Africa Needs Jesus

Transcending Cultural Barriers
GUAM GENERATOR PROJECT COMPLETE

We praise God that our radio station, KTWR, on the island of Guam will soon be sustained by an all-new generator! Strong Pacific typhoons that frequently cross the island can knock out the electricity and damage our antennas. Having a reliable generator keeps our transmitters on the air, and while our old generator held on for 25 years, it could only operate at half power. The new generator you generously funded will give us full power, room for expansion and available replacement parts when needed. Thank you to our donors for the $428,000 you gave to make it happen!

REACHING THE UNREACHED OF CHINA

Your prayers and support of the SON-Lift project are helping TWR to accomplish the main focus of our ministry to Chinese people inside China. Through SON-Lift, TWR seeks to reach out to the unreached people groups of China with 60 dramatized stories focusing on the life of Jesus. To date, we have translated and produced programs in Chinese languages such as Mandarin, Hakka, Cantonese and Mongolian, and when the project is complete, we will have 12 languages available for distribution by radio and other platforms. Thank you for giving over $177,000 to SON-Lift so more Chinese people can hear the gospel.

BIBLICAL PROGRAMS FOR THE SILK ROAD REGION

Thanks to your prayers and generous gifts of $230,000, the Silk Road transmitter that went on the air in June 2019 now has 18 different programs airing in the languages of Central Asia – Kazakh, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Russian, with more to be added in the future. We heard from a listener to the Thru the Bible program in the Kazakh language who had recently been freed from prison. He was imprisoned for 15 days and steeply fined for answering a question about faith for a young man and telling him about Jesus. The man who was set free said, “They might be able to shut my mouth, but the voice of TWR will not be silent.” In addition to your gifts, we appreciate your prayers that our listeners would grow in faith and be protected from persecution.

TWR360 CONTINUES TO GROW

TWR’s online source of Christian content, TWR360.org, has reached 85 languages available on the site with offerings of Bible reading and teaching, music, encouragement from partner ministries, and the JESUS film, among other content. Your support of TWR360 this year allowed us to add more content to the site. One milestone was a partnership with The Digital Bible Library, the American Bible Society and the Universal Bible Society to customize the online Bible-reading experience in many languages around the world. Thank you for your gifts of over $160,000 to help TWR share the gospel through the internet on TWR360.

anniversary milestones

Join us in thanking the Lord for these TWR colleagues whom we honor during the first half of 2020 for serving 10 or more years with the ministry.

25 Perry and Jodi Beabout, Cary, N.C.
20 Ralf Stores, Cary, N.C.
15 Sterling Ottun, Cary, N.C.
Jim and Karen Avella, Florida
10 Cassius and Valerie Smith, Cary, N.C.
very day, TWR encounters barriers to spreading the good news that Jesus came to bring. Political, economic, ideological and even theological barriers are erected to keep out the simple message that Jesus reconciles people to God.

But then Jesus foresaw these barriers when he gave the Great Commission. That’s why he said, “All power in heaven and in earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” Jesus appropriates that power to us today as we reach out to the nations!

It is a fact: The world is becoming a more complex place every day.

• Countries are erecting barriers to the free flow of information through strict controls on the digital movement of ministry content. This is a constant challenge as we seek to reach people on smartphones and digital devices.

• Economic barriers are real in many countries. How people feel about their economic well-being affects their response to the message of Jesus. Ironically, when people are doing well economically, they may not be as open to the gospel. The inverse is also true!

• Ideological barriers are very real. Our spiritual enemy loves to use ideology to suppress the simple truth that Jesus redeems people to himself. Radical socialism expresses that people can solve every problem through humanistic means. Capitalism can suppress the good news by subduing a reliance on Jesus by offering comfort and reliance on personal and financial well-being.

• Religious barriers are everywhere. We naturally think of the Muslim world or other world religions that deny the deity of Jesus. But the Enemy even tries to use biblical theology to combat the gospel. He used theology when he tempted Jesus, so why should we be surprised by this barrier being thrown up against the movement of the gospel?

