

V+H

MAGAZINE



THEN & NOW:

VOICE

WORLD BY 2000: 20 YEARS LATER

**REACH
BEYOND**
VOICE+HANDS, TOGETHER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT | BROADCASTING HOPE IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE
WHERE ARE WE NOW? | PLAYERS OF HOPE UPDATE

We believe in radio!

Dear friend of Reach Beyond,

In the late 90's, I was pastoring a great missions-minded church in upstate New York. During one of our annual mission festivals, we invited Ron Cline (then president of HCJB World Radio) to come and speak to our congregation. After listening to Ron, our people became captivated by the vision of World by 2000. In response, our Elders decided to tithe the funds we were raising for our new worship center toward planting radio stations among the unreached instead. Our people gave more than a half a million dollars towards radio planting through that initiative. The reports we heard from the places where we had helped to start radio stations were exhilarating!

God did some amazing things through the World by 2000 collaboration! Untold millions of people heard the Gospel. Countless numbers responded. Hundreds of thousands of people were discipled in the faith and many churches were planted. We'll never know the full impact of World by 2000 until we join the great crowd from every tribe, tongue and nation as they stand before the throne in worship (Rev. 7:9-10).

World by 2000 was a wonderful Kingdom win ... but the job isn't done yet. In spite of the amazing progress of the Gospel in the last few decades, there are still some three billion people that need to hear the Good News in their heart language. Amazingly, radio continues to be one of the most powerful tools to reach them. Whether it's on the edge of the Sahara in northern Benin, in the booming cities of southern Thailand, or high in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, people are still listening to radio. In addition to continuing with our long-standing shortwave broadcasting, Reach Beyond has helped launch over 600 local FM radio stations around the world! Through these radio stations, our partners are proclaiming the Gospel to millions of people every day. As a result, people are coming to know Jesus, they are being discipled, and new churches are being formed. Your giving toward radio planting has helped to make all of this possible!

MARK 16:15 (NLT)

“Go into all the world and preach...”

"And then He told them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.'"



Voice + Hands Magazine is produced quarterly by Reach Beyond.

Reach Beyond is committed to planting as many radio stations among the unreached as we possibly can. We believe in radio! The need and opportunity continues, but it is getting harder and harder to start radio stations. Governments are laying down onerous regulations and restrictions, and getting permits is becoming a major challenge. In many places where we want to plant radio stations, religious opposition has become much more focused and militant. In some places, our partners and staff are literally risking their lives by engaging in evangelistic radio. Some have to work in underground studios. Others have had to move away from traditional radio in favor of internet radio, digital media and smart phone apps. This is the nature of global evangelism today: methods change, but the message stays the same.

“We'll never know the full impact of World by 2000 until we join the great crowd from every tribe, tongue and nation as they stand before the throne in worship.”

As you read this edition of *V+H Magazine*, celebrate with us as we look back at World by 2000 and look ahead to the future. As has often been said, “The future is as bright as the promises of God!”

Thank you for your prayerful participation with us!

You are loved,



Steve Harling
President

REACH BEYOND

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GLOBAL SNAPSHOTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE MINISTRY

CENTRAL ASIA

In January, a group of 13 students and 2 staff from Taylor University traveled to Central Asia to serve alongside our team for three weeks. The objective of their time there was to gain a foundational understanding of missionary work in a creative access country. It was also a goal to widen their perspective and understanding of the world and the ways in which God is already at work even in the “unreached places.”

The first several days were spent in orientation and cultural immersion, and then the students spent the next two weeks in rotating work projects. During evening dinners, the students were able to meet with workers from other missions organizations in the area, and they had an opportunity to participate in cultural training with local believers.

The students were put in smaller groups to rotate job sites as a way to expose them to different work, as well as fly under the radar in a creative access country. They were able to support the staff of the local international school, teach English, and spend time doing a medical track in the local clinics. Our partners saw a good deal of fruit as a result of the students’ work while they were in country.

