



reach*the*LAST.

SHARING THE
GOSPEL WITH
ALL THE PEOPLE

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INSIDE

2023-2024 RADIOS FOR
THE WORLD CATALOG



BECAUSE YOU GAVE

EXTENDING THE REACH OF THE GOOD NEWS

Ukraine-Russia Crisis Fund

Despite the tragic war between Ukraine and Russia, God is at work there. “Sometimes it seems like the whole of Ukraine is watching us,” said Alexander Chmut, director of TWR’s Ukraine team. “Today, they know about us. And God has blessed us to be able to preach the gospel so freely.” A listener wrote, “Thank you for teaching the Word of God. In our small village, there are no Bible-study groups, and the nearest church is 50 kilometers away.” Your gifts of over \$308,700 allow us to expand the ministry significantly.

Hope for the Middle East

TWR blankets the Middle East and North Africa with the Word of God, aired by radio, internet and mobile apps. One listener said, “I’m facing hardships and emotional persecution, but since I’ve decided to follow Jesus, I will not turn back. I know I’m saved. Thank you, *Youth in Mind*, for helping me in my new faith.” Our goal with *Youth in Mind* is to bring hope in Jesus to young Syrians who have grown up with war and few opportunities. Thank you for giving \$287,000 this year to support them and many others in the Middle East and North Africa.

Chinese Ministries

It is difficult in China to access Christian resources, and that’s why TWR is expanding shortwave programming in the Mandarin language. Shortwave radio is not easily blocked, and listeners in rural China are particularly keen to hear the broadcasts. A new series of *Discipleship on the Air* called *Teaching of the Truth* is in production and will be broadcast in 77 episodes. Other programs in the works include *Every Man A Warrior* for men’s discipleship, *Following Jesus*, *The Way of Righteousness* and *Creation Moments*.

The \$336,500 you shared with us to keep these programs on the air will be a huge blessing in China. Thank you!

A Season of Hope in Japan

TWR would like to thank you for your prayers and support of our outreach in Japan called A Season of Hope. It comprises several ministries that share the gospel with this spiritually needy nation through media. TWR has an FM broadcast presence in 21 of Japan’s 47 prefectures, currently broadcasting programs such as *Power of the Gospel*, *The Word Today*, *Every Man A Warrior* and *Women of Hope*, among others. With the \$267,600 you gave this year, we can continue reaching what some call the second-largest unreached people group in the world. Thank you!

anniversary milestones

During the second half of 2023, we honor these colleagues at TWR (also known as Trans World Radio) who are celebrating having served 10 or more years with the ministry. Join us in praising the Lord for their faithful service.

- 65 Bill Mial, USA
- 45 Lee Lowell, USA
- 40 Scott Hollinger, USA
- 35 John Summerville, USA
- 25 Chris Overman, USA
- 20 Vickie Faircloth, USA
- 15 Lynn Price, USA
- 10 David Creech, USA
Angie Huston, USA
Angela Woosley, USA



My grandfather used to say, “If you aim at nothing, you’ll hit it every time!” Another mentor of mine used to say, “Most of the work in the world gets done by people who are tired or don’t feel well!” It’s amazing how these little phrases stick with you – little phrases that define reality.

Our teams of global leaders met in August to address the direction of the TWR ministry and define reality over the next several years. We were positioning the work for the future to move forward. We focused on TWR’s calling: “to reach the world for Christ by mass media so that lasting fruit is produced.”

During these meetings, we spent much time allocating financial resources – in other words, crafting a balanced budget that positions TWR for the future. This allocation of resources – specifically, people and finances – will determine how efficiently and effectively we’ll see God bring our calling into reality.

God has prepared TWR for such a time as this! As crisis after crisis appear, TWR is positioned to bring hope to hearts that are in disarray. We have seen God supernaturally providing direction and the resources necessary to effectively share the love of God on a global scale.

Let me give you a snapshot of what God is currently doing through TWR.

- As I write, the Every Man A Warrior ministry has over 250 leaders meeting in Kenya and Uganda.

- We received word last month that TWR has received a national license to broadcast by shortwave to unreached people groups in the northern Amazon basin of Suriname.
- God has provided the people and finances to begin to translate and produce *Mission 66*, a comprehensive book-by-book Bible audio and print commentary reaching out to secular mindsets with the truth of each book of the Bible.
- God provided the resources to rebuild the antenna system on Guam that was damaged by a typhoon in May. In fact, the need was met and surpassed, enabling us to go beyond what we had projected for repairs to keep ministering to China, North Korea and across Asia.
- TWR’s visual-media teams have produced videos for TWR Canada and are working on evangelistic videos for Muslim and Buddhist audiences.

