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REACH BEYOND

V+H

VOICE AND HANDS

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OUT OF DARKNESS INTO THE LIGHT

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friend,

For nearly 95 years, Reach Beyond has been shining the light of the Gospel around the world and into some of the darkest places.

Radio RFJ in Madagascar is one of the more than 600 stations that we've helped local believers and partners launch. But as you will see in this issue, it was not of our own doing. God orchestrated each event in His perfect timing so that He might receive all of the glory. Today God is doing amazing things in the Maroantsetra region, which has long been a stronghold of spiritual darkness.

Natural disasters like the devastating August 26th flooding in Nepal, provide opportunities to shine light to those in the midst of dark times. And God's people responded. One of our local ministry partners was the first organization to bring aid into the affected areas. Your gifts helped their relief efforts, including giving radios to survivors so they too can find hope and new life in Jesus.

God continues to open doors for us to work alongside and equip local believers who want to be a light to their neighbors. We have an incredible new opportunity in Azerbaijan. It is exciting to see these believers' passion to share Jesus in a place where very few have ever heard the Gospel. God is doing great things!

Thank you for your prayers and partnership in ministry as we work together to see that all may hear the Good News of Jesus and choose to follow Him!

May you be blessed in seeing how God is at work today.

Daniel Enns

Daniel Enns | President

"...I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God..."

Acts 26:17-18 NIV

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On the cover:
Pastor Alfred
and Thomas
baptize seven
new believers
in Madagascar,
including this
former witch.

The Marvelous Light

FINDING HOPE THROUGH BIBLE READING GROUPS

By Matthew*

It was fascinating. Of the four women who were planning to come to our women's Bible reading group, there were suddenly FOUR more! While it made things significantly more challenging and even limited what we could do in the group (none of them knew anything about the Bible), we were more curious as to why this was happening.

Without going into too many details, the area where we work is mostly inhabited by displaced people. Many have migrated to this area looking for work and are no longer part of the family groups that are typical in this culture. These women miss community! They want to be together, support one another, share life, and have somewhere to go when things are rough. So, they shared that they love our Bible reading group, they love the community, they love the support it offers, AND they love the message of the Good News. Why not invite their neighbors? I could not agree more.

So why share this brief story? After I had driven to their homes and dropped several off after meetings, I noticed they were dispersed in these groups throughout this sprawling village. It gave me the image of small candles in a dark room, little flickers of light in the darkness. It gave me hope.

Please be praying for these ladies, both new and old. Coming out of the darkness of Islam and into the marvelous light of Christ is not easy.

We are working through a new believer's study, but it has taken four meetings to complete the first study. Simple concepts are hard to grasp. Reading and praying on their own is completely foreign. Printed materials are not safe to use, so we are using apps and oral stories to lay the biblical foundation of God's love for us through Jesus.

As part of our community development project, we have several women's groups that meet regularly. Pray for these groups as well. Whether talking about conflict in marriage or how to make common food dishes healthier, the goal is to give hope, love, and truth. ●

*name changed for security





NEW OPPORTUNITIES

EQUIPPING BELIEVERS IN AZERBAIJAN

by Martin**

In scattered towns and villages across Azerbaijan, small groups of believers are gathering quietly in homes to worship, pray, and encourage one another. The church is slowly growing, but the first hints of change are always small.

An estimated 98% of Azerbaijanis have never heard a clear presentation of the Gospel. Traditional methods alone cannot reach everyone. The question is simple: how might Azerbaijani Christians take the hope of Christ further, faster, and deeper into their own communities?

The answer is beginning to emerge through an unexpected combination of technology, discipleship, and local vision.

Working alongside Pastor Elman* and his church, Reach Beyond is aiming to launch a new media ministry initiative that will equip and empower Azerbaijani believers to use video and social media as tools for evangelism.

The vision, however, is more than just creating online content—it's connecting those who respond to real people, real relationships, and real discipleship. The goal is to move them from online engagement to face-to-face fellowship in local house gatherings where they will grow in faith and community.

VERY EAGER TO LEARN

Recently, twenty Azerbaijani believers gathered for media training taught by Reach Beyond. Youth and adults sat side by side, gaining practical skills in recording video, creating content, and sharing it effectively. Yet the most significant outcome was not technical. Participants spoke of the

encouragement they received from one another, the friendships formed, and the renewed sense of purpose that emerged as they realized they could play a vital role in reaching their nation.