- In the English learning center, Taylor students worked with local university students to teach English through talking clubs and beginner English classes. The center has followed up with almost 40 new students that came to classes as a result of Taylor’s time there. This is a very evangelical group, and we know that those new contacts will likely hear the Gospel as a direct result of the work there.
- The local international school benefited tremendously from the work of the Taylor students. The elementary and high school principals were both absent for most of the month of January due to personal family matters in the States, so the Taylor students were able to step in and fill some big gaps during that time.
- Another English partner had been praying for new access points in the community to bring him closer to his goal to plant a church there someday. After the Taylor team conducted English camps at two local schools, the partner was granted access for full-time work.

Overall, there was a large consensus that this trip was quite successful in meeting its objectives. The students found the



time to be very rewarding, stretching their understanding and perspectives on God and His work around the world. Many shared various ways they had felt the Lord speak to them during their time there, several of them expressing a calling into missions in some way or another, and a few even expressed great interest in returning to this part of the world. One student wrote, ““This has been the most life-changing month of my life! I’m so thankful for all of the Reach Beyond staff that made this trip happen.”

REACH BEYOND GLOBAL

Reach Beyond is a global family of Country Offices that share the same vision and values. Country offices are empowered to own and create their own ministry priorities and strategy, but they meet regularly as a Global Leadership Team (GLT) to collaborate, share and serve each other on a global level. Whereas Regions represent areas of the world where Reach Beyond does ministry work, Country Offices are independent legal entities who can send, and sometimes receive, missionary workers.

In February, the GLT saw one Country Office step back, and another one step up. Reach Beyond Canada (RBC) is now under Gideons Canada, and jointly they want to capitalize on evangelism ministries. RBC will no longer serve as a missionary-sending organization or member of the GLT. Reach Beyond USA and SonSet Solutions Canada are exploring options to sign a cooperative agreement which would allow SonSet Solutions Canada to extend an invitation to existing RBC missionaries to transfer their ministry, projects and donors from RBC to SonSet Solutions Canada. We are thankful for the years of partnership with Canada and pray for a smooth transition for everyone involved.

While Canada is leaving the GLT, Ecuador is joining. For many years, when we talked about Ecuador, we referred to ministry in the region, but the newly formed independent legal entity, Voz y Manos – Ecuador (Voice +





Pictured top: Taylor University students helped lead international classes (far left) and experienced family medicine work (middle) during a missions trip to Central Asia in January. The team of 13 students and 2 staff gained valuable experience of what it is like to work in a creative access country.

Pictured bottom: Refugees are gaining catering training at the Millside Centre. The Reach Beyond-UK staff enjoy supporting these efforts in the Millside cafe.

Hands), will be able to send Ecuadorian missionaries to serve overseas and participate in joint international projects, as well as lead missions work in Ecuador and receive international missionaries to serve in country. In February, the Voz y Manos – Ecuador Board voted to appoint Gary Gardeen as the new Country Office Director, and he will serve as a member of the GLT. We celebrate the legacy of mission work in Ecuador and what God is doing to stir the hearts of nationals to go and serve in cross-cultural work.

Voz y Manos – Ecuador joins Reach Beyond USA, Reach Beyond Australia, Reach Beyond New Zealand, Reach Beyond Netherlands, Reach Beyond Sweden and Reach Beyond UK on the GLT. We are thankful for these global partnerships as we work together so that unreached everywhere can hear about Jesus, see Him in action and learn how to follow Him.

UNITED KINGDOM

Reach Beyond-UK has been an important part of the Greek Refugee Initiative, sending multiple teams to Moria and supporting strategic efforts. But, work among refugees also happens much closer to home.

As well as serving refugees overseas, Reach Beyond-UK has regular opportunities to offer physical help and advice to refugees at the Millside Centre in Bradford. Many attend the English classes and Job Club, as well as the refugee and asylum seeker Tuesday drop-in which is run in partnership with the British Red Cross.

