CALLING

To reach the world for Christ by mass media so that lasting fruit is produced.

## WHAT WE DO

TWR unleashes media to share the hope of Jesus with people around the world.

We use the best tools available in ways that are most effective to share the message of hope — whether it's traditional radio, the internet, social media, podcasts, portable media players or YouTube channels — because barriers cannot impede God's Word.

## HOW WE REACH THE WORLD

PARTNER - We partner with individuals, organizations, churches and radio stations around the world to share hope across barriers.

PRODUCE - We produce and translate biblically sound content to reach a potential audience of billions in their heart languages.

DISTRIBUTE - We distribute gospel-based content via a global network of partners and media platforms, meeting people right where they are.

DISCIPLE - We encourage discipleship by training church leaders, providing in-depth Bible teaching and fostering lasting faith through relationships.

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# INTRODUCTION

## WE ALL NEED HOPE.

TWR (also known as Trans World Radio) is in the business of delivering hope to people around the globe. The ministry uses the best tools available in ways that are most effective to share the good news of Jesus — whether it's traditional radio, the internet, social media, video or portable media players. It's all done to overcome the barriers of ideology, inaccessibility, turmoil, brokenness, persecution and more that keep many from engaging with the gospel.

Every year, we hear from thousands of people who listen, watch or click through a TWR program. On the pages of this booklet, you'll find true stories shared with us revealing how God has transfixed hearts and transformed lives for eternity. These inspiring responses provide solid evidence that God continues to use TWR to build his kingdom for his glory.

We trust that you, in addition to reading heartwarming stories, will be encouraged by several devotional selections included to weave an enduring scriptural thread throughout. After all, it's God's Word that provides true and lasting spiritual fruit. And that's the living hope that endures.

RESPONSES FROM



## THE TRUE PEACEKEEPER

The names mentioned in these stories have been changed to protect the privacy of our listeners.

"It has been three years since I came to Somali for peacekeeping work. I believe that the true peacemaker is Jesus Christ. No one can bring peace with a gun.

I feel guilty serving as a solider and I fear taking action against any human being. I need your advice for what should I do, and I am asking you to tell me if killing anyone in the war is sin. I also need your prayers for the Somali people." – An Amharic language listener

## SIN EXPOSED BY GOD'S WORD

A listener in Côte d'Ivoire writes: "I had often heard that the Word of God convicts of sin, but I did not really understand what it meant. Today, when I listen to you, I see my miseries, the Word of God exposed my sin.

"I lived in sexual sin, selling my body to men, and that saddened God. I have always justified myself to people who tried helping me, and I told them my business is a proof of love that consists of relieving the needs of others! That was unhealthy love instead.

"Oh God, please help me to come out of this defilement. I need to give my life to Jesus Christ."

## THE GOD OF SECOND CHANCES

The security guard's radio was muffled against the backdrop of the noisy street, but Thato's ears picked up its words almost instantly.

Having grown up in a Christian home, Thato was familiar with the teachings in the Bible; however, choosing the wrong friends late in his teens led to unhealthy habits. Drug abuse brought him to the brink of death, and he found shelter in the company of fellow street kids.

Standing there, begging for food on the streets of Durban, his mind flooded with memories of his Christian upbringing. He asked the guard to turn up the volume.

"The man on the radio was preaching in Zulu, talking about the God of second chances. I looked at myself and thought, 'No way. I will not receive a second chance,'" Thato reflected.

His state of addiction left him weak and easily susceptible to disease. He developed a severe sickness that put him in the hospital.

Lying in the hospital bed, hooked up to monitors and stuck with IVs, he heard the same voice he had come across just a few days earlier coming from a radio on the bedside table.

He expressed, "I cried to myself and decided it was time for me to change."

With the help of his hospital nurse, he sought out his family who had first instilled in him the knowledge of the gospel. Upon finding them, he repented and accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior.

With gratitude, Thato wrote, "You saved my life through your preaching. May the Lord bless you and keep the fire burning. Because you brought my life back together, I'm sure you'll do the same for other young people out there."

## A FAITH STRENGTHENED

"I live in Abidjan. In 2018, I called to tell you that I was of another major religion and had converted to Christianity. After the persecution of my parents, I abandoned Jesus, but I returned to him and continue listening to *The Way of Righteousness* program in the Bambara language. This program is truly a blessing to me.

"After our conversation, I took your advice and today I attended the evangelical church where you referred me to six months ago. I want to say thank you because my faith is strengthened. The brothers and sisters of the church showed me their support. I would like to express my gratitude. Bless the Lord for his love!"

## THIRSTING FOR MORE

Sometimes the smallest notes give us the greatest glance of the impact we're making in the world. The following Swahili language message was sent via text to TVR's station in Kenya.

"I am a Muslim living in Mombasa. I woke up this morning to begin my fast and heard the program on the radio. I am not sure about the Christian faith, but I want to learn more."

Only three sentences, but they speak volumes to the authentic responses our listeners have to the gospel proclaimed from our towers. Though we don't know where this listener is now, we take heart in the power of God's Word.

## UNIFIED IN WORSHIP

The beginning of the story is all too familiar: Mom holds the family together, keeps the household afloat and points the children to God's Word. Dad has different priorities.

The 17-year-old daughter of this family, Ayana, got in touch with TWR in Africa to tell about her family and its connection to TWR radio programming. Mom looked after the children and the house, and Dad worked to earn a living. But Dad's income wasn't enough for the family to live on, and the situation was made worse as he hung out with his friends and spent money after work.

"Mom is wonderfully dedicated, enduring the entire burden of the family alone optimistically," Ayana wrote. "She is wise enough to manage the family life with the little income we earn. She is a strong-spirited woman confronting every challenge facing us."

Every night Mom would gather the children around the table to hear the TWR broadcast and then follow up by putting questions to each of the brothers and sisters to make sure the lessons had been grasped. The sessions would end with an earnest prayer that Dad would one day come join the family in listening to the Bible programs.

"Praise be his name, God has heard and answered our prayer," Ayana said. "Eventually Dad became a member of the listening group. This has brought about a remarkable change in the living standard of the family."

Now the family is unified in worshipping God. Dad isn't staying out and wasting money. Mom is demonstrating what a good manager she is, and the family's standard of living has improved. Listening to the Word of God over the radio helped work a miracle in their lives, Ayana reported.

"Being connected with the Lord Jesus, who is our source of peace, joy and satisfaction, now we have become the happiest family around here," she said.

## A TRUTHFUL WARNING

A listener to the Fulfulde language in Cameroon writes: "I am 32 years old and am one of your faithful listeners. I like the programs, and one of the topics which struck me most was "Warning." Yes, God warns us about what awaits us daily, but we are deaf and blind. I never miss an episode. It is very important to listen for advice and warnings. I am a Muslim and I am writing to support you. Once again, a big thank you to you because you tell us the truth."

## EXPERIENCING GOD'S PEACE

Aya is married with five children and lives in Côte d'Ivoire. She and her husband decided not to have any more children, but she found herself pregnant for the sixth time. The pregnancy created a wedge in her marriage. Her husband persistently fought for her to end the pregnancy, but she refused.

One day, Aya's husband didn't come home from work. His absence has made life hard, as her family has to provide for themselves; however, she doesn't regret her choice to keep her child.

