



Speaking Hope to the World®

January 2019

The Lykins Letter

Ben & Stephanie Lykins

TWR USA

P.O. Box 8700

Cary, NC 27512

919-460-3700

www.twr.org

For from Him & through Him & to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen. Romans 11:36

Our Sovereign God

In December I had the opportunity to travel to a TWR office in the Middle East located on the island of Cyprus. Several TWR staff have recently relocated from Vienna, Austria, to be in Cyprus. This will place them closer to much of TWR's key listening groups in Central Asia and the Middle East.



A Nativity Scene under a grove of Cyprus trees in Cyprus

My trip involved meeting with our Europe IT System Administrator and addressing a number of strategic and practical technical issues with him and others from Europe.

The Island of Cyprus has several notable associations with Christianity.

- It is the birthplace of Barnabas.
- Paul & Barnabas traveled to Cyprus during their first missionary trip.
- It was visited later by Barnabas & John Mark.

The first mention of Cyprus in the Bible goes all the way back to Numbers 24 – *“Alas! Who can live when God does this? Ships will come from the shores of Cyprus; they will*

subdue Ashur and Eber, but they too will come to ruin.”

This passage is Balaam's final proclamation regarding what God will do to His enemies. You may recall that Balaam was hired to pronounce curses upon Israel, but he could only prophecy what God told him. God directed Balaam to pronounce seven blessings for Israel along with curses upon their enemies. This prophecy involving Cyprus is last of these seven prophecies. It is a clear demonstration of God's sovereignty over all and His desire to make His glory and grace known to all.

How appropriate that TWR operates out of Cyprus today as part of God's sovereign plan to make His grace and glory known to the world. Like Balaam, we get the privilege to pronounce the blessing that God's grace is available to all through Jesus Christ so that all who trust in Him may be saved from the curse of sin.



A view of the Mediterranean Sea along the road

As we start this new year, we can take comfort in knowing that God is sovereign and that He desires for us to delight in His grace and glory.

Prayer Requests

We need more staff to manage the information technology and systems. Please pray for God to send just the right people at just the right time.

That the TWR office in Cyprus would have favor with the local people and government. Pray that TWR would continue to gain influence and capacity to reach Central Asia and the Middle East with the Gospel

For our family to grow in the grace and faith of Jesus Christ.

The Main Event

For TWR, the main event is having listeners hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and be given an opportunity to respond. Below are a few samples of the hundreds of listener responses that were recorded by TWR from September-November, 2018.

“I am so happy to listen to this program and actually every program you have on your station! It's the only frequency I have on my radio. I listen from early in the morning and since I am on the road all the time, due to my job, I listen, and I enjoy everything!” She asked for a Jesus Film DVD and the New Testament in Modern Greek language.” – a listener from Cyprus of *Thru the Bible - Greek*.

“I thank God for this program. It has become a routine for me to listen to Turkana programs. I have just accepted the Lord and this program is helping me grow in the faith.” – a listener from Kenya of *The Word Today - Turkana*.

“You are with us every morning and evening. We rejoice and praise the Lord for His wonderful love and mercy to us sinners. When we hear your voice [on the radio] we know what program is on. We try not to miss any one. They are all very precious to us. But the most important spiritual food for the soul is the Word of God. Through TTB we get in touch with the words of the Living God. Every time God's truth is revealed in a different way. God's source is inexhaustible. We pray for you and ask you to keep the program going. – a listener from Belarus of *Thru the Bible - Russian*.



Catherine getting ready to knock down a free-throw



Left-Right: Faith, Benjamin, Catherine, Jesse, & Daniel



A Lighthouse at the Mediterranean Sea in Cyprus