

[un]limited access

Making God's Word available to all

*The Roma in
Ukraine, like this
boy, hear the
gospel in their
own language.*

twr MAGAZINE

2022 VOL. 43 #3 • TWR.ORG

INSIDE

2022-2023 RADIOS FOR
THE WORLD CATALOG



EXTENDING THE REACH OF THE GOOD NEWS

BECAUSE YOU
GAVE

Bringing Good News to Iran

Your gifts to Bringing Good News to Iran are helping TWR purchase an upgraded transmitter that will reach Iran and the surrounding countries with the good news of Jesus Christ. There is an openness to the gospel in the region, also called the Persian-speaking world, and TWR airs about two hours of radio programs each evening. The schedule includes Bible study as well as programs geared toward women and families, seekers, and those from non-Christian backgrounds. Thank you for giving over \$1.8 million to help us secure this new transmitter and expand our ministry in languages such as Farsi, Qashqai, Gilaki and Balochi.

Ukraine-Russia Crisis Fund

Your gifts to support our Ukrainian listeners during these days of war have been a huge blessing. We are distributing radios, helping our staff resettle in safer locations, producing programs (sometimes in makeshift studios), and expanding programming (including trauma-healing and counseling content). Our Ukrainian staff report that, more than ever, listeners are asking for the comfort of God's Word. The director is being invited to speak in many busy churches. The fund also helps TWR contacts in Belarus and Russia, adding to Russian broadcasts and aiding these ministries struggling in sanctions-strapped economies. Thank you for giving \$506,000 to help us equip ministry as war rages.

China Ministries

TWR's China Ministries team is expanding outreach on several fronts due to your supportive prayers and the \$322,000 you gave this year. We praise God for a new partner to produce a shortwave broadcast of *Every Man A Warrior*, TWR's Bible-study series for men. Other new programs include more episodes

of *From Despair to Hope*, which provides comfort amid the pandemic, and *Following Jesus*, a storytelling program that helps oral learners grow in their walk with Jesus. A listener wrote to us: "After I learned the Bible-study method, I used it to read the Bible and grow in Christ. I understand what it says and apply it to my life. How trustworthy and powerful God's Word is!"

Hope for the Middle East

"I am a 23-year-old woman who was abused by one of my family members. The Lord appointed you especially for me. You are close to my heart over far distances. Thanks for helping me to overcome feelings of guilt in my relationship with God. Thanks for helping me to realize that it is a relationship based on love, not rituals. The Lord set me free from low self-esteem, and he gave my life meaning and purpose." This moving response to the program *Healing Touches* came to us from a listener in the Middle East. Blanketing more than 20 countries, TWR's Arabic programs by radio, internet and mobile apps speak hope to a variety of audiences, even young men at risk of radicalism. Your support of \$372,000 this year is making these vital programs possible. Thank you!

anniversary milestones

During the second half of 2022, we honor these colleagues at TWR (also known as Trans World Radio) who are celebrating a milestone anniversary of at least 10 years with the ministry. Praise God for their faithful service.

- 45 Dan Blosser, USA
- 40 Steve Shantz, Canada
- 35 Carlene Abdo, USA
- 30 Randy Sieg, USA
Ted and Dawn Siemens, Cyprus
- 25 Joe and Rhonda Barker, USA
- 20 Bob Hall, USA
- 15 Randy and Cristy Shearer, Cyprus
- 10 Alan Lawton, USA
Mel Moreno, USA

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Lauren Libby, TWR President/CEO



“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other!” – ISAIAH 45:22

Last week I received a phone call with the question, “Does TWR ever have to deal with situations of crisis or extreme conflict?” My response was, “Which one?”

In nine months we have seen a war in Eastern Europe, a political crisis in Sri Lanka, increased religious persecution in India and China, believers losing their lives in Nigeria and increasing conflicts in the United States – just to name a few of the major conflicts. TWR is ministering in the midst of each of them. Jesus has not been surprised, and he is using ministries like TWR to bring good news to nonbelievers and hope and encouragement to believers.

God has positioned TWR for times such as these! Media can flow in and out of areas where there is conflict, bringing hope and encouragement where there is none!

