INSIDE

► Ministry to China’s unreached
► Afghanistan’s veil of secrecy
For nearly a decade, TWR360 listeners have been accessing God’s Word on the web at twr360.org or by using the app. Many of the biblical programs aired by TWR on the radio are also available on TWR360, along with content from over 300 ministry partners, such as Daily Audio Bible and the JESUS film. Your support of TWR360 gives spiritual encouragement in over 100 languages to people worldwide, and for some, TWR provides the only source of spiritual food available. We have heard from listeners in 228 countries and territories, and their thanks should go to you. Thank you for giving over $155,000 last year to support TWR360!

Russian broadcasts
TWR’s Russian-speaking teams produce more than 30 radio programs for listeners in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and much of Eastern Europe. The new Pure Wave internet broadcasts are also airing on FM radio. Pure Wave is reaching listeners in 200 cities and 30 countries. In the first six months of 2021, Pure Wave received 4,530 responses, mostly on social media. One listener wrote, “I am 8 years old. I really like the stories of Christianity. I decided for myself that my heart should belong to Jesus.” Another wrote, “I listen to Pure Wave every day at work. When all my colleagues talk about coronavirus, I turn the radio on in my headphones and fill my soul with spiritual food.” The $192,000 you gave in 2021 made this possible. Thank you!

PANI broadcasts
Your support of TWR’s broadcasts to Pakistan, Afghanistan and North India (a region we call PANI) is a lifeline of hope since TWR commissioned the PANI transmitter in 2014. Ten languages are currently airing.

“The Word Today in Urdu is how we hear God’s Word in our home,” wrote a listener. “From listening to various radio broadcasts in the past, I discovered that nothing in the world is greater than the Word of God. The truth comes before me as I listen to the gospel. The only way to be saved is to believe in Christ and accept the Son of God.” The $217,000 you gave to keep the PANI programs going out is a blessing where hope is desperately needed, and we are grateful to you.

Côte d’Ivoire FM station
TWR is grateful for your warm response to the new FM station we are setting up in the West African country of Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast). Working alongside partner ministry Radio Evangile, our goal is to minister to the 362,000 people of capital city Yamoussoukro and the surrounding region of Muslims and unreached people groups. The new FM station will broadcast in multiple languages with not only gospel programs but other features that we hope will strengthen local agriculture, promote peace and educate the community about HIV/AIDS, malaria, Ebola and COVID-19. The $132,000 you gave has helped us to launch this strategic station.

anniversary milestones
During the first half of 2022, we honor our colleagues at TWR (also known as Trans World Radio) who have served 10 or more years with the ministry. Join us in praising the Lord for their faithful service.

55 Larry McGuire, USA
50 Tom and Elly Streeter, USA
45 Brad and Sandra Swanson, Bonaire
35 Daniel Plett, Slovakia
Bob and Claire Rothrock, USA
Bob Thorp, USA
30 Jim McIntyre, USA
20 Mike and Eli Sabin, Guam
15 Anne White, USA
10 Jon Hill, USA
Jeannine Klingbeil, USA
Daryl and Gaynelle Renshaw, USA
Persecution is in the headlines! Religious persecution and political persecution are in almost every newscast. This is nothing new, but the pace seems to be at an all-time high.

Throughout human history, persecution has been a fact of human existence. While on planet Earth, Jesus experienced persecution by cultural, institutional and political leaders. The Roman Empire was a prime practitioner of religious persecution – recall the stories of Christians being crucified or thrown to vicious animals – as were many of the institutional religious leaders of his day. And throughout the two millennia since Jesus went home to heaven, many of his followers have been persecuted.

Even Paul, the great apostle, before his conversion was an instigator of persecution toward people who believed in Jesus and then likely suffered martyrdom himself. The Lord turned that motivation into a huge expansion of the gospel to the gentile world.

In Mark 10:30, after encountering the rich young ruler, Jesus foretold that believers would suffer persecution. Yet, he promised, those who suffered for their faith would be rewarded in this life and ultimately with eternal life. Nothing escapes Jesus’ attention.

The gospel always spreads faster because of persecution. In Acts 11:19, the believers who were persecuted spread out over the known world with the good news of Jesus.

