



Speaking Hope to the World

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A·n·n·u·a·l REPORT

TWR Europe and CAMENA



2020 The Year of Open Doors

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INTRODUCTION

“Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me...”

—2 Corinthians 2:12

If someone were to ask you to label the year 2020, how would you respond? Which words would you use to describe your reflections and feelings about these 12 months now behind us? I'm almost certain that words like “lockdown,” “restrictions,” and “fear and loss” would make it to the top of the list – all caused by the pandemic which has turned all our work and private lives upside down.

While all of this is very true, allow me to draw our attention away from the closed doors of the lockdowns to the open doors that our Lord provided in the same year. When focusing on our common ministry, I'm amazed and prefer to count the blessings: From my perspective, 2020 was a year with incredibly open ministry doors. I listen to partners who share about how more people were searching for meaning and answers in life. Related to that, the consumption of Christian media content has increased. Independent from targeted outreach during the pandemic, here are just four examples, from many others, that amaze me. Rejoice with me about these open doors:

- God opened an unexpected door for us in the Middle East. We are now broadcasting our Kurdish programs via a local radio station, reaching Kurdish people in Turkey and Syria with the gospel.
- The Northern Caucasus is a land of beauty along with hardship. In 2020, God provided the means and resources to launch new, hope-filled broadcasts of *Women of Hope* programs in Russian combined with social media outreach to this spiritually needy audience.
- An alternative door opened for the ministry to Yemen, after another door had closed. Just when we decided to develop a new program *Hope for Yemen*, we simultaneously lost the ability to reach Yemen by radio. Still, TWR decided to continue with the program production and published *Hope for Yemen* online and through the distribution of memory cards in the country. We praise God that the response so far has been much larger than expected.
- To reach the predominantly Turkish people of Northern Cyprus, God brought us together with various ministry partners and we are now ready to launch an outreach to the mainly M population. The first programs are scheduled to air in the spring of 2021. This is yet another amazing door that has opened up.

Let's praise God for these developments and make ourselves available as He opens new doors for us in the year ahead!

Dirk Mueller

International Director, Europe



about

TWR EUROPE AND CAMENA

CENTRAL ASIA MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA

WHO WE ARE

TWR Europe and CAMENA (a regional abbreviation for Central Asia, Middle East, and North Africa) is a division of TWR International. Collectively, TWR uses mass media to share the gospel message in over 275 languages and dialects in more than 190 countries worldwide. Our vision is to tell as many people as possible about God's gift of eternal hope while providing discipleship resources.

Every day the two regions of Europe and CAMENA broadcast biblical programming in more than 60 languages and dialects.

HOW WE WORK

TWR Europe and CAMENA works closely with over 30 national partner ministries to identify unique needs, implement life-changing gospel media programs and provide necessary follow-up with listeners.

Yet this work would not be possible without the faithful generosity of individuals, churches and corporate sponsorships.

NOTE: *The names of individuals working in sensitive areas have been changed to protect their identity.*





CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPE ministries

For partners in the Central and Eastern European region, 2020 will undoubtedly be remembered as a year full of extra challenges, but also of new opportunities. With thankfulness in our hearts, we see in retrospect that the various teams that represent the TWR ministry across 15 Central and Eastern European countries were able to turn the new and unique challenges into opportunities – although several projects had to be put on hold due to the massive and restrictive measures.

Despite all these new challenges and enormous energy spent just in coping with new realities, there were several exciting developments. Here are a few highlights:

The Albanian team used the pandemic times to prepare the educational ecosystem for the Every Man A Warrior ministry. They translated and produced all three books, which are now ready to be used in groups. They also created a webpage and podcast channel for the programs. Unfortunately, due to restrictions related to the pandemic, it was not possible to follow up with the plan to present the program to the hundreds of Albanian pastors who previously showed interest in this helpful tool.

In Serbia, the local team launched the Women of Hope ministry, reaching hundreds of women, and were quite active in producing and distributing Bibles and other literature to this audience across various Balkan countries.

The Serbian team also used this time to translate and produce a new program for the M audiences in Bosnia – a program based on the book *One God, One Message* by Paul Bramsen. They also updated the websites for