

FALL/WINTER 2024

REACH BEYOND

V+H

VOICE AND HANDS

VOL. 19 NO. 2



# GOD REVEALS HIS PLANS

STORIES FROM

TANZANIA | ECUADOR | SHARE ENGLISH

RADIO • DIGITAL MEDIA • HEALTHCARE • COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dear friend,*

Do you ever become discouraged when your plans fall through? I've been thinking lately about Proverbs 19:21 which says, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

As a faith mission, we continually seek God's leading as we determine priorities, set goals, and make plans for the year ahead—trusting that He will do His will through us.

In this issue, you will read stories of God's purposes being revealed in unexpected ways. For Dr. Dianne Parkin, it was demonstrating Jesus' love to an elderly shoeshine man. Alex discovered why some of his region's plans had ground to a halt. And, one of our radio partners shares how they demonstrated their faith in front of a warlord and his rebels.

We are also rejoicing for how God has made His purposes known by giving people ideas. Our Share English team just celebrated 25 years of ministry—and recently surpassed 400,000 subscribers to one of their social media channels. What's even more amazing is that their largest audiences are in countries that are among the most restrictive to the Gospel and traditional missionary efforts. Yes, God's purposes prevail!

Thank you for your partnership that God is using to accomplish His purposes—so that every people, tribe, language, and nation could hear the Good News of Jesus!

**May you be blessed by how God is at work.**

**Daniel Enns | President**

**REACH BEYOND**



VOICE AND HANDS

Voice + Hands Magazine is written, designed, and produced by Reach Beyond through the generosity of friends of the ministry.

### **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](mailto:info@ReachBeyond.org)

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** [editor@ReachBeyond.org](mailto:editor@ReachBeyond.org)

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# AN EXCITING PROBLEM REVEALS GOD'S PLANS IN TANZANIA



"I've got an exciting problem," said the Tanzanian man to the three men at his table during the August AbR Media conference. "We've been given a license by the government to set up eight repeater radio stations along a section of our country where Muslim populations are concentrated, but we have to have five of them on-air in less than 10 months." He continued, "I am so burdened by this project. I don't see how it can happen. We have no way to manage this under our own strength. Only God can make this a reality."

AbR Media is an association of ministries that are working together to reach the whole continent with the Gospel. Reach Beyond's director for the region, Alex, explains, "It's a cooperative, supportive partnership that eschews competition. By coordinating efforts, we are able to avoid setting up multiple radio stations in the same area or unknowingly helping the same partner."

Alex stresses, "Africa's such a big mission field – if we're just working for our own organizations...I don't think God can bless it as much as when we're working together with a Kingdom mindset."

One of Alex's team goals has been to help local believers launch two new radio stations before the end of the year. God had provided the funds, but every project was at a standstill.

Alex listened intently to the radio station manager and thought about this great opportunity. Their station is focused on unreached people, and they have an excellent reputation for follow-up and discipleship.

The four men discussed the problem, did the math, and determined that two of the initial five stations would need to be started this year, and the other three staggered between January and June 2025.

It was then that Alex suddenly realized, "The answer was just there on a plate for us. God had already worked it all out. We didn't know why God had put our other plans on hold." He continued, "God was working this all out so we would be ready and able to help this trusted partner to share the Gospel with many more unreached people throughout Tanzania." ●



# THE POWER OF RADIO IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Bullets whizzed by the technicians' heads in the stifling heat of northern South Sudan. "What's going on? Who's shooting at us?" they shouted, diving to the ground. They scanned everywhere trying to understand what was happening. They were simply there to move the remote town's Christian radio station tower to a higher location with a clearer signal. Then they saw the militia approaching. They considered running, but they were in the middle of nowhere. They had no choice but to surrender.

The militia aimed their guns at them and forced them to huddle on the ground. They threatened them and fired their guns in the air. They punched and pushed our radio partners while accusing them of trying to steal the tower. When our partners realized the misunderstanding, they pleaded with the militia that they weren't taking away the tower. "We're here to help you," they repeated. But nothing swayed their captors.

Our partners began to pray, crying out to the Lord to save them. The militia heard the name of the Lord

and became scared. They yelled, "They're praying to their god!" The armed men loaded them in the back of their truck and drove them to their warlord. The little town had become the warlord's stronghold, and he didn't want to lose the radio station. He and the rest of the town depended on it for communication with the rest of the world. Our partners explained to the warlord, as they had to the militia, that they were only trying to relocate the tower to a more desirable spot to give it longer range. Yet the warlord refused to accept it and ordered them, at gunpoint, to return the tower to its original position. He wasn't risking losing their only radio station.