I remember talking with an ambassador from a country where persecution was common. He told me that his government wanted to limit the number of Christians in the country. I suggested that they stop oppressing believers and instead legalize their activities because persecution only seems to speed up the spread of the gospel.

Last summer, at the height of the pandemic, I attended a conference in Washington, D.C., focused on the problem of religious persecution. Over 1,200 people were in attendance from more than 40 countries! It seems the rate of persecution is rising monthly. People are looking for answers!

Every day, TWR speaks into areas of persecution. From the Uyghurs in northwest China to North Korea and the Indian subcontinent, from West Africa to Afghanistan, Venezuela, Cuba and other politically restrictive countries, TWR delivers hope and encouragement into dark situations. We share the good news that Jesus brought to our world, freeing people from fear and illuminating the path toward freedom in Jesus, even amid physical and spiritual hardships. With media, barriers to sharing the hope of Jesus can be overcome.

Every time you pray or give to the ministry of TWR, you are bringing hope into situations that seem impossible. Thank you!
When the Taliban swept through Afghanistan last summer – toppling its government and seizing control of the country – their swift advance sent shock waves reverberating throughout the world.

**Fears abounded.**

A prominent one was that minority communities – including Christians – would be hunted down and harshly treated, if not tortured and killed. Some Christians were able to escape, seeking refuge in the United States, Europe and elsewhere. Others went underground, hiding the best they could. This is especially disconcerting because in recent years, Open Doors has ranked Afghanistan alongside North Korea atop its World Watch List of countries where it’s “most difficult to follow Jesus.”
International Christian Concern reports that an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 Christians remain in the country. If there’s a silver lining, one ICC official notes that among them are those believers who sense God’s call to stay and faithfully serve him there. “They’ve kind of accepted the fact that God has a plan for them, in that God wants a church in Afghanistan, and they want to be members of that church, regardless of the persecution that is likely to come forward and affect them,” he said.

Long before the Taliban reemerged on the global scene, TWR was proclaiming the hope and peace of the gospel, reaching listeners in Afghanistan from its powerful PANI transmitter with an array of Bible-centric programs.

In the midst of this latest development, TWR is dedicated to ministering to those Christians now living under a veil of secrecy. We also remain committed to heralding the good news to those who still need to hear that God loves them and demonstrated that eternal love through the death, burial and resurrection of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our ministry partner quickly adapted its program outreach, adjusting some of the content to speak directly into the situation. It is aiming to encourage believers to cast their eyes heavenward and to trust God even deeper, though they now feel unsettled and concerned about the future.

Not only is TWR providing programming that will touch people’s hearts, but follow-up workers are also talking with listeners who call in after a program airs. While the Taliban takeover means they can’t meet face to face as they once did, they’re still able to bolster our listeners’ faith over the phone.

One listener not only expressed concern about the political upheaval inside Afghanistan but also voiced worries about the deteriorating economy. “There’s been a huge rise in the price of food, and this has led to rioting,” the man said. “I feel depressed.”

The follow-up worker turned the conversation toward Jesus’ admonition at the end of Matthew 6 to trust a loving heavenly Father to provide all their needs:

“Do not worry then, saying, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to wear for clothing.’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you.”

The follow-up worker boldly challenged the listener to pray for his countrymen and for those who seem to be his enemies. After praying together, the man said he was greatly encouraged!

Another listener, while talking with a member of the follow-up team, passed his phone to a friend who claimed to be a part of a group that has chosen to follow Christ. He and the group wanted our help to get to Europe because there they could pray openly inside a building. The follow-up worker helped that listener to understand that “it isn’t the place of prayer that makes the difference, but the place that prayer has in our hearts.” He added, “While it is outside our capacity to get anyone to Europe, we are praying for God to make a way for them to be followers of Christ within their own country.”

TWR knows the power of Christian programming. We’ve seen God use our broadcasts to reach listeners across Afghanistan. Before the Taliban’s blitzkrieg, one listener told us: “After some Christians came and prayed, my daughter was healed. She has her own family, and I told her to listen to the broadcasts. She listened intently and expressed her faith in Christ.”