"One day, as I listened to a program about abortion, I thanked myself that I did not commit abortion, and now I have peace in my heart." She continued, "I thank God for you and all your teachings. May God continue to use TWR to save ordinary people's lives like mine. I have peace in my heart and my baby is alive!"



## APATHY

Have you ever felt apathetic towards God? Or even disobeyed him when you knew he was calling you to do something? Jonah was no stranger to either. When the Lord told him to go preach to the people of Nineveh, he not only refused to obey but ran away from God, boarding a ship headed for Tarshish. So the Lord sent a great storm, and Jonah soon found himself thrown overboard into the sea and swallowed by a great fish. He remained in its belly for three days and three nights. At long last he understood his disobedience — and more importantly, God's grace: "In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me... To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit. When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple." (Jonah 2:2-3,6-7)

On the Lord's command, Jonah was released, and because we serve a patient God, "the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.'" (Jonah 3:1-2). Jonah obeyed, and his obedience brought the Ninevites to God! Despite Jonah's wandering, despite his defiance, despite his apathy for the call of God or the people of Nineveh, God met Jonah in his brokenness and carried out a miracle. What, then, could he do with you?

## TRANSFORMED

God meets us in our brokenness and carries out miracles. After leaving home at the age of 13, Carlos became a leader in the Colombian cocaine trade where he lorded over entire coca plantations for the infamous Pablo Escobar. He was a ruler, and his kingdom was a dark one. One harvesting season Carlos, a self-professed bookworm, found himself deep in the mountains with nothing to read, so he started reading the only book he could find on the plantation: a Bible. He and his 40 bodyguards would read together: "We talked about the New Testament everywhere, so we became something weird. We made cocaine, we were armed, but during the night we read the New Testament." Still, with all of this study, Carlos was apathetic toward God and the Word before him ... until one fateful day.

Carlos was left alone on the mountain checking some new fields when he was badly injured. He couldn't walk. He couldn't call for help. The sky fell to night, and nobody came. He pulled out the only solace he had: a radio. And as he fiddled with the dial, the voice of hope met him on his desolate mountain: "Several times I thought the preacher was right next to me, telling me everything. 'There is no safety without Christ. Say this prayer with me.' And in that moment, I received Christ." Three days later, he poured gasoline over his whole cocaine operation and set it on fire. "And that was that. Free from cocaine, free from the cocaine lab, free from everything." He became a pastor and began serving the Colombian people, using soccer to minister to the youth of Bogotá. Of his 40 former bodyguards, 14 are now pastors. To date, he has planted 25 churches. He says, "To receive Jesus was incredible. I really found Jesus — or he found me. I think it's the second one." God meets us in our brokenness and carries out miracles.

# JONAH



## A GREAT SURPRISE

"I am originally from El Salvador and have been listening to you since I was a child. My parents always listened to the program, around 1974. I grew up listening to these wonderful teachings.

"Because of the war, I left the country when I was only an adolescent. I have been living in the U.S. for more than 20 years. To my great surprise, one day I was listening to Radio Nueva Vida here in California and heard the program *A Través de la Biblia* (*Thru the Bible* in Spanish). It gave me such joy and pleasure.

"Even more surprising, when I was working in Los Angeles County at a home for the aged, one of my patients was listening to Radio Nueva Vida at 9 a.m. It was a great surprise to me. There was *A Través de la Biblia*. I said in my heart, 'Glory to God.'

"A few months ago, in my church, I was given the responsibility of teaching the youth, and I really want to teach them. For this reason, I would appreciate your sending me the Bible studies. I would like to receive them by email.

"May God continue to bless you."

## EXQUISITE SPIRITUAL FOOD

Diego was in his eighth year of military service in Colombia.

Always looking for ways to pass time in the evenings, he and his comrades would set up a radio and listen to music.

One evening, Diego flipped through the AM stations—the only stations a radio can pick up that deep in the jungle. Diego's radio caught the signal of the stations in the capital, and he heard the announcer talking about the apocalypse.

From then on, every night, even though it was difficult, he tried to listen to that program. Two nights later, he received Jesus Christ as his savior.

Diego considers the program "exquisite spiritual food."

Today he expresses, "Where I am now, I do not get the signal from the station, but, thank God, I do get it on my cellphone. I take advantage of the technology to be connected with you through Facebook.

"I will always continue in prayer for this blessed program. Glory to God for the gift that you have. May it reach every corner of the earth as it reached me far from civilization."

## A NOURISHING WORD

"I thank God for your lives. I am Venezuelan, but I live in Madrid. You are my company and my daily school. I am a believer but new in this city. I can only go to church on weekends. I keep getting nourished during the week when I listen to you on the internet. [You are] our family altar. You give the Word. My daughters, my husband and I are growing in faith. Thank you."

## HIS BLESSED INSTRUMENT

"My name is Marcus, and I am from the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia.

"Not more than about a year ago, I began to tune in to your TWR program. I like to listen in the morning while I'm on my way to work, and I confess that with every day that passes, I feel my life is not the same as before. As the Bible says, I feel like a 'new creation' when I listen to the Word of God through your programs. They help me grow spiritually. I commend you for the way you present and analyze each of the verses of the Bible and how they are interrelated.

"The reason for this note is to let you know that your work is not in vain. I am grateful to God to have you as my brothers—his blessed instrument—so that, as with me, many people can learn and know more about the word of God. And what is more important, they can apply this knowledge to their daily lives, and the Word of God will light their way."

## REKINDLED LOVE

A woman from the United States wrote the TWR team, sharing about her redeemed relationship with her husband.

Having been married about fifteen years, Angela and Richard hardly spoke a word to each other. There was wedge after wedge between them, including alcoholism, disrespect and infidelity.

Around that time, Angela had an encounter with Jesus and received him into her heart. A year later, Richard did the same; however, the couple was unfaithful to the Lord, and things seemed to be going from bad to worse.

The Lord brought her test after test until she gave in completely and surrendered every area of her life. Richard did the same about two years later.

Over the course of her conversion, Angela listened to TWR online through her phone.

Angela gratefully testified, "Now Richard has fallen in love with your program as well, and he tries to make space in his work to listen at 9 a.m. We both listen to the program at different times or at 5 a.m. when we get up, pray together and begin our communication. We feel peace. The love of our Lord Jesus Christ has rekindled the love and respect we had lost.

"I give thanks to the program that is a beacon of light that our heavenly Father is using to illuminate the lives of those who are in darkness."