This year, the Millside Centre has one more way of helping these precious people to find their feet. In partnership with Bradford Council and Bradford College, Reach Beyond-UK is about to launch a new 10-week course specifically to help refugees find work in the catering industry. As well as learning how to cook and serve food to the public, they will run a real café in the Millside Centre kitchen three days a week. If this pilot year is successful, they hope to see many more people find work and rebuild their lives in the UK.



UNDISCLOSED LOCATION

In a region of the world where accepting Christ can mean persecution, loneliness and loss of family relationships, media can be an important tool for feeling loved and connected.

One of our partners recently shared a story of a listener who sent in a poem based on real life situations she faced after becoming a Jesus-follower. Our project team produced and broadcasted an audio version of the poem, which inspired another listener to put the poem to music. The song was recorded and broadcast. The authentic, indigenous Gospel song is now very popular among local Christians.

“She dedicated these verses to the Lord, and it was clear that she had put all her heart and love for the Lord into these verses,” our partner shared. “One of the reasons why this song became so popular among local Christians is because most of them have faced the same problems.”

We praise God for new believers in creative access countries, and we pray for the hardships and barriers they face. Join us in prayer also for our media partners, who are providing much needed support for these new believers. ■

"It Is Okay, If It's For God's Sake"

(Translated from the local language by our partner)

Not a problem if my neighbors
Didn't invite me to their wedding
Not a problem if the people whom I call friends
They beat me in the face

Not a problem if my relatives
Turn their faces away from me
Not a problem if my honor
Will be mixed with clay

Not a problem if the neighbors gather for a holiday
Not a problem if they throw stones at me
Saying that I betrayed our religion

My Lord himself will come
And take me to His embrace

He will lead me to heaven
In its most beautiful corner.
He will lead me to heaven
In its most beautiful corner.

BROADCASTING

Hope IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE.

Recently, a man called Anum* has been listening to the broadcasts from our new partner station in northern Togo.

His child was suffering from a sickness that the local doctors had not been able to cure, and he was desperate. Although he was from a Muslim family, he tried fasting to see if God would do something to heal his child, but nothing happened; the child would cry and shout every night. He finally decided to go and find the new radio station to see if someone there could help.

Our radio partners, a local pastor and his wife, received Anum and his child, and they started to pray for both of them. Anum immediately chose to become a follower of Christ. From that day, the child became well and started sleeping peacefully. Anum continued meeting with the pastor to learn more about his new faith.

The pastor shared God's word with Anum; more about who Jesus is and how to pray through Scripture. He suggested that Anum should buy his own Bible, which he did. He gave him passages to read and invited him to Bible studies in the evening.

During these conversations, he learned that Anum's wife was involved with witchcraft, and that she had left the family. The pastor taught Anum how to pray for his wife and helped him learn to forgive her. A short while later, his wife actually came back to him and asked Anum for forgiveness. Anum came to the station with his wife and child, and she also decided to renounce her witchcraft and accept Jesus as her Lord and Savior!

Our partners are continuing to disciple this family in the evenings. Now Anum has started to share the Good News that he has learned with his wider family, and he wants to also bring them to the station so that they can also be disciplined.

Our partner in Togo needed help expanding his evangelistic reach, and the new FM station is already making an impact. As areas of Africa become harder to reach, the Good News is being broadcast and changing lives one family at a time.

Over the years, Reach Beyond has had a hand in starting over 100 stations throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. These stations have been a beacon of hope to people like Anum and an important tool for evangelists and disciple-makers like our partner, especially as circumstances in Africa deteriorate. The expansion of fundamentalist groups, terrorism, civil war, natural disasters, poverty, government corruption and disease have all taken a toll on ministries wanting to serve in Africa.

