

Vol. 12, No. 3 | Summer 2017

VOICE & HANDS

EMPOWERING AND TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

645 PEOPLE GROUPS
STILL UNREACHED

PG. 2

VOICE MEETS
HANDS IN NEPAL

PG. 4

reach
beyond 



EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE, LANGUAGE



| FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR FRIENDS,

When I became the president of Reach Beyond several months ago, I asked God to give me a vision and a passion around which I could frame the rest of my life.

The more I pleaded with God for clarity, the more He impressed on me the vision of the apostle John as recorded in Revelation 7:9-10: *“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people*

and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb (NIV).’”

Could the apostle’s vision be realized in our lifetime? Today more than 700 million people claim to have a living relationship with Christ. Every day that number increases by 74,000. God

is on the move! More progress has been made in the advancement of the gospel in the last 100 years than in all previous centuries combined.

But our task is not complete. In some places, the Church is declining. In other places, it doesn't exist at all. There are still 645 people groups (at least 100,000 people) that have yet to be represented before His throne. These people groups are isolated by geographical, cultural, linguistic and religious boundaries. Can we reach them? We have the tools. Do we have the passion? Do we have the commitment?

As Becky and I have traveled around the world, we've met with some amazing leaders who are committed to fulfilling the vision of John. In Thailand I met with some pastors, partners and business leaders who have asked God for a million newly baptized Thais by 2020. That's a big goal, and they have a great plan to do it. We're helping them put in community radio stations and training broadcasters and social media experts. The goal is 100 radio stations. Our partners now have 29 up and running.

Nepal used to have a high concentration of tribal groups that had no gospel witness. At a recent meeting of Nepalese evangelists, our team of trainers watched in solemn amazement as these young leaders committed themselves to planting churches among every remaining unreached

people group within their country. We are helping them with radio planting and community development. Through these tools, churches are being planted. It's happening!

In Latin America I've visited with pastors, churches and ministry workers who have caught the vision of John. Not only are they committed to reaching their own communities for Christ, they want to take the good news of Jesus to some of the hardest-to-reach places on earth, including the horn of Africa.

Everywhere I go, I see God on the move. The vision of John is being fulfilled.

So how could God use you to ensure that representatives from every nation, tribe, people and language will be standing before the throne in joyful worship? You can pray. You can give. You can go. You can encourage others to do the same.

Together, we can do this!



PASTOR STEVE HARLING,
President, Reach Beyond

PS: Thanks to the many of you who joined in prayer during the second annual International Day for the Unreached on Sunday, June 4. For ways to stay involved year-round, visit dayfortheunreached.org.

VOICE MEETS HANDS IN NEPAL

While dozens of Reach Beyond's media partners worldwide are adding healthcare components to their broadcasting outreaches, just the opposite happened recently in Nepal.

A longtime Nepali charity that offers medical services to all—regardless of their ability to pay—recently launched a community radio station on its hospital property in a rural area of west-central Nepal.

“Their vision is to empower and transform the community through the radio programs,” said Steve, a Reach Beyond engineer who helped install the station earlier this year. “Daily, people face the challenge of accessing clean drinking water and sustainable electricity supply. Local groups are actively pursuing development projects to better their communities. There is an airstrip, a church and a mission hospital.”

The new partner station—the 10th started with Reach Beyond's assistance in Nepal since 2009—has its radio tower on the hospital property

and is operated by a joint team of senior staff from the hospital.

“The station has four volunteers on staff,” noted the local radio partner. Test broadcasts began in January as the partner awaited a government inspection of the outlet following Nepal's national elections on June 14. “As a result, the outlet only airs songs and information for the time being,” added the partner. “Plans are to add programs such as health, education, agriculture, news and entertainment.... And we will soon broadcast Christian messages.”

Since the area's power grid still hasn't yet reached the area, broadcasts are limited to eight hours daily when the hospital's generators are running (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). “However, once the main line comes (soon), it will run from 5:30 a.m. till 10 p.m.,” said the partner.