In the Eastern European war zone, people are consuming TWR programming and letting us know what that spiritual encouragement means to them. I've read responses from people whose homes have been destroyed, whose family members have been injured or killed, and who are now living in basements. Even in desperate situations, the hope of Christ can reach them on the air, on cellphones or online (in places where the internet is still operating).

TWR staff produce programs in impossible situations. Medium-wave (AM), long-range and shortwave radio, along with the internet and video, bring encouragement.

In the middle of a political meltdown in Sri Lanka, TWR is bringing hope on the air via an FM network and long-range AM station.

In Nigeria, the number of listeners is increasing in areas of religious conflict. Believers have lost their lives because of their faith in the northern part of the country. TWR is there every night on AM bringing hope and encouragement!

In North Korea and China, TWR is on the air via shortwave from Guam, encouraging believers. It's a vital link for believers' growth in these tense situations.

In India, radio home groups and on-air broadcasts help believers grow in their personal relationships with Jesus! Teaching programs such as *Thru the Bible* bring scriptural depth where no other resources are available.

With media, the gospel knows no boundaries, political or otherwise. TWR's calling – “to reach the world for Christ by mass media so that lasting fruit is produced” – fits the world situation perfectly. Your help enables the gospel to flow over, around, even through boundaries. Your prayer and financial support are indispensable!

Come join us in this calling! Perhaps God is calling you to co-labor with TWR. Check our website for current opportunities.

And thank you for your co-laborship!

CONNECT WITH TWR



President/CEO Lauren Libby
Chief Development Officer Tim Klingbeil
Director of Marketing & Communications David McCreary
Editor Jon Hill **Designer** Nicole Hughes
Cover image Shutterstock.com

TWR, also known as Trans World Radio, is a member of Missio Nexus, National Religious Broadcasters, Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, and the Evangelical Press Association.

TWR Magazine (ISSN 1093-0124) is published triannually by TWR, P.O. Box 8700, Cary, NC, 27512.

Privacy policy: TWR values our relationship with you and respects your right to privacy. You can read TWR's privacy policy at twr.org/policies.

Postage: Periodicals postage paid at Cary, N.C., and additional mailing offices.

Subscription: This publication is sent without charge and is sustained by contributions from those who have chosen voluntarily to support this worldwide ministry. Names on TWR's mailing list are used exclusively by TWR and are not sold to or rented by any other organization.

Canadian address: Send Canadian address changes to TWR Canada, P.O. Box 25324, London, Ontario N6C 6B1.

Postmaster: Send U.S. address changes to TWR, P.O. Box 8700, Cary, NC 27512 • 919.460.3700

Overcoming obstacles in North Korea

By John Lundy, TWR staff writer

Choon-Hee* had no love in her heart for the man who owned her.

Like thousands of other North Korean women, Choon-Hee had illegally crossed the Yalu River into China in a desperate attempt to support herself. Her hopes turned into a nightmare.

“She was sold to this guy,” related Boaz Seong, director of TWR Korea. “So she was unhappy.”

Although she was considered the man’s wife, there had been no marriage, Seong said as he continued the story. They had one child and lived in a remote farming community. She never said “I love you” to the man.

He was overseas to earn money when Choon-Hee joined an online follow-up team that serves with TWR Korea. One day, the study focused on the family, drawing from God’s creation of man and woman in Genesis 1. “From this Bible study, she understands that even though she was sold into this family, it’s part of God’s plan,” Seong related.

“So after this Bible study, she made an international call and said to her husband, ‘I love you,’” he continued. “So her husband was shocked. ‘What happened to you?’ And she shared the story. So the family changed, and because of this lady, the village people are changing.”

Based in South Korea, TWR Korea’s mission is to reach North Koreans for Christ whether they are in their homeland or have migrated to other countries. In either case, gaining access requires overcoming daunting obstacles.

In North Korea

In North Korea itself, Christian radio programs are broadcast via shortwave from the island of Guam. But not only is listening to the programs illegal, radios themselves are illegal. In almost 20 years, TWR Korea has distributed tens of thousands of radios in North Korea. But COVID-19 brought new restrictions that had the effect of preventing radio deliveries.