“We see that windows are closing for ministry in Africa, so there is an urgency to do what we can now,” says Alex, the new Regional Director of the Sub-Saharan Africa Region for Reach Beyond. “The issuing of new radio licenses has slowed down generally, but the demand for Christian stations has not. We are always looking for options to respond to needs, and to support our existing partners well in order to increase their reach and ministry impact.”

Although various parts of Africa are seeing missionary families having to pull out, our partnership model on the continent allows us to support national staff with training and resources so that they can continue to broadcast the Good News in hard to reach places.

“In one Central African country for example, we, as missionaries, cannot get in to a fundamentalist-dominated part of the country safely. So, we hold trainings in a different part of the region and train nationals who then can move around more freely to implement what they’ve learned in those difficult areas,” said Alex. “Our partners are grateful that we are keeping a presence on the continent, that we are here to support them.”

Please pray with us for Africa. Pray for safety for our teams as they travel. Pray for protection over our partner stations and ministries as they share the Good News in areas that are resistant to the message of hope. Pray for new believers, like Anum, that they would continue to have resources in their communities to strengthen their faith, and that they would have boldness in sharing the Gospel with their families. Pray for healing in Africa, and that windows that seem to be closing would open wide with renewed fervor. ■

**name changed for privacy and security*



1900 FOR THE 1900

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THE LOVE
OF JESUS TO
MILLIONS



There are 1900 unreached people groups of more than 100,000 individuals who have little to no access to a relevant and transformational Gospel witness. You can play a vital role in shining the light of Jesus among these groups by sacrificially giving monthly to the work of Reach Beyond. We call these donors +partners.

As a +partner, your monthly gift will be applied where it is most needed, opening new doors to proclaim and demonstrate the love of Christ among the world's unreached. You will help send more missionaries, build more partnerships and do more projects so that God will be glorified among the nations.

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REACH BEYOND

WORLD BY 2000: 20 YEARS LATER

HOW THE WORLD HAS CHANGED, AND MISSIONS ALONG WITH IT



Above: God spoke to Ron Cline on a plane, and World by 2000 was born.



“What about 100 percent?” the voice asked.

Ron Cline was president of Reach Beyond (then HCJB World Radio) on a flight from Germany to Chicago in 1985. As the story goes, Ron was thinking about all of the ministries that HCJB was doing and how HCJB’s shortwave signal was reaching some 80% of the world’s land surface.

“I was preparing a message for meetings in Chicago, and I was thinking about that word *reach*,” Ron recalls. “Were we really reaching 80% of the world with our broadcasts from Quito? If people did not understand the programs, and we had no people on the ground in those places to do follow-up, is it really reached? If we are going to say 80%, let’s make sure it is really 80%.”

That’s when he heard the voice ask, “What about 100%?” “It was an audible voice. I thought, well that’s rude. The

guy behind me is reading over my shoulder. But, I turned to look, and he was asleep. It had to be God,” Ron said.

The voice on the plane sparked the World by 2000 movement that eventually brought together HCJB World Radio, Trans World Radio, Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC), and others.

Their combined statement read, “We are committed to provide every man, woman and child on earth the opportunity to turn on their radios and hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in a language they can understand so they can become followers of Christ and responsible members of His church. We plan to complete this task by the year 2000.”

This ambitious commitment both changed how we do missions today and how Reach Beyond sought to reach the unreached.

WORLD by 2000



Above: World by 2000 led to a shift in how we partner with nationals to share the Good News. Right: The original World by 2000 logo, statement, and ministry leaders: Bob Bowman from FEBC, Ron Cline from HCJB and Paul Freed from TWR.



“We are committed to provide every man, woman and child on earth the opportunity to turn on their radios and hear the gospel of Jesus Christ in a language they can understand so they can become followers of Christ and responsible members of His church. We plan to complete this task by the year 2000.”

Bob Bowman

President
Far East Broadcasting Co.

