SPEAKING HOPE IN A TIME OF WAR
Making the gospel accessible

At TWR we often say, “Hope knows no barriers.” Pairing the gospel with multiplatform media enables us to take the hope of Jesus Christ to people everywhere despite the geographic, cultural or economic obstacles blocking the way.

In this annual-report issue of TWR Magazine, we focus on ministry to people who have limited or no access to God’s Word. How do we share the good news with people mired in war? What about lands culturally hostile to Christianity? Or places where sound Bible teaching is extremely hard to come by?

Thanks for sharing your time with us as we review TWR (also known as Trans World Radio) facts and figures from the preceding year, learn about active outreach in the field and get inspired for the year ahead.

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COVER STORY

Staying on mission in besieged Ukraine

By John Lundy, TWR staff writer

With the scream of missiles piercing the morning calm, life changed forever in Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

Life also changed for the small team making up TWR Ukraine, a TWR partner that has served the Texas-sized nation for 30 years, and for TWR’s contacts in Russia and Belarus as well.

What didn’t change was their mission: speaking of the hope that only comes from Jesus to the people of their warring nations.

The Ukraine team was forced to abandon their two studios. They traveled in various directions.

A few made the difficult journey out of the country. Most stayed in Ukraine. During that first week, although people in the region still were able to access TWR on radios and in social media, they heard rebroadcasts, said Branko Bjelajac, TWR vice president for Africa and Europe.

That quickly changed as Alex Chmut, the director of TWR Ukraine, and his team used any means available to provide encouragement and hope from God’s Word to the people of their country.

“It’s a great challenge for sure because they are all over the place,” said Frank Stephenson, director of communications for TWR Europe. “But that’s what they’ve been wanting and focusing on doing.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
Barriers create spiritual opportunities

The last three months have been “game-changing” – not only in an Eastern Europe wracked by a mega conflict but also around the rest of the world! Globalism has gone by the wayside. Economies are forced to rely on bootstrap strategies. Personal freedoms have been replaced by tight societal controls.

It doesn’t stop there. People’s interest in eternal issues has been enlarging. It seems that God is setting up the world for a huge collision!

Question: “How should a ministry like TWR respond?” Answer: “By engaging in our calling from God as never before!”

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

It seems that barriers are being built to the good news of Jesus every day. Ten years ago, the barriers seemed to be coming down globally. We now see how fast they can be rebuilt. We should not be surprised. We have an enemy who is a disruptive spiritual force globally and committed to stealing, killing and destroying.

Paul, the apostle who operated in a world dominated by barriers – political, religious and cultural barriers – put it this way:

“Thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on another man’s foundation.”

Barriers create opportunities for the gospel to spread! It may seem illogical at first, but it’s sometimes the case that when Christianity is legal and freely available in a country, people begin taking it for granted and church participation stagnates or declines. The point is – the gospel frequently spreads fastest where barriers and persecution are present.

That is why the world is being primed by the Lord to respond to the good news Jesus came to bring. God has called TWR to minister to the world via media platforms. He has provided the resources, the methods and a calling that are tailor-made for the evolving world environment.

May I invite you to do one or more of the following?

• Pray for the TWR ministry.
• Invest financially in the TWR calling.
• Come join the TWR ministry family in person.

Together, we will move through barriers to present the good news of Jesus to a world that is becoming open to hear.
Broadcasts and content distribution in 300+ languages and dialects to a potential audience of over 4 billion people.

Broadcasts via 11 major transmitter sites as well as 1,180+ AM, FM, network, internet and satellite outlets.

Audio, video and text available for streaming and downloading in 100+ languages on TWR360.org, accessible from any connected device and visited hundreds of thousands of times each month.

Partners, offices or working representatives in 80+ countries and regions.
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<th>Region</th>
<th># of Broadcast Languages</th>
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<td>South Asia</td>
<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>East &amp; Southern Africa</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West &amp; Central Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAMENA (Central Asia, Middle East, N. Africa)</td>
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<td>Europe</td>
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Base map by Graphics Factory CC; all maps are graphic approximations and may not be to scale.
The worldwide ministry of TWR is being expanded in the Persian-speaking world and Central Asia, enabling radio broadcasts to reach believers and spiritually hungry people throughout the region. The potential impact for the spread of the gospel among unreached people groups in Central Asia and parts of the Middle East is huge.

For this major upgrade, TWR is taking a multiplatform approach, combining radio and online ministry. Among the advantages of nondigital radio are its extensive reach and its ability to take TWR’s hope-filled programs to places where traditional missionaries cannot go. It also is very difficult to trace, making it one of the safest ways to receive content for listeners in countries where the gospel is not welcome.