Please join us in praying for God’s wisdom and direction as we seek to make an impact for Jesus in Afghanistan.

Thomas Prasad, TWR’s international director for South Asia, said, “When we all get to heaven, what a glorious day that will be to meet our Savior and Lord, who will show to us whom he has saved, and that would lead us to give him all the glory for equipping us now to reach the needy people in Afghanistan.”
The alienation palpable in this response from a listener of TWR Women of Hope broadcasts in the Farsi language shows why Persian World Radio (PWR) online is so important.

“I was feeling so alone, and everything was so meaningless for me,” the listener wrote. “But in the program, you talked about hope. It gave me courage again and hope. I know that we do not belong to this world and that I am not alone in this world.”

Persian is spoken by more than 100 million people and is divided into three main varieties: Farsi in Iran, Dari in Afghanistan and Tajik in Tajikistan. The primary purpose of Persianworldradio.com, which launched as 2021 turned into 2022, is to enable Persian speakers to know Jesus. But Daniel,* TWR Europe’s Farsi Ministry director, is also passionate about helping believers emerge from the shadows in countries where they are often treated as outcasts.

“What I have in my heart is to give the Christians in these lands an identity,” said Daniel, a native of Iran whose family moved to Europe. “They look like they don’t exist. They are rejected. I am trying to give them a voice and, through TWR, give them hope so they know they have an identity and the world knows it. The message of TWR is that God loves them and God has a big plan for them.”

Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan appear on Open Doors’ annual ranking of the 50 countries where Christians face the highest levels of persecution or discrimination. TWR reaches all three with regular AM broadcasts of gospel programming and is expanding its multiplatform outreach with PWR. In the past year, fresh programming was completed and broadcast, and listeners were told how they could connect with our partnering follow-up teams.

Daniel said the findings of a Netherlands-based secular research group indicate that a surprisingly large proportion of Iranians are disillusioned with their traditional faith. Also, the rapidly rising population of Christians may approach or exceed 1 million, according to one report.

“Iran is thirsty to know God, the true God,” he said. “TWR and PWR are places where we can share the truth with the people, that Christianity is not a religion; it is a relationship with God. These people don’t like religion, but they are looking for a relationship.”

* A pseudonym for security purposes.
The launch of Radio Amanecer, with the help of TWR national partner Radio Encuentro International, was a Christlike response to intense persecution.

During the latter half of the 20th century, tens of thousands of evangelicals were chased from their homes in the Mexican state of Chiapas by townspeople who belong to a religion that blends Catholicism with pagan beliefs. Some of the victims were abused or killed, but many resettled in a nearby community called Betania (from the biblical name Bethany).

In 2017 leaders of these evangelicals launched Radio Amanecer to spread the love and redemption of the gospel in this spiritually dark region and to pass their Christian legacy to the next generation. But the persecution continues, said Radio Encuentro director Alejandro Vieyra, who visited the area recently.

“We passed through a community, and the next day, when we passed through again, the houses had been swept away as if they never existed,” he said. “Those who lived there had publicly declared their faith and for that reason were attacked.”

The Betania station was the first of Radio Encuentro’s collaborations to go on the air. Mexico doesn’t allow religious organizations to operate stations, but community groups that obtain government “concessions” can broadcast a mixture of general and Christian content. TWR’s national partner works with interested community groups to navigate the lengthy government process and then to set up stations.

Four of Radio Encuentro’s collaborations, including Radio Amanecer, are on the air. A fifth has government approval but hasn’t obtained the necessary equipment yet. The combined potential audience totals about 15 million, and three more stations are in process.

The stations broadcast a mix of TWR and locally produced programming, Vieyra said. Many of the local programs are live with listener participation; others are magazine style.

“They try to teach the Bible in a practical way – teaching instead of scolding,” he said. “The audience for these stations is growing. People … have seen that in Jesus there is an answer. Before going to work, people tune in to the stations. I remember one listener who called and said his son had recently died. Then one day he found [one of our stations] and found purpose for his life.”

This flourishing effort needs prayer, he added: for the groups applying for permits, for the equipment that must be purchased, and, most of all, for open hearts among those who listen to the broadcasts.