Ronald Cline

President
HCJB World Radio

Paul Freed

President
Trans World Radio

A NEW KIND OF PARTNERSHIP

As Ron began thinking about what it would take to broadcast the Gospel in every heart language so that every person could understand, he was overwhelmed with the enormity of the challenge. It was simply too big, too difficult and too impossible for us to do by ourselves.

“We realized that in order to do this, we would have to do it together,” said Ron. “For the first time, radio ministries weren’t competing with each other. We shared contacts. If someone wanted to give, we asked them to give to the cause, not just to us. We figured out who could reach a particular group best,” said Ron. “And it grew beyond us. College ministries, Bible translators, church planters ... they all started asking, how can we do this together?”

Not only did World by 2000 create cooperation among mission organizations in the West, but it also marked a dramatic shift in how we did partnership in the field. Prior to World by 2000, HCJB World Radio owned and operated all of its ministries, mostly within Ecuador. Missions in general were very West-driven: missionaries were in charge, and the local church was perceived as unable to take on the leadership role. Missionaries would often go in with their own plan of how to do ministry, rather than go in with a learner posture of, “how can I help you?”

To broadcast the Gospel in every language, however, you need people who speak the language. Since we didn’t speak the language, we had to defer to those who did. For many years, HCJB had brought native speakers (many loaned from partner ministries) to Quito to record shortwave programs and answer letters, but this wasn’t enough. While this strategy worked well with major languages, it wasn’t sustainable for every language, or even the best way to

reach a community. Our founder, Clarence Jones, had always taught that the program producers should be located as close to the audience as possible.

To reach the whole world with radio, we needed to come alongside national believers and help them start their own local stations, where they could speak to their own community in their heart language. It wasn’t long before God began bringing national believers to us who were asking if we could help them start their own radio station.

“We realized that in order to do this, we have to do it together...”

“I’m often asked, ‘Why don’t you own anything anymore? Why don’t you produce your own content,’” says current Reach Beyond President, Steve Harling. “And the truth is we needed to empower local believers if we were going to reach every tribe, tongue and nation. We can share our knowledge, expertise and experience, and we can help provide them with equipment and setup the station. But then we have to step back and let God use them because we do not know the culture, speak the language, or understand how to best present the Gospel within their context. This doesn’t diminish the role of Reach Beyond, but rather it enables the Gospel to spread in a much more effective way.”

Roger Basick, VP of International Ministries, adds, “The goal all along was to hand ministry over. Our role is to train

national believers, encourage them, equip them, mentor and disciple them, and empower them to take it over. But, it's not just to set it up and get out of the way. It takes a long time to be sustainable. We walk alongside them for the long haul."

GROWTH VS SUSTAINABILITY

World by 2000 and the shift towards radio planting resulted in rapid growth. We helped plant over 600 radio outlets in over 100 countries, broadcasting the Good News in more than 200 languages. Christian broadcasts go out now in nearly all of the world's major languages – those with at least 1 million speakers. Many unreached people groups now have the opportunity to hear the message of Christ, and lives are being changed.

However, twenty years after the World by 2000 campaign deadline, there is still work to do. There are still languages that

have yet to broadcast the Gospel and still more than 7,000 unreached people groups in the world.

What has happened since 2000? Did ministries give up? Did we stop working towards that goal?

On the contrary, the work still continues today in earnest. But, instead of a race to check off all the language groups, the work is focused on deepening relationships and creating sustainability.

"We have to be more strategic," Roger says. "Adding 100 new stations in a year isn't sustainable. That's 100 more relationships to build, disciple and support."

During the height of the World by 2000 project, another world event happened: the fall of the Iron Curtain.

equip

encourage

believe

disciple

MARK 16:20 (NIV)

**"...and the Lord worked with them
and confirmed his word..."**

"Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it."

Suddenly, Russia was an open country and there was high demand for Christian missions, especially Christian radio. The combination of increased opportunity and increased cooperation among mission organizations led to a period of incredible growth and activity.