These are just a few ways God has been moving in the TWR ministry in these past several months. He is opening new opportunities and doing extraordinary things! I look forward to updating you as we move forward.

Thank you for your partnership! Let’s come together to bring hope in Jesus to a crisis-centered world that is becoming even more open to the good news, which Jesus can bring to every heart!

COVER IMAGE Somali refugees walk through Dagahaley refugee camp in Dadaab, Kenya. Photo courtesy of IMB.org.

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‘REACH THE LAST’



PHOTO BY JONATHAN MITCHELL

By John Lundy • Staff Writer

“Please pray for us,”
the young Afghan woman wrote
to TWR’s ministry partner
in her country.

The woman and her husband
follow Christ, a rarity in a
country in which only 1 in 10,000
people are evangelical Christians,
according to the mission research
initiative Joshua Project.

When she was growing up, her family moved to a different province so that she could finish high school, the woman wrote earlier this year. She went on to earn a bachelor’s degree from the American University of Afghanistan and marry a man in her field of work. In a country with no public gathering places to proclaim Jesus, she became a Christian through listening to TWR’s *Hope for Today* program. She and her husband, also a believer, would invite people to their home and share the gospel with them.

But the fall of Kabul in 2021 changed everything. “The extremists’ presence has made the situation unsafe for us,” she wrote. “Both our jobs and other activities have been lost.”

Afghanistan is one of the places that TWR will highlight in 2024 as we present a yearlong focus called “Reach the Last.”

“Our whole strategy is to reach the world with the gospel,” said Jon Fugler, chief content officer for TWR. “And we’re positioned with the facilities that we have outside some of these countries that bring the gospel into the countries.”

The theme is new, but the idea of reaching the last extends back to 1948, said Tim Klingbeil, TWR’s chief development officer.

That was when Youth for Christ staged its first international conference in the beautiful Alpine village of Beatenberg, Switzerland.

A Canadian evangelist named Oswald J. Smith Jr. chastised the delegates from 46 nations. In spiritual terms, they were only feeding those on the front rows, Smith charged. No one was going to the last rows. Who was feeding them?

Among those in attendance was a 30-year-old Youth for Christ director from North Carolina named Paul Freed. That conference, and his encounter there with two zealous delegates from Spain, would start Freed on the journey that led to what is now TWR.

From its founding in 1952, TWR has joined other mission agencies in seeking to bring the good news of Jesus to all the world. Yet people still are waiting in the last rows. Joshua Project finds that 7,385 of 17,442 people groups in the world – more than 42% – are unreached, meaning they don't include enough Christians to grow the faith without outside help.

As we focus on reaching the last rows during the coming year, we'll meet the Sundanese people of Indonesia, take you to the jungles of Suriname and learn about unreached people groups in such places as Somalia, Türkiye, Bosnia and Japan.

In Afghanistan, the "Reach the Last" campaign will especially highlight women in the Hazara people group, an ethnic and religious minority that makes up 10% to 20% of the nation's population.

If the woman quoted at the beginning of this article were growing up today, she wouldn't have been able to finish high school in any Afghan province. The current regime bans girls from attending school beyond sixth grade.

Yet as we'll show, the people of Afghanistan – including Hazara women and girls – are able to hear the gospel via radio thanks to the PANI (Pakistan, Afghanistan, North India) transmitter located in a Central Asian country. Among the programs aired in Afghanistan is one called *Hope for Hazara*.

During the coming year, we'll focus each month on a particular unreached people group or on a country with unreached peoples. In addition to online and magazine articles, you'll see a new listener-story video, the release of a book and the launch of a full-length documentary.

We'll see how God is using TWR and media to overcome barriers and speak truth to these precious people.

A GIFT FOR YOU

We invite you to visit [twr.org/advert](https://www.twr.org/advert) to get your own copy of our special Advent prayer guide. Like "Reach the Last," it is focused on ministry to unreached people.



Klingbeil said he hopes the campaign will result in greater awareness of these people groups, greater awareness of how media plays a part in ministering to them, and greater prayer and financial support for TWR.

"It's kind of pulling back the curtain a little bit into some more of the specific types of things that we're doing that may not get a lot of attention," he said.

Fugler also spoke of awareness. If your interest already is increasing, Fugler would refer you to Alliance for the Unreached (alliancefortheunreached.org), whose 13 directing member organizations include TWR.

"There are dozens of ministries who are laser-focused on the unreached," Fugler said. "You can find one there that you can identify with and say, 'Hey, this is where my heart is. I'm going to partner with this organization.' ... Let's do this together [because] the task is huge."