While the immediate area around the hospital is mostly Hindu, “those families visiting the hospital and therefore listening to the radio during



their stay would be coming from all over the surrounding districts which would include those practicing Tibetan Buddhism and other forms of animism,” said Steve.

“The launch was a very aggressive timeline,” he added. “Only one full

day on location which was what was remaining after a lot of travel and navigating around roadblocks due to political protests, but we were able to accomplish most everything needed for the install. After we left, they were able to finish up and successfully went on air.”

TRAINING IN SIERRA LEONE FOCUSES ON CAREER COUNSELING, YOUNG PEOPLE



Sierra Leone, ranked by the International Monetary Fund as the world's 14th poorest country, has weathered a decade-long civil war, poverty, famine and even a widespread outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in 2014.

While the multiple challenges have left much of the population in a state of trauma, it's the younger generation that has taken the biggest hit.

According to the government's "Status of Youth" report, 60 percent of men and women in Sierra Leone between the ages of 15 and 35 are unemployed—the highest rate in West Africa.

"We know that a nation can only rise with its youths," acknowledged Sierra Leonian President Ernest Bai Koroma upon release of the report, adding that it will take "an empowered youth population [that will] lead to a change in the destiny of our country."

It's amid this context that Reach Beyond's media partner in Freetown, Believers Broadcasting Network (BBN), invited the mission to hold a four-day "career counseling workshop" in mid-April.

"There is a need for teachers, youth workers and others to be able to

help and advise young people about choices and options that may be open to them,” said Sheila Leech, Reach Beyond’s vice president of global healthcare who helped organize the event along with Lee Sonius, executive director of the Sub-Saharan Africa Region. “The workshop also gave guidance in the areas of self-awareness, decision-making and career planning while participants evaluated their own abilities, capabilities and interests.”

“The training in counseling and careers guidance were both really valuable to the culture as the general rule is for adults to speak down to children/youth,” added Reach Beyond-UK mobilizer Rena Wotherspoon who led many of the sessions along with Dr. Ana Draper, also from Britain.

“The 25 participants were starting to explore the need to change culture in their schools/churches by the end of the week and to give space for young people to be listened to,” Wotherspoon explained. “This was also a great platform for the BBN Counseling Center to show how they can work with schools/churches to enhance the support that some young people/adults need.”

She noted that the participants expressed deep appreciation for the practical training, “but they did have a lot of fun and heated discussion over the ‘moral dilemma’ exercise!”

“There was a lot of engagement on the part of the participants and very lively discussion,” said Leech. “Their evaluations showed their awareness of the need to reconsider and evaluate the way they relate to the youth under their tutelage and care. Personally I was encouraged to see how the participants approached problem-solving by referring to biblical principles. And our worship times were wonderful.”

Leech added that the attendees represented a “different demographic” compared to previous workshops that focused on teaching counselors how to deal with traumatized listeners who called in to the partner radio station led by Ransford Wright. So many listeners swamped the station with calls that the ministry launched a counseling center six years ago.

“This workshop provided an opportunity to build bridges with those who can give access to the schools for Ransford’s team to become more involved,” Leech continued. “A support/working group has been formed, and BBN staff will head that up. Further training for the teachers has been requested. This is part of a bigger strategy for the youth of Sierra Leone.”

Wotherspoon was glad to hear reports of how the 20-year-old radio station has progressed in the last year. “I was excited to see the plans that Ransford and team have to broadcast as a TV station in the future,” she said.

ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS OFFER ECUADORIAN YOUTHS A CHANCE TO WALK

Converging on Quito, Ecuador, orthopedic surgeons recently traveled from four countries with the aim of correcting that which is *mal* (wrong or bad) in their pediatric patients and making it right.