The enthusiasm was contagious. Believers who had previously seen evangelism as the responsibility of a few church leaders started to recognize that they themselves could become witnesses to their neighbors, villages, and online communities. Seeds planted during training given by Reach Beyond last year were already bearing fruit.

As Pastor Elman and Reach Beyond staff traveled through the country, visiting fellowships and house churches in some of the most challenging regions, they encountered believers with remarkable faith and determination. Many lived in areas with limited access to training or resources. Yet they possessed a deep desire to share Christ with those around them. These visits helped shape a larger vision.

MEDIA STUDIO AND MINISTRY HUB

Plans are now being formed to establish a media studio and ministry hub. At the heart of this vision are three dedicated Azerbaijani believers. Through sponsorship, training, and ongoing support, they will be equipped as media and community outreach evangelists, helping to strengthen the church and expand its witness throughout the country.

The multimedia studio will provide a base for creating

evangelistic and discipleship resources in the Azerbaijani language. The studio will produce videos, training materials, and culturally relevant content for two separate audiences and purposes: to strengthen local believers, and to engage those who are searching for truth.

Today, a uniquely Azerbaijani expression of Christian worship is beginning to emerge. The media studio will facilitate both the creation and distribution of music that resonates deeply with local culture and provides yet another bridge to share the message of Christ in meaningful ways.

EXTRAORDINARY POTENTIAL

What makes this vision especially compelling is that it is not dependent on outsiders. It is built on local believers being the voice and hands of Jesus to their own people.

Reach Beyond's role is to ensure that believers are equipped, mobilized, and empowered so that the ministry increasingly becomes church-led and locally sustained.

Highly relevant media content can be viewed by thousands across a region where access can be challenging. A trained evangelist can travel from home to home, encouraging seekers and discipling new believers. New disciples can become disciple-makers. House churches can plant other fellowships.

What began as a training workshop has the potential to become a movement. And if God continues to bless these efforts, the story may one day be how Azerbaijani Christians, empowered to reach their own people, could ultimately carry the Gospel beyond their borders to neighboring nations, including Iran, Turkey, Georgia, and Russian-speaking places, helping to bring the Gospel to an entire region. ●

**Martin and his wife Ruth lead Reach Beyond's ministries in the Europe/Eurasia region.

*name changed for security



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A LIGHT IN DARK TIMES

BRINGING HOPE IN THE AFTERMATH OF DISASTER

When our engineer Titus* made travel plans to help radio partners with projects in Nepal, he had no idea of the disaster that was about to take place.

On the morning of August 26th, a glacial rock-ice avalanche near the border of China and Nepal triggered a massive flood that destroyed dozens of communities along the Bhotekoshi River.

Nearly 1,500 people have been confirmed dead, with another 5,800 listed as missing but presumed dead.

Nepali believers were quick to respond with help. Titus explains, "During one partner's devotional time, they took reports from the front, and prayed for people. This group was the first organization to reach the affected people. As other organizations showed up and began helping with the aid effort, they coordinated to make sure they

weren't doubling efforts, and pressed in to harder-to-reach areas.

"I was very impressed with how quickly they were able to act, and the comprehensive plan they have. This is phase one, providing immediate relief and counseling. Many people literally only had the clothes they were wearing."

Titus continued, "There was no electricity, and cell phones didn't have service even if they were charged. There was little food or clean water. And everyone was in shock.

"This organization brought in doctors, counselors, water filters, food, clothes, and much more. Wonderfully, pastors were asked to be the aid coordinators in many of the affected areas. While

aid is coming from many places, the bulk of it is coming from Christian groups and through local churches! God is clearly doing something through this disaster."

SHINING LIGHT THROUGH RADIO

While Titus was there, a local partner asked him to go to the affected area to help a small community station get back on the air, and help give out some radios.

"After three hours, we arrived at the disaster site," said Titus, "and the whole town center was gone. Parts of some buildings still remained, half buried. There were frequent helicopters flying over, as rescue efforts continued. Thousands of people were cut off and accessible only by helicopter."

Radio is a critical way of communicating to people in the midst of a disaster, and restoring this station was an important part of relief efforts. Titus was able to assess the station's equipment as well as identify needs, which Reach Beyond and our local partner have helped provide.

While this particular station is not a Christian station, it is now back on the air and broadcasting daily 30-minute Gospel programs to an area that desperately needs to hear the Good News of Jesus.

A GIFT THAT BRINGS HOPE

Titus continued, "We went to a shelter to give radios to some survivors. It was so sad. We gave a radio to a young teenager who lost all eight members of her family.