“During this time, they were begging the West to come in and help. There was almost a waiting list,” said Roger. “But today, things look quite a bit different. We don’t have the breadth of opportunities, but we certainly have the depth.”

The world is not as open to missions as it once was, especially from the West. There are many places where we cannot go, due to government restrictions, wars, terrorism and resistance to the Gospel. Since 2000, we’ve had to deal with 9/11, Al Qaeda, ISIS and the Arab Spring. It is harder today for our partners to secure licenses for Christian radio stations, with corruption and red tape slowing the process.

But we can go deep with the partners we have. We can train them up so that they begin training others. Just as we wouldn’t want to install a water well and leave before teaching them how to fix it or do maintenance, we also don’t want to plant radio stations and leave them on their own.



Top and Bottom: In Asia Pacific, Reach Beyond has helped to plant over 100 radio stations. Media training continues today to support the ongoing broadcast efforts.

“We walk alongside them for the long haul.”

In the past, work was sometimes focused on helping local partners secure a radio license, building a station, training some national believers, making it “sustainable,” and then moving on. A few months later, however, the station might not be as sustainable as we thought. There may be a change in the staff at the station, a loss of financial support or an equipment failure, and the station is off the air. Follow-up training, support and maintenance is an important role. Our teams are available to check in on our station partners, months and even years down the line.

That’s not to say we don’t look for opportunities to plant new stations and build new relationships. But, the balance of work today has shifted in response to the need.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLESHIP

During the 90’s, the former-Soviet Union was wide-open to Christian radio and Western influences. However, the political tide has turned. Most of these countries are now closed to Christian evangelism and new Christian radio stations. Our team is still investing in local believers who want to use radio to share the Gospel, but the work they do is often dangerous and is handled quietly. We provide training, funding and mentoring, but we cannot physically be in the country to do broadcasts with them.



Top and Bottom: Reach Beyond continues to walk alongside our media partners in Africa, providing training, technical support and discipleship.

It is the same situation in much of the unreached world, especially in the 10/40 window.

A piece that goes beyond support and training is discipleship. Many of these indigenous partners are new believers themselves. Jesus did not just tell us to proclaim the Gospel; He told us to go and make disciples. By pouring into the lives of national believers, we can train and equip them to go and make more disciples, whether through radio or through doing life in their communities. This is how you end up with a self-propagating church movement, but you have to go deep first.

The role of mission organizations from the West has changed, but it hasn't diminished. Instead of leading the charge to evangelize the world, we are empowering the local church. An unreached people group is defined as a culture and location where Jesus Christ is largely unknown, and the church is relatively insufficient to make Him known in its broader population without outside help. There is still a need for missionaries to provide that outside help.

“Instead of influencing and leading a coalition of big mission organizations, we are influencing and leading churches and organizations on the field,” says Alex, Regional Director of the Sub-Saharan Africa Region for Reach Beyond, and current secretary of Africa by Radio (now AbR Media). “We need to enable those local voices. The local voice is going to communicate better to their audience than the big voice coming from outside.”

“...the local voice is going to communicate better to their audience than the big voice coming from the outside.”



GIVE:

If you are passionate about seeing Jesus known and loved among the least reached, join us as a +partner. Your recurring monthly donation will go where it is most needed to make disciples among unreached people groups, using both voice and hands strategies.

