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FORMER COMMUNIST





When Jesus went into a town to preach, not only were individual lives changed, entire communities were impacted. In John 4, Jesus took time to share His message of hope and redemption with a lost Samaritan woman who then took that message back to her community.

The people were so intrigued by what she shared that they went to visit Jesus, and the community was transformed. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

That's what happens when Jesus comes into a community.

That's why Reach Beyond is taking a stand—not just for people who have never heard of Jesus, but also communities where He is not widely known.

Community development outreach has become a priority at Reach Beyond. By providing clean water, critical healthcare, training and leadership empowerment through the local church, the gospel is spreading and lives/communities are being changed.

I invite you to join with us in reaching beyond our comfort zones to make an eternal difference in places where people don't yet know Jesus. Just as He brought hope to a despised Samaritan community, He is still doing the same thing today—and we get the privilege of being His "hands" to those who need to know His love.

Serving Him together,

ayne Roberton

Wayne Pederson President, Reach Beyond

# THE IMPACT OF CHRIST ON COMMUNITIES

when a community lacks basic physical and spiritual necessities, by default the residents become trapped in a cycle of poverty, sin and helplessness. Simply put, until something breaks the cycle, there is no hope.

By contrast, when physical and spiritual needs are met, the cycle is broken, and hope shines into a community like a lighthouse piercing the darkness of a stormy sea.

Reach Beyond is building community development efforts around the world in places like the jungles of Ecuador, the mountains of Nepal and remote villages of Ghana. Places like these often lack the simplest things we take for granted, including clean water, basic medical care, hygiene training and most importantly, the opportunity to hear the gospel.

This year, in partnership with people like you, Reach Beyond is working to:

- Conduct 40 mobile medical clinics in Ecuador where basic medical and hygiene care is lacking.
- Complete 11 clean water projects in process in remote areas of Ecuador.
- Provide fresh water for thousands of people in Ghana, Nepal, Burkina Faso and other needy countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Hold a medical caravan and launch water projects in restricted parts of Central Asia.
- Build latrines and provide basic hygiene training for people in remote regions of Nepal.

Regardless of the activity or location, all of these initiatives are conducted in Jesus' name with the goal of leading people to Christ by demonstrating His love in practical, life-changing ways.

Join us in changing lives and communities in Jesus' name.

COMMUNITY



### THE BEST KIND OF MEDICINE by Emily Ibarra, video production specialist, Reach Beyond

Waorani. It's a word that fills your mind with stereotypes—flashes of a once-violent tribe formerly known as the Aucas—an indigenous group that martyred five missionaries in the jungles of Ecuador nearly six decades ago. Carrying our medical supplies across a collapsed road, I wondered what this five-day mobile medical clinic, held last month in Waorani territory, would entail.

Arriving, I saw no tribal garb, no huts, no spears. Only some modest housing, people wearing Western-style T-shirts and shorts, and a covered basketball court that would serve as a clinic during my threeday visit.

Reach Beyond was partnering with a Waorani church in the town of Puyo to help evangelize the jungle communities of Gareno and Menepadi by providing medical assistance via health and hygiene education and dental/medical consultations. All very clinical on paper, but as I witnessed it, inspirational.



Patient after patient, I saw the tender love and care of the staff—people like Dr. Joe Martin reaching out to a woman who'd lost her son to a motorcycle accident the year before. Her physical problems

were the result of her grief. Dr. Joe was unreserved about asking if she wanted to pray. It meant so much to her—a dose of the best kind of medicine.

When it came to people's dental needs, soft-spoken Ecuadorian dentist Dr. Teresa Irazabal was up to the task. My lack of Spanish kept me from truly getting to know her very well, but by observing her, my heart was touched.

So much about how a person moves and acts can tell you far more than words. Dr. Teresa had a tough job, and the dental situation seemed acute. Some of the children had few teeth because most of them had rotted away. She took her



time, and even through the facemask, you could see the love pouring out from her eyes.

I watched as Miriam Gebb, a longtime community development nurse, taught hygiene a few steps away from the clinic. How to stay healthy, keeping out contaminants and how to brush/floss your teeth were among her topics. The cutest moment came as she demonstrated the use of floss, and a child in the crowd began mimicking her with a string he had found.

