

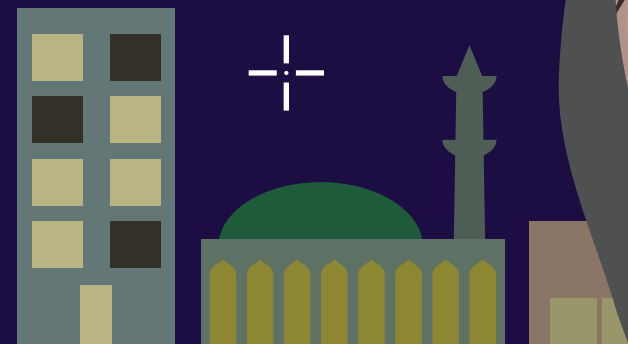
VOL. 11, NO. 1

# VOICE & HANDS

WINTER 2016

## UNDER- GROUND

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# Wayne a word from



Dear Friend,

I'm writing this from Asia, seeing firsthand the spiritual darkness in this part of the world. It's nothing new. I see it everywhere I go—people seeking hope and security in false religions, economic systems, politics and a host of other things that only let them down.

But God has opened the door for the light of the gospel to shine in even the darkest places.

A new Reach Beyond partner radio station, for instance, is broadcasting the good news in a community where only a handful of believers lived a few months ago. The station has attracted a growing group of new Christ-followers who gather weekly for worship, teaching and evangelism. Now the fledgling church is demonstrating Christ's love through humanitarian and medical service to the community.

This is what happens when the “voice and hands of Jesus” come together. Media and compassionate medical care work together in concert, bringing others into a relationship with Christ.

“Together” is such an important word when it comes to reaching others. It's the synergy that results when your prayers and gifts, combined with help of local partners who understand the language and culture, make it possible for Reach Beyond to equip people for effective ministry.

That's why we've created the Voice and Hands Initiative. Your partnership enables our teams around the world to declare and demonstrate God's love to those who have never had a chance to meet Him.

Thank you for playing your part in being His “voice and hands.”

Serving Him together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Pederson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne Pederson  
President, Reach Beyond



# HOPE + HEALING

**R**esolve.... If one word could sum up what it takes to reach the unreached in today's world, that would be a good choice. At a time when millions of people are making resolutions for the year, Reach Beyond is resolved to do one thing: Be the “voice and hands” of Jesus, especially in parts of the world where His name is not known, or worse yet, opposed.

More than 2 billion people in the world have limited or no access to the gospel—a stunning number in a world of endless mass communication. Why? Because the enemy has blinded eyes and distorted truth.

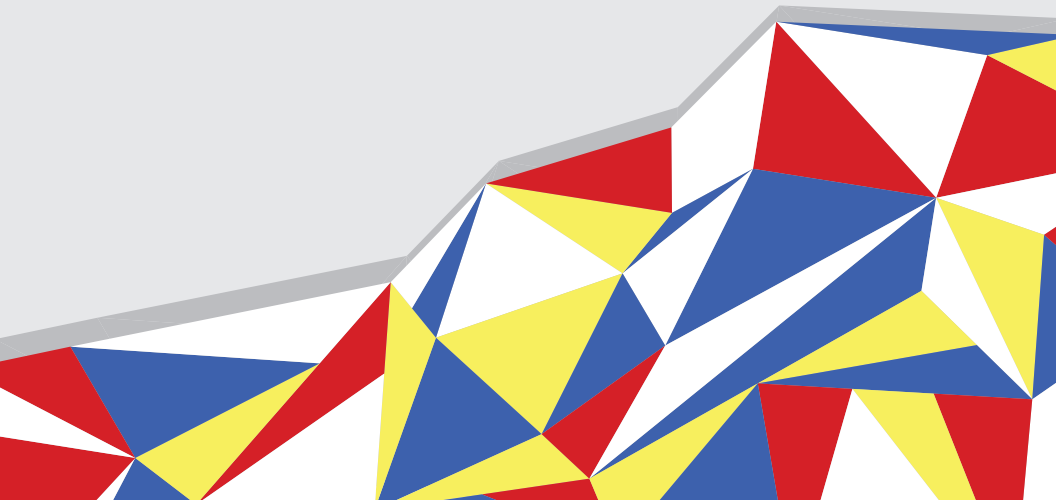
But the wonderful reality is that truth wins in the end. And everyone who receives the truth is set free from even the most powerful forms of spiritual bondage. For that to happen, followers of Jesus need to be His ambassadors, regardless of the cost.

