

Vol. 12, No. 2 | Spring 2017

VOICE & HANDS

CHANGED LIVES VIA MEDIA & HEALTHCARE

CLEAN WATER
FOR GHANA

PG. 2

TRANSFORMED
LIVES WORLDWIDE

PG. 6

reach
beyond 

CLEAN WATER FOR GHANA

🎙️ | FROM THE PRESIDENT



DEAR FRIENDS,

The old chief of Tetteh Akura is a distinguished, learned man with a deep concern for the well-being of his people. Along with the other village elders, we quietly talked together while sitting on shiny plastic chairs under the shade of a giant cacao tree.

While sipping the juice from a freshly cut coconut, the chief spoke about the changes that have happened in his community since a team from Reach Beyond installed a clean water pump in the center of the village, deep in the West African country of Ghana, in 2014.

Speaking slowly and softly, the chief expressed his gratitude: “Thanks to Reach Beyond and your supporters,

our people no longer suffer from cholera, Guinea worm or typhoid, and our women no longer hurt their backs hauling water up the hill.”

Just before our little chat beneath the shade tree, our team of visitors had hiked down the muddy slope to the pond where the women used to get water. It was steep and slippery. On more than one occasion, I lost my footing. I could only imagine the effort involved in hauling a loaded five-gallon water container up the ravine several times a day!

The pond at the base of the hill was little more than a large puddle. The water was stagnant, dark and filled with all manner of bugs and rotting decay. Mosquitoes and fruit flies

hovered above the dark liquid. Bats nested in the trees above.

I could only imagine the microscopic evils that lurked in that fetid goo: dengue, West Nile virus, encephalitis, bilharzia. And that's what the people used to wash in! It's what they drank. It was their life.

Not anymore. The chief's gratitude was genuine. He understood the value of clean water and deeply appreciated the investment that Reach Beyond and our partners had made in his community.

Tetteh Akura is at the end of a dirt track, far off the beaten path. While thousands of tourists stream from Accra to the palm-fringed beaches on the coast, few outsiders venture to the poverty-infected villages of inland Ghana.

Reach Beyond is there, along with our national partner, Theovision. Together we're seeking to demonstrate and proclaim the gospel of Christ. Through

our medical caravans, water projects and radio broadcasts, we're bringing the "voice and hands" of Jesus to this community and many others just like it. But it's not just us. You make it possible through your prayers and financial gifts.

When Jesus stood before the crowd in the synagogue of Nazareth, he quoted from the prophet Isaiah these words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor" (Luke 4:18, ESV).

As disciples of Jesus, our lives are inseparably intertwined with that of Christ. We are 'in Him' and 'He is in us.' His mission is our mission. What an honor! What a privilege! Together, we get to be the "voice and hands" of Jesus.

Serving in Christ,



STEVE HARLING,
President, Reach Beyond





REACH BEYOND HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016

MEDIA

Welcomed Steve Harling as Reach Beyond's 8th president on Sept. 1. He and his wife, Becky, come with an extensive background in cross-cultural missions and pastoral ministry.

Marked the 85th anniversary of broadcasting the gospel in Ecuador and raised nearly \$400,000 during Misión Compartida (Shared Mission) for the FM stations now operated by the Ecuadorian foundation, Radio HCJB.

Sent a short-term team to a remote area of Nepal to begin rebuilding a partner radio station devastated by the country's April 2015 earthquake. This is one of 9 partner stations that air a message of hope in communities across Nepal.

Distributed 1,000 Players of Hope (solar-powered audio players) to river

dwellers in Brazil in partnership with local believers.

Delivered over 1,700 fixed-tuned, solar-powered SonSet® radios to 4 countries.

Planted 10 partner radio stations in Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Thailand and Madagascar; restored 9 stations in Indonesia and Thailand; added recording studios in Central Asia, Indonesia and Nepal.

HEALTHCARE

Sent 3 emergency medical response teams to Ecuador's coastal region in April after a magnitude-7.8 quake killed some 660 people, injured 4,600 and left 28,000 homeless.

Conducted a medical caravan in a remote area of Central Asia, providing critical healthcare to more than 800

people, most of whom had never met a Christian.

Held mobile medical clinics in 4 distant Ecuadorian communities.

Completed 9 clean water projects in West Africa (Benin and Ghana) and 6 in Ecuador.

Treated an estimated 350,000 patients at Hospital Vozandes-Quito in Ecuador and saw over 32,000 patients at 2 medical clinics in Quito.