Sign up today at reachbeyond.org/+partner

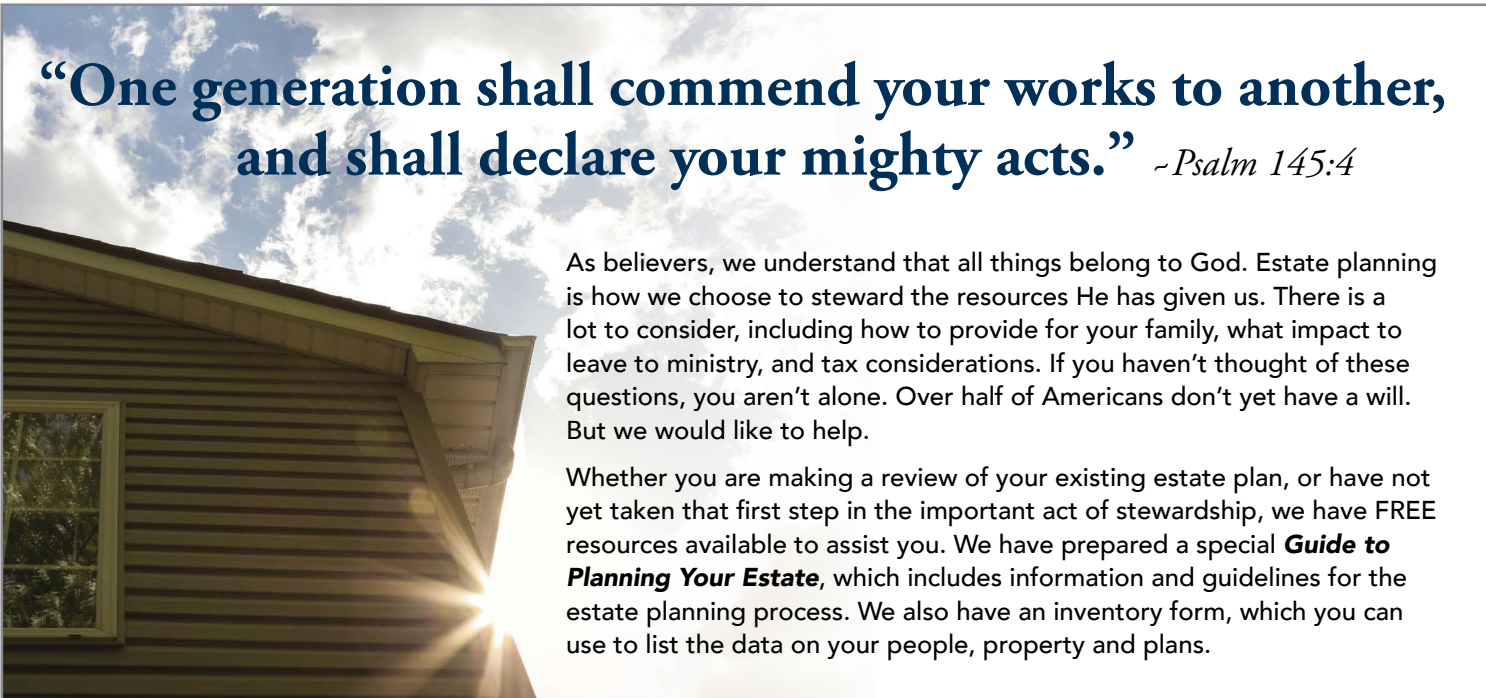
GO:

Do you have a background in media and a passion to serve among the unreached? Let's chart your path to the field.

Visit reachbeyond.org/go to learn more.

PRAY:

Pray that the Gospel would be heard by every man, woman and child in a heart language they would understand. Pray that God would use radio to change entire communities. Pray for our team as they come alongside national believers to provide training, encouragement and support.



“One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.” *-Psalm 145:4*

As believers, we understand that all things belong to God. Estate planning is how we choose to steward the resources He has given us. There is a lot to consider, including how to provide for your family, what impact to leave to ministry, and tax considerations. If you haven't thought of these questions, you aren't alone. Over half of Americans don't yet have a will. But we would like to help.

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Where are we now?

PLAYERS OF HOPE

MINISTRY UPDATE

Over the years, Reach Beyond has shared urgent needs and priorities with our prayer partners and supporters. Opportunities to serve unreached people sometimes open for just a season, but what happens next? In each issue of V+H Magazine, we will revisit some of these stories and share with you updates on the work, the impact made and how God has led us since.