# ESTHER

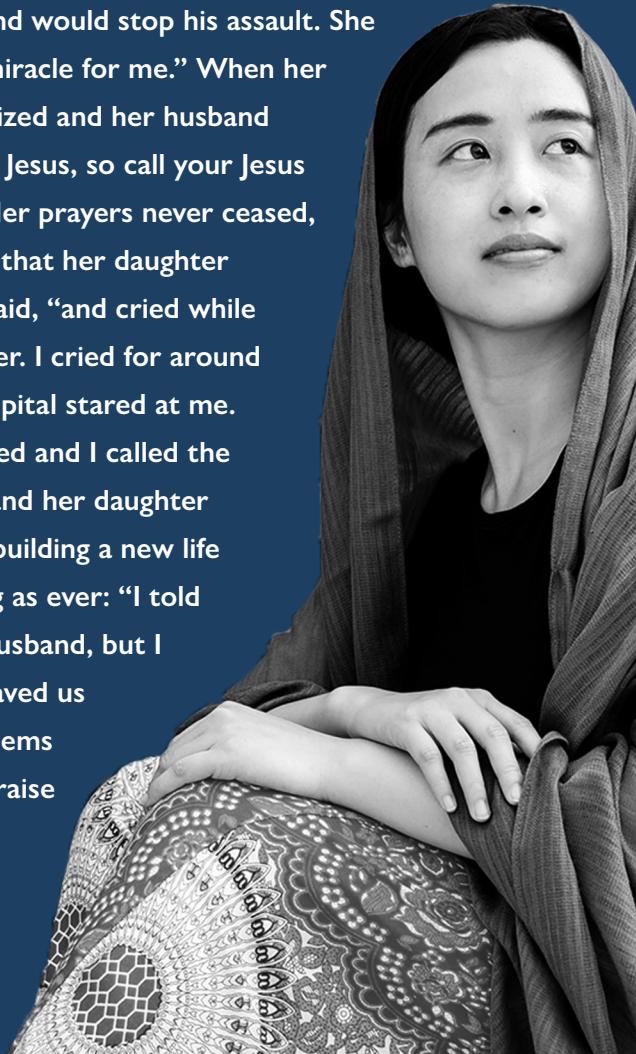


## TRAUMA

Have you felt trauma, like Esther? Trauma comes in a great deal of forms. An orphaned girl from an exiled people, Esther experienced hardship from an early age. And though she won favor with so many around her, in many ways, her life was not her own. She was a victim to her circumstance and to the decisions of people far more powerful than she. And soon, she found herself a queen married to a king who sought to annihilate her people, unable to even speak of her heritage for fear of its consequences. But when her strength was tested, how did she respond? In faith. She gathered the prayers of her brothers and sisters and boldly went before the king saying, “If I perish, I perish.” (Esther 4:16) At the risk of her own life, she petitioned the king, “If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request.” (Esther 7:3)

Esther’s faith in a time of great trauma and adversity saved an entire people, teaching us that even in the face of supreme suffering, God grants us unfathomable deliverance.

## DELIVERANCE



Even in the face of supreme suffering, God grants us unfathomable deliverance. Like the story of Esther, this next listener in Cambodia is no stranger to trauma. After enduring abuses from her parents and later her husband, she soon found herself facing the death of one child and the devastating illness of another. It wasn’t until a chance encounter with a missionary that she was introduced to TWR Women of Hope... and to Jesus! She had hope for the first time! And she believed, despite the ridicule she suffered at the hands of her husband and family. And though her circumstances were still very dire, it was God to whom she turned in her moments of desperation. When her husband made to attack or even kill her, she would cry aloud to her Savior, and her husband would stop his assault. She said, “This was God who did this miracle for me.” When her child became sick and was hospitalized and her husband abandoned them saying, “You have Jesus, so call your Jesus to help you” — she did just that. Her prayers never ceased, not even as a doctor informed her that her daughter had just died. “I hugged her,” she said, “and cried while praying out loud to Jesus to help her. I cried for around two hours and everyone in the hospital stared at me. Suddenly, my daughter’s hand moved and I called the doctor. I really praised God!” She and her daughter now live in a church, and they are building a new life together! And her faith is as strong as ever: “I told myself that I could live without a husband, but I could not live without Jesus who saved us from sin and helped us in the problems that we had faced on the earth.” Praise God for this beautiful faith!

## WITHOUT A DOUBT

Ayoub lived in Morocco and had his doubts about his inherited religion. Once in a while he and his friend Osama met with someone from his own country who asked if he had an interest in Christianity. Ayoub expressed an interest based on doubts in his old faith.

The guy he met with handed him a Bible, and suddenly Ayoub and Osama were arrested by the local authorities. They were interrogated for a few days about their faith and asked about interactions with other Christians. Ayoub and his friend were released, but all the interrogation did was make him wonder even more about this: "If God is just, merciful and loving, why would his people (referring to the authorities) treat others so meanly and fear that they choose another religion?"

Ayoub kept an open mind and started researching the Christian faith. He wanted to know more. Once he turned on the radio to listen to anything entertaining when he stopped to hear someone say, "And God told Job (Ayoub in the Arabic language) ..." And from then on, he began to listen. Then he contacted TWR to ask to have a Bible, which he received after a while and kept studying it with the *Thru the Bible* (TTB) Arabic program.

Ayoub is now a dedicated listener to TTB. He asked how he can be a Christian and shared that he wants to follow Christ. He is a Christian now. He revealed this with the follow up team: "When I asked Jesus into my life, he brought with him inner peace, understanding and pure love. I cannot thank him enough, for he is the best gift a person can have in his life."

## TENDER HEARTS

Born and raised in a non-Christian household, Illi accepted Jesus as her Savior without her family's knowledge. To grow in her faith, she would listen to TWR's Kabyle language programs in private, away from her family. She called to share a story about how her coming to Christ had eventually led her whole family to salvation.

"I lived my early life as a follower of the religion of our country. However, it was only in appearance and not in my heart. My family members were religious fanatics, especially my two brothers and father. They forced me to cover my face with a veil, whether I liked it or not.

"My mother, on the other hand, has a tender heart. She was the only one who noticed a change in me when I came to Christ. She said, 'What has happened to you, my daughter? Your look has changed.'

"I asked her, 'Are you sure you like the change that God has brought about in me?' She said, 'Yes, I, too, would like to have the wonderful loving eyes you have.' I said, 'What you see in me is the wonderful Aissa El-Masih (Jesus Christ) to whom I gave my heart and my life.'

"At these words, my mother fell to her knees, and her eyes were filled with tears of joy. She said, 'I'd also give my life to Jesus, but if your father and brothers found out about this, they would certainly kill us.'

"While we were talking, we realized my father was standing behind the door and had been listening to our conversation. He came out of hiding and saw us trembling. He smiled at us and said, 'Don't be afraid. We are not those who kill, but those that have been led into error by our religion.'

"He then turned to my mother and said, 'I know that our daughter Illi has been listening to the radio in secret. But I noticed the peace of God in her, so I decided to let her be.' Then, my mother cried out, 'Blessed be Jesus

Christ, the Lord of Lords, the God of all gods, who breaks hearts of brass and fills with tenderness and love!

"My father's heart was touched immediately. He turned to me and asked, 'Could you sing again the song of joy that I heard you singing softly the other day while you were hiding in your room?'

"As I was singing, my two brothers came in and found us overjoyed. They said, 'What has happened? How did joy come into this house that we only know as one with arguments and squabbles? Please share your joy with us.' My father said, 'Jesus the Lord of joy himself has brought the joy you see into our house, so let us rejoice together.'

"My brothers were surprised to see that their father had changed his cape (expression indicating conversion). After a minute of silence, their faces lit up and they said, 'Only Jesus can change our sadness into joy, so let us adore him with all our heart!'

"The Bible says that if you believe in Jesus, you and your household will be saved. That day I witnessed the fulfillment of God's promise in my house."