Held the 10th annual Misión a Bordo (Mission Aboard) outreach on Peru's Ucayali River with 39 participants. They gave medical screenings, studied missions and shared the gospel.

Began building Reach Beyond-UK's Millside Community Centre that will serve refugees.

MENTORING

Launched the Community Health Intercultural Learning Initiative (CHILI) in Ecuador in September, offering 6



months of training and 1½ years of service in an unreached country. Provided 25+ seminars for radio partners in 4 of Reach Beyond's regions: Asia/Pacific, Europe/Eurasia, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Held hygiene/sanitation workshops in rural areas of Africa and Latin America.

Conducted summer missionary internship programs in Ghana and Ecuador. In Ghana the team served over 1,500 patients, providing medical care and sharing Jesus' love.

Conducted 90+ training events led by the Apoyo team in Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Argentina, Guatemala and Cuba, each lasting 1-14 days, with topics such as leadership, family, counseling, adult and Christian education, discipleship and hermeneutics.

Held trauma counselor training with a local radio partner in Sierra Leone.

Mentored 13 Latin American missionary candidates who will serve in the 10/40 Window through the Corrientes training program.





REMOTE COMMUNITY IN MADAGASCAR GETS FIRST CHRISTIAN RADIO STATION

 | AFRICA

Over 100,000 people in a remote corner of Madagascar, an island nation 250 miles off the coast of East Africa, can hear Christian broadcasts for the first time as the result of a six-year cooperative effort and countless prayers.

People in the town of Maroantsetra on the country's northeastern coast have been abuzz ever since the community radio station went on the air in late 2016, according to *Thomas, a Swiss

missionary based in Cape Town, South Africa, who coordinated the initiative in the area that is so remote it can take an hour to arrive.

"The feedback from our listeners is very encouraging," said Thomas who serves with two organizations (International Christian Aid and All Nations). He worked in partnership with Radio Africa Network (RAN), Reach Beyond, TWR and local believers to make the station a reality.

Already there are several reports of listeners whose marriages have been restored and lukewarm Christians who have rededicated their lives to Jesus.

Reach Beyond played a key role in launching the station, helping with the installation, training and finances. This is the fifth partner station established in Madagascar with the mission's help since 2007.

The station is a contrast from the lone government outlet that focuses on political news. "The demand for Christian content, education, medical information and topics from everyday life is huge," Thomas said. Programs air 16 hours a day, mostly in the local Malagasy dialect.

Daily broadcasts begin at 5 a.m. with local Christian music. At 6 a.m. a local pastor prays on the air for God's protection of the local businesses and residents. Broadcasts conclude at 9 p.m. each evening.

Thomas estimates that 60 percent of the residents in the town of 22,000 are tuning in to the station, called Radio Feon Janahary (Radio the Voice of the Creator God), but listenership could reach 80 percent among the 80,000 mostly tribal people living in the surrounding villages.

Listenership was expected to go even higher after 1,040 solar-powered, fixed-tuned SonSet® radios provided by Reach Beyond were delivered in

January. The sets only pick up the new Christian station.

Thomas said the station's opening ceremonies in early December resulted in "much favor from the authorities, and people are so excited and grateful to have the radio—especially in the surrounding villages."

The station even piqued the interest of the local Muslim religious leader who asked for a copy of the Bible after attending the grand opening.

While 54 percent of Madagascar's population claims to be Christian, only 12 percent of the country's 23 million people are evangelical, according to Operation World. "Witchcraft and animism are deeply rooted in the culture, and even those who have come to faith in Jesus struggle to let these practices go," said Lisa Balzer, a Reach Beyond radio trainer based in Asia.

The radio station is the culmination of a dream dating back to 2010, and organizers needed to overcome numerous hurdles along the way such as a lack of funds, political challenges, power outages and delays in getting the broadcasting license.

*Surname omitted for security reasons



'ICE BABY' TOUCHES RURAL GHANAIANS WITH 'COOL' GOSPEL BROADCASTS

 | AFRICA

In the sweltering heat of a remote village in the West African country of Ghana, a voice pierces the radio waves with the message of Jesus. The town of 40,000, called Asamankese, is home to a radio station started with Reach Beyond's help together with partner Theovision in 2010.

On any given day, you can tune in to the station and hear the voice of a young man who was once known for being shy and unassuming. Today, however, Samuel is the bold voice of Christ on Nkonim-FM, reaching listeners in this far-flung area of southern Ghana with gospel programs along with upbeat Christian music.