“The work was to help children who have malalignments of their legs to function better and to help preserve their joints,” explained Dr. Tom Novacheck of Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare in St. Paul, Minn. “So many of these children have developmental problems that affect the way their feet develop, and [their] hips and knees.”

Former Reach Beyond missionary Dr. Eckehart Wolff coordinated the two-week outreach (Feb. 23-March 3) with operations performed on 23 patients ranging in age from 3 to 23.

Orthopedic surgeons on their feet for long hours in an operating room at the mission’s Hospital Vozandes-Quito means one thing to those whose walking is impaired or impossible: feet and legs that can support and carry them.

Their approach of using two surgical teams allows for simultaneous correction of mobility problems that are often a consequence of cerebral palsy (CP). The multiple operations approach is what Dr. Jim Gage has called “one of the things that differentiates our approach from conventional CP surgery.”

The program of helping Ecuadorians to walk began with one child. Gage was asked, “Can this boy be helped?” as he studied before him a 12-year-old whose mobility consisted of crawling. Struck by a car a decade earlier, the boy had been left crippled.



“Not here [in Shell]; his problem is too complex,” Gage responded. And yet after multiple operations, the boy, Ivan Sisa, is able to not only walk (aided by crutches) but went on to become a physician in his own right.

Helping one boy sparked an annual event where orthopedic surgeons travel to Quito from the Americas to give Latinos (mostly Ecuadorian children) a hand at getting on their feet.

“It’s really not possible for people from here to go to the U.S. for medical care,” said Novacheck, adding that the children’s families don’t face crushing financial burdens after the surgeries are done. “We pay our own expenses, so that is part of our mission.”

“Many times these malalignments are at multiple levels,” explained Novacheck. “It’s not just a single foot

problem for a patient—it could be their hip and their knee and their foot (or ankle)—all together. So packaging those surgeries together is difficult and complicated work, and Dr. Wolff sees these patients through the course of the year.” It’s during follow-up that conversations about Christ happen with the patients’ families, according to Wolff.

Some equipment is lower tech—a wisp of vapor rises perhaps from cauterizing a blood vessel within the incision; a tape measure (“Measure twice; cut once,” quips Koop in a conversation later that day) and even the tap, tap, tap of a hammer.

In the skillful hands of these volunteers are the tools that might sound like a workshop—a workshop where the gift to a child is mobility.

A man in a yellow suit is standing and presenting to a group of people seated at a long table in a meeting room. The room has large windows with vertical blinds in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

CHAPLAINS/VOLUNTEERS ENCOURAGE THOUSANDS AT MISSION HOSPITAL IN ECUADOR

When a 1-year-old child in Quito, Ecuador, spiked a dangerously high fever, his alarmed parents rushed him to the hospital. The staff in the emergency room at Reach Beyond's Hospital Vozandes-Quito (HVQ) immediately admitted the child and began treatment.

The young boy was also assigned to Pastor Galo Carrión in the hospital's pastoral care/chaplaincy department. He heads the ministry and trains new volunteers.

Carrión, along with missionary volunteer Mary Gardeen, came to the child's bedside, ready to give encouragement, prayer, advice and spiritual guidance to

the patient and his parents. Thankfully, he was doing much better, responding well to treatment.

In 2016 alone, the five chaplains and seven volunteers at HVQ made some 5,200 personal visits, sharing Scripture and praying for those dealing with a wide range of medical challenges, sometimes life-threatening. The chaplains provide a listening ear to patients and their families as they share their stories and concerns.

Throughout the 61-year history of the hospital, thousands of patients and their family members have heard the gospel for the first time, many praying to give their lives to Christ. A study indicates that new believers often continue in their faith and join local churches.

In January 2017 HVQ opened up its chaplaincy training program to the community for the first time. The teaching is designed for pastors and lay church leaders who want to be better prepared when it comes to integrating pastoral care of patients and their families during times of illness, crisis and grief. A nearby evangelical seminary has offered college credit and certificates of completion for the graduates.