Radio is a Christian witness in remote Sudan

TWR PHOTO

When you live in Sudan and are a new believer in Christ, it can be a struggle to find the spiritual answers you so desperately need.

This huge, mostly dry country in northeastern Africa is classified as unreached by the gospel. In fact, the World Watch List ranks it among the top 10 countries where Christians face severe persecution.

For those living in isolated areas, it can be nearly impossible to find other Christians. This, coupled with strict societal norms and a lack of biblical resources, can leave believers feeling alone.

Samir* found himself in such a quandary, but TWR broadcasts turned out to be a “wonderful way to nourish my new faith.”

“I struggled when I first became a believer,” Samir said. “As you know, there aren’t many Christians living in my country. But when I found *The Word Today* through TWR’s broadcast, I committed myself to listen regularly, and it was then that I started growing in my faith. I thank the Lord that we are family in Christ.”

This is the purpose of the TWR Arabic Ministry’s collection of programs called Hope for Sudan. Together, these programs give Sudanese listeners the tools they need to understand God’s plan for their lives. For many, it’s their only access to the gospel message.

In a one-hour block of daily broadcasts, a unique variety of biblical themes are introduced and explored. Each program is designed to meet a specific need. For example, *Power in Persecution* shares individual accounts

of how God delivers, sustains and protects his children.

Remarkably, a local pastor works in partnership with the TWR Arabic team, handing out radios to key contacts in hard-to-reach regions. He even teaches them how to use the radios.

“God is looking for those true seekers,” said TWR’s Arabic Ministry director, whose identity isn’t disclosed for security reasons. “He takes the initiative to look for these true seekers. And God will not leave true seekers without a witness. And this machine, the radio, can be the witness.”

Soon, *Biblica’s When Your Whole World Changes*, designed to help people walk through major crisis situations, will also be aired in Sudan in cooperation with TWR.

“I feel it’s an open window to comfort and encourage the people in these difficult times,” the director said.

* A pseudonym to protect his privacy

MORE TO THIS STORY

Read the rest of Jade Alger’s compelling report on this TWR ministry at twr.org/sudan-radio.

By Jade Alger • TWR Europe and CAMENA writer and communications specialist



Photo courtesy Kimberly Yepes

Faith comes **full circle** in Colombia

BY JOHN LUNDY, STAFF WRITER

When Kimberly Yepes was growing up in Colombia, her father's testimony introduced her to TWR. Now, Kimberly's voice will be heard on one of TWR's newest programs.

Her dad's story is a favorite in the TWR world. Carlos Yepes was working in the drug cartel led by notorious kingpin Pablo Escobar when TWR broadcasts led Carlos and some of his bodyguards to faith in Christ.

"Since my father was saved, he began to serve God and have an active ministry, first spreading the gospel to those around him in his daily life," Kimberly explained in answers to questions for this article.

As he grew in his faith, Carlos became youth leader for the city of Santa Marta in Colombia, married and moved with his wife, Janeth, to the sprawling capital city of Bogota. Kimberly, now 25, was born in the nearby town of La Mesa. She has one brother, Jonathan.

"I grew up in a family that was led by God and saw how he himself guided, supported and blessed them," Kimberly wrote.

She knew about TWR – or RTM (for Radio Trans Mundial) in Latin American nations – from an early age through her father.

"When he refers to what God has done in him, he begins by talking about TWR,

because in a miraculous way this was his means of salvation and spiritual growth," Kimberly wrote.

What God did in Carlos through TWR has come full circle in his daughter.

Kimberly, who married Cristian Quesada in 2020, now creates content for social media with TWR's national partner in Colombia.

Her new assignment is to be a "voice" for the Spanish production of *Mission 66*, the radio Bible survey course from Brazil that TWR is preparing to release in the world's 10 most-spoken languages. She is taping promotions and will be the voice for the opening and ending of each of the 613 half-hour programs.

That his daughter is now part of the ministry that God used to save him isn't lost on Carlos, Kimberly said.

"My dad feels very blessed and happy to know that I am working for the ministry that brings salvation to remote places like the place where God rescued him and that now my voice is also part of such a great ministry and a program that I am sure ... will carry the Word of God into many lives," Kimberly wrote.

Her dad, she wrote, "has cried with happiness."

THE CARLOS STORY

See the moving video about Kimberly's father at [twr.org/carlos](https://www.twr.org/carlos).



PHOTO: VA INB

New era dawns in CUBAN MINISTRY

By Sarah Mummert, TWR journalism intern

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it,” reads John 1:5.