The radios are hidden when not in use, and often that may mean keeping them in environments

Political dogma emphasizes conformity in North Korea, where these children line up before a mural of the leader. TWR seeks to share the love of Jesus with every individual in this closed country.



that are far from ideal, Seong said. And they have a limited lifespan. He estimates that about half of the radios TWR Korea has distributed are still in working order.

But there's a good reason for hiding them. "Listening to our programs is dangerous," Seong said.

Meanwhile, TWR's radio signal was recently jammed. Because of that TWR has had to change the frequency it uses.

Still, evidence has emerged that the North Korean people are becoming more receptive to the message, Seong said. Because of that, TWR Korea adjusted its focus about five years ago from programs intended for underground church leaders to evangelism and pre-evangelism programs.

In Russia

TWR Korea also is reaching out to North Koreans in Russia. Thousands of North Korean men work in Russia, Seong said, living in work camps. Even though a daily headcount is taken in the camps, some of them manage to escape. If they can make their way to a U.N. office, they'll be protected. Others flee, finding refuge elsewhere.

TWR Korea ministers to both groups with online programs and also sends missionaries to meet with them face to face. Seong's colleague Brother Han specialized in this. In 2021, when COVID restrictions were relaxed, Brother Han and a co-worker traveled to Russia to make contacts with new partners, co-workers and new groups of refugees. But on the journey he contracted COVID, which took his life.

Han was survived by his wife and two college-age children.

In China

Seong estimates more than 200,000 North Korean women have crossed into China. Many of them made the move during what he calls the "Big Hunger," when famine plagued North Korea from 1995-2005. Many now have families and may live far from the border.

Missionaries have been able to reach this subgroup personally in the past, but COVID along with increased government restrictions made that increasingly difficult. So missionaries started using internet tools such as texts and Zoom. But the Chinese government implemented a new law on March 1 that blocked access in that way.

Seong and others are looking at digital radio broadcasting as a possible alternative.

Quick facts about North Korea

Population: 25.96 million

Evangelicals: 1.5%

Persecution of Christians:
Extreme

Imprisoned:
50,000 to 70,000 Christians

Source: Open Doors

Workers abroad

For North Koreans working in Russia:

- 60% of their pay goes to the North Korean government.
- 30% of their pay goes to the owner of the company.
- They pay for their accommodations.
- At the end of the month, their debt has grown by \$25-\$30.

Source: Boaz Seong, TWR Korea

Whether through jammed signals or restrictive laws, an enemy far more insidious than any government is trying to keep the gospel of Jesus Christ out of reach of North Koreans. But God is greater, and he's using the persistence and perseverance of TWR Korea to keep proclaiming the word, whatever the costs.

Seong asks for prayer in these areas:

- Pray for a clear and strong signal to be heard in North Korea.
- Pray for the safety of the North Korean listeners.
- Pray for a reopened border so radios again can be delivered to North Korea.
- Pray for the North Korean government to decide to become a "normal" country – "normal business, normal trading, normal communication."

**Not her real name.*



For many, hearing is believing

An elderly man from the African country of Angola called one of our response teams to tell why he regularly tunes in TWR broadcasts of *Thru the Bible*.

The man is blind and can't read at all. "Sometimes," he said, "my grandson reads the Scriptures for me."

Discovering that he could listen to in-depth teaching on the radio most days of the week made the Bible truly accessible to him. Aptly, he borrowed the words of the man in the Gospel of John who was interrogated by Pharisees after being healed by Jesus.

"I was blind, but now I see," the Angolan listener said.

Whether because of physical limitation, illiteracy or cultural predisposition, a huge portion of the world's population fits into the category of oral communicators. In other words, these are people who are oriented toward oral rather than textual methods of learning.

Radio, along with media such as preloaded audio players, is a perfect way to share the Word of God with this important segment of TWR's audience.

"I am an illiterate person, and without the radio, I would know nothing," a listener

in Nepal told us this year. "Today I know Jesus, my Savior. ... God has given me the gospel and fed me by daily spiritual food."