Seminar topics include such things as “Competencies of a Chaplain,” “Intervention During a Crisis,” “Ministry During a Terminal Illness,” and “Caring for the Caregiver.” The program has

been well received with 24 enrollees attending from approximately 17 local churches.

Here are some of the HVQ chaplains’ responses when asked what they liked best about their job:

- “The privilege of accompanying people going through [difficult] times.”
- “Sharing God’s Word.”
- “Caring for families.”
- “Teaching and training others.”

A copy of HVQ’s mission statement, displayed on the wall of the chaplaincy office, states: “We are the hands of Jesus, expressing His love through integrated healthcare to the community and the formation of medical professionals, without distinction, toward the goal of abundant life through personal caring for the glory of God and the service of Ecuador.”

By mid-morning the chaplaincy office is probably empty as chaplains and volunteers circulate throughout the hospital. Besides visiting patients, they offer booklets and leaflets to folks in the waiting rooms, hand out New Testaments and Bibles, and provide counseling.

Chaplain Jorge Rea emphasized the chaplains’ primary objective is to provide a personal visit for every patient who is admitted to HVQ. “This goal is accomplished about 90 percent of the time,” he said.

BROADCASTS ADDED IN LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY TRIBAL GROUP IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Members of a remote tribal group, scattered throughout the mountains of a Southeast Asian country, can now hear Christian radio programs in their own language as the result of a cooperative effort with Reach Beyond.

While this ethnic group is the poorest in the country and traditionally animistic with a strong belief in omens, supernatural power, taboos and totems, a core group of committed believers exists. Now they're producing Christian radio programs that air from Australia via shortwave.

"Shortwave radio is regarded as obsolete by many," explained Janice, a Reach Beyond radio trainer. "But it has great potential in mountainous areas where the population is poor and scattered."

Janice, along with Reach Beyond radio trainer Lisa Balzer, recently traveled

to the country's capital city where a pastor from the ethnic group runs a small Bible school. The two women taught a class of eight students the basics of Christian communication and radio program production.

Then, working together with the students, they recorded and mixed the first 30-minute program that later aired from Reach Beyond-Australia's international broadcast facility in Kununurra. Christian broadcasts in the tribal language now air weekly.

"They are learning many new things through the programs ranging from Bible lessons to health, relationships—even basic technical tips for those in the region's only town where residents want to use Facebook on their mobile phones," Janice added.

She said a wide range of program topics is expected to attract new

listeners, and the novelty of hearing their own language on the airwaves should keep regular listeners coming back.

American missionaries brought Christianity to the region at the end of the 19th century. However, it wasn't until a national believer—an itinerant evangelist—came to the tribe near the end of World War II that faith began to take hold. Today more than 80 percent of people in the ethnic group claims to be Christian. Nationwide, however, evangelicals only comprise about 5 percent of the country's population, according to *Operation Impact*.

“Professing faith and living it, though, are two very different things,” Janice continued. “The Apostle Paul spoke against those who hold to a form of godliness but deny its power (2

Timothy 3:5). In this tribal group, there is a real need for good teaching about what it means to live by biblical values in everyday life.”

Community radio is one way to provide this teaching as discovered by the tribal pastor who first heard of Reach Beyond while attending a preaching conference in Australia. He is now using the airwaves to teach his people how to live by faith.

“Pray that the simple Bible lessons that are part of each program would work to unite people from different church traditions—and there are many in this part of the world—encouraging them to walk as Jesus walked and growing the roots of their daily lives deep in the truth of His Word,” Janice concluded.



With books turned in and desks cleared, nary a child would say that bittersweet describes the end of classes ... except perhaps for the students of Nate Saint Memorial School (NSMS). At this small school in Shell, Ecuador, the last day of school is just that—the *last* day.

The school's closure after 51 years of providing Christ-centered education for missionary children was announced by Reach Beyond in March, pointing to declining enrollments as a decisive factor.