Ministry to Latin America needs your help. See twr.org/latin-project.
By Leanne Tan, TWR Asia Writer

An, * a retired village party secretary in China, has heard the gospel multiple times. But each time, his heart remained cold and indifferent.

One day, a local TWR partner handed him a radio preloaded with dramatized Bible stories produced as part of the SON-Lift project. Out of curiosity, An gave the stories a listen and was pleasantly surprised to find them in Hakka, his native tongue. Soon, he began attending church and discussing the stories with other believers.

A major initiative of TWR Asia’s Chinese Ministry, the SON-Lift project aims to speak hope in the local languages of various unreached people groups (UPGs) in China. The world’s most populous country, this East Asian nation is home to roughly 20 percent of the global population. Yet about 80% of its 545 people groups still have not heard about Jesus, according to the Joshua Project.

In 1977, TWR began using media to share the good news with the people of China. Today, what started as a radio-only ministry now broadcasts discipleship and evangelistic programs across multiple media platforms in 10 languages and dialects, including Mandarin, Hakka, Nuosu, Yue and Minnan.

Alongside ministry partners, TWR tailors many of these programs to address some of the most pressing issues facing the Chinese people. One example is From Despair to Hope, created to help listeners cope during the COVID-19 global crisis.

“When COVID-19 first broke out in Wuhan, our team quickly planned for a series of evangelistic programs based on this context, seeking to speak hope to China’s unreached peoples.

* A pseudonym to protect his privacy
to people who are grasped by fear and hopelessness,” TWR Asia’s Chinese Ministry Director May Chen said.

Among other programs broadcast by the ministry are these:

- **God Remembers Them**, which mobilizes Mandarin-speaking believers to pray for UPGs in China.
- **The Word Today**, in which each episode provides a message centered on a specific word or phrase from the Bible.
- **Hope for Today**, providing relevant illustrations and biblical insights for everyday life.

The ministry distributes these programs using one or more of the following media: radio, mobile apps and the internet. Of these, shortwave radio remains one of the ministry’s most widely used distribution channels, despite the rise of digital technologies such as smartphones and the internet, largely thanks to its distinct security features. Unlike the internet, shortwave broadcasts are harder to censor, and listeners get to retain anonymity.

Additionally, while internet access has become increasingly commonplace in recent years, not everyone has the privilege of participating in the online experience. At over 1 billion internet users, China currently boasts the largest online community in the world. However, this still leaves 402 million people without internet access, a population larger than every other country on earth except India. In fact, China’s offline population comprises more people than the combined populations of the United States and Canada or of the four largest countries of Europe – Russia, Germany, the United Kingdom and France.

“It is very likely that a big portion of the UPGs belong to the offline population as well,” Chen said. “Are they being forgotten? No. As censorship and persecution continue to restrict the effectiveness of mass media in outreach, shortwave and medium-wave broadcasts remain a viable channel to reach these offline people.”

Harnessing the full potential of shortwave to spread the gospel, the Chinese Ministry continues to produce and beam biblically sound programming from TWR’s Guam and Silk Road transmitters into China. About 76 percent of weekly shortwave and medium-wave broadcasts into the country consist of programs geared toward UPGs. The ministry also partners with local churches, pastors and believers to distribute shortwave radios among UPGs in the region.

One pastor shared, “In China today, Christianity is a sensitive topic. Religious books, publications, WeChat public accounts and WeChat accounts are basically blocked. From now on it’ll be more and more difficult to obtain spiritual provision. Hence, we find radio at an advantage now, because it will not be bound by these. The need will be great. If you are able to help, we hope you could give some more radios to the Christian workers who are reaching the UPGs. They were very thankful when they received them.”
“The Pygmies are just waiting for us to bring the Word of God,” Pastor Anath Ndoukou said as he prepared to deliver gospel programs to villages in northern Gabon. “They cannot do this job alone.”

The fall 2021 trip undertaken by Ndoukou’s team to distribute 200 radio players was part of a brand-new outreach, the first TWR ministry to the Pygmies of the Central African rainforest. Known far and wide for their short stature and masterful knowledge of the forest, Pygmies today struggle against discrimination, social exclusion, loss of their traditional lifestyle and sometimes physical abuse.