Jesus said in Revelation 3:8, “Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.” My mentor once told me, “Lauren, God has set an open door before us. Sometimes we have to go over, around, under or straight through the door. Jesus will go before you and open the door. Just move forward by faith!”

TWR moves over, around, under or straight through doors and barriers to the hearts of people every day! Barriers are an opportunity if we move forward by faith. Mass media is a wonderful way to move around and over barriers, enabling us to see people experiencing hope as they meet Jesus. Let’s believe the promises of the Lord together as we see him transform lives.
Russell* had been a Christian a long time, but he knew fulfilling his vow to the Lord was going to be tough – to finally end a 50-year addiction to pornography.

It was his participation in an Every Man A Warrior Bible-study group that cast the issue in stark relief.

“My ‘justification,’ that viewing pornography was just a thing I did to obey my flesh’s desire for stress relief, fell onto the floor in tatters when Adam North of Every Man A Warrior asked me to be truthful in my answer to his question: ‘Do you love your sin more than you love Jesus?’” Russell said. “Those words cut to my heart, and the guilt poured out on the altar in the form of tears.”

He deleted the pictures and links to porn sites on his phone and stopped watching movies that triggered the obsession. After this New Englander shared his story with the men’s group, two other members acknowledged that they, too, struggled with the problem and were joining the battle.

“With all my triggers gone and my commitment firm, the addiction held little power over me,” he said. “The fight is constant, but I’m winning.”

Russell’s story perfectly illustrates why Lonnie Berger wrote the Every Man A Warrior three-book Bible study 10 years ago and then brought it with him two years ago when he was asked to lead and develop the newly created TWR Men’s Ministry. Many evangelical churches have strong ministries aimed at women and children, Berger said, but a small fraction have thriving men’s ministries.

“If you want to reach a culture for Christ, you must reach the men,” he said. “If you want to stop violence against women and children, you must change the hearts of men. And if you want to grow Christianity in any culture – whether it’s post-Christian Europe or places like South America and Africa, where it’s growing so fast – you have to reach the men, change the hearts of men and develop leadership in them. And that's what Every Man A Warrior is designed to do.”

Berger learned that lesson the hard way when, fresh out of Bible school, he sought to teach “right theology” to a men’s group. His listeners were obviously bored and unengaged, so he

PORTRAIT OF A WARRIOR

Staring down at the panorama of Manhattan from the 86th floor of the Empire State Building, Petr Malec definitely wasn’t feeling on top of the world.

“I was suicidal! By the time I got up there, I really felt like jumping off that building.”

How did Petr Malec go from this miserable point in his life to serving as the international coach of Every Man A Warrior discipleship groups? Read his story at twr.org/petr.
stopped teaching and ask them to talk about what was happening in their lives.

“They told me how their marriages were hurting, their children weren’t doing well, money was tight, work was awful, and some had already come to me privately and said they had a problem with pornography,” Berger recalled. “I was trained to teach theology, but the Bible study I led didn’t theologically address any of these issues.”

He realized that a more practical, relevant approach was needed to engage men and affect their lives, and for the next 20 years, he prayed, “God, would you hurry up and get someone else to write this Bible study!” After all, Berger didn’t consider himself an author, but then in 2009 he sensed that God was urging him to accept the responsibility. Into the three volumes that became the Every Man A Warrior curriculum he poured the results of decades of prayer and earnest reflection on the subject.

Unable to find a publisher – “Men don’t buy Bible studies,” he was told – Berger published the books himself and began field testing with groups totaling several hundred men. In a segment of the Christian publishing industry that considers the sale of 1,000 books a year to be successful, Every Man A Warrior sold 7,500 copies its first year out and 25,000 in just over two years.

In 2016, TWR CEO Lauren Libby asked his old friend and former colleague at The Navigators ministry, where Berger served for 38 years, to consider leading the new TWR Men’s Ministry. Libby wanted him to bring the Every Man A Warrior curriculum and help increase TWR’s existing focus on discipleship, Berger said. Since coming to TWR, he added, he’s felt at home and has been impressed by the staff’s can-do attitude and commitment to excellence.