I could stop there, but you'd be missing the point. You see, Miriam didn't just teach about having clean hands, but having a clean heart. The medical work was really about opening a door to share the gospel.

Leave out God, and the work loses its meaning. One of the quieter nurses, Florence Judd, was an inspiration to me. One day we went traipsing in the jungle for half a mile, slogging through mud and crossing a stream to reach a hut where a man named José had been severely burned.

It was clear that he should have been admitted to the hospital days earlier. Dr. Joe and Florence talked and prayed with him—we all prayed, really. Thankfully, he agreed to go to the hospital.

"You see, Miriam didn't just teach about having clean hands, but having a clean heart. The medical work was really about opening a door to share the gospel."



Amazingly, the Tena hospital pickup was in the area, so José was in the emergency room by 7 p.m. and in the operating room soon afterwards to debride his infected wounds. After Florence got home from the jungle, she took a two-hour bus ride to Tena to check on him and see where he stood spiritually.

José was a believer, so they read the Bible and prayed together. And because of the treatment he received at the hospital, he was even laughing with her. I began to tear up as this scenario unfolded before my eyes. Florence's love and work is behind the scenes—silent and often unnoticed. These are the unsung heroes whom God uses the most.

The opportunity to reach out to these remote villages stemmed from a partnership with a local Waorani church in Puyo that has an ongoing relationship with the Waorani people, working hand in hand to reach their own for Christ.

In the evenings a large white sheet was hung from the rafters of the basketball court, like the mast of a ship blowing in the wind. Projected onto it were films about Jesus and how He showed love to all, including the Waorani.

More than the thrill and excitement of being in the jungle, playing with children and bathing in the river, I came away with the raw passion of what each team member brought as Reach Beyond and local believers served together in unity, seeing holistic healing of both body and soul.



## MAKING STRIDES TO BOOT EBOLA OUT OF SIERRA LEONE

On behalf of the people of Sierra Leone—Thank you!

In January Reach Beyond partnered with Sierra Leone-based ministry Believers Broadcasting Network to launch a major Ebola prevention campaign called "The Bucket Brigade." The project was intended to provide 500 buckets filled with critical food and sanitation supplies to care for more than 2,500 people at risk of contracting Ebola.

To accomplish this project, the mission needed to raise \$50,000.

Thanks to you, this goal was surpassed, and resources continue to flow in. Because of you, the fire of Ebola in Sierra Leone is trending downward. Your gifts to this initiative have saved lives and demonstrated Jesus' love in a practical way.

On behalf of those who are now safe, *thank you*. On behalf of partner ministry BBN, whose staff members literally went door to door to make this effort a reality, *thank you*.

Continue to pray as the people of West Africa deal with the aftermath. Thousands of children have been orphaned, and the effect on the shaky medical systems in Sierra Leone and neighboring countries has been devastating. It will take years of prayer and efforts for people to rebuild their lives. But because of people like you, the rebuilding efforts are underway.

It's not too late to help. If you want to help put an end to Ebola, visit www.reachbeyond.org/ebola. For a gift of \$35 or more, you'll receive a free, "Make Ebola Kick the Bucket" T-shirt.





# FORMER COMMUNIST LAWYER IN ECUADOR TRANSFORMED VIA RADIO

When broadcasters and producers from Radio Station HCJB in Quito showed up in the central Ecuadorian city of Latacunga for a day of live broadcasting recently, no one expected to hear the story of the "old communist" lawyer, Azael Rosero.

For many years, Azael had led an emergent communist political movement in Latacunga, even traveling to the former Soviet Union to indoctrinate himself in communist philosophies. During this same time his wife, Elizabeth, already an evangelical Christian, was an affront to all Azael believed in. He began a systematic mockery of everything associated with the message of Jesus Christ.

While Azael worked on his writings in the evenings, his wife tuned the radio to a program called *El Camino* (The Way) on HCJB. Driven by curiosity, he decided to read some parts of the Bible to find ways to discourage Elizabeth's faith. But the Lord would change him faster than Azael could have ever imagined.