“Abandoned and rejected by the national government and society in the areas of health and education, they need to hear that there is a loving God who cares for them and longs to make them part of his family,” said Ndoukou, TWR’s coordinator for Central African ministry.

One of several Pygmy ethnic groups across the region, the Baka are facing threats to their way of life as farming, logging and even conservation efforts reduce their access to the forests, according to humanitarian and media reports. A United Nations investigation found evidence of persecution by paramilitary-style “eco guards” originally deployed to help with conservation efforts. The guards reportedly treated the Baka as subhuman, humiliating and beating them and even burning camps.

Another group’s missionary efforts to evangelize the Baka had been largely unsuccessful. Living conditions can be harsh, and when those missionaries eventually left, evangelical pastor Edzang Celestin began visiting the village and witnessed to the chief, who gave his life to Christ. Celestin appealed for players containing gospel programs to distribute among the Baka, and Ndoukou and TWR responded.

The radio players were loaded with digital programs such as “The Story of Jesus,” “From Creation to Christ” and “Why Does Man Fear Death?” in Fang and French. Although the Baka’s first language is Mvai, many also speak Fang, the main local language, and French, Gabon’s official language. Ndoukou said he’s confident that TWR’s desire to have a studio in the region to translate and produce more programs for these and other ethnic languages will one day be realized.
Joining Ndoukou and Celestin on the trip to connect with the Baka and distribute radios were his wife, Charlène, leader of TWR Women of Hope ministry in the area; supporters of TWR’s ministry partner in Gabon; and local authorities. They visited multiple villages, first presenting a radio player to each chief and then giving out radios to other Baka families and praying with them.

One of the village chiefs said, “I thank the Lord for the good that he is doing. Right now, we have a radio, and through this radio, we will listen to the Word of God. When we listen to it, hearts will change.”

“These gifts come from God who thought of us to bless us through the visit of his servants,” a woman villager said. “I thank the Lord for those who brought us these radios so we can listen to the word of life that transforms hearts.”

Ndoukou said his vision for the Baka, as they learn from the Bible teaching on the digital players, is that many will become believers and then listening and prayer groups will be formed. Eventually, some of these groups will organize as churches, he hopes.

Ndoukou plans to return to the area to evaluate whether these early steps in the new ministry are having an impact in the communities. And Pastor Celestin will continue to minister among the Baka, providing spiritual follow-up.

“Today, these Pygmy people can listen to Christian broadcasts in their local languages,” Celestin said. “These gifts [of the radio players] have impacted their lives and brought a lot of change in their community because they are a neglected, despised and forgotten people. They have understood that God loves them. It is a gift that has marked their lives.”

Will you join us in praying for this promising outreach to the Baka?

- Pray that many of the Baka will listen closely to the Bible-based recordings and give their lives to Jesus Christ.
- Pray that the recordings and in-person ministry will have a growing impact on the lives of Baka and then through them on people of the surrounding area.
- Ask the Lord to move in this society to address the problems of alienation, discrimination and even persecution facing the Baka Pygmies.
- The Gabon area in which the Baka live is recognized as a seat of witchcraft in Gabon. Pray that the light of the Holy Spirit will shine brightly through the lives of new Baka believers and that the darkness will retreat before the power of God.
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- A way of bypassing the capital-gains tax
- A charitable deduction
- A legacy gift to TWR, taking the gospel to millions day after day

To talk with a trained TWR adviser and receive a free, no-obligation annuity proposal, contact Tim McElhaney at 330.647.1789 or email tmcelhan@twr.org.

If you or someone you know is 55 or older, let us introduce you to the TWR Gift Annuity. It provides an exciting opportunity to grow your retirement income while creating a legacy that advances the kingdom.

And don’t feel left out if you are 50-55, because a Deferred Gift Annuity can help enhance projected retirement income. Even better, a TWR Gift Annuity will generally lower taxes on your income.

Underperforming assets (think of today’s CDs!) or highly appreciated assets such as securities can be used to fund a TWR Gift Annuity. As the annuitant, you will receive fixed income for life and have an ongoing impact through TWR’s Great Commission ministry. Rates are based on your age and range from 3.1% to 8.6%.