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REACH BEYOND

V+H

VOICE AND HANDS

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# EMPOWERING BELIEVERS

SHARING JESUS

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friend,

You've probably heard the saying, "Give a man a fish and you'll feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you'll feed him for a lifetime."

At Reach Beyond, we want everyone to hear the Gospel and we want to teach them how they can have a personal relationship with Jesus and spend eternity with Him. It is this foundational purpose that drives us to focus everything we do on proclaiming and demonstrating the Good News of Jesus to all the world.

We are also very intentional about teaching and empowering indigenous believers around the world how to be better "fishers of men". God has uniquely equipped Reach Beyond with people, skills, and experience in using tools like radio, digital media, healthcare, and community development to reach the unreached. And, He continues to orchestrate "divine" encounters where believers come and ask us to help them use those very same tools to reach their own community with the Gospel.

We've seen that empowering other believers to share Jesus is an investment in God's kingdom that pays incredible dividends and multiplies ministry impact many times over.

A small investment of a single radio or MP3 player can radically change someone's life. Investing in the leader of a radio station multiplies their ministry. Helping a partner place a well in a Gospel-resistant village can bring about the total transformation of that community. Reaching the difficult places, however, can require many years of faithful service before God "fills the nets". We don't get to choose what God does with our efforts. He simply calls us to follow Him.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership to see that every people, tribe, language, and nation could hear the Good News of Jesus and choose to follow Him!

May you be blessed by seeing God at work.

*Daniel Enns*

Daniel Enns | President

REACH BEYOND



VOICE AND HANDS

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REACH BEYOND

P O BOX 39800 | COLORADO SPRINGS | CO 80949-9800

TOLL FREE 1-800-873-4859 | T: 719-590-9800 F: 719-590-9801

DONOR SERVICES: T: 800-545-9394 GENERAL INQUIRIES: info@ReachBeyond.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: editor@ReachBeyond.org

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On the cover: Fixed-tuned radios are empowering our partners to share the Gospel in Thailand and around the world.



MESSENGERS OF THE GOSPEL



Abraham\* was annoyed when he heard his oldest son listening to Christian radio programs on a little MP3 player that was being passed around their community.

Every time Abraham heard the name of Jesus mentioned, he got angrier and angrier. After all, he was an Imam, a religious leader, and a respected member of his community. His whole life had revolved around the Islamic faith and its deeply rooted traditions.

Finally, Abraham had heard enough, and he confiscated the little MP3 player from his son.

But that night, while everyone in the village slept, a powerful inner voice awakened Abraham, urging him to listen to the device.

Abraham hesitated, not knowing what to do. After all, he had just forbidden his eldest son from listening to those programs about Jesus.

His heart began pounding as he picked up the device and turned it on. Alone in the dark, Abraham began listening.

There was a single sentence that stood out from the rest—one that pierced his soul, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me."

These words shattered all of Abraham's certainties, and for the first time, he began to question his faith.

Abraham woke up the next morning to go and perform his duties as the Imam by leading the daily 5:00 AM prayer.

But once there, he found himself unable to do so, and he had to ask for help.

For the next two weeks, the MP3 player became Abraham's constant companion. He secretly listened to the radio programs and the audio Bible whenever he could.

Abraham was desperate to understand the truth he had heard. He asked to meet with one of our partner's evangelists—the one who had left that MP3 player in his community.

Abraham had many deep and profound questions. He talked with the evangelist for over two hours. At the end of their conversation, Abraham made the decision to open his heart to Jesus.

The following week, Abraham announced his retirement as Imam. While the community assumed the reason was due to his age, it was because he was on a new path.

Abraham continues to meet with our partner's evangelist in secret, studying the Bible and learning about Jesus, who loved him so much that He gave His life on the cross so that Abraham's sins could be forgiven. ●

Help empower local believers by providing radios and MP3 players they can use to share the Gospel.



SUPPORT THIS PROJECT: REACHBEYOND.ORG/MMD

\* Name changed for security



# INVESTING IN LEADERS

## BUILDING RESILIENT RADIO MINISTRIES

“Running a Christian radio station is really challenging for many of our partners,” says David, who directs Reach Beyond’s ministries in Asia Pacific. “They have the vision and the passion to use radio to reach their communities with the Gospel, but it is difficult for them to just stay on the air.”