This is why TWR has been a member of the International Orality Network since its founding. The ION is a network of over 2,000 organizations "with the common goal of making God's Word available to oral communicators in culturally appropriate ways that enable church-planting movements everywhere."

Tom Watkins, TWR's director of Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships, said, "Orality continues to be a very important way in which TWR brings value to our ministry partners. We're able to help them understand how to access oral communities and story-centric cultures and people groups with appropriate audio content."

Our response teams sometimes encounter listeners who are motivated by the Bible broadcasts to go a step further. A woman who listened to *Women of Hope* in the Gujarati language of western India said the program touched her heart.

"I decided to learn the Word of God," said the woman, who was illiterate when she was introduced to *Women of Hope*. "... I prayed to the Lord to help me to read the Bible. God heard my prayer, and today I am able to read the Bible."



Words of life in a hospital's wards

Nurses care for patients in the Karanda Mission Hospital pediatric ward.

Photo via Doug Batchelder/TEAM

By Zeke Hansen

A mission hospital in a remote area of northern Zimbabwe is providing spiritual truth in addition to medical care.

Karanda Mission Hospital, established in 1961, serves more than 75,000 individuals annually, routinely providing surgery and treatment to the people of Zimbabwe.

Through a partnership with TWR, Karanda's patients now have access to *Thru the Bible* twice daily on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the hospital's wards. Listeners receive solid biblical teaching in Shona, which is spoken by more than 70% of Zimbabweans.

It's a pioneering work. TWR's Bill Mial has been promoting "hospital radio" for 15 years, although in a different form. "But in reality it is the same vision, so I say simply PTL," Mial commented.

The hospital initiated the connection in late 2019, asking TWR Zimbabwe for programs to run through the hospital. TWR Zimbabwe had a ready supply of *Thru the Bible* programs already translated into Shona, so the teachings were on the Karanda airwaves by February 2020.

Karanda receives support in the form of supplies and personnel from the mission agency TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance

Mission). Because its services are among the most affordable in Zimbabwe, people from all around the country and beyond seek care there.

It's a perfect marriage between the mission of TWR, to bring the world to Christ through mass media so lasting fruit is produced, and Karanda Mission Hospital, whose mission includes providing "an authentic Christian witness" and participating "in spiritual ministry to patients."

Karanda runs what is essentially a community radio station that connects through the speakers in the hospital wards.

The biblical teaching is noticed.

"The systematic Bible-study programs gave me my fruit," one recently discharged patient wrote. "I can safely say that even though I wasn't able to be reading the Bible on my own, through this program I was reading and studying the Word."

Another former patient called to say, "It is like I have been in church. Thank you for the great teachings I heard while I was being attended to at the hospital."

Melindah Kilijami, national director for TWR Zimbabwe, said she is seeking similar arrangements with other mission hospitals.

Zeke Hansen served in Johannesburg as part of TWR's intern group for 2022.



Photo courtesy of Steve Evans
flickr.com/photos/babasteve

Bringing **ROMA** outsiders into the fold

By Anna Laura Visser, TWR Europe staff writer

The widely dispersed people group known as the Roma are lamentably recognized as Europe's outsiders, frequently facing limited access to education, health care and political representation.


TWR Europe, however, has long sought to ensure that the Roma had access to the most important information of all, God's Word, and that it would be in a cultural form to have great impact. Even our national partner in Ukraine, though mired in war most of this year, continues to produce fresh, life-giving content not only for the majority population but also for the Roma in the country.

While most Roma reside in the central and southeastern regions of Europe, unofficial estimates put the number of Roma living in Ukraine at around 200,000 to 300,000. Among them, there are thousands of committed Christian believers.

Despite the challenging and often poor circumstances that the Roma people live in, many of them are keen on using modern technology. This means that TWR Ukraine has the opportunity to connect with them using a variety of communication platforms.

Unlike with other groups, simply incorporating Romani language and tradition in efforts to reach the people with the good news of Jesus Christ often fails to achieve success. It might even increase the likelihood of a negative reaction. Why? Because Roma frequently feel suspicious and even threatened when a non-Roma person demonstrates interest in their language and culture.