Serving as His “voice and hands” takes raw determination and relentless resolve. We invite you to join us in this throughout 2016 as together we reflect His love by:

- Helping to establish 26 new radio stations in unreached parts of the world.
- Conducting 29 mobile medical clinics in remote communities to bring hope and care to those who don't know Him.
- Continuing to restore the remote village of Harmi, Nepal, following last year's earthquakes.
- Doing so much more as God guides and provides.

Your gifts to the Voice and Hands Initiative make it possible for us to reach millions of people through these kinds of projects.

# MOVIES & WATER IN ECUADOR



**W**hat do ice cream and the movies “Frozen” and “Tarzan” have to do with presenting the gospel in the sweltering heat of the Amazon jungle?

Plenty—at least according to Dutch Reach Beyond missionary Wim De Groen who

heads the ministry’s clean water project outreach in Ecuador.

One of the first things he did after assuming his present position when the community development department moved to Shell about two years ago was to reduce the

number of clean water projects from 12 or so a year to six or eight annually.

“Fewer projects allowed us to spend a lot more time in the communities,” he explained. “When we went to meet with the leaders in their villages—whether in the rain forest, the mountains or north Quito—they would always offer us food and drink. But when they traveled to meet with us in Shell, we never had anything for them, so we decided to offer them ice cream. It sounds funny, but it’s key to what we’re doing. Who doesn’t like ice cream?”

De Groen also noticed that fewer and fewer people were coming out to watch the “JESUS” film that team members showed in the communities. Always “thinking outside the box,” he decided to begin showing the Disney animated films.

The strategy worked. “The first night 40 people showed up,” he exuded. “Partway through the film we stopped it and shared the gospel with them. The next day they invited people from two neighboring communities to watch the movie with us.”

Building a rapport with the community leaders has also led to one-on-one witnessing opportunities—like this summer in the remote Shuar village of Santa Rosa where a group of college interns joined the team to help with a water project.

After a long day in the heat and humidity, some community members asked De Groen if anything were planned for the evening. “I told them, ‘Yes, of course, but we’ll keep it simple.’ Truthfully, I hoped not too many would come out because I was so tired.”

“Four men showed up, and we began to sing some choruses,” De Groen related. “They were so excited when they recognized one of our songs, ‘Lord I Lift Your Name on High.’”

*You came from heaven to earth,  
to show the way  
From the earth to the cross,  
my debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave,  
from the grave to the sky  
Lord I lift your name on high.*

“When they asked me to share something, I explained what that song meant to me. We must have sung it 20 times in English, Spanish and Shuar. Those four men said that song changed their lives. They truly understood what it was saying, and that night they gave or rededicated their lives to Christ.”

De Groen has developed a “spiritual toolbox” to go along with the water well equipment—Bible teaching materials, resources such as tracts and a prepared message.

**“...that night they gave or rededicated their lives to Christ.”**

His methods have also affected Reach Beyond’s summer interns. “I think the impact has only grown with time,” said engineering student Danielle Neighbour. “I realize I learned more about myself, engineering, missions and the Lord’s call on my heart during the 10 weeks in Ecuador than I did during the rest of my collegiate career,” she said.

De Groen admits that it’s easier to do a water project than to share the gospel, but this detracts from Reach Beyond’s core purpose.

“Water projects are just a tool,” he concluded. “By putting the gospel first, spending more time in the community, it has changed how people engage with us and see that we aren’t there just to help with a water project.”



# HOPE RISING in NEPAL



It's been a rough go for the people of the remote Nepali community of Harmi. Last spring two powerful earthquakes rocked the remote town—just 10 miles from the epicenter of the first temblor that killed over 9,000 people, injured more than 23,000 and left hundreds of thousands homeless.