## A DIFFERENT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP

Aimal lived his whole life with rules. Raised in a conservative Muslim family, he was praying five times a day, fasting and taking special precaution to what he wore. He felt his life was dominated by rules, not feeling anything when he obeyed them except for fear for what would happen if he didn't.

Stuck in this ritual, Aimal fell into a deep depression.

He described, "It was as if I was carrying a big stone on my body, and it was getting heavier day by day."

Finally, driving through the streets of his hometown, Aimal scanned through the different stations on his car radio, landing on TWR's broadcast of *In Touch Ministries*.

He recalled, "You were talking about grace and love, and I was so far away from them. I did not know what you were talking about. I started to listen regularly and learned that you were talking about a different kind of relationship with God. God's love and care for me were so new to me. I had never heard these things before."

Aimal accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior. He knows the road will be hard, but he is confident in God's provision through the trials.

## KEEPING CONNECTED

From an Arabic language listener in Syria: "I've been listening for some time now but was cut off the radio because of the war in my country. I'm back to listening, although I'm not a Christian, but your words keep me connected and help me know that my religion is not giving me the fulfillment, but the episodes about God's hope through your Jesus is brightening my horizon."



## DARKNESS

Have you ever felt the grip of true darkness?

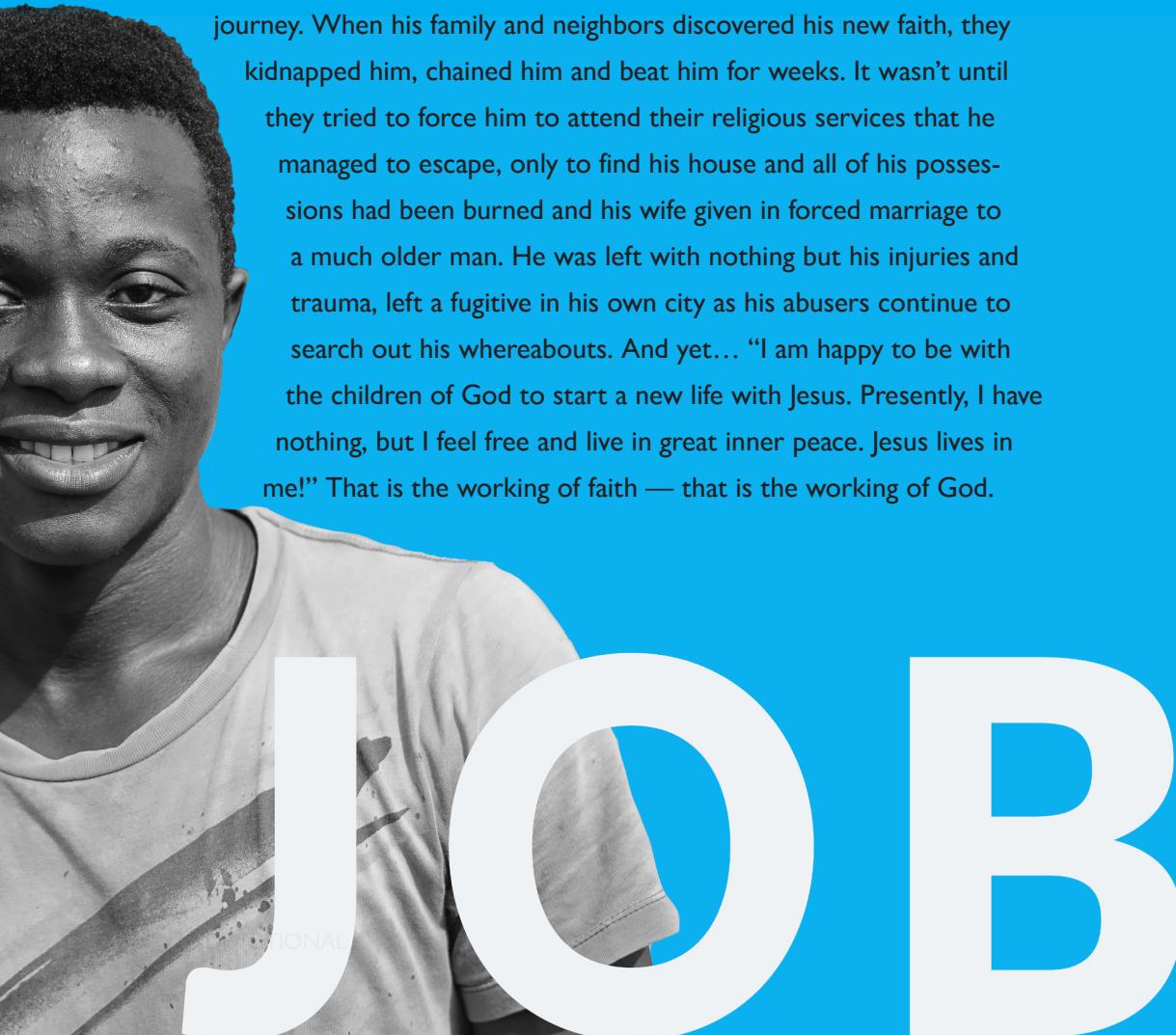
You are not alone.

Job had it all. Not only was he a man of incredible wealth, but he was rich in family (with ten children born to him) and, most importantly, he was rich in faith. Our first introductions to Job present him as a man who was “blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil” (Job 1:1) — whatever more could there be? But Satan is a selfish and cruel thief, and when given the opportunity, he took those things Job held dear. His livestock was stolen and his servants killed by Sabeans, more still were overcome in a fire, and the rest raided by Chaldeans. Then, in perhaps the cruelest blow of all, all ten of his children perished below the collapse of his eldest son’s home. In a single day, all of his wealth vanished before him. And in a last stroke of malice, Satan even went so far as to attack Job’s health with a painful illness.

Job was suffering. His life’s work was gone. His beloved children were gone. And great and cavernous sadness came over him. “Why is light given to those in misery,” he asked, “and life to the bitter of soul, to those who long for death that does not come?” (Job 3:20-21) But while his wife cursed God and told her husband to join in her animosity, Job’s faith did not relent: “As long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils, my lips will not say anything wicked, and my tongue will not utter lies.” (Job 27:3-4) Broken and repentant, he was humbled before the Lord when he spoke these words: “I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.” (Job 42:2)

Job knew darkness, but he also knew its lies. It tells us that we are alone, that God has forsaken us, that all hope is lost. But faith is that glimmering thing that pierces through the black. Job’s faith saw his wealth restored twofold, and God blessed him with ten more children, and “he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation.” (Job 42:16) He died an old man, happy and fulfilled and full of years. That is the working of faith — that is the working of God.

## FINDING THE LIGHT



This listener from Cameroon is no stranger to suffering, and much came at the hands of those he loved most. The son of a prominent religious leader in a large city, he was taught from a young age to take at all costs: “[We killed] people for nothing,” he said, “and we killed them for their money.” Then one night Jesus, whom he did not know at the time, appeared to him and asked him to follow him. He refused. His religious texts disappeared that same night. “This man dressed all in white came back the following night,” he explained, and when his curiosity brought him to a pastor, the pastor listened to his story and prayed for him. “From that moment, things changed for me,” he said. He accepted Christ. He believed! But this was only the beginning of what would become a harrowing journey. When his family and neighbors discovered his new faith, they kidnapped him, chained him and beat him for weeks. It wasn’t until they tried to force him to attend their religious services that he managed to escape, only to find his house and all of his possessions had been burned and his wife given in forced marriage to a much older man. He was left with nothing but his injuries and trauma, left a fugitive in his own city as his abusers continue to search out his whereabouts. And yet... “I am happy to be with the children of God to start a new life with Jesus. Presently, I have nothing, but I feel free and live in great inner peace. Jesus lives in me!” That is the working of faith — that is the working of God.