When Pretinho was given a solar-powered MP3-like digital audio player by a missionary traveling along the Amazon River, he had no idea how it would one day change not only his life, but the life of many others.

There are over 30,000 communities along the Amazon River and around 10,000 of those have never heard the Gospel. These 10,000 communities consist of more than a million people, making it a large unreached population. No local Christian radio stations have been established in this area, and there aren't enough trained believers to meet the ongoing discipleship needs.

Since 2012, Reach Beyond missionaries Matt and Anabella Parker have led the Players of Hope project as a way of bringing the Gospel to these river communities and support the missionary efforts in the area. Matt grew up in Brazil and is a third-generation missionary. His parents, Richard and Kimberly Parker, direct a ministry called Services of Evangelism

Matt Parker travels along the Amazon each year handing out Players of Hope to share the Good News with the river communities.

and Assistance to the River People of the Amazon (SEARA). Matt had originally planned to open a radio station for the river communities, but the Brazilian government denied them a frequency.

“That’s when God gave us the vision to help reach and disciple these people using solar powered MP3 players instead,” said Matt.

The devices are loaded with an expansive Scripture audio library, including the entire Bible in Portuguese, music, discipleship materials and content for families. Since launching the program 8 years ago, the Parkers have distributed over 2,500 players in 120 communities, providing families with quality programming that has helped open up and evangelize communities, and is helping believers grow and mature spiritually.

Pretinho is one such believer whose life has been transformed by receiving a Player of Hope. As his family began listening to the family content, Pretinho’s youngest son listened to the words and decided he needed Jesus in his life, too. Receiving one of these players and hearing the content, not only impacted Pretinho and his family, but has impacted thousands of others living in the river communities.

Players of Hope have helped open doors in communities that traditionally were resistant to evangelism. Now, people are learning about the Gospel and accepting a personal relationship with Jesus.

“That's when God gave us the vision to help reach and disciple these people using solar powered MP3 players...”

One of SEARA's ministries is sending teachers along the river to hold a floating seminary for those who want more training. Pretinho completed that training and now serves as a missionary along the Amazon. He recently began working in a community that is very opposed to evangelicals.

Although that community is entirely Catholic, the people do not have a personal relationship with Jesus or a true understanding of the Gospel. But two brothers who received the players have since come to accept Christ. One brother is actually a leader in the Catholic Church, the other brother cannot read at all.

“Before, he had to count on his brother to be spiritually fed or to learn,” said Matt. “But now, he has his player and listens to it everywhere he goes – when he wakes up, when he fishes, when he eats, and even when he sleeps. He goes to bed hearing the Bible.”

Pretinho was able to start a Bible study in the community after a few came to faith, but it angered other leaders. One person even put up a fence, declaring no Bible studies were allowed beyond that fence.

“There is a lot of persecution in the community, but there is also hope. The one brother is still preaching in the Catholic Church, but he is using the content he has learned from the Player of Hope when he preaches now,” said Matt.

In other areas along the Amazon, Matt is seeing doors open that have been shut for generations. One particular community was so opposed to evangelism, they closed their

doors to missionaries, but one of the Brazilian missionaries, Alex, was able to give a Player of Hope to a teacher. The teacher had to teach a class on religion, but he didn't have any content, so he turned to the player. Parents began listening, but they had questions, so they invited the missionary back that they had kicked out.

Matt said, “My grandfather had tried, others had tried, but thanks to a Player of Hope, we could finally get in.”

This year, Reach Beyond is praying for \$39,600 to distribute more players to new communities along the Amazon. Please join us in prayer for this funding, for the Parker family, and that the more than one million people living along the Amazon River will come to know Christ through this ministry ■



REACH BEYOND

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INTENTIONALLY
PRAY FOR THE UNREACHED
AMONG REFUGEE
POPULATIONS.

50

DAYS OF PRAYER
INTENTIONALLY PRAYING
FOR THE UNREACHED AMONG
REFUGEE POPULATIONS

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