"The more I read the Word, the more I realized all my communist beliefs were crumbling like a sand castle," shared Azael during the special live event. One night, listening to HCJB, he felt he had no choice but to kneel broken before God and give his heart to Jesus.

"The next day was Sunday," Azael recounted. "Without giving further details to my wife, I accompanied her to church."

It's been more than two years since his conversion, and Azael is now a leader in a local evangelical congregation. He reiterated his family's deep gratitude to the Lord for using the radio station to speak to his heart and save this "old communist." Azael wasn't alone in his support. When on-air personalities and behindthe-scenes producers recently moved regular radio production to the city of Latacunga (about 60 miles south of the normal base of radio operations in Quito), some 400 listeners showed up to join in the fun and put faces with the voices they hear on the radio.

"The more I read the Word, the more I realized all my communist beliefs were crumbling like a sand castle."

Anabella Cabezas, media director for the Latin America Region, said the main purpose of the event was to strengthen ties with the regular listeners in the area and allow them the opportunity to interact face-to-face with broadcasters and producers.

Listeners came to the event throughout the day to witness the live broadcast, meet the programmers and share how HCJB had played a crucial role in their decisions to know Christ.



"They were very excited," noted Cabezas. "They brought small gifts and food items for the producers. They wanted to meet the speakers they hear every day."

Why such enthusiasm? "Because radio is their companion," Cabezas concluded. "HCJB helps them live their lives with hope and direction through good advice. It encourages them when they are sad. The station brings people to God because the team consists of people who love God and love their listeners. And they can feel it—not just by what they say on the microphone, but by the way they approach and embrace them."



Youreachbeyondheaven'sgloryto hang upon a cross. You reach beyond every border, counting all as loss. You reach, You reach beyond,

### You reach beyond to us.

It Is Well With My Soul ... When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ... Amazing Grace ...

Music has the power to touch the heart and reach deep into the soul. It can penetrate our thoughts and emotions, moving us closer to God and into His presence. It can also inspire us to live lives worthy of His incredible grace.

That's the effect music has on two people who have never met, yet their distant partnership has resulted in a song that is moving on the hearts of people around the world.

Reach Beyond missionary Ty Stakes, executive director for the Asia Pacific Region, and his wife, Paula, have dedicated their lives to proclaiming the gospel to those who have never heard Jesus' name.

Stacey was a top-five finalist on season 6 of the popular TV reality show, "American Idol," a singing

## REACH BEYOND NEW ANTHEM FOR EVERY BELIEVER

competition that aired in early 2007. Since finishing the competition, he has launched a successful recording career, but more importantly he's dedicated his life to sharing the gospel everywhere he goes.

When Ty penned the lyrics to the song, "Reach Beyond," no one dreamed it would become an anthem to the glory of God and a challenge to every believer to be a living sacrifice in service to His kingdom.

"If you were to think about reaching beyond, the greatest example is how God Himself, through His Son, Jesus Christ, would reach out from heaven to us," says Ty of the thought process behind the lyrics. "I'm not someone who should be reached out to. I'm weak. I'm a fool. I'm not worthy of God's love, yet He loves us anyway. So what is my response going to be to that love?"

As Phil read the lyrics, something moved in his heart. "When I heard there was a song called 'Reach Beyond,' I expected it would cause a guilt trip for the listener. Instead, I saw a very humble heart. It wasn't about us reaching beyond, it was about Jesus reaching beyond to us and how we can reflect that love to others."

What Ty wrote and Phil recorded yielded something much more significant than a simple recording collaboration. The "Reach Beyond" song has become an anthem of worship, inspiration and motivation for believers worldwide.

"I can't listen to this song and not feel moved to a deeper appreciation of what Jesus did for me," said one listener.



"At the same time, it challenges me to question what I have offered back to Him in response to His love. How can I really understand what He did for me and not be willing to offer everything back to Him?"

To listen to the song, visit reachbeyond. org/single or download it on iTunes. All proceeds go directly to reaching the lost for Christ.

### 8TH COMMUNITY STATION LAUNCHES IN NEPAL, ENDING 2-YEAR HIATUS



Nepal is best known for its spectacular Himalayan Mountains, but it's an uncharacteristically flat, tropical area that is home to the country's newest community radio station.