Also, the ministry’s global network of partners, staff and facilities makes international outreach much faster and more effectual, he said. Today the Every Man A Warrior curriculum is in 10 languages and being used by groups in at least 34 countries. Book sales have topped 135,000 copies.

With Every Man A Warrior groups as the “ground troops” of TWR Men’s Ministry, Champions Arise serves as the broadcasting wing and can be likened to an “air force.” The Champions Arise broadcasts, many of them based on Every Man A Warrior lessons, will reach out to male listeners and address issues important to them, then point them to a website where they can order the books and find local Bible-study groups.

With 40,000 men in the U.S. having already gone through the Bible study and groups taking root in places like Brazil, the Czech Republic and China, Berger said one key to the success of any men’s ministry is motivating and equipping its members to share the good news and establish more groups.

“Multiplication is God’s plan reach to reach the planet,” he said. “Every Man A Warrior on average gets 50 percent of the participants to multiply. They go make disciples who go make disciples.”

*This pseudonym is used to protect the man’s privacy.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN MEN’S MINISTRY

“This is one of those rare times where God spoke to me specifically. And he said, ‘The growth of Every Man A Warrior is not because of you. But millions of Christian women have been begging me for decades, ‘God, please help the men. Help them be better husbands, fathers and spiritual leaders of the home.’ And I’m answering their prayers.’ Women prayed this into existence.”

– Lonnie Berger, Global director, TWR Men’s Ministry
For those familiar with the work of TWR, the name probably brings to mind media broadcasts in remote lands—or somewhere outside the borders of the United States, at least. And mostly that has been the ministry’s model, proclaiming the gospel to the ends of the earth rather than in Jerusalem and Judea.

But TWR’s U.S. Spanish Ministry is starting to modify that model.

“Because my role is director of the U.S. Spanish Ministry,” says Elisa Keefe, “my desire is to better serve the Hispanic community here in the United States. We want to reach the lost and equip the believer, so I want more lost Hispanic people to have the chance to hear the gospel, repent of their sins, put their faith in Christ and then access the resources we have available so they can be edified and equipped as they grow in faith.”

That community is huge. About 57 million Hispanics live in the U.S. The country has the second-largest population of Spanish speakers in the world—more even than Spain or Colombia.

Spanish plays a big part in TWR’s history. TWR’s first broadcasts were aimed at Spain. The ministry’s largest media partner, Thru the Bible, first branched out globally when legendary founder Dr. J. Vernon McGee agreed to have TWR translate and broadcast his teaching in Spanish.

A number of Spanish radio stations from Florida to Washington state already broadcast programs produced or distributed by TWR. They include A Través de la Biblia (Thru the Bible), Alimento para el Alma (Food for the Soul), Momentos de la Creación (Creation Moments) and Aviva Nuestros Corazones (Revive Our Hearts).

Now Keefe is counting on a new national coordinator to strengthen the interaction between RTM, which is the Spanish equivalent of TWR, and the U.S. Hispanic community.

The ministry has been cooperating with the government to complete a rigorous immigration-screening process that will enable Jehiel Ortiz to move to the U.S. and begin representing RTM at events across the country. Ortiz, a native of the Dominican Republic and radio producer with TWR’s national partner there, is also succeeding the beloved Lemuel Larrosa as the announcer introducing each Spanish episode of Thru the Bible.

Ortiz will be promoting Thru the Bible and building relationships with churches and radio stations across the country.

“We definitely need people praying not only about getting Jehiel here but also for the huge transition it will be for his wife and two kids,” Keefe said.

You can have a part in the U.S. Spanish Ministry by visiting twr.org/spanish-ministry.
After giving her heart and soul to doing everything she knew to do to be accepted by the gods, Prisha* felt downcast and empty.