Alex, who oversees Reach Beyond's ministries in Sub-Saharan Africa explains, "It just goes to show the significance of local radio in places like this...that it could be so important. But it really is." Alex added, "and that's what makes it such a powerful tool for sharing the Gospel." ●



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*Dr. Dianne Parkin educates kids at the Carapungo Clinic in Quito, Ecuador.*

# BRINGING

# Hope

## TO THE PEOPLE OF CARAPUNGO



Dr. Dianne Parkin was checking people's vital signs during a free event outside of the Carapungo Clinic. She hadn't been able to advertise the event, and so she had asked everyone she knew to pray that God would send who He wanted to show up.

Dr. Parkin recalls noticing an elderly man standing just outside the gate, "He was a shoe shiner. You could tell he had been doing that for many years. His clothes were covered with black shoe polish and his hands, all the way up to his elbows were stained. As I watched him, I noticed that he was curious as to what we were doing, so I went and invited him in. He refused at first because he was too dirty, and he would mess up our chair.

"I reassured him it was okay. I began to take his vitals starting with his glucose, but he started refusing because he said

his hands were too stained—too dirty. He started trying to use his solution to clean his hands, but it wouldn't come off. I gently took his hands and reassured him that I was not worried about his stained hands. I was more interested in his health. With that, he relaxed and allowed me to take his vital signs. His sugar was high, and so I was able to explain to him the complications of diabetes and invited him to the clinic for treatment."

Dr. Parkin has spent the last seven months in Ecuador serving as a medical missionary at the Carapungo Clinic, just north of Quito. Reach Beyond launched a clinic there in 1996 to reach the growing neighborhood of mostly lower income families. Construction of the current clinic began a few years later, with phase one opening in 2002, and project completion in 2008.



## ***"...I know that I am showing God's love..."***

As part of Hospital Vozandes' continuing ministry, the clinic is filled with caring and loving medical professionals who are intentional about giving the best care to its patients, including spiritual care. Chaplains visit with each patient, praying for them while sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Dr. Parkin often gives educational talks in the clinic's waiting area on topics like diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and prostate and gastric cancers. She's even made props to demonstrate how blood

flows with high blood pressure versus normal blood pressure.

Dr. Parkin enjoys helping run several weekly and monthly clubs for children, women, and patients with chronic illnesses. Once a month, the Carapungo Clinic puts up a tent outside where they offer free checks of vital signs, glucose, and weight as a service to the community. They minister to families as well as the homeless, addicts, and on this particular day, an elderly shoeshine man.

One of the biggest burdens that God has put on Dr. Parkin's heart is the issue of violence against women. Recent data reveals that six out of ten Ecuadorian women have experienced some sort of physical violence and/or psychological or economic abuse. More than 80% of those incidents are from their spouse or a former partner. Dr. Parkin says that these kinds of abuse often go unreported in Carapungo. "It happens," she explains, "but nobody addresses it. It's swept under the rug."





To help address this tragic situation, Dr. Parkin is organizing a conference at the clinic on November 25th. She's invited the local police department to give a presentation and arranged for a self-defense trainer to help women learn to protect themselves. Two of the staff doctors and the head of Hospital Vozandes' laboratory will also give presentations. Another scheduled speaker is someone who works to prevent sex trafficking in the country. Dr. Parkin wants this conference to help begin the spread of awareness, education, and change to stop all forms of abuse and violence throughout Ecuador.

## TENDING TO THE LOST SHEEP

At the clinic, Dr. Parkin is always looking for someone to minister to. She recalls her encounter with the elderly shoeshine man, "This man reminded me of Jesus and me. Jesus left the 99 righteous sheep and went after the one unrighteous lost sheep, me. God sent me 18 people that day, but

I believe it was for that one person who believed he was not worthy because of his stained hands and clothes, and he was the only person that day that had abnormal vital signs. Because of people's prayers we found the lost sheep who needed medical care."

Dr. Parkin says, "I know that I am showing God's love because of the response I get from the people...the children from the kids' club running to greet me – I am no longer Dr. Parkin, but Tia (Aunt) Dianne. The addicts greet me before I even see them. They shake my hand on the street and look out for my protection. These are the things that reassure me that I am reaching the people of Carapungo." •



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## Sharing Jesus with English Learners Worldwide

When you think about a project to help people learn English, you might expect to see grammar textbooks, verb conjugations, and word memorization. But for English learners who engage with Reach Beyond's innovative Share English program, the focus isn't on grammar but on fascinating stories and issues that relate to their daily lives. The program also challenges English learners to think about their beliefs, attitudes, relationships, and even what happens after they die.