## GOD SPOKE TO ME

Koreen is a 26-year-old girl in Albania who came to Christ four years ago. She tells that the first time she heard about Jesus was from the radio. She was wed when she was 17 in an arranged marriage.

Koreen and her husband immigrated to Greece. He was an alcoholic and didn’t know what he was doing when he came home. Koreen was beaten by her husband for everything. She couldn’t endure this life, so she decided to return home and get divorced from her husband.

She was 22 when she reunited with her family. She was depressed and had a lot of questions. Why had God allowed her to marry such a person? Why was he so violent to her? She didn’t know what to do.

While Koreen was listening to the radio, she heard a program that talked about Jesus. She liked the broadcast very much. It brought tears to her eyes while listening. The next day she looked to find the same radio station to hear more. After two days she found the station and began to listen to every program throughout the day.

For a year and a half she listened to that radio station until one day she believed in Jesus. TWR’s *Women of Hope* has been one of the programs that helped her to know more from God and to understand herself. “Radio programs have greatly impacted my life. I am saved only because of you. Thank you very much. I never wrote to you, but I deeply know that God spoke to me through the radio waves.”

One day Koreen asked God to show her a church to attend. Suddenly, a new girl came into her village. She told her that she was going to a church and invited her to come with her. Since that day, Koreen has attended church. Koreen lives with her family and works in a factory. Please pray for her continued hunger for the Word of God.

## HIS WONDROUS WORK

"I have been listening to your Russian programs for about 15 years. I listen and live by the transmissions of TWR; otherwise I would have been lost and perished spiritually and physically. It is a great happiness that the Lord opened to me the transmissions. I did not know about them, but everything happened in a kind of wondrous way.

"I lost my family, and I was suddenly alone. I did not want to live. I felt empty and not needed for anything. I was fed up with the apartment in the city and so I moved to a village where only old women live. I did not trust anybody nor partake in any of village life where people sat around gossiping or drinking alcohol. The locals did not like me for that and avoided me.

"One day I turned on the radio because the TV was boring. While listening, I heard programming from TWR.

"I listened to the whole two-hour block. Then I continued listening. I did not notice how I fell asleep. I woke up to somebody's voice: 'It is I, Jesus, and I love you.' I hardly came to myself and sat on my bed. It was 12 noon. I began to remember what happened in the evening and late night, how I listened to the radio, and I recognized that the Lord was speaking to me. It was His wondrous work.

"I could hardly believe this was happening to me. Loneliness disappeared. I began to wait for the dates with your transmissions, and I began to live by them.

"Now joy fills my heart. A true miracle happened. I got a full Bible, and every day I begin my Bible reading with the Book of Psalms. I live and live, and now I am already 76 years old. I regret only that for so many years I missed out on such happiness. Now I do not pay attention to offending words or the bad words of godless people. They even wanted to beat me up, but it ended OK.

"One day a drunken man shouted at me some bad swear words, and he

called me a sectarian. I just pushed him away and left. But he ran ahead of me calling out swear words, and the old women smiled.

"I was not sure what else he would do, so I only said: 'May the Lord Jesus Christ forbid you!' He suddenly fell down and died. Everybody saw that. Since then, nobody offends me anymore; they talk to me with respect. Some even say: 'Valentina, you are a strong sorcerer, stronger than we are, nothing gets to you.' I answered: 'I am not a sorcerer. The Lord God, the Son and the Holy Spirit is with me. And he is protecting me from you and from Satan, whom you serve. I am not serving Satan. I am serving my Lord. He and only he shed his blood for me and for you, and for all people.'

"It was quite difficult right after that. They even called the priest. He came. And I answered him according to the Word. He apologized and left. While leaving, he passed the old women sitting around and told them: 'Why are you accusing her? She is reading, studying the Scriptures and lives with the Lord. I would advise you to read the Bible as well.'

"Since then, nobody accuses me in anything. Well, such wonder did the Lord do to me through your transmissions. I hear His presence, something warm and affectionate. I am happy with the Lord!"

## HE CHOSE DEATH

"I bought a radio after I moved back to Egypt from Sudan just so I could listen to my favorite radio program, *Thru the Bible*. Your program was given to me as a gift from God when I was in need of spiritual food, and it was the first and only source of encouragement for my faith after I received the Lord Jesus into my heart.

"Let me share with you this blessing I received through you. I come from a family of staunch believers of another major religion. I did not know anything about Christianity other than that it was wrong and that the Bible was wrong, too. I also used to hear from our elders about the sweetness of our faith. I tried looking for that sweetness they were talking about but couldn't find it until I joined the medical faculty at a university.

"In my second year at the university, I took up an offer to be a private science tutor for a colleague's son. On the day of our first lesson, I went to my colleague's house and little did I know that this was where I would find a new life. Upon entering the sitting room, I spotted the verse 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life' posted on the wall. I thought to myself, 'I want this eternal life; how can I get it?'

"Suddenly, I felt a powerful force that seemed to rip my heart from its place. It felt so strong that I fainted. Later, I woke up to the voice of my colleague who was offering me a drink. She asked me what was wrong. I said nothing but felt a wonderful, amazing power within my soul. I then excused myself and left with a strong desire to get my hands on a Bible.

"On my way back, I stopped by a church, but it was closed. So, I went home and turned on the radio. I love listening to the radio. I was going about my own business when I heard something that caught my attention. It was one of your programs. That day onward, I became one of your faithful listeners.

"TTB has taught me the basic truths of Christianity and how to accept Jesus Christ into my life. For more than two and a half years, it was my only source of spiritual nourishment. I couldn't go to church because of the police and my family. I used to pray for you and your ministry all the time. Sometime later, I managed to get in touch with a church and was baptized. My family didn't know about my faith, but I kept evangelizing among believers of my old religion as if I were one of them to prove that both Christ and the Bible are real

and true. Two of them came to Christ and were baptized in secret.

"But in 2013, my family found out about my faith and I couldn't bring myself to deny Jesus. They tortured me badly to try to get me to go back into darkness. They made me choose between death or returning to my old religion. I chose death, but by God's grace my little brother helped me to escape to Egypt. I'm now so happy that I'm listening to your programs again. I continue to pray for you and your ministry to brighten this dark world with the light of Jesus."

## AN UNBELIEVER'S HEART CRY

In her culture, Jesus is known by a different name and not by the full story revealed in the Bible. But that didn't prevent this Iraqi woman from calling on him when adversity slammed into her life.

"I was trying to understand the words I just heard about Isa – or as you call him, Jesus. It's the first time I heard such words about him.

"I'm [from a different religious background], but I always felt that Christ is special to me. I even sometimes sneaked into a church and prayed for me and my family.

"One day I was suffering at the hand of the person I love, who abuses me verbally, emotionally and in different ways I cannot talk about now. I knelt down and cried out to Jesus, asking him to rescue me from my pains because I heard through your program that he saves!