"When the flood hit, she was thrown to the side and managed to grab onto some foliage. That had kept her from being washed away like everyone else.

"The next person we gave a radio to was a woman who survived, but watched her son, her daughter, and her husband die. The story was so painful—too painful to listen to. She said they are so unlucky for having lost everything and everyone. Our partner tried his best to tell her that it was not true—that they are blessed to still be alive. But she wouldn't hear of it. She insisted that she *is* bad luck, because she caused trouble for us by making us travel all the way there to help them."

For those living in the midst of dark times after having lost so much, the gift of a radio is more than a kind gesture or a demonstration of God's love. It's an opportunity for them to hear about Jesus—who sees their suffering and knows their deepest pain. It's a gift that offers hope and new life through Him. •

"The gift of a radio is more than a kind gesture...It's an opportunity for them to hear about Jesus—who sees their suffering and knows their deepest pain. It's a gift that offers hope and new life through Him."



*name changed for security



OUT OF THE DARKNESS

USING RADIO TO SHINE LIGHT IN MADAGASCAR

By Thomas*

In the Maroantsetra region of northeast Madagascar, darkness is prevalent in almost all areas of life. Traditional beliefs in ancestral spirits and the widespread practices of witchcraft and sorcery keep people trapped in a system that often makes progressive development and change seem impossible.

For the last ten years, our radio work has been incessantly sowing light into this darkness from early morning until late at night. We broadcast content that is informative, profound, and insightful, along with praise music and teaching from God's Word.

We've slowly seen the spiritual climate change in our broadcasting area, along with the thinking, worldview, values, and behaviors in our communities. Even witch doctors and sorcerers have shown a growing interest in the Gospel.

A TRANSFORMED LIFE

Christoph was active as a witch doctor for years. He used his abilities to gain

power, influence, and wealth as he exploited the community and made them dependent on him.

He ridiculed Christians as weird people who could not even think straight. When our radio station first went on the air in 2016, Christoph began listening to the content, even though he remained critical at first.

As he continued to listen to the radio, God began working in his heart and mind until he came to the conclusion that he no longer wanted to live the life he'd been living. Christoph sought out the team at the radio station to help him make a fresh start in his life. He repented and decided to submit to Jesus.

Since then, Christoph and a few others from neighboring villages have started a small church fellowship. He now runs a boat taxi, and his wife successfully runs a village shop. Instead of exploiting others, today they are a blessing to people on many levels.

Left: Seven new believers were baptized by Pastor Alfred and Thomas in the village "bathtub," including this former witch. **Right:** This growing church was started solely by people in that village who heard the Gospel on Radio RFJ.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

During our evangelism efforts in remote villages, we usually gather everyone in the village center where we present a clear Gospel message. We then allow the community to respond and ask questions about what we've said or what they've heard on the radio. We also pray for the sick.

At one village, a woman with a child in her arms followed us and asked for prayer for herself and the sick child. As we asked questions, we realized that she was the leading village witch, or at least she had been up until midway through our presentation, when God touched her heart directly. She said she felt a warmth and inner peace, and a great desire to put an end to the evil practices and use her life for good. She prayed silently for herself during the invitation and offered her life to God.

We went to her home to talk more and answer her questions. Then we led her to repent of all the evil she had done and burn and destroy all of her magic things. That Sunday, she was baptized with seven other people in the local river. There was great joy both in that village and in heaven. God is Good!

RADIO PREPARES THE WAY

Sometimes as Christians, we rather nonchalantly say that God's Word is powerful and able to do many things, but here in the Maroantsetra region, we've really seen and experienced it firsthand.



It has taken many decades of hard work, many prayers, and the arduous efforts of the few believers on the ground to bring about change and transformation bit by bit through the Word of God. Radio really accelerated this process and has allowed us to reach people throughout the whole region.

TEN YEARS OF RADIO MINISTRY

In August, we celebrated the tenth anniversary of Radio RFJ. We are so grateful to Reach Beyond for their help in setting up the station and sending Alex to install the equipment and Lisa to give our team radio training. Reach Beyond has continued to walk alongside us. Earlier this year, they sent Engineer Alfred to get us back on the air after a lightning strike damaged our transmitter. They also provided a solar power system to reliably run our station, and, just recently, gave more radio training to our team.

Radio has been such a blessing to the leaders and members of the local church, as it saves a lot of time and effort. In places where they previously tried to plant church fellowships, villagers are listening to the radio and deciding that they want to start their own church in their own community!