Many stations are located in areas where there are few believers, so there is little support. David explains, “Typically, it is the station manager who carries the whole burden. If he is the pastor of the church, he might get some support from that. But most stations will only have one or two announcers. And maybe a producer or two, all part-time, all volunteer.”

David says the biggest expense most stations face is their electric bill, \$30-50 per month. “Most of the stations are small. They’re isolated. There’s not a lot of money—just a couple hundred dollars a month. There’s not a lot of encouragement. The station managers

are having to do a lot with a little, and they’re out doing that on their own.”

Reach Beyond uses a multi-level approach to deliver training that ranges from one-on-one or small group mentorship to multi-day training events for 20-30 station managers.

### EQUIPPING STATION MANAGERS

David says, “We want to equip leaders with skills to make their stations more resilient and self-sustaining so they can better share the Gospel. Radio is still very effective in these places. But we also train them to use social media and digital platforms, because if they don’t use digital media, they are really limiting their potential ministry.”

Training events for station managers are custom-designed to equip leaders with practical skills. David says, “One of the biggest requests we get from station managers for training is in the area of marketing. They need help learning how to attract listeners to their stations,

**right:** Breakout groups enable station managers to learn from one another as well as encourage and pray for each other.

and how to approach businesses that could potentially advertise on their station.”

Spiritual nourishment is another key aspect of training. David emphasizes to station managers the importance of growing spiritually. He tells them, “How can you expect to give out if you’re not growing in your walk with God? Leadership is an outflow of your personal relationship with God.”

Group events are also designed to build a sense of community among ministry leaders who have the same challenges and struggles, reminding them that they are not alone.

Small breakout groups facilitate self-learning discussions where leaders share experiences, challenges, and ideas. They also encourage and pray for each other, which brings renewed passion for ministry to their souls.

### TRAINING COHORTS

Earlier this year, local Reach Beyond trainer Anita began meeting monthly with a small group of station managers via Zoom. The group has focused on ways they can grow their audience to improve their sustainability and expand their Gospel impact. They have been



encouraging each other to go out and directly engage with their community.

David described one of their creative solutions, “One of the stations went down near a school early one morning, and put up a sign that said, ‘Smile for free coffee or tea and a snack.’ And as a result, a whole bunch of people heard about the station.”

“But this act of kindness did something more,” David explained, “The station realized that it shifted their focus from all of the difficulties they’re facing, to being a blessing to others.”

### INVESTING IN LEADERS

For David, building resilient radio ministries really begins by investing in their leaders. “We want to help them thrive. If they’re not thriving as good leaders, it carries throughout the whole radio station.”

David says, “Our partners have a passion for using radio and digital media to reach their neighbors. They are willing to sacrifice for it. They’re willing to spend their time and energy and efforts. They love Jesus—it’s very clear. And we’re here to help them use their enthusiasm and passion so that many more people will hear about Him.” ●

**left:** Offering free breakfast for a smile was a creative way our partners used to engage directly with people in their community.





**Left:** Around 1,000 patients were seen during medical clinics to remote areas where there is both limited access to healthcare and the Gospel. **Right:** Dr. Luke examines the hands of a child.



# BREAKING BARRIERS

## MOBILE CLINICS BRING HOPE TO CENTRAL ASIA

"Being able to do mobile medical clinics is an important part of our work here," says Dr. Luke,\* who serves with Reach Beyond's medical ministry in Central Asia. "Through them, we are able to provide for people's physical needs and at the same time, demonstrate the love of Jesus."

Reach Beyond sponsors mobile clinics each year that go to rural and remote areas where access to healthcare is limited. We also work alongside other like-minded NGOs doing medical work in the country.

This summer, Reach Beyond medical staff participated in several mobile clinics that provided care to more than 1,000 patients. The most common issues seen among children is parasites, and for adults, it's high blood pressure, diabetes, and anemia from the lack of iron in their diet.

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

One of the challenges faced in remote areas is a limited understanding of health, especially chronic disease. Dr. Luke explains, "For example, those with high blood pressure believe that every time they get a headache, it's from high blood pressure. Or they'll think they only need to take their blood pressure medicine when they have a headache."