“I was born into a non-Christian family and used to worship many gods and goddesses,” explained Prisha, who lives in central India. “I used to follow all the rituals and fast for various gods. Performing so many rituals religiously didn’t make me or anyone else in my family happy.”

Shared in a phone call to TWR’s partners in India, her story beautifully exemplifies the power of gospel media to overcome barriers of religion and cultural expectations.

Prisha’s family were at a loss as to how to approach, let alone to handle, the multiple problems they were facing. She considered going to a nearby church for help but knew that her relatives would be upset at her for taking such a step.

One day, a Christian pastor heard about Prisha’s plight and told her about the radio program *The Word Today*, aired by TWR in Gondi, her mother tongue. “If you can’t come to church, why don’t you listen to the program?” he suggested.

Prisha listened to the broadcast in private. Her heart was stirred by what she heard – how much God loved her and sent Jesus Christ to die on the cross for her sins and how she could experience his grace if she turned to and received him as her Savior.

This was a liberating message. Prisha realized that she could not earn salvation but that God lovingly offered his forgiveness through his Son, Jesus Christ.

“I began listening regularly, and one day on the program during the prayer time, I sensed God assuring me by saying, ‘I am your God who delivers you, and I will sustain you,’” she recalled. “I believed on his words and prayed continually.”

Prisha boldly told her family and relatives of her decision to follow Jesus Christ. They were not happy at first, but as they saw continued change in her life, they, too, started to listen and committed their lives to Christ.

Since then, Prisha has led a radio home group in her area to help others listen to *The Word Today*. God’s Spirit has clearly been active!

“The Lord Jesus is working in the lives of people and changing them through his Word,” she said. “Many have accepted him as their personal Savior. Praise God!”

– By Richard Greene

*A pseudonym to protect the listener’s privacy*
The need is great and getting greater in African giant Nigeria as TWR’s newly installed Oasis transmitter is slated to begin broadcasting on Feb. 1, 2020.

Station Director Garth Kennedy has led the 17-month, $1.45 million work to expand the capacity of the ministry’s West African Transmitting Station, known as WATS. He’s held on to representative headlines such as these to remind him of the critical need in Nigeria: “Nigeria: the Deadliest Place to Be Christian,” “After Launching Deadly Attacks, Militants Vow to Keep Killing Christians.” Correspondence he received from a man in Nigeria read, “We hate you more than ever and can never love you because you are infidels.”

With the largest economy and population on the continent, Nigeria is splintered between the predominantly Muslim north and predominantly Christian south. Often making international news are abductions and deadly attacks, sometimes during church services, by northern groups such as Boko Haram and Fulani herdsmen.

These hostile groups and many others desperately need to hear a clear, accurate presentation of the gospel’s messages of love, redemption and reconciliation. But many believers also need the broadcasts, whether it’s spiritual encouragement or trustworthy, biblically solid teaching.

Some church leaders are not well-grounded in Scripture and a trend toward health-and-wealth-type theology can result in mass disillusionment, said Abdoulaye Sangho, TWR international director for West and Central Africa.

“It is our strong belief that Oasis, a wellspring of living waters given freely to all who thirst, will be a place of restoration to the languishing souls of this great nation,” Sangho said. “Through its transmission of the pure Word of God, not only will millions have the opportunity to hear God speak in their own heart languages, but also the disillusioned pilgrim will find hope again.”

Adding the 200,000-watt AM Oasis transmitter at WATS is essential to meet the huge gospel-broadcasting needs of Nigeria and surrounding areas. And the existing 100,000-watt AM transmitter is freed up to provide more hours of programming in the many other heart languages of West Africa.

Other languages are already in the works, but Oasis will begin broadcasting in Yoruba,
Igbo, Fulani, Hausa, Kanuri and African English, said TWR Vice President for Africa Branko Bjelajac. Programming ranges widely from the classic *Thru the Bible* and *Dorothy’s Daily Devotional*, mainly for believers seeking spiritual encouragement and teaching, to *The Way of Righteousness* and *The Prophets*, aimed at helping Muslims to understand the gospel starting from their own perspective.