Nearly every structure in Harmi was heavily damaged, including the building that houses the FM radio station that Reach Beyond helped establish with a local partner in 2010.

The village's birthing center, built with Reach Beyond's assistance in 2013 to help combat the area's high infant mortality rate, was the "least-damaged building in the community," according to Ty Stakes, executive director of the ministry's Asia Pacific Region.

In August, monsoons slowed rebuilding efforts. Then in September, the nation's newly formed legislative parliament passed Nepal's first constitution, essentially guaranteeing religious freedom. An interim constitution approved in 2006 had ended Nepal's centuries-long Hindu monarchy.

"It's a great thing; however, it created a tremendous amount of unrest and turmoil, bringing the country to a standstill," Stakes explained. Political chaos led to shortages of everything from food to petroleum products such as gasoline, oil and cooking gas. As a result, Reach Beyond had to postpone its work team planned for early November and reschedule it for 2016.

Yet there is "Hope for Harmi," the Reach Beyond campaign that has raised more than \$150,000 to help restore the community. Some of that money went to purchase



metal sheets that provided temporary shelters during the monsoons and will be used for future building projects.

Amid the discord, Reach Beyond planted its ninth community radio station in Nepal in October, making Christian broadcasts available to some 300,000 potential listeners.

“We’d been trying to get this station on the air for months,” Stakes explained. “It took forever to get the [broadcasting] equipment in the country and out of customs.” However, the partner had already been building the studios and radio tower, so when the equipment arrived, it took Reach Beyond staff members just four days to put the station on the air.

Now the ministry is adding another dimension to its outreach in Nepal. One of Reach Beyond’s radio partners has

begun a ministry of rescuing women from human trafficking—more than 20,000 a year.

“Most of these girls get some counsel and education and they’re sent back home,” Stakes noted. “But many can’t go home, so this organization has three safe houses in different parts of the country.” The women learn a trade, receive financial assistance and learn about the gospel. “Nearly all of them come to Christ,” Stakes said.


## “Amid the discord, Reach Beyond planted its ninth community radio station...”

In one village of 850 households, the partner sent two of the rescued women back to the community where they passed on the skills they’d learned and shared the gospel. Reach Beyond also helped with a clean water project and latrines—community members covering half the cost.

The partner told Stakes that 70 to 75 percent of the people in this village have given their lives to Christ. “If our partner hadn’t said this to my face, I don’t know how I would have believed it,” he exuded. “There were no Christians there before.”

The partner calls this outreach CHELI, a Nepali word that means “beloved daughter” and stands for community, health, evangelism/education and livelihood improvement. Plans are being made to launch four CHELI projects this year. “The partner already has four radio licenses in hand, so we’re preparing for that,” Stakes said.

“We’re just part of that bigger picture of what God is doing in Nepal,” he concluded. “It’s very exciting when people tell us, ‘Wow, someone cares about us in a very intimate way.’”

*To learn more, listen to Ty Stakes on podcast episode 11 at [reachbeyond.org/podcast](http://reachbeyond.org/podcast). *

# MY LIFE IN HIDING

**M**uch progress has been made in the last 200 years in reaching the unreached with the gospel. But the challenges facing missionaries and ministries today are vastly different than past ones.

Today the majority of unreached people groups remain so because the challenges of reaching them can be overwhelming. Most do not live in remote regions of the globe. Rather, they're trapped by spiritual darkness in social and religious systems that see the gospel as a threat to their existence. It's spiritual warfare in the truest sense.

In a village in one such part of the world lives a woman named \*Aisha. Sadly, her story is common. Where she lives, Christian women are usually forced to marry men from another religion. They're not allowed to practice their faith as this would result in divorce, expulsion from their family, loss of their children, and even death in some cases.

This summer Aisha was able to find a brief respite from life's challenges. Reach Beyond partners hosted two

three-day retreats for women, many of whom are living their faith in secret. While Aisha could only attend for a few hours as her husband wouldn't let her spend the night away from home, she was able to be with other women in the same situation.