One of the things that makes Samuel bold in his broadcasts is an emerging on-air alter ego by which he has become well known. Amid the

scorching temperatures and humidity of Ghana, Samuel is known throughout the community as, of all things, "Ice Baby." One thing is for sure, Ice Baby is a very cool guy. But there's more to him than his clever nickname.

Why Ice Baby? Samuel shares the story of a moment in his life, quietly reading the story of Moses, the patriarch who was convinced that he was unable to speak eloquently for the Lord.

"I studied the passage and saw that Moses was very meek and gentle," Samuel recounts, adding that he, like Moses, did not believe he could be a powerful servant of the Lord.

"I decided I needed a name that wasn't about me, but was about God," he explained. "I chose the name Ice Baby because it's one that people would

recognize. They wouldn't have to see me, but they could hear the person who was talking about God.”

Samuel felt from a very young age that God would use him to proclaim the gospel. “When I was a child, my mother used to tell me that people will say of me that I have become a pastor. I'm not a pastor, but I am sharing the gospel through radio.”

Samuel's gentle spirit is evident in the way he describes his relationship with Jesus. “Whenever a person comes across something that is sweet and wonderful and loving, you hold onto that thing,” he shared. “You don't want it to go away. You want it more and more. I saw that kind of closeness in Jesus, and I hold onto that.”

Today Samuel is a quiet, humble servant sitting in a hot, dark radio studio in rural Ghana. But when the mic goes on, it's the voice of Ice Baby that the people hear and know—a voice that is leading many to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

“I decided I needed a name that wasn't about me, but was about God,” he explained. “I chose the name Ice Baby because it's one that people would recognize. They wouldn't have to see me, but they could hear the person who was talking about God.”





NEWS

MILLSIDE CENTRE IN U.K. OPENS DOORS TO DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16, ESV).

When missionaries consider working among people of foreign cultures who practice different religions, images may come to mind of men and women wandering along hot, dusty roads in desert climates. Or they may picture desperate refugees crowding onto

flimsy boats, ready to cross large expanses of water in search of freedom.

But there’s a different kind of cross-cultural ministry that is taking place in the cool, temperate climate of northern England in the city of Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Because of the tragic circumstances in many parts of the world, refugees seeking peace and hope are flooding into parts of Europe, including Bradford. Many people see the growing influx of refugees as a problem.

Reach Beyond-UK sees this an opportunity to reach out as the Voice and Hands of Jesus.

The recently opened Millside Centre is in the heart of the neediest part of Bradford—an area affected by poverty, prostitution, unemployment and a burgeoning refugee population in quest of hope and a new chance at life.

The team of staff members at the Millside Centre refuses to turn a blind eye to the needs of disadvantaged people in their own backyard. To the contrary, they were intentional in rebuilding the ground floor of their office facility, spending more than a year converting it into a community ministry site where people could come for basic needs, food, shelter and most importantly, the love of Jesus demonstrated in word and deed.

“Our vision is to show compassion to the needy, help build community and in doing this, demonstrate Christ’s love,” said Reach Beyond-UK CEO Colin Lowther.

The facility opened on Saturday, Feb. 25, with a gala event attended by numerous local officials, ministers and interested citizens. The dedication culminated a multiyear process of obtaining funds, getting all the necessary building permits and completing the construction to create this community gathering point.

“The reality is that God is bringing needy people to us,” Lowther added. “We have a responsibility to respond to their needs as Jesus taught us.”

CALL TO ACTION

The Millside Centre’s response to the problems of poverty, displacement, crime and despair is a profound example of the Church in action. Pray for the staff and local partners as they reach with the love of Jesus.



FIRST CHILI COMMISSIONING SERVICE HELD IN ECUADOR

After studying community development in Ecuador's eastern jungles for six months, most of the graduates of a mission agency's newest training program are set to serve in the mountains of a closed country for the next 1½ years.

It was a drizzly afternoon in the Amazonian community of Shell on Sunday, Feb. 26, as dozens of people gathered—some in person and others online—to view the inaugural commissioning service of Reach Beyond's new Community Health Intercultural Learning Initiative (CHILI).

Four of the five graduates will serve together as a unit, working alongside local partners in an unreached country while graduate Heidi Salzman will remain in Ecuador. She will focus on studying Spanish, writing promotional materials and helping with the next program set to begin in September.