"I did that, and now I've decided to break up with the one I love because I felt peace from Jesus in my heart about it and he encouraged me to do that.

"I don't know Jesus, but I know that he saves! Help me to know him personally, please!"

# PETER



## FEARFUL

Are you afraid? Fear can make us do some pretty desperate things. Nobody likes to be afraid, and yet sometimes we trap ourselves in our fears and allow them to rule our actions. Take Peter, for example, a disciple of Jesus. Many might mistake his standing with our Savior as immunity from fear itself, but we couldn't be more wrong — and neither could he. Matthew 26:33-35 explains, “Peter replied, ‘Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.’ ‘Truly I tell you,’ Jesus answered, ‘this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.’ But Peter declared, ‘Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.’” Such determination melted away when, within hours and on three separate occasions, he was challenged with his relationship with Christ. In all his fear, he denied Christ every time. And when he realized what he had done, he wept bitterly.

But this is not the end of Peter’s story: John 21:15-19 shows us not only a moment of brilliant repentance and forgiveness, but a new and specific string of commands that Jesus gave to Peter: “Feed my lambs... tend my sheep... feed my sheep...” and lastly, “Follow me.” They are the commands that would carry Peter from a man who would deny his friend and Savior three times in one of man’s most publicized failures, to a man whose words are reflected in scripture to this day. And so Peter’s fear was transformed into grace — that is the power of God!

## DO NOT FEAR

Fear can make us do some pretty desperate things — but God turns our fears into grace! This listener from the Czech Republic is no stranger to fear. Like the story of Peter, crippled by fear into denying Jesus, she found herself plagued by angst. But, like Peter, she too found restoration in Christ, and that restoration has brought more fruit than she could imagine. She said, “When I listened to your program, I could feel the Lord talking to me. I went through different difficulties, and sometimes there is doubt: What if the Lord just drops me?” So, she went to a park: “Look, Lord, I am a coward. I am afraid of everything!” she said. But she heard God respond this way: “I have prepared you for a long time for what you are doing already, and I also prepared the way around you. Do not fear.”

In her work as a hairdresser, she loves to talk about God to her clients. One of them came to the Lord through her. “After that, she lived two years and went to eternity knowing the Lord,” she said. “I love your programs,” she writes. “They bring life and are done with your whole heart and soul. I thank the Lord for you.”



## REACHING THE UNREACHED

North Korea is one of the most isolated countries on the planet. But even with limited contact to the outside world, the gospel is reaching its people through radio. At the risk of their lives, some of our brothers and sisters in North Korea have sent us their responses to our programs. Below are just a few...

“We are very grateful for the radio you sent. We just received it. Since we have no teacher, we have been struggling to understand the Bible.”

“The radio is our only tool to hear about the Bible and other news from the outside world.”

“Without your programs, love and dedication, we would not have access to the gospel of our Father in heaven and we would be lost in darkness.”

“We are assisted and guided by the message of the gospel since we cannot gather together in one place for worship.”

“The churches here are awakening and being empowered to live as children of God, all thanks to TWR. Without your work, we would not be prepared to meet the day of freedom coming in the future.”

## RELYING ON RADIO

In certain parts of the world, access to technology and the gospel is severely limited. The same appears to be the case for a number of our listeners. But that hasn't stopped them from feeding their spiritual curiosity.

The following message comes from a listener in China:

“I'm glad we're able to meet over the radio. The gospel is of great help to me. It has changed my life.”

“I do not have a Bible. Please send me 12 Bibles. I do not have a computer, so I rely on the radio to know the truth.”

“I find your programs very attractive and would like to share them with my fellow villagers. Being uneducated and a man of unclean lips, I cannot preach the gospel on my own. I have been suffering from many diseases: mental illness, rhinitis, bronchitis and stomach illness. Having been on many medications that have resulted in little improvement in my health, I have considered ending my life. I hope you will pray for me to be more dependent on God, to live for him, and to do my best to present myself as a worker of God who does not need to be ashamed.”

## PERSEVERING IN PERSECUTION

A Mandarin language listener in China writes: “Greetings in the name of the Lord! I enjoy listening to your program very much. When I was being persecuted by my father, your program gave me encouragement to persevere, and I praise God for that. Even though I was only able to listen and communicate with you in secret, I could still sense God's presence and love. Hallelujah!”

# DAVID



## SPIRITUAL BATTLE

Even as Christians, there's a lifelong battle between heaven and earth raging within us. It's the battle of sinful humanity and eternal salvation, and we are free, as ever, to choose which army we feed.

David was a beloved son of God. As a young shepherd boy, the Lord used Samuel to anoint him king of Israel. He slayed the giant Goliath, united his kingdom under his reign, and is known beautifully as a man after the Lord's own heart. But even David — even this champion of God — fell to the hand of sin and temptation. He failed. In fact, he did so spectacularly. When he gave into his lust for the beautiful Bathsheba, he didn't run to the Lord for forgiveness. Instead, he compounded his sin by orchestrating the death of her husband, Uriah, took her as his own, and even went on to see his sins reproduced in the lives of his own children. His sin came at great cost — but the Lord is even greater.

When God sent Nathan to confront David's sin, he responded with six words. Six simple words that would bring his soul back from its wayward wanderings: "I have sinned against the Lord." [ 2 Samuel 12:13 ] David understood the weight of his sin, and he came back to the Lord in humble repentance. And while his sins certainly did not leave him without consequence, the Lord's mercy and grace would go on to bless his line. In a show of reckless love, God gave David ultimate forgiveness — and gave humanity Jesus.