The projected enrollment for 2017-2018 was just three pupils compared to 15 students in recent years, reaching a high of 29 in the 2012-2013 school year. This was the last year Reach Beyond operated *Hospital Vozandes del Oriente* (also known as Hospital Vozandes-Shell).

"It's sad to think about NSMS closing because there is so much about this school that I've liked, but we must look

to the future," noted Erik Umble, 13, one of four students who prepared and gave speeches at the school's final awards ceremony on Tuesday, June 6—the day the doors closed for good.

Umble, whose father, Randy, taught at the school for 15 years, said God had placed the students there for a reason. He then admonished them, "I want to encourage all of you to trust that God is in control of your future, and He has the best plan for you."

The 12 full-time pupils—along with their friends who drop by for extracurricular activities—have enjoyed a student/teacher ratio low enough for plenty of personalized help.

"I've felt spoiled being a teacher at NSMS," acknowledged Randy Umble, pointing to class sizes ranging from three to 10 student. "The kids are fun, and the most difficult class management problem is students talking out of turn!"



**BELL TOLLS FOR LAST TIME
AT MISSIONARY SCHOOL IN
ECUADORIAN RAINFOREST**

“When you have small classes,” agreed former NSMS teacher Carolyn Wolfram, “much more time is spent on actual learning and only a very small percentage of time on ‘crowd control’ and getting in line and getting their attention.”

Alumnus Tyler Schmidt found during eighth grade (1997-1998) that “the school really contributed to me because I have struggled with a learning disability, and having the one-on-one time with my teacher Mr. Hopkins really helped make it a very special and fun year.” He now serves as a pilot/mechanic with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Tarakan, Indonesia. He remembers being one of just two eighth-graders.

“The thing I remember most about NSMS is that I always felt loved—by my teachers, (usually) by my classmates, even by my friends’ parents and other adults in the community,” wrote another alumnus, Sarah (Parker) Rubio. She now

works as an editor at Tyndale House Publishers in Illinois.

The school started in the fall of 1963 when Char Swanson began teaching from her home while her husband, Dr. Wally Swanson, treated patients at the nearby hospital. Some 30 months later on Jan. 8, 1966—the 10th anniversary of the slayings of five evangelical missionaries including Nate Saint who had envisioned the school—a new building was dedicated. Saint and his wife, Marj, had donated property for mission endeavors, and the school was named after him.

Its sole teacher, Liz (Kimmer) Kirby, says that even with some parental help, she “hardly relaxed when I had to be everything.”



**TURN ON THE
TAP AND ...**



The graphic on the screen at church featured a Bible with a faucet—or tap—attached to it, spewing out dollar bills. The pastor’s message on a section from the New Testament book of Titus emphasized the need for sound biblical doctrine. Then to contrast, he showed the faucet-Bible and commented on a spurious teaching that is circulating.

That faucet stuck out to me. I had just visited Yalare, a remote community in Ecuador’s coastal province of Esmeraldas. The folks there had helped Reach Beyond’s César Cortez and Edison Caiza put the final touches on a project followed by the big moment—turning on the tap—and inauguration of the clean water system.

What did people in Yalare want from *their* faucets? Clean water. That’s a lot different than praying that God would make me rich or buy me a Mercedes Benz.

As we visited, people expressed appreciation and we took photos. This was a significant advance in Yalare—clean water from a faucet at each resident’s house (those who elected to join the project). They had done it by themselves with motivation from their leaders and a system design by Cortez.

People—in Ecuador and everywhere—need clean water projects. In developing countries, half of the hospital beds are occupied by people

suffering from maladies caused by water-transmitted diseases, according to WaterAid. Worldwide, diarrhea kills more children each year than AIDS, malaria and measles combined. Statistics reveal that annually about 700,000 children—nearly 2,000 a day—die because of unsafe water and poor sanitation.