"I was sad to see the classes completed, especially since I would

soon bid goodbye to the team I'd grown so close to," said Salzman. "However, I was thrilled to see my team take this beautiful opportunity to share Jesus in a closed country."

Some 25 people were present for the send-off while another 17 people witnessed the event online from places as diverse as Germany, U.K., Turkey and Alaska.

"Participants included teachers, leaders and some of our family members—all of them from many different parts of the world," Salzman explained. Sheila Leech, vice president of global healthcare, and Martin Harrison, international projects coordinator at Reach Beyond-UK, were also there for the send-off.

The service included a sermon by Wim de Groen, head of the community development office in Shell and the CHILI coordinator, who focused on 1 Timothy 4 which exhorts young people to set an example for other believers while seeking to become more like Christ.



He also encouraged the young graduates to “keep close to God” while putting the gospel message at the forefront of all they do.

“No matter what the circumstances, you need to share the gospel,” de Groen added. “It’s not your message, it’s God’s message. Don’t forget, your role is to share, to teach and to preach.... First He saved us, then He gave us a holy calling. He set us apart with a holy purpose.”

After the sermon, de Groen, along with Leech and Eric Fogg, a member of the community development team in Ecuador, wrapped their arms around the graduates as he gave a closing prayer.

To conclude the service, each participant received a memento of their time in Ecuador with photos and personal notes from many of the 64 instructors who were involved in the program.

“So you are gone, sent and commissioned, well prepared and fired up and with a burning passion to reach the lost using the skills you have been entrusted with,” Leech stated in a Facebook post. “We got to love you and now we release you, but we hold you all in our hearts and in our prayers.”



Participants spent six months studying cross-cultural skills, biblical basis of missions, theology, how to train trainers, handling conflict, language acquisition and a host of practical skills.



RADIO STATION HCJB, WAYNE PEDERSON HONORED AT NRB

National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) honored Radio Station HCJB in Quito, Ecuador, and former Reach Beyond President Wayne Pederson during Proclaim 17, the organization's recent convention in Orlando, Fla.

HCJB Ecuador, an Ecuadorian foundation now operating the station that began in 1931, garnered the International Media Award while Pederson received the Milestone Award for at least 50 years of "exemplary service in Christian broadcasting."

Geoff Kooistra director of services for HCJB Ecuador, received the award during the Media Awards Luncheon on Thursday, March 2—the last day of the four-day event. The NRB honor goes to an organization based outside the U.S. that "excels in media ministry—

exercising integrity and faithfulness to the cause of Christ, while demonstrating unusual effectiveness—and excels in innovative uses of electronic media in the proclamation of the gospel of Christ in impacting the target culture."

Founded in Quito, Ecuador, in 1931, the station has in recent years expanded its broadcasts to include livestreaming, exclusive online print and video content, and social media interaction with listeners. Today the FM station's livestream draws about 17,000 visitors monthly while a youth-focused livestream featuring music has listeners in almost 40 countries.

Pederson, who served as the mission's president from 2008 to 2016, says radio has been his passion nearly as long as he can remember, growing up on a farm in Minnesota.

“I’d been interested in radio since I was a little kid,” he said. “I set up a little pretend radio station in my room. We listened to a radio all the time—in the house, in the barn, on the tractor. When I discovered that God could use my interest in radio it was a natural fit.”

At age 20 he joined the staff at University of Northwestern-St. Paul where he worked for 34 years (1967 to 2001). He also served with NRB, Mission America Coalition, Christian Music Broadcasters and Moody Broadcasting before joining Reach Beyond.

“I was happily serving at Moody, thinking this would be the culmination of my broadcasting career,” Pederson said. “But I was also serving on the board of Reach Beyond (then known as HCJB Global). We had done several projects with HCJB, and when then-president David Johnson stepped aside, the board advised me that I was one of the finalists for president.”

He related that he “prayed fervently for God’s will,” and one day while reading the Bible he was impressed by the verse, “It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation” (Romans 15:20, NIV).

“That’s what HCJB does—taking the gospel to places where Christ is not known,” Pederson said. “I decided that

if I were offered the position as president of the mission, I couldn’t say no.”

“I feel God called me here to prepare the organization for the next generation of ministry in terms of our focus, in terms of being nimble, in terms of raising the medical outreach to equal status with media, in terms of making partnership a priority and in terms of focusing on the unreached. At times that meant downsizing and not owning large facilities. Being nimble has allowed us to do more.”