Is there a nonthreatening way of sharing the gospel with the Roma? Yes, when it comes from within the community, meaning that Roma believers share their own stories of how the Lord has changed their lives.



Seen here helping restore bombed-out Irpin Bible Seminary, Alex Chmut leads TWR Ukraine as the team ministers to the Roma and others in this war-weary nation.

Tabor Goes to Heaven

Such stories are also the foundation of TWR Ukraine's radio program for the Roma called *Tabor Goes to Heaven*. "Tabor" is the Romani word for the camps in which they live. Elena Marchuk started this project in 2013, and today more than 500 programs have been produced. In 2020, Sergei Berezovsky, a translator, Greek teacher and expert on Roma culture, became the presenter of the programs.

One listener wrote to the team, "Hello, Sergei Berezovsky. We congratulate you and bless you for this difficult work. We listen to the program *Tabor Goes to Heaven* with great interest. ... You told us about the Bible, and you told us about God. Thank you very much for that. Keep telling us all about these things and be well."

Each episode is 15 minutes long and covers different topics, among them Christian ministry updates, testimonies and themes of local interest, and Roma-style Christian worship. The episodes are designed with Roma mentality and character in mind and straightforwardly share a clear and understandable gospel message with a call to repentance.

Iosif Lakatos, a pastor within the Roma community in Merefa, has participated multiple times in the recordings of the programs by either answering listener questions or by being interviewed for the program. "The programs are important for us because we take part in their creation," he says. "For many years now, our family has hosted radio announcers, and sometimes they stay with us for a few days."

Lakatos's wife adds, "It's encouraging for us that many of the programs are about the Roma believers of Transcarpathia [in southwestern Ukraine]. It is interesting to hear our relatives talk about their conversion, and the programs themselves are appealing."

Listening how/when you want

Tabor Goes to Heaven is made available on various media platforms, such as the internet, CDs, media receivers and AM broadcasts. This not only reaches a broader audience but also makes it easy for Roma believers to share these programs with others, including their families, friends and others in their closely knit communities.

For example, before the war, a church in the eastern Luhansk region of Ukraine distributed CDs containing the program to the Roma in the area. Over a hundred copies were made and distributed, making a big impact.

Roma who do not yet know Christ are often willing to listen to *Tabor*, regardless of whether they discovered it on their own or with the help of a Christian relative. For example, a Roma woman wrote, "They brought me a CD with recordings of the programs. What amazing songs are on there, both about God and our folk songs. Sometimes I clean the house while listening to the CD. And I like the fact that they not only sing about God but also talk about it!"

TWR Europe is inviting believers around the world to pray for its multinational outreach to the Roma. In particular remember our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, working amid threats of danger and displacement to bring a spiritual awakening among the Roma.

The gospel radio station in the Amazon River



Base map via Google Earth; city and station locations are approximations

By Maralina Alfonso

On a small island in the middle of the Amazon River where the borders of Peru, Colombia and Brazil intertwine sits one of the newest stations in TWR's global radio network.

Santa Rosa 91.1 FM, which went on the air in April 2022, is on the Peru side of the border, but it's a joint effort of TWR's Peruvian and Brazilian national partners. RRI* and RTM Brazil** consider Santa Rosa a strategic location from which they can reach a larger audience in the three adjoining countries while boosting the outreach to the Ticuna indigenous people.

"The indigenous population of the Upper Amazon lives isolated from the big cities," said Claubert Quadros, a Presbyterian missionary who coordinates the ministry to the Ticuna. "...There aren't many roads. Access is by boat or plane. RTM's programming in this region reaches souls that the feet of men and the church cannot reach in person. These are lives in need of the gospel."

Partnering with RRI has expanded the ministry's reach to Ticuna riverside communities by at least 15 times, Pastor Quadros said. Along with programs in Ticuna, the new Santa Rosa station broadcasts in Spanish and Portuguese. Two towns with a combined population of about 100,000 – Leticia, Colombia, and Tabatinga, Brazil – are a short boat ride across the Amazon from Santa Rosa.