What a fitting statement to describe God’s work through the ministry of RTM Cuba* as one director passes the torch of leadership to another, launching the ministry into a new era of broadcasting gospel hope.

In March, Moisés Pérez Padrón began stepping into the directorship of TWR’s national partner in Cuba, eventually to fill the shoes of Alberto González. González is a Cuban native who faithfully served in the role for 19 years and officially retires later this year.

A traumatic childhood

Also Cuban born, Pérez grew up in a Christian home, but that didn’t give him a challenge-free life. At just 4 years old, he experienced an upheaval when his parents separated. In fact, his entire childhood was marked by complications accompanying his frequent asthma attacks.

When he was 5, another drastic change affected his life. In a fall from the roof of his grandparents’ home, Pérez sustained life-threatening injuries, but through the ordeal, he found rescue for his soul. He put his faith in Christ, and his personal

call to ministry soon followed.

Pérez has served in ministry since 2007. He attended the Baptist Theological Seminary in Havana and earned a master’s degree in pastoral ministry and theology. Now he’s preparing to pursue a Ph.D. in biblical interpretation.



Pérez

Pérez’s wife, Kesia Quintana Arteaga, serves alongside him in ministry, having worked in the field of psychology in Havana. Together, they form a team that is passionate for people and the body of Christ. They have two young daughters, Marina and Melissa.

The island nation of Cuba is seeing many pastors leave the country, making it difficult for RTM Cuba to find solid, biblically trained Christian leaders who are willing and able to continue producing programs for their own people.

But through a godly coincidence, RTM Cuba Director González encountered a student he once taught in seminary: Pérez. Pérez was still seeking to bring the hope of the gospel to Cubans. He would be a perfect fit. González took him under his wing and has been teaching him everything he needs to know about serving as director.

A modern hero of the faith

Long before serving with TWR, González was a listener whose life was dramatically touched by the ministry’s radio programs. Since the 1960s, TWR has been broadcasting to Cuba from the Caribbean island of Bonaire, more than 700 miles away. González was one of the seminary

* RTM is the Spanish equivalent of TWR.

students and church leaders confined in a reeducation camp following the communist revolution led by Fidel Castro.

Stumbling upon a TWR broadcast on the transistor radio his wife smuggled into the camp, González was strengthened by the biblical messages and Christian music. After the camp closed, he completed his studies and became a pastor, giving up his aspirations to build a career in the United States and remaining in Cuba to reach his own people with the gospel.

In 2004, TWR asked González to produce a program called *Mensajes de Fe y Esperanza* (*Messages of Faith and Hope*) – a Cuban voice for a Cuban audience. That program still goes out today. In fact, González is still producing programs as Pérez learns the ropes, and once he retires, González will record *Nuestro Hogar y Adoración* (*Our Home and Worship*).

Esteban Larrosa, TWR vice president for Latin America and the Caribbean, called González “a brother of integrity and commitment” amid political and economic turmoil.

“He has been the face of RTM in Cuba, incarnating the true gospel of Jesus for his people, modeling an example in the midst of permanent crisis,” Larrosa said. “He was not only a voice but an open letter demonstrating Christ in person, living as any other Cuban at the island. He is one of the modern heroes of Christian faith in a century when we experience lack of commitment and love, and he has been 100% committed to Christ and his people. He is a good and faithful servant of the Lord.”



LEFT: Alberto González (left) with Moisés Pérez Padrón in the studio. **RIGHT:** Kesia Quintana Artega (left) with Pérez and daughters Marina and Melissa.

Expanding upon a legacy

Believing strongly in the vision for these Cuban programs, Pérez said, “I would like the programs made in Cuba to continue to have a fresh message, with a Cuban flavor and a Cuban voice so that listeners feel identified with the Word of God – not only because the message confronts people with their needs but also because it is a compatriot who is speaking from his heart and wants to show God’s love for all people.”

Pérez intends to maintain the legacy programming while expanding content to address more topics related to Christian living. He plans to ask interesting questions that prompt listeners to reflect on their lives, and then he will dive deeply into the answers.

Pérez also hopes to expand the ministry’s reach in the digital world through various online platforms. He recognizes that these initiatives have the potential to reach a wider audience and bring the hope of the gospel to the next generations.

People like this RTM listener who wrote, “Unfortunately, here in Cuba there are no Christian radio stations. For this reason ... it is very good for the Cuban people to have the great privilege of being able to count on you. Your program nourishes my life.”

Maralina Alfonso, TWR director of marketing and communications for Latin America and the Caribbean, contributed to the writing of this report.



Women of Hope presenter Sayaka Sugii performs at TWR Japan's anniversary celebration.