Share English began 25 years ago as a specialized English radio program produced by FEBA Radio in the UK. God originally gave Mike Procter the idea while he listened to a public radio broadcast aired by Voice of America. The show was called "Special English," and it used a controlled vocabulary and shorter sentences to teach English. It had been on the air since 1959, but no one was using this approach on Christian radio.



Mike recognized this could be an opportunity to reach non-believers. He said, "I discovered that English is the most sought-after foreign language. People who would not be interested in listening to a show about Jesus would be drawn to a program teaching English." Mike believed God could use this approach to open doors in countries closed to traditional missionaries and the Gospel message.

In 1999, FEBA began airing these new English programs weekly on a single radio station. A few months later, Reach Beyond began broadcasting the program on HCJB and HCJB2, our local Spanish radio stations in Quito and Guayaquil, Ecuador.



*Share English Clubs give English learners the opportunity to practice speaking English. The clubs also build friendships and use materials that are designed to encourage spiritual conversations and open doors to sharing about Jesus.*



**"..Mike believed God could use this approach to open doors..."**

### **ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUBS**

Janine was serving as a Reach Beyond missionary in our English radio department in Quito. She wanted to also have some sort of direct ministry to help reach local Ecuadorians but struggled with learning and speaking Spanish. She wondered if there might be a way she could use English. Then God gave her an idea—to start a club for English Learners—utilizing FEBA's radio programs that were being aired on HCJB. She decided to invite

English learners to gather and listen to the radio programs. Janine would make copies of the radio program scripts to hand out so that everyone could follow along. The group would then practice speaking English in small groups as they talked about what they had heard with missionaries and Christian volunteers. The idea proved to be a popular one and it soon outgrew its space. People liked that it was free and for the opportunity to practice speaking English with native English speakers from around the world.

The club moved to English Fellowship Church where it continued to grow. English learners were not only coming to the club at the church during the week—they began attending the church on Sunday mornings to improve their English. The church pastor saw an opportunity for ministry. He began typing out his sermon ahead of time and gave copies to English learners so

# "Praise God for what He has done and continues to do."

they could follow along word-for-word. God began filling the church with Ecuadorians and immigrants from around the world, who in their quest to learn English, found something far more valuable, a personal relationship with Jesus.

Janine wondered if God could do something like this in Quito, might He be able to do the same thing through listeners clubs around the world. God led her to move to Asia to help believers start new English clubs.

## GROWING TOGETHER

As the Internet developed and expanded, so did Share English's reach. Mike explains, "We realized that, at the time, most of our target audiences were unlikely to have internet access, but we felt this was the future and we should be in it from the get-go." He adds, "Plus the value of the programs to English learners would be greatly enhanced if they could access them at will." Mike developed a website where listeners could read the scripts and listen to the programs any time they wanted.

Eventually, the radio programs and conversation clubs merged to become a single ministry as the sponsoring missions, FEBA, ReFrame Media, Words of Hope, Reach Beyond USA, and Reach Beyond UK collaborated to write, record, and produce content. In 2016, Reach Beyond USA and Reach Beyond UK assumed total responsibility for the project.



Roger is the interim team leader of the Share English project. He says, "We see God doing amazing things to expand Share English's impact. In 2015, we had 1,400 subscribers to our social media channel. In 2016, the Lord doubled that number. By God's grace, our number of subscribers has continued to grow off the charts—we now have over 400,000 subscribers, with more than 23.5 million views since we started the channel! Even more amazing is that our largest audiences are in countries that are highly restrictive to the Gospel and even closed to traditional missionary efforts."

While the Share English team is thrilled with statistics, Roger points out that it is the individual "changed lives" that really matter. He said, "Nancy\* is a young woman in a restrictive country who came to know Jesus through Share English. She brought her father to church, and he became a Christian. And now she has been sharing the Gospel with her grandmother! This is why we do Share English—to share the love of Christ. Praise God for what He has done and continues to do!" ●



# Thank You!



AFTER



BEFORE

**Your gifts provided  
a new tower and antenna  
for a community  
radio station in Indonesia.**

Listeners called to say, "We're happy because the radio signal is so strong." More people are now hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Your generosity gives hope  
through medical caravans in  
Central Asia.**

A patient shared, "I feel like I have been given new life...like I have been born again." These caravans are opening doors to share the Gospel in those villages.



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