Radio listenership is vibrant in this area, but only a small portion of the Persian-speaking people are being reached, because of the age and limited capacity of the current transmitter in an undisclosed location in Central Asia. A modern transmitter is about to be installed that will provide a much stronger, clearer AM radio signal into the Persian world and Central Asia for many years to come. A bonus is that the new transmitter will be much more efficient, thereby reducing the annual electricity and maintenance costs in addition to increasing the life span of the station.

“The effectiveness of combining radio with digital ministry in the Persian-speaking world and Central Asia is particularly important due to the volatile and unpredictable spiritual and political climate in these regions,” says Frank Stephenson, Marcom director for Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

In this way consistent broadcasting can always be ensured, even if digital access were to be suddenly blocked or online platforms shut down. Radio broadcasts can

bringing more good news to the
Persian world

BY BIRGIT BILLAU • SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR TO TWR MAGAZINE
LISTENERS RESPOND ABOUT PERSIAN PROGRAMS

“These radio dramas help us understand this part of Scripture as we should. For me it was so good that I was able to imagine myself inside the drama. … As for the honest and homely prayer in the last part, whenever I repeat it, I feel peace.”

“Something grabbed my attention. ... After listening to Episode 2, I have been more interested in the Bible.”

“My friends, I want to worship in church. In [my homeland] this is not possible.”

Since many ethnic languages in the region are oral, lacking written form and structure, several programs are based around dramatized Bible passages, using testimonies and Bible commentary as well as a series of questions and answers to communicate God’s truth. An example is the series Persian Oral Bible, designed to encourage Christian growth and discipleship.

Under the leadership of TWR’s Farsi ministry director, the broadcast schedule for the Persian-speaking world was completely renewed at the beginning of 2021. Fresh, new programs were compiled for additional broadcast time, and updated, clear contact information for follow-up has been provided. A partnership with a local ministry provides a strong follow-up team that is on standby to respond securely to radio listeners.

The Persian world, rich in culture and history, is also a region of frequent turmoil, including political and religious. At TWR the focus of the radio programs as well as the digital Farsi ministry (persianworldradio.com) is to reveal and share the hope of Christ and the truth of God’s Word. If you would like more information on this subject, or if you feel led to support this ministry, please visit twr.org/good-news-persia.
At times, Stephenson noted, the ministry had to be squeezed in around required defense work, because all males ages 18-60 were on standby to potentially be conscripted into the Ukrainian military. Chmut, a father, grandfather and pastor, dug trenches and became an unlikely social media star.

A Facebook video made as Chmut walked to work drew 6.4 million views. The 2-year-old granddaughter he movingly spoke about made it out of Ukraine with her mother.

While Chmut and his team were striving valiantly to connect with each other and with the Ukrainian people, TWR staff elsewhere were scrambling to provide support.

Because of war-related reasons, the main medium-wave, or AM, radio frequency on which TWR was heard in Ukraine was suddenly unavailable.

But TWR already had been developing contingency plans and by Eastern Orthodox Easter (April 24) was broadcasting on at least two AM frequencies heard in Ukraine and via shortwave from Guam. A landing page in the Ukrainian language was in place on TWR360, and music, Bible readings and devotions in the Ukrainian language were being streamed 24 hours a day on internet radio.

Meanwhile, TWR Chief Content Officer Jon Fugler and his team were working to provide programming tailored toward Ukrainian refugees and others struggling with the trauma of war.

Finding appropriate content was one thing; finding people to translate it and speak it in the Ukrainian language was another, Fugler said. But it happened, and in a short period of time.

Russian and Belarusians have faced their own traumatic circumstances, and TWR has not forgotten them.

“Yes, you don’t have rockets and missile attacks to worry about, but you have sanctions and economic difficulties that are a reality for the everyday people there,” Stephenson said.

Nonetheless, TWR’s friends in Russia and Belarus have continued to minister faithfully, Stephenson said.

It has been an enormous challenge, but it’s all part of the mission, Fugler said.

“We have needs that we need to address in Russia as well as Ukraine and (the) refugees, and that’s what makes this such a huge task,” he said. “But we’re called to do that. We’re called to reach the world for Christ.”
By Leanne Tan, TWR staff writer

Despite having read the Bible several times, Thet* never truly understood the gospel. He also didn’t have anyone or anywhere he could go to seek more information. But things began to change when he encountered KTWR’s shortwave broadcasts.

Now a regular listener of KTWR, the Myanmar-based listener has a firm grasp of the Bible and a desire to tell others about God.

TWR’s powerful shortwave station on Guam, KTWR delivers hope in about 20 languages to a potential audience of 3 billion across Asia and beyond. Like Thet, many of these listeners face obstacles to spiritual growth – among which is having limited or no access to Christian resources.