“We are organizing ministry coordination in the country that will promote our programs but also work with audience members who respond via many existing platforms – from WhatsApp on mobile phones to Facebook, Instagram and others,” Bjelajac said.

Kennedy, who took part in the establishment of WATS beginning in 2005, acknowledges that the Oasis installation was extremely challenging. There were unusual detainments of equipment at the national port, the usual legal red tape, political unrest roiling the country, mysterious technical problems to solve – even Voodoo curses directed at the station and its staff.

“Seeing what obstacles and barriers have had to be overcome means that the spiritual battle over this project has been enormous,” the native of South Africa said. “I do not think we can in any way underestimate the spiritual battle taking place in and over Nigeria. Personally, for me, this has been a hard road and still is and, at times, very emotional. The WATS team will not be the same coming out the other end of this, but it's a team that is stronger and more focused.”

As the focus now turns from preparation and construction to broadcasting and ministry, Bjelajac takes note of the massive international effort involved in making Oasis a reality. Thousands had a hand in the project, including giving generously to cover the substantial cost (see related story on Page 10), doing the hard technical and construction work, negotiating with government officials and, most important of all, praying for God’s blessings on this vital outreach.

“I would like to thank every person, ministry and organization involved in this project as we close the installation phase and enter into the broadcasting phase,” Bjelajac said. “Now we look forward to hearing from our listeners as we believe that lasting fruit will be produced in the lives of people and their communities throughout this beautiful nation of Nigeria.”

### ABOUT NIGERIA

**POPULATION:** 200 million  
**LANGUAGE:** English is the official language, but more than 500 are spoken  
**RELIGION:** Christianity and Islam predominate with roughly equal numbers of adherents  
**TOP EXPORTS:** Oil, gas, cocoa beans, wood

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### MAKING OASIS A REALITY

Most of the installation of Oasis at the West Africa Transmitting Station was done by Station Director Garth Kennedy, his station staff and local workers, with experts and volunteers occasionally visiting to help. Kennedy admits that he and his staff were often learning on the job.

Here are the main stages of the project:

- **Build the antenna tower.**
- **Renovate and alter buildings.**
- **Modify and enlarge a tuning hut.**
- **Bring in and install the Oasis transmitter.**
- **Build a new tuning hut and install components along with the feed line.**
- **Receive and install the air conditioner necessary for cooling the equipment.**
- **Install power cables to all the facilities.**
- **Receive the power generator and install it.**
arly in its history, TWR learned that its calling to “reach the world for Christ by mass media so that lasting fruit is produced” could be fulfilled only through partnership.

And you’d be hard-pressed to find a more successful example of partnership than the Africa Needs Jesus radio campaign during November 2019. As TWR representatives fanned out across the country to join Moody Radio hosts on the air, listeners accepted the challenge and gave more than $510,000 to enable the new Oasis transmitter to broadcast the gospel to Nigeria and surrounding areas.

It was the largest radio-campaign total ever received by TWR.

“God overwhelmed us with his blessings,” said John Summerville, TWR director of radio station partnerships and one of the on-air guests. “When God’s floodgates opened, his people jumped on board, and it was a tidal wave of blessing that washed over us.”

Over 2,600 gifts from Moody listeners smashed the goal of $400,000 and kept TWR staff and volunteers busy answering phones in the ministry’s Cary, North Carolina, office.

The generous donations more than completed the $1.45 million total to fund Oasis, slated to officially debut Feb. 1, 2020.

Moody Radio Vice President Douglas Hastings said, “What a privilege to partner with TWR and see God move through our Moody Radio listeners to catch the vision for reaching Nigeria with the gospel. Moody listeners are kingdom-minded, and when presented with a need, are ready with their prayers and support.”

One of the most moving stories to emerge from the campaign came from Moody station WGNR in Anderson, Indiana. An 84-year-old listener brought her $1,000 donation to the station, saying she had saved the amount for a new driveway. “Africa needs Jesus more than I need a new driveway,” the unidentified benefactor said.