Where this place was once completely filled with darkness, today, people are hungry for God's Word. For this we rejoice and praise God! He is doing great things in Maroantsetra! ●

**Thomas is a ministry partner who has been working alongside local believers to reach the lost and build up God's church in Madagascar since 2008.*



RADIO RFJ: GOD'S HAND AT WORK

Starting a new radio station always comes with challenges. When Thomas and Pastor Alfred began filling out the application paperwork in 2010, they were overwhelmed. Thomas recalls, "We needed a lot of technical details for the license. It was like another language. I knew how to turn a radio on and off and tune it, and that was all I knew. One day, my wife was chatting with a neighbor over the fence about what we were doing, and the neighbor said, 'Oh, you really have to talk to Sandy in Cape Town. She's in our church and is coordinating a lot of radio projects in Africa.' And we saw how God arranged that contact with Sandy and Radio Africa Network."

Over the next five years, they spent a lot of time praying, fasting, and waiting for the license to be granted.

"At the beginning of August 2015, we were sick and tired of waiting for the license," explained Thomas. "So as a radio team, we started a focused prayer and fasting time with the aim to have the license by October 15th, at the latest.

"On August 24th, one of our prayer intercessors said, 'The fight is over—peace!' That very afternoon, we received the message that the license was ready for signing. It was the first radio license legally issued in the country since the coup in 2009.

"Then God did another miracle. One Monday morning, someone from Madagascar called and said, 'I'm in Cape Town, and I can take equipment



Top: Engineer Alex with Radio RFJ staff in the newly installed studio in 2016. **Above:** Benjamin gives radio training to Radio RFJ volunteers in August 2026.

for the station to Madagascar,' and they said they would handle all of the import tax/duties process. We replied, 'Yeah, but we don't have the money at the moment.' So I wrote our German-speaking friends in Switzerland, and asked them to pray that God would provide \$20,000.

"At around 7 pm that same day, Sandy told me she had good news. Someone in the U.S. had contacted Reach Beyond saying that God had laid it on their heart to support the launch of a new radio station, but it had to be in Madagascar, and they wanted to give \$20,000. The staff from Reach Beyond asked Sandy if she knew of anything. Sandy replied, 'Yeah, I'm busy preparing and planning a station with some people from Madagascar right now!' And so God provided for us in this crazy—miraculous way."

Thomas says, "It was such a tremendous blessing. We would not have known how to do it otherwise. And that was just another example of God's hand at work showing us, 'I want this radio station. I care about the people in these remote villages. And, it's time for this station to go on the air.'" •

CHANGED LIVES

"My name is Zakaria from Morocco, I am 27 years old. I used to think I knew the path of truth and that everything I had learned was the absolute truth. But there was always an inner voice asking me: 'Is the religion I follow really the true religion?' One day I was watching the film 'The Life of Christ' and saw the scene of healing the blind man. I began to ask: how can a human create? Isn't God alone the Creator? After that, I decided to read about who Christ is. The more I read, the more I found in His teaching extraordinary love, wisdom, mercy, and authority. But I still had questions, so I reached out to your site and shared all my doubts. Your minister helped me find clear, logical answers that touched both my mind and heart. Peace began to enter my heart, and I can honestly say I found the true path I had been searching for all my life. I now believe in Christ and strive to live according to his teachings."



"My name is Fatima. I grew up in a religious family, performing all the duties. Later I studied our religious texts more deeply and found many contradictions. I had many questions about God's justice and image. I decided to leave Islam and worship the Great Creator, the God of heaven. Later I visited your page to learn about Christ, because I felt drawn to Him and His words about peace. Reading the Gospel, I was deeply touched by His teaching about purity of heart and loving enemies. What helped me change was when a minister explained that Christ is not just a teacher, and that the cross is where justice and mercy met. I decided to follow Christ, invited Him into my life, and felt deep peace and comfort I had never known before. I now want to know Him more and live with Him each day."

"My name is Hussein, I am 19. I wanted to become a Christian because I wasn't convinced by Islam. I contacted your page, and the minister asked me: 'Why did God create us?' He explained that we are not slaves to God, but He loves us and wants us in relationship with him. I asked: 'If God created us pure, why is there evil in us? How do we return to our good nature?' He explained about the corruption in the human heart, God's love, and that Christ came to save humanity, change our destiny from destruction, and give us a new nature after faith. He told me Christ was incarnate, crucified, died, and rose for us. I decided to believe in Him. My heart was filled with great love for Him because He was crucified for me and forgave my sins. I now have a strong desire to know Him more."

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