The FM outlet, the first to be established with Reach Beyond's help in Nepal in the last two years, makes Christian broadcasts available to four unreached people groups in the area with only a handful of believers.

"Our partner is excited to put a station in the area where he grew up and make an impact on the different people groups," said Ty Stakes, executive director of Reach Beyond's Asia Pacific Region. "It's a pretty exciting opportunity. This is a part of Nepal where there are really no churches. We're hoping the radio outreach will lead to the formation of some house fellowships in the area."

After Nepal's Hindu monarchy ended in 2007, it opened the door for community radio stations. In the next five years, Reach Beyond helped local partners put seven stations on the air nationwide, but then progress slowed.

After much prayer and perseverance, the delays ended in late 2014 with the launch of the station in Nepal's lowlands. "We're very grateful that the Lord provided this opportunity after two years of struggling through a lot of administrative issues, questions about importing equipment and problems with logistics," Stakes noted.

In addition to broadcasting the gospel, the partner is open to adding a "hands" (medical) element to the outreach, especially since his wife works in healthcare.

"We're very grateful that the Lord put that all together for us," Stakes said. "It's ultimately about building relationships with the community. That's the key to sharing the gospel."

Three more partner radio stations are in the works for Nepal this year as well as two potential water projects and other community development efforts.

# CHRISTIAN BROADCASTS BOOST MONGOLIA'S GROWING CHURCH

n 1990 there were just four known believers in Mongolia, a vast, remote country of 3 million sandwiched between China and Siberia.

Today the church is exploding with an estimated 40,000 believers attending 600 churches nationwide—the nation that has the world's eighth-fastest growing evangelical church—and Christian radio is playing an increasingly important role in that growth.

"Through radio, thousands of people now can hear the truth, and in this [oncecommunist] country—nearly void of religious influence for decades—people are listening," said Sam Joseph, a Reach Beyond radio planter who joined the mission with his wife, Brooke, last year.

"I think the spiritual void left by communism has left people curious about Christianity," he added. "I believe that hope is contagious, and many Mongolian people are finding that Christ is the greatest hope of all." The Josephs, along with John Brewer, engineering director of the Asia Pacific Region, worked with partner FEBC-Mongolia and local churches in late 2014 to put a pair of 24-hour-a-day FM community stations on the air just two days apart. Both outlets rebroadcast programing from the original Christian FM station launched by FEBC in 2001 with Reach Beyond's help.

The latest partnership was birthed as a result of a series of meetings with the Asia by Media (formerly Asia by Radio) group in early 2014.

"I asked our partner to share his vision for FEBC-Mongolia," explained Asia Pacific Executive Director Ty Stakes. "It was an extremely exciting conversation—his vision and strategy ideas fit so clearly.... In a very short time, we made an agreement on how we could join with them to help them fulfill their radio-planting vision for Mongolia."

The installation team overcame a plethora

of obstacles, including a lack of advance planning and difficult weather conditions.

"If God were not working in our favor there is no way that those stations would be on air today," Joseph noted. "We clearly saw the passion and love for the lost Mongolian people motivating the pastors we worked with, and they slaved to see the work completed. God also protected us from potential dangers of working at height in frigid weather."



The programming is pre-evangelistic with "popular, clean secular music and some talk radio interspersed with biblical truth and directions for learning more," he explained.

"One unique thing they do in programming is provide developmental and educational content on the stations and then create home groups for seekers who meet regularly for nine months to study together," added Stakes. "It's quite effective, and more than 200 people [gather to hear the] station at a time in the capital."

Mongolia's nearly treeless terrain is conducive to sending the FM signal long distances, and the Asia Pacific staff looks forward to helping establish many more stations in the future.

"Our plans are to continue to partner with them in coming years, expanding their reach to all 21 provincial capital cities in the country," Stakes said. ∠



Be sure and check out the song, "Reach Beyond," performed by Phil Stacey, arranged by Chris August and written by Reach Beyond missionary Ty Stakes. It will touch your heart with the power of God's love and inspire you to pass that love on to others.

To listen to the song, visit <u>www.reachbeyond.org/</u>

single or download it on iTunes. The song is also being played on more than 80 radio stations across the U.S. Listen for it on your local Christian station or call to request it.



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