Photo via TWR Japan

OF RADIOS + TIKTOK

A decade of innovative ministry

By Leanne Tan, TWR Asia Staff Writer

It is 6 a.m. While most people are either fast asleep or just starting their day, Kiyoshi* is wide awake and eagerly anticipating one of his favorite radio programs — *Power of the Gospel (POG)* by TWR Japan.

“The content is straightforward and easy to understand,” he shared. “I appreciate the hard work of the pastors, who manage to fit their message into the short time slot.”

The longtime *POG* listener tunes in to the weekly 30-minute broadcast not only for his personal spiritual growth but also to share the message with others whenever the opportunity arises.

“I pray that the good news of Jesus Christ will continue to spread through this program,” he added.

Kiyoshi is one of over 270 individuals who connected with TWR's national partner for Japan last year to share about their experiences with its radio or digital content. Each one is a testament to the Lord's faithfulness and his unwavering pursuit of the world's second-largest unreached people group through TWR Japan, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in July.

While TWR Japan began primarily as a radio ministry, the team consistently innovates and explores new programs, media and partnerships to take the gospel across Japan, whether on air, online or on the ground.

Recently, the ministry expanded its online presence to TikTok, a short-form video hosting

platform that has taken teenagers and young adults by storm worldwide. By early 2023, Japan had 20.7 million TikTok users 18 or older, up from 15.2 million a year ago.

“We want to reach the younger generation, like those in their teens and 20s, so we're now focusing especially on TikTok,” said Yuta Komatsu, media manager for TWR Japan. “Social media is a powerful tool and has so much potential to reach these individuals.”

Twice a day, the team creates and shares TikTok videos ranging from 15 to 30 seconds. Each video begins with an uplifting message and concludes with a brief prayer and a Bible verse.

Such content is especially needed today, Komatsu said, given the incessant culture of comparison and social pressures facing the younger generation.

As of early September, just two months into TikTok, the ministry had amassed more than 550 followers.

TWR Japan has also leveraged the internet to extend the reach of its radio programs, after learning about their impact on listeners like Kiyoshi. Individuals who miss a broadcast or wish to revisit it can catch the programs on TWR Japan's YouTube and Spotify channels.

One such listener shared, “I live in a remote area where it's hard to listen to the radio, so I listened to this *POG* program on YouTube. It's easily comprehensible, even for people who are seeking God. Thank you very much for this broadcast.”

* A pseudonym to preserve the listener's privacy.



Photo via TWR Africa

Bringing light to men who block the truth

The religious landscape of Nigeria offers a grim paradox. The Joshua Project research initiative classifies this most populous nation of Africa as significantly reached by the gospel. But most believers live in the southern half of the country, while the northern half has been called the deadliest place in the world for Christians. In fact, reports indicate that Nigeria accounts for over 80% of martyred Christians globally.

Joshua,* who is head of TWR's national partner in Nigeria and not part of the research initiative, pointed out that believers aren't the only ones to suffer at the hands of militants and nomadic herdsman belonging to a different religion.

"There are certain fanatics who do not want the gospel associated with their language at all," Joshua said. "They not only attack our translators and producers, but they also attack their own people who listen to the messages. They sometimes trace the radio stations and threaten to burn them down if they continue [broadcasting Christian programs]. For the translations, we often use people who live away from the reach of these fanatics to avoid attack on them."

Gospel programs are broadcast in Nigeria in the languages of Hausa, Fulfulde, Igbo, Yoruba, Kanuri, Pidgin English and African English.

They originate from the Oasis AM transmitter at TWR's West Africa Transmitting Station in another country as well as from in-country FM stations. And they're having an impact, as the following listener message shared by Joshua shows.

"TWR has changed the lives of so many members of churches and many Christians here in the north. I know two people in this [northern city] who were Muslims, but through these programs and the Hausa Bibles TWR shared with us, they started reading the Bible and today have given their lives to Jesus and become Christians."

TWR Nigeria also distributes donated radios to different parts of the country so people with few resources can tune in the programs and share them with neighbors. Discipleship is also a major thrust of the ministry, including in the north. *Every Man A Warrior* materials used to train men are producing "awesome results," Joshua said.

Prayers are needed for more resources, he said, to be able to equip volunteers ready to distribute content, disciple new believers and respond to listener feedback. But the biggest need?

"We need prayers that the eyes of these who would block others from accessing the truth would be opened to the see the light and embrace truth rather than oppose it," he added.

** Surname withheld as a security precaution.*

Although radios are distributed in many parts of Nigeria, more go to the north, where attending church can be dangerous.

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