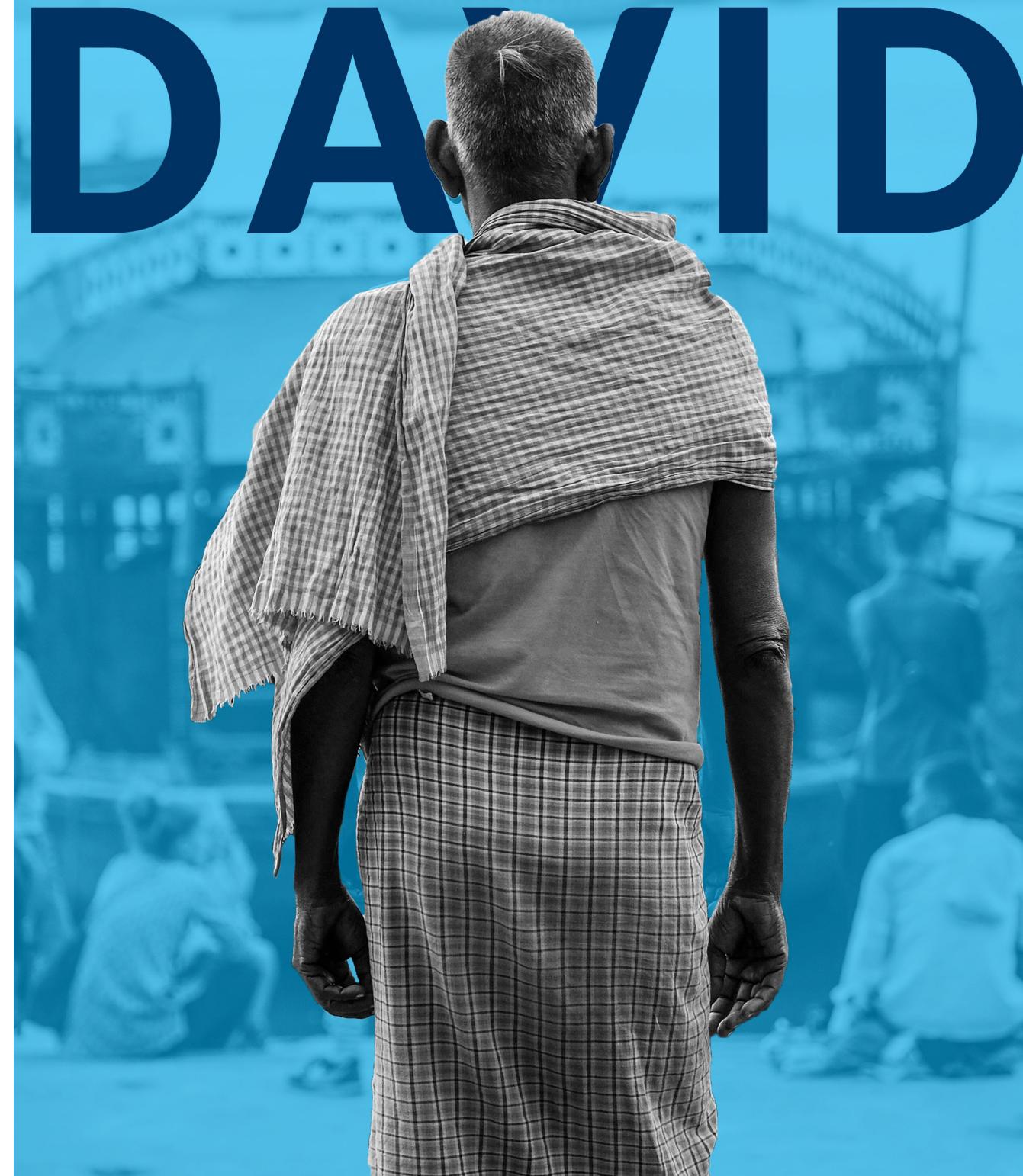
Heaven won. It always does.

## HEALING

Belief in God does not make us immune to sinfulness. But God teaches us that even as the battle between heaven and earth rages within us, heaven always wins.

Like King David, this next listener in India found himself choosing sin even in the face of God's forgiveness. Raised with other beliefs, his family became hostile upon learning of his new faith in Christ, and he began to answer their bitterness with some of his own. His old ways became a part of his life once more, and soon he found himself abusing alcohol, gambling and lashing out at his wife and sons. They told him that despite his knowledge of God, "There is no change in your life" — and, by his own admission, they were right. He knew about Christ, but Christ was not reflected in his life.

But then, things began to change. A fellow believer happened to visit his village and introduced him to TWR programming, and what he heard on the radio changed his heart. "God spoke to me through this and made me to realize what he wants me to do and what I am doing," he said. "I cried out to my Father for my disobedience and for forgiveness. My tears were not stopping. And I asked my Heavenly Father to help me to walk in his ways... And with joy I want to tell you that Jesus started reflecting through my attitude and works. God's eternal peace and patience were residing in me. And a change came in my family... they were very eager to know that what changed me and decided to listen to radio programs... God spoke to their hearts. It changed our lives. Today we sing, pray and worship together." Praise him!



## A FROZEN HAND, A CAPTIVATED HEART

There is so much value in having something of your own. That's how it feels when someone hears a story they love in their heart language for the first time: personal and connected.

A number of our listeners are first attracted to our programs because they are in their native tongue. That's what a listener in India reported.

It was another night of scanning through the channels on the radio to find something for his wife and children to listen to. In search of a secular music station, Sankar's hand froze on the dial when he heard his language, Oriya, being spoken.

He wrote, "As it was in my language and something new, I was immediately interested!"

Sankar comes from a polytheistic background. Worshipping many gods was quite normal, but he'd always had a nagging interest to know about Jesus.

After being first attracted by the language, he found himself engaged by the message contained therein. One night of listening turned into months.

He finished, "I am now a believer of Jesus, the only one in my home and village. Please uphold in prayer that many others may come to Him!"

## BOUNDLESS JOY

Akash in Nepal read many religious books but remained skeptical. One day, he opened up a Bible.

He recalled, "...an inner voice told me that Jesus is really God, and complete peace came into my heart."

However, he felt lost – he had no one to guide him in his newfound faith journey.

He said, "My joy knew no bounds when I heard the radio program *Heralds of Hope*. It helped me understand the Word of God better and fed me nutrients as a baby Christian."

Today, Akash's family worships the Lord.

## REJECTED BY FAMILY, LOVED BY JESUS

From a listener in Indonesia: "Some days ago, your program shared how Jesus was rejected by his own creation.

"The words of God on the program confirm my faith... I too am rejected by my own family because I became a Christian and believe in Jesus.

"Now I don't have a permanent place to live; I have to move from one place to another. But I give thanks to the Lord Jesus because he accepts me.

"Although the world rejects me, I know that Jesus always loves me."

## THE GIFT OF RADIO

Sometimes the most unlikely people can have the largest impact on our lives. Anaya, a listener who wrote us from India, experienced this when she first came to hear about TWR's programs.

Originally from a poor, non-Christian family, Anaya had to work as a housecleaner to make a living. She had served in a home for twelve years, and over the course of her employment developed a relationship with an 80-year-old grandmother who lived in the home.

Anaya came to find out that this woman is a believer and regularly listens to TWR broadcasts in the Malayalam language. The elderly woman gave Anaya a radio so Anaya could listen to the programs herself.

"The radio program made me so close to God," Anaya wrote. "I can't read or write. I never had a chance to hear the Word of God, but God worked it out for me through that grandmother to hear the Word of God."

Anaya was then able to pass on the messages she heard to her family. As a result, her sick mother believed and was saved shortly before her death a few months later.

Anaya now shares the gospel with her neighbors, telling them of the TWR radio programs. She happily reported that they are all now listening to the program as well.

"I thank Jesus that this program has changed my life."

## GOD'S WORD PIERCES HEARTS

Pain is an inevitable part of life. But even in our suffering, God is at work. Often, our greatest struggles provide the greatest opportunities for us to experience God's power in our lives.

Saanvi, a Marathi language listener in India, is no stranger to pain. Following the passing of her husband, she was abandoned by her children and left to fend for herself on the streets. She eventually found shelter in a refugee home but had a hard time adjusting to her new place. The refugee home held regular Bible study sessions and prayer meetings that initially Saanvi was reluctant to attend. But that all changed one day when she was listening to the radio.

She wrote, "I came across a message that talked about Jesus, his love and the sacrifices he's made for me. The words pierced my heart like a sword, and I repented of my sins and accepted Jesus as my Savior. I've been a happy listener for three years and have been immensely blessed by it. I thank God for the program."

## GOD HAS ACCEPTED ME

A Nepali language listener writes: "I was not a believer when one of my friends introduced me to TWR radio broadcasts. After some time of listening to the programs, I learned that Jesus is the one and only God. I used to have conservative thoughts about religion and God, but now I have become a worshipper of him and God has accepted me as his own child. I thank TWR Nepal for the wonderful programs that have been such a blessing to me."