Daniel Saputra, TWR’s international director for Southeast Asia, recognizes the value of the station for reaching certain parts of Vietnam, Myanmar and Indonesia, where systematic and sound Bible teaching is harder to come by. Additionally, internet access and media platforms other than radio have yet to become widely available in some remote areas of these countries.

“Our teams, especially in Vietnam and Myanmar, depend heavily on KTWR’s broadcasts in our ministry efforts,” Saputra said. “Many local church leaders have told us that they use KTWR programs in their discipleship efforts and that they have seen people change as a result of listening to the broadcasts.”

Echoing Saputra’s sentiment, TWR Chinese Ministry Director May Chen believes KTWR’s shortwave broadcasting remains a viable channel to reach believers in China who are encountering tightening access to Christian literature and online resources, or who are unable to go to church due to physical disabilities and limitations.

Thanks to our faithful supporters who have helped meet and exceed the $1.5 million fundraising goal for the Strong Tower for Asia project, KTWR will continue to be a reliable wellspring of sound Christian programming for decades to come.

Work is well underway to restore several of KTWR’s towers that have endured nearly 45 years of salt, tropical storms and typhoons. TWR has engaged the help of North Carolina-based Banner Enterprise, a tower and communication service company, with the multiphase project.

In April, a tower crew from Banner began the process of replacing worn-out structural components of the towers with freshly painted new ones. It’s expected to take about three months to complete.

“To be able to have these guys here is a tremendous help,” KTWR Station Director Grant Hodgins said. “The towers are going to get fixed relatively quickly. They’re going be strengthened to be here for another 20 to 30 years.”

The crew will then return to Guam early next year following the typhoon season to begin the next project phase: replacing guy wires.

 “[Please pray for] the health and safety of the staff and contractors,” Hodgins said. “And that all the projects get done in proper timing and budget.”

* A pseudonym is used to preserve his privacy.
By Maralina Alfonso

It was a homecoming in March when Tom Schoen visited the small South American country of Suriname. Accompanied by Steve Shantz, who previously served as TWR’s vice president for Latin America, Schoen was returning to the land of his boyhood. Tom’s parents were pioneer missionaries who introduced indigenous peoples of the region to Christ. Now, he and his wife, Junine, will be serving those same people through radio as they serve with TWR.

After meeting with the appropriate officials in the capital city of Paramaribo, the two traveled to three villages in the interior to meet with church elders. Shantz and Schoen felt “encouraged to hear (the elders) talk about needing to really own the projects themselves,” said Shantz, now TWR’s vice president for digital ministry.

One village chief had made a mission trip into Brazil a little more than a year ago in which 21 people received Christ, Shantz related. Because of ill health, he had been unable to return for discipling purposes, so he was particularly excited about the radio project.

“If he could have left them with a radio, then they would be hearing Bible teaching every day,” Shantz explained.

When Schoen and Shantz returned to the capital city, word had spread about the radio project as far as Surinamese Vice President Ronnie Brunswijk. A tentative meeting was scheduled. Unfortunately, the vice president had to travel to the interior to deal with flooding. But one of his associates assured the men that Brunswijk’s interest was genuine. Schoen and Shantz are hoping and praying that two Surinamese representatives in Paramaribo who are helping with the project eventually will be able to meet with the vice president.

The proposed stations, which will be powered by solar energy, will be used to disciple Wayana and Trio tribal members, many of whom met Jesus during Schoen’s childhood. They have dispersed deeper into the jungles looking for new places to hunt and fish as well as to flee the pressures of modern life. This makes radio the ideal tool to help them to continue to grow in their faith.

The goal is also to reach those who are not only far from the populated areas but away from God, because they have not heard of him. They will hear only if someone speaks to them in their own language and in a way they can understand.

A formal letter has been written to the Suriname government requesting licensing, Shantz said. He and Schoen plan a return trip to Suriname as soon as it appears that will be granted.

Maralina Alfonso serves as TWR director of marketing and communications for Latin America and the Caribbean.
The Horn of Africa needs God’s Word

Their marriage crumbling, Adane* and Eleni* sat across from each other, yet staring in opposite directions.

“Can’t we find a way to reconcile?” Adane finally pleaded with his wife.

“No. I want a divorce,” Eleni said. Her adamant reply stung.

The two ended their marriage in a local court and separated.

A year later, Adane slumped in a chair at his home in Ethiopia, lonely. He turned on his radio to fill the air with noise. The program startled him. It was in Amharic, his language.

What are these words?

“You can know the living God and develop a personal relationship with him. Have your sins forgiven through faith in his Son, Jesus Christ. Put your trust in him and experience a new beginning.”