Just over half of the world’s population has water piped to their homes. Yalare joined that group in March. In Ecuador’s highlands meanwhile, Loma de Pacay joined the “haves” of clean water to their homes in February.

Even amid these jarring realities, Cortez views water as a means not an end in itself. It is way to introduce people to Jesus and disciple those who’ve already met the one who declared, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink” (John 7:37, TLB).

As people of the Latin America Region mature in their biblical understanding, their grounding in the Bible is deepening. Their grasp of Latin American believers’ growing role in worldwide missions is also greater than ever before.

And sometimes the beginning to this broader view—this mission vision—begins with clean water pouring from a faucet.

TRANSFORMED LIVES WORLDWIDE

ASIA PACIFIC

THAILAND: A local congregation in Thailand had just 20 attendees when Reach Beyond helped plant an FM radio station in the community. After a military coup two years ago, the new government forced the station to shut down. Despite its short time on the air, two families put faith in Jesus and began sharing the gospel. Today the church has over 100 believers.

INDIA: “We have a TV in our village and we all watch religious programs on the Hindu channel before going to work. Today we heard about Jesus for the first time. Jesus is God who came to this world, grew up and died for our sins. I want to know more about Jesus. Please send us a book in Hindi please. If possible, please send two.”

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

MADAGASCAR: After a recent cyclone, the only radio station that was operating in the region was Reach Beyond’s partner outlet. The government used it to relay information to the residents. Even some local witchdoctors turned to Christ because of the broadcasts.

EUROPE/EURASIA

RUSSIA: “I received a New Testament [from you], and when I started to read it, I realized I felt empty because I was without Jesus. I constantly listened to the Christian broadcasts, and one day I decided to follow Jesus. My mother listened too, and through your station, she also came to Christ. Later I studied at a Christian university, and now I’m a preacher.”





UNDISCLOSED COUNTRY: A man left a series of rude, angry posts on social media, blaming the radio station because his mobile device had crashed on the station's app. Team members contacted him and repaired his device remotely. He was surprised how polite and kind the staff was to him despite his hateful messages. After two months of conversation with the team, the man and all of his family came to know the Lord.

LATIN AMERICA

ECUADOR: A woman from Ambato was separated from her husband. She listened to Radio HCJB's live counseling program and called to ask for advice. Then she started listening to other shows on the station and suggested that her husband listen, too. God intervened, and the couple reconciled, began living together again and gave their lives to Christ.

ECUADOR: A 23-year-old woman came to see a Radio HCJB counselor because she was depressed. She wasn't sure if she had a personal relationship with God or not. By the second session she told the counselor, "This past week I gave my life to God and asked Him to enter my heart. I want to live in obedience to Him and walk His way."

SECURITY-SENSITIVE REGION

UNDISCLOSED COUNTRY: A truck driver discovered some radio programs aired by Reach Beyond's local media partner. The man loved listening to the station and learning more about God. He loaded a USB stick with podcasts from the station and kept listening while on the road. As a result, he put his faith in Christ.

CALL TO ACTION

To support Reach Beyond's growing media and healthcare ministries financially, **visit** reachbeyond.org/partner-july

GIVING THE GIFT OF A SPIRITUAL WILL TO YOUR FAMILY

WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL WILL?

A spiritual will* may be one of the most meaningful gifts you can leave to your loved ones. Designed to pass along your Christian values, life lessons and blessings from one generation to the next, a spiritual will (sometimes called an ethical will) is a document that traces its origins to the patriarch Jacob who gathered his sons to offer them his blessings and tell them what to expect in the days to come (Genesis 49).

To request your copy of "How Do I Write a Spiritual Will?" contact Shirl Lee Huscher at 719.388.2291 or email her at shuscher@reachbeyond.org.

**Although not a legal document, you may choose to include a spiritual will as part of your estate plan.*

REACH BEYOND

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