Fifty people, regular ministry volunteers as well as paid staff, volunteered to answer phones and accept donations in the Cary office as the campaign unfolded over six days.

“It was fun to be busy entering pledge data in a spreadsheet and moments later to hear the on-air teams telling folks across the country about what the Lord was doing,” said Bob Rothrock, TWR missionary and senior accountant. “It was also a great time of fellowship with the campaign team.”

TWR representatives joining Summerville for on-air roles included TWR President Lauren Libby, who was heard on Moody flagship WMBI, Chicago; Andy Napier; Kelly Gilbert; Jon Fugler; and Larry Walters. Participating Moody stations included WRMB and WKES, Florida; WMBW and WFCM, Tennessee; KMBI, Washington; WMBI and WDLM, Illinois; WGNB, Michigan; WCRF, Ohio; and WGNR, Indiana.

“We love working with Moody Radio because Moody listeners are well-grounded in the Bible and are spiritually mature,” Summerville said. “So they have a heart for missions and a love for radio. And when those two mix, there’s a passion to reach the world for Christ using this powerful tool.”

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.”

– ECCRlesiastes 4:9
STALWART STATIONS

In addition to Moody Radio, TWR extends heartfelt thanks to other stations that helped make Oasis a reality in 2019:

- Bott Radio Network, Missouri
- WPMH, Virginia
- WWIP, Virginia
- KNLR, Oregon
- KTLF, Colorado
- Truth Radio Network, North Carolina
- KWVE, California
- KPOF, Colorado
- WSNL, Michigan
- WNJK, Kentucky
- KARM, California
- WGRC, Pennsylvania
- WFIL, Pennsylvania
- WJMM, Kentucky
- WJLV, New York
- WCVX, Ohio

From left, Ally Domercant, TWR’s Lauren Libby, Hannah Lynn, Jonathan Renke, Karl Clauson and Diana Berryman at WMBI in Chicago. At the top of Page 10 are, from left, Tabi Upton, TWR’s Andy Napier, Jason McKay and Paul Martin at WMBW in Chattanooga, Tenn.

- WAVA, Washington, D.C.
- Thy Word Network, Indiana
- Sirius XM Channel 131 Family Talk

ROLL OVER YOUR IRA FOR MINISTRY

By taking a distribution from your IRA this year, you will likely pay more in taxes and may even reach a higher tax bracket. Rolling over part of your IRA’s “required minimum distribution,” or RMD, to TWR can help reduce your tax bill while helping to grow the kingdom.

YOU CAN DIRECT UP TO $100,000

DOUBLE THE BENEFITS!

An IRA charitable rollover gift can benefit both you and TWR! Contact your IRA administrator to get started with your gift. While you will not receive an income-tax deduction, you will not pay taxes on any distributions made to us. Please also inform us of your plans so that we use your gift for the area of ministry you are most passionate about.

If you have further questions, contact Tim Klingbeil at 800-456-7897 or email planned.giving@twr.org.
New to TWR?

Perhaps this magazine has found its way to your mailbox, and you’re not familiar with TWR. That’s OK. We’re happy to enlighten you!

TWR (also known as Trans World Radio) leverages media to share the hope of Christ with people around the world. The ministry encompasses a global network of partnerships, high-powered radio broadcasts, online streaming, portable media devices, satellite delivery, printed publications and various digital platforms.

Here are a few quick facts about TWR’s ministry, which was founded by Dr. Paul Freed in 1952:

- We engage millions of people in 190 countries with biblical truth in their heart languages.
- Our programs are in more than 200 languages.
- We have a potential listening audience of 4 billion people around the world.
- For more than 65 years, God has used our content and vast network of on-the-ground partnerships to lead people from doubt to decision to discipleship.

Our calling is to reach the world for Christ by mass media so that lasting fruit is produced. With God’s help and the prayers and generosity of people like you, we will endeavor to assist the Church to fulfill the command of Jesus Christ to make disciples of all people.

Discover more about TWR’s ministry at twr.org

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