## REMEMBERING THE LEAST OF THESE

Tucked away in the south-central coast of Vietnam is a small and solitary village where the Cham people live.

"It would be unnoticeable if God did not send someone to preach and care for them," said Danh, a listener of TWR's Mini-Bible College program.

The Cham kingdom has reduced dramatically over the years, and according to the Joshua Project website, there are only approximately 85,000 Cham people in the world today, most of whom reside in Vietnam. Poverty is widespread; people live in mud houses with no electricity or water supply and are dependent on agriculture and fishing. Only five percent of the Cham people are Christians, Joshua Project reports.

But God has not forgotten them. He sends people like Danh, who leads a group of 36 Cham people. The group meets regularly to listen to the Word of God.

"I put my full strength into caring for the spiritual lives of those people," Danh said. "I long for God's replenishment in everything that I do because I realize my weakness in leadership, though I have been a believer for eight years."

Besides reaching out to the people of Vietnam, TWR programs also equip local pastors and group leaders like Danh with Bible knowledge to help with their ministry to different ethnic groups, such as the Cham people.

"I like to listen to the program because it helps me obtain more knowledge of the Bible," he said. "In this way, I can understand God better and be urged into serving the Lord more. Now I patiently wait for his will. I sincerely thank TWR for their hard work in helping people like me."

## FINDING STRENGTH THROUGH TRIALS

"I love your radio programs! I have a great passion to live for God," Navin, a 60-year-old farmer in India, excitedly told a TWR team on a visit to his village. But behind the wide grin lies a man who has persevered through the darkest and most painful days.

Navin lost his eldest daughter to an accident when she was just 10 years old. This tragic incident prompted Navin to consider God and the afterlife, which eventually led him to the discovery and acceptance of Jesus. Sometime later, Navin and his family began listening to TWR broadcasts in the Telugu language to grow in their faith.

Another tragedy struck the family several years later when their youngest daughter died by suicide at age 19. Navin's family was devastated, but they remained firm in their belief and were strengthened in their faith. Through every trial, Navin said that TWR radio programs were a source of strength to him and his wife.

Despite the painful struggles he has navigated, Navin thanks God for the many blessings he has showered on his family. During harvest season one year, Navin had gathered his grain into a pile in the middle of his field. That night, a heavy hailstorm blew through the village. Navin's wife began weeping helplessly, thinking the storm had damaged the crop. The next morning, Navin went to check on his crop and found that not a single grain was wet. He immediately understood this to be the work of the Lord and began praising him.

## MOTIVATED AMID PERSECUTION

God has blessed TWR with the privilege of speaking hope to the world. Over the years, the ministry has received numerous messages from listeners all over the globe who write, call and text to share their testimonies, vent their frustrations, seek advice and ask for prayers. Here are just a few of them from Sri Lanka, from those who have heard and been blessed by *The Word Today*, which is aired around the world in more than 70 languages:

"I'm a Buddhist and a fisherman. These days I do not go out to sea very often. Instead, I prepare fishing nets for other fishermen ashore. My job takes me to many faraway places. One day at work, I accidentally tuned in to your radio program. Since then, I've been a faithful listener of your broadcast. The program fills my heart with hope every time I listen to it."

"Before I became a believer, I had tried just about everything I could think of to help resolve my problems. I worked in Dubai for a bit, but I was struggling financially. So, I came back to Sri Lanka and opened a textile shop. Around the same time, I came to learn about Christ and accepted him into my life. My fellow villagers began persecuting me for my faith, which has remained the case till this day. Your program last Saturday motivated me. I am blessed that I can still listen to Christian programs on the state radio channel amid persecution."

"I came to Christ about 10 years ago. My wife and I haven't been able to have any kids and that has been a great cause of pain for us. When I explained our problem to our pastor, he told us to live with hope. It's been almost 10 years that we've heeded the pastor's advice, and we are still waiting to conceive. Your program fills us with hope every time we tune in, which is why we decided to call you. Why has God allowed us to be barren? How can we overcome this problem? Could you pray for us?"

## THE PEACE CHRIST BRINGS

Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." This verse rings true for Andrew, a 17-year-old young man who lives in a small village near the tip of the Bangladesh-India border in northeastern India.

Andrew came to the Lord a couple of years ago. As one of the only believers in his village, he became a subject of ridicule to his family and fellow villagers. His parents kept a strict watch on him and forbade him from meeting with other Christians. Andrew became discouraged and emotionally distressed. Little did he know that God would use his experience to bring others to him.

One evening, Andrew was listening to some music on his radio when he stumbled on an intriguing broadcast. He was surprised to find a Christian radio program in Bhojpuri, his native tongue, so he began listening to it regularly. It satisfied his spiritual hunger and gave him comfort, resulting in a significant change in his behavior.

Andrew's parents noticed this change and recognized that their son was at peace despite the hard time they were giving him. They figured he must be doing something right, so they stopped harassing him and started listening to the radio program with him. Today, Andrew's parents are believers in Christ.

# HANNAH



## BROKEN

How do we respond when it seems all has turned against us? Hannah had a loving husband, Elkanah, but years of marriage had never blessed them with children. Instead, Hannah watched as her sincerest wish was played out before her in Elkanah's other wife, Peninnah, a woman richly blessed with children, who would provoke Hannah for her hardship. It was a heartbreak of the deepest magnitude, and Hannah wept bitterly for it. But despite the scorn and ridicule, despite her husband's inability to understand her hurt, despite the fact that God had closed her womb... Hannah had faith. She met her brokenness with prayer, not only pleading with God to bless her with a child, but promising to bring him up as a servant of the very Lord who seemingly denied her: "O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head." (1 Samuel 1:11)

It is a promise she would keep. Hannah was blessed with a son, and when it came time she brought her child to the house of the Lord at Shiloh, saying, "For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord." (1 Samuel 1:27-28) And so, Hannah's faith bore a great prophet: Samuel!

Hannah knew what many fail to come by: that blessing is from God alone, that pain is never without purpose, and that faith — however messy it may be — should always, ever be our reply in the face of heartbreak. How are you responding?

## RESTORED

How do we respond when it seems all has turned against us? This listener in India understands heartbreak. Married to his beloved wife for fifteen years, their union had failed to bless them with their hearts' truest desire: a child. As the years ticked by, his relatives and neighbors began to insist he abandon his barren wife and marry another, more seemingly-suitable one. But despite the pressure, the two of them held fast to one another, devoted to each other and soon to God. Three years ago, they found our programming and became diligent listeners: "As I began to listen to [the] program on the radio, my faith grew stronger and stronger in God each day." And so, when faced with their enduring heartbreak, they responded the best way they knew how — in faith. "Last year, I called and laid my request for prayer for my wife and me. I am extremely thankful to all those who upheld us in their prayers."

They soon received some blessed news and shared it with us: "By the Grace of God, she miraculously conceived and is in her fifth month now." And even in this exciting time, they haven't forgotten where to keep their hearts: "Please continue to pray for us. The Word of God is an exceptional blessing to us and I want to thank TWR India for their programs!" How are you responding to brokenness?

# HANNAH





Speaking Hope to the World

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