Ministry to indigenous groups

Since 1980, TWR and RTM Brazil have reached out to groups like the Ticuna through what is known as the Indigenous Languages Project. Overcoming barriers of language and geography, radio programs such as *Thru the Bible* and *Mission 66* have helped introduce the Ticuna to Jesus Christ and then disciple them in their mother tongue.

Traditionally, the Ticuna lived on both banks of the Amazon River and its tributaries near the Peruvian border with Colombia and Brazil. In Peru today, they are located mainly in the administrative district called Loreto, of which Santa Rosa is a part.

In Brazil, they are considered one of the largest ethnic groups, with a population of more than 50,000 people mostly between the ages of 5 and 29. The culture is oral-based, and the written language is still being developed.

"I've been working [with the Ticuna] for 22 years, and I still haven't managed to master 100% of the language, given the complexity of its structure," Quadros said. "It is a constant learning process so that the message of hope can advance."

Martinho Dique and Ezequias Macedo translate the scripts from Portuguese to Ticuna. In addition to translating, they adapt the material and rerecord it. Plans call for the project to be expanded, and organizers hope new personnel will soon join the team.

Ticuna people boat along the river near Santa Rosa.



Photo via Shutterstock

Addressing social, as well as spiritual, needs

In its long-term outreach to this indigenous group, RTM Brazil came to see that the Ticuna needed social support along with access to Bible broadcasts. To that end, the Brazilian ministry works with more than 240 children and teenagers, providing them with tutoring, sports and music activities, and Bible studies. Food is also provided during some of the activities, guaranteeing a measure of food security in a context of great vulnerability.

In addition to evangelism and education, the Brazilian ministry is partnering in a project aimed at helping women to generate income through sewing. RTM also assists with the financing of a local health unit.

Over the years, the Indigenous Languages Project has been blessed by God, but RTM Brazil staff members will tell you that their greatest challenge is recruiting all the volunteers needed to carry out the initiatives developed by the ministry. This is especially the case for the highly specialized work involved in translating content into Ticuna.

In natural and social settings like this, radio proves to be the most effective medium for reaching the intended audience, located as the people are far from major population centers. While the various community

services that TWR and its national partners have assisted with are indeed significant, it's the capacity of radio to enhance this people group's access to God's Word that is the most important impact of all.

How we can pray for this outreach

Ricardo Kroskinsque, director of communication and public relations at RTM Brazil, asked for focused prayer for this ministry along the Amazon River.

"It is intense and arduous work, but, to the glory of God, it has touched many lives," Kroskinsque said. "We ask people to pray for God's constant guidance for our local partners, specifically Pastor Clauber and his family. We ask God to raise up more people willing to help with evangelism among the Ticuna and to open doors to new Ticuna groups. And we pray for more people with generous hearts who accept the challenge of contributing to this project."

* *Red Radio Integridad (Integrity Radio Network)* was the original name of our national partner in Peru.

** *RTM is the Portuguese form of TWR.*

Maralina Alfonso is the TWR communications director for Latin America and the Caribbean. Assisting with this article were Ricardo Kroskinsque of RTM Brazil and Edward Zacarías of RRI.

Praise the Lord, call on his name: make known his deeds among the peoples. – PSALM 105:1

YOUR SAVINGS, YOUR LEGACY

USE YOUR IRA ROLLOVER
TO HELP GROW GOD'S KINGDOM.



You've saved, saved and saved some more. A lifetime's hard work and all that saving for retirement has paid off. Now use those savings to create your legacy by making an IRA charitable rollover gift.

If you are 70½ or older, you can use your individual retirement account (IRA) to enable TWR to keep bringing hope to millions around the world who need it most. Some advantages of this kind of gift are listed to the right.



P.O. Box 8700
Cary, NC 27512-8700
1.800.456.7897
twr.org

Return service requested

Non profit
US Postage
Paid
Permit 238
Memphis TN



Reduce your taxable income even if you do not itemize deductions.



Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts.



Use your rollover to make a gift to a missionary or project of your choice.

If you'd like to know more about how you can create your legacy by making an IRA charitable rollover gift to TWR this year, take a minute to look over our page at twr.org/ira. Ready to talk now? Please call or email Tim McElhaney at 330.647.1789 or tmcelhan@twr.org.