For a few, brief hours she was able to pray, worship and be encouraged by other believers. In our culture, this kind of fellowship happens without a second thought. For women like Aisha, these moments are precious since fellowship and relationships with fellow believers are nearly impossible.

Resistance to the gospel is perhaps stronger than it's ever been, and Jesus prophesied that it would only get worse. Aisha is among the small minority of believers in her country, living in a sea of more than 2 billion people who have never heard of the true Jesus.

Her courage serves as an example to all of us. Her faithfulness amid constant threats challenges us to stand with her and so many others in prayer as they have to live their faith underground.





Pray that God would give Aisha strength, courage and wisdom as she quietly shares the love of Jesus through her life and that through her, God would shine into the depths of spiritual darkness. 📖

*\*Pseudonym used due to security concerns.*

# RISK VS. OPPORTUNITY

*“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

—*Matthew 10:28 (ESV)*

**T**errorism. The very mention of the word strikes fear in the hearts of those who hear it.

But for Christ-followers this word is not a call to hide in safety and security. Rather, it should be a call to boldness, knowing that the only hope for those trapped in darkness is the gospel.

For many throughout Africa, the threat of terrorism is growing continually. The recent attack in Mali is just one example. But Reach Beyond and our partners are working to take the gospel into regions where this kind of spiritual darkness is pervasive.

Recently a member of our African team ventured with a local partner into an

extremely dangerous part of the continent to look into the possibility of establishing a community radio station. Common sense dictated that this was an act of foolishness. Faith dictated that it was an act of love for the lost.

*“...[Jesus] is their only hope of redemption. That’s why we take these kinds of risks.”*

“Reaching the unreached doesn’t come without risks,” said Lee Sonius, executive director of Reach Beyond’s Sub-Saharan Africa Region. “We have to remember that Jesus died even for the people who do this kind of evil, and He is their only hope of redemption. That’s why we take these kinds of risks.”

*Lord, we pray that you would change the heart of those who seek to create terror, and fill them with the peace that can only come from you. In Jesus’ name.*



**AN AFRICAN MUSLIM  
COUPLE HARD AT WORK**



# handheld HOPE

Living deep in the jungles of Brazil, \*Pedro had a life nearly devoid of meaning. A lonely grandfather, his wife and children had abandoned him years earlier.

“He was a drunk and abusive, so his children didn’t care about him anymore,” explained Reach Beyond missionary Matt Parker.

But that all changed when Jairo, a Brazilian missionary, met Pedro who lives along the Uraria River—one of the Amazon’s tributaries.

Reach Beyond partners with several like-minded ministries to spread the gospel in this unreached region of Brazil, distributing MP3-like devices called Players of Hope. They hold the Portuguese Bible and a wealth of Christian teaching and music programs.


Disgusted with his life, Pedro readily turned to Jesus when he heard the gospel

message from Jairo. “The man wanted to learn more, but Jairo couldn’t meet with him very often, so he gave him a Player of Hope to strengthen his faith,” Parker said.

The next time Jairo met the elderly grandfather, his eyes welled up with tears. “The man told me, ‘Because of this player I am closer to God because I have heard His voice through His Word,’” Jairo added. “That’s the kind of impact these players are having in the Amazon.”

Parker said the players are useful because, unlike radio, “people can listen to the programs whenever they have time and not miss anything. We often hear stories from our missionaries of how once-closed communities have welcomed them with open arms after listening to the programs.”

*\*Pseudonym used to protect his privacy.*



# Your legacy of generosity can live on and touch the world.

Art and Arleen Hauser were always known by their four children as being “very frugal” when it came to finances. But they were equally generous, supporting local and international ministries—including Reach Beyond—throughout their lives and even after their deaths.

“[The Great Commission] was their passion and vision... both local and worldwide—helping others go. And they were very faithful prayer warriors,” their son David said.

Despite Arleen and Art’s recent deaths at the ages of 91 and 92 respectively, their legacy of supporting missions continues to live on today. The trust agreement they set up in the 1980s resulted in a gift of more than \$120,000 for the media and medical ministries of Reach Beyond.

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