He also navigated the mission through the rebranding process, changing its name to Reach Beyond in 2014. “It was more than just a name change;” Pederson said. “It was a change of perspective with forward, outward thinking.”

HCJB Ecuador, an Ecuadorian foundation now operating the station that began in 1931, garnered the International Media Award while Pederson received the Milestone Award for at least 50 years of “exemplary service in Christian broadcasting.”



WATER PROJECT DEDICATED IN ECUADOR

In 53 homes high in the Andes of Ecuador, people are enjoying benefits of clean water after completing a gravity-fed water system facilitated by Reach Beyond's César Cortez and three North American churches. Funding also came from church groups in Germany.

Missionary Martha Craymer was among several staff members who attended the system's Feb. 16 inauguration. She was the mission's first point of contact with the farm families in Loma de Pacay where leaders hired a local band and invited political dignitaries for the festivities.

A previous water system had fallen into disrepair with shallowly laid plastic pipes exposed in places due to erosion. The new pipes are buried over a yard deep and will remain undisturbed when residents plant crops.

In 53 homes high in the Andes of Ecuador, people are enjoying benefits of clean water after completing a gravity-fed water system facilitated by Reach Beyond's César Cortez and three North American churches.





TRANSFORMED LIVES WORLDWIDE



CROATIA

Daniel's hands were sweaty and shaking. Beneath the kitchen table he held a stick of dynamite in one hand, a lighter in other, ready to take his life and that of his wife and children. Abandoned as a 12-year-old, he grew up orphanages where he was molested. Escaping that situation, he fled to the Croatian army to serve as an underage soldier. It was wartime, conditions were brutal and he suffered from PTSD, but he survived.

Later he married, only to face a new set of challenges—thyroid cancer, poverty and illness. But he survived. Now facing a massive debt incurred when his wife underwent treatment for ovarian cancer, Daniel saw no way out. As he was about to ignite the explosive, he read a text message from a friend who put him into contact with a local pastor, and Daniel eventually surrendered his life to God.

Daniel's heart-wrenching testimony recently aired on national Croatian TV. Response to the talk-show program, called *Osobno* (Personal), was overwhelming, and at least three people, including his cousin, have accepted Christ as a result of viewing the show. Four more episodes, produced by Reach Beyond's partner ministry based in Čakovec, Croatia, will broadcast this year.

*Check out the video at reachbeyond.org/spring17

MONGOLIA

As a newly established partner station in Mongolia began its broadcasts, a Buddhist/shamanist family started listening because they liked the music and the family shows. At first they avoided listening to the gospel programs, believing they weren't compatible with their faith.

But then their son began turning on the radio night and day, and the whole family started to listen. Slowly their minds and hearts were touched by the Bible teaching, and soon they all accepted Jesus and started attending a local church. Last December they celebrated their first Christmas with other believers.

The station is one of six FM outlets launched in Mongolia in cooperation with FEBC since 2001. The goal is to make Christian broadcasts available nationwide in this country, which is just 1.2 percent evangelical.

These are just two of the dozens of stories happening daily, illustrating the impact of Reach Beyond's ministries with more than 200 media partners in over 100 countries worldwide. Similar results are seen in the area of healthcare as Reach Beyond joins with partners to initiate clinics and community development ministries. Below are two examples:

BENIN

Partner Sun of Hope in Benin, West Africa, has an audio Bible program in one of the villages where a clean water well was installed—one of five funded by Reach Beyond in the country in 2016. A 25-member church has been planted as a result of the relationship built in that community.

One woman shared that as a result of the audio programs, her family now understands that eternal life comes

only through faith in Christ, not by giving money or doing more good than evil. Another man spoke of how the story of Abraham's faithfulness and obedience inspired him to reconcile with family members.

ECUADOR

Luciana, a 51-year-old Ecuadorian woman, was on the verge of death when she arrived at Hospital Vozandes-Quito. While in intensive care, she met Jorge, one of the hospital's chaplains, who came alongside her and her family in this difficult time.

The constant visits and the untiring prayer were a healing balm, especially for Luciana's mother who began studying the Bible, eager to know the Lord who could heal her daughter.

Her prayers were answered as Luciana's health greatly improved in the next two months. Her family expressed gratefulness not only for the excellent care, but also for the spiritual healing that came through the message of life and hope found in Jesus.

CALL TO ACTION

To support Reach Beyond's growing media and healthcare ministries financially, **visit** reachbeyond.org/partner-april

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REACH BEYOND

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