A new beginning, Adane pondered. He bowed his head and surrendered his life to Jesus.

With hope in his heart, Adane called Eleni and invited her to listen to the program with him. Initially reluctant, she still agreed. As they heard the Bible explained, they discovered how these lessons could apply to daily life.

Can our marriage possibly be saved?

“The Thru the Bible program radically changed my life,” Adane said. “Then Eleni and I believed God could help us solve our problems.”

The couple put faith into action and renewed their marriage vows, this time in an evangelical church. “Now we’re very happy,” Adane said. “God bless you.”

This heartwarming story of redemption and renewal is one of thousands that TWR staff have heard from listeners in the Horn of Africa. We’re convinced we should boldly expand programming not only to Ethiopia but also to Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan. Two hundred million people live in this spiritually closed region, 80 million of whom are considered unreached. Many are Muslims.

God is at work, opening doors for us to purchase a used shortwave antenna in South Carolina. Once it and other necessary equipment are installed at our Eswatini transmitting site, we’ll be able to greatly expand our listener base.

And reach listeners like the eight close friends who huddle daily in a prison of 22 inmates on the Ethiopian-Kenyan border to hear God’s Word over the radio. They called us and wanted prayer, so we talked with them, and each received Christ as Savior. They’re now serving him in prison. Praise God.

* Not their real names

BY RICHARD GREENE • SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR TO TWR MAGAZINE
The ministry encompasses a global network of partnerships, radio broadcasting, online streaming, portable media, satellite delivery, publications and digital platforms.

Global Leader Team

VP = Vice President
LAUREN LIBBY
President/CEO
JOE BARKER
Chief Technical Officer
BRANKO BJEJAJAC
International Ministry VP for Africa & Europe
JON FUGLER
Chief Content Officer
STEVE HIPPE
Chief Financial Officer
BEATE KIEBEL
Director, Global Broadcast Media Operations
TIM KLINGBEIL
Chief Development Officer
ESTEBAN LARROSA
International Ministry VP for Latin America/Caribbean
DIRK MUeller
Regional Ministry ID for Europe
BERNARD OOSTERHOFF
Regional Ministry ID for CAMENA

ID = International Director
DARYL RENSHAW
International Ministry VP for Asia
ABDOULAYE SANGEHO
Regional Ministry ID for West & Central Africa
DANIEL SAPUTRA
Regional Ministry ID for Southeast Asia
STEVE SHANTZ
VP of Digital Ministry
CRAIG SLATER
Deputy to the President
RALF STORES
Director, Global Media Services
ANNABEL TORREALBA
Regional Ministry ID for Latin America/Caribbean
RICK WESTON
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SAL SBERNA
CRAIG STENBERG
WILLIE YANG

OUR CALLING To reach the world for Christ by mass media so that lasting fruit is produced.
WR broadcasts can potentially reach 4 billion people, but there are no ratings systems quantifying how many people globally tune in to our programs. To be good stewards, we collect available data to determine how well we engage audiences with the resources entrusted to us. An “engagement,” in this sense, is an impressionistic snapshot of our contact with an individual – from an in-person visit to a phone call or a web session. Our goal is to eventually hear from listeners like this Turkish woman who hated God: “Your teaching showed me that Jesus is more than a prophet. He is the Son of God. ... Praise God to enlighten me this way.”
As a nonprofit ministry organization, TWR depends on God and the voluntary contributions of ministry partners, individuals and churches. To help assure our good stewardship of the funds entrusted to the ministry, TWR belongs to the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and adheres to its financial standards. An independent certified public accounting firm audits TWR’s annual financial statements. Complete audited financial statements are available on TWR’s website at twr.org/official-documents.

### INCOME

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\(^1\) Donations include gifts received in the current year for use in subsequent years due to temporary restrictions imposed by the donors.

\(^2\) Other income includes investment income and loss; change in value of split-interest agreements such as trusts and gift annuities; gains and losses on the sale of assets; and other items.

DOWNLOAD A PDF OF TWR’S FULL AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT TWR.ORG/OFFICIAL-DOCUMENTS.
**EXPENSES**

**Expense type**

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**FUNDRAISING** 9%

**MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL** 6%

**MINISTRY** 85%

**2021 OPERATING EXPENSES**

**BOTTOM LINE**

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Comprises surplus from operations, translation adjustment and gifts for future ministry.
CONSIDER THE BENEFITS YOU WILL ENJOY:

• A fixed income for life
• A way of bypassing the capital-gains tax
• A charitable deduction
• A legacy gift to TWR, taking the gospel to millions day after day

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 4% to 8.6%.

To talk with a trained TWR adviser and receive a free proposal, contact Tim Klingbeil at 800-456-7897 or email planned.giving@twr.org.