"So part of our mobile clinics is to teach the patient about their diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis. We explain that high blood pressure is a chronic disease. We make sure they understand how important it is to take their medicine every day, that they need to get their blood pressure checked to see if their medication is working, and they need to go to a doctor if it continues to be high. We are doing this sort of basic health education with every patient."

Mobile clinics also enable Dr. Luke to mentor and train others. "I think the most meaningful time for me was being able to train a local medical student. She's one of the few Christian medical students in the country and was very eager to learn. She was helping us with translation for a local



language, and so I was able to give her clinical teaching with every patient that we saw. She found that practical training to be really helpful. Our hope now is that she will continue to come on mobile clinics with us and have the heart to serve her own people."

### OFFERING COMPASSIONATE CARE

Some cases are heart-wrenching. Dr. Luke explains, "Our team saw one woman who had a variety of complaints: headaches, stomach pain, weakness, and feeling tired all the time. For us, this is sometimes symptoms of anxiety or depression. And so our team was able to sit and take time with her and dig a little deeper as to why she's having these symptoms."

"During the exam, we were able to see that she had bruises on her body. We learned that she was being abused by her husband, which is common in this part of the world."

Dr. Luke says, "Obviously, it's hard for us to be able to provide much support for her when we are only in her village for one day, but we were blessed to be able to point her to a shelter for abused women that is run by believers, and to show her that there is a safe place for her."

"Sometimes in cases like these, we feel helpless because we're not really sure what will happen next," says Dr. Luke. "She was desperate and in need of help, but she didn't want to leave her husband and their family to get away from the abuse. A lot of times, they see it as just a way of life here. But in this case, we were able to not only care for her in a loving, compassionate way, but also to find help for her."

"Thankfully, we had another option to give her. We arranged for her to meet with a

**Left:** The most common issues seen among children is parasites, and for adults, it's high blood pressure, diabetes, and anemia from the lack of iron in their diet.

counselor we know who is a believer and is trained in dealing with domestic abuse. The woman has been able to go for counseling, and we pray that through this, she will be able to see the love of Christ and have an opportunity to hear about the Gospel."

For Dr. Luke, this illustrates why we work with local believers. He says, "These types of relationships are really important for us. As we do more clinics around the country, we have partners that we can trust, partners that will help us if we need those types of services, partners that we can invest in and who will continue to work in that village."

### CHALLENGING STIGMAS

Working in this part of the world comes with many challenges, as there is both resistance to the Gospel and laws that severely restrict any public evangelism.

"There is a stigma about Christians here," says Dr. Luke, "Through mobile clinics, we can break down the barriers, and break down the walls of the stigma of being a Christian in a Muslim country."

"We offer free consultations. We bring our own medications to hand out, and we are able to do some express labs that show results within a few minutes."

"We are demonstrating how Christians care for them. We show them that it was local believers who brought the mobile clinic to their village. And that gives those believers better relationships that we hope will help enable them to share their faith with the people in that community." ●



**Left and below:** The short-term team tests water quality and checks for bacteria and waterborne diseases.

# MEASURING SUCCESS

## CLEAN WATER HELPS TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES IN WEST AFRICA

When Richard saw an announcement for a short-term missions trip to assess wells in West Africa, he said, “It instantly struck a chord with me. I saw it and I thought, ‘I could do that.’ And sometimes when God puts things on your heart straight away, you know? Yeah, that’s me. I could see how I would fit into that slot.”

Richard had been a project manager for 38 years with Rolls-Royce’s Nuclear Division in the UK, where he worked on various projects for submarines.

“I was really honored to be able to go on this trip and serve,” Richard said, “and to use the skills that God had given me, both in the secular world and in Christian ministry.”

The short-term team consisted of 12 people of different ages, backgrounds, and skillsets from the US, UK, Ghana, Hong Kong, South Africa, and the Netherlands.

The three-week trip was led by Wim, who oversees Reach Beyond’s community development projects in the region. He explains, “During the past 10 years, we’ve helped our partner install over two dozen wells in that country. We wanted to take a moment to objectively assess everything we had been doing. We wanted to look at the current conditions of the wells and to gauge their impact on the community, both physically and spiritually. We also wanted to learn if there are things that could help us better do projects throughout the region in the future.”

The remoteness of the wells meant many hours of travel in vans, 4x4s, and occasionally even motorbikes.

Richard was the oldest on the team, which granted him special privileges. “I actually got the best seat in the car, which is usually up front, and that tends to be the most scary one. But more than that, it meant I was privileged to meet with village chiefs and elders of the communities, and to speak in a couple of churches as well. That was a real privilege. It was a real blessing to me.”

**“GOD HAS CALLED THEM TO THE HARD PLACES—THE ONES THAT NEED TO HEAR THE GOSPEL THE MOST”**

The team inspected the physical structure of each well and documented its condition. They also gathered water samples and performed tests which included using a portable mass spectrometer that can analyze water for minerals, organic matter, and contaminants on a molecular level.

Team members also assessed the social and spiritual impact of the wells by talking with villagers, pastors, and leaders in each community. All of the data was recorded using a special app on their mobile phone for further analysis.

Whenever members of the team weren’t busy gathering data, they were encouraged to walk through the community and pray.

### REACHING THE RESISTANT

Reaching unreached people is rarely easy. Many of our partner’s evangelists have been met with resistance. They’ve even been chased out of villages and warned to never come back, and told that if they do, they will be killed.

Yet our partners are undeterred by such threats. These are the communities that God has called them

to—the hard places—the ones that need to hear the Gospel the most.

Successfully reaching resistant villages, however, requires a different approach. By offering to help a community dig a well, our partner’s evangelists are able to gain access to a community and begin demonstrating the Gospel.

Richard recalls a conversation at one of the first villages they visited. “The chief said to me, ‘We are so grateful for

how they keep coming back, and are looking after us, and are concerned about our welfare, because the authorities completely neglect us.’ And that’s the real positive witness of what God is doing, and how just through relationship, you can actually enhance the Gospel.”

Richard says, “The wells have actually provided an ideal platform to spread the Gospel. I mean, it’s almost certainly



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[REACHBEYOND.ORG/SSA](https://REACHBEYOND.ORG/SSA)



**Left:** Richard speaks at a church that was planted by using clean water to introduce the Gospel to that community.

### TRANSFORMED BY THE GOSPEL

The biggest impact of the wells has been the spiritual transformation that happens through the Gospel.

Most of the wells were put in communities where there were no believers before the project began.

By the time the well is inaugurated, there will almost always be at least one believer—sometimes many more.

Our partners will continue working in each village until they have planted a church that can stand on its own.

Some villages now have dozens of believers, others have hundreds. The village where Reach Beyond first helped place a well 10 years ago has grown to nearly a thousand people following Jesus, led by a pastor who has come out of that same community.

Richard says, “There’s now a real joy in these communities. You could see a joy within the people who were influenced by the church and the Christians in there. You could sense it and you could see joy in people’s faces as well. The joy of the Lord always shines through.” ●



**Right:** Communities without wells rely on streams or natural springs like this one that appears to come out of a sacred tree, which villagers worship and pray to.



## OUT OF THE ASHES

When some villagers opposed to the Gospel set fire to the small church in their West African community earlier this year, they expected the pastor to run for his life and flee.

They hoped that the fire would destroy the humble structure made from tree trunks, limbs and a dry-stalk-roof, along with the pastor’s home, which was attached to it. They expected the fire to send a clear signal to everyone that this pastor and his outside Christian message were not welcome—they wanted to destroy the church.

The pastor did not flee, in fact, he was excited! They had managed to save everything—including all of the wooden benches from the fire.

This small fellowship of believers had been formed through Reach Beyond’s partnership with local believers to use clean water to bring the Good News of Jesus into Gospel-resistant places.

**“There were no believers in this village when the well project began. Today there are more than 80.”**

**Top:** This church has grown rapidly since the structure they were meeting under (inset) was intentionally set on fire earlier this year.

Private one-on-one spiritual conversations had led to one-on-one Bible studies, which had led to small groups, which eventually led to meeting together in public under the humble structure.

The pastor was also excited because they had been slowly building a new church and the fire gave him and the young believers the encouragement they needed to finish it—with a metal roof that could not be burned.

This church has risen out of the ashes and is now growing rapidly. During the previous month, they had baptized 19 believers, and were preparing to baptize another 20 people.

What man meant for evil, God has made into good. Nothing can stop the spread of the Gospel! ●

# REACH BEYOND

1065 Garden of the Gods Road | Colorado Springs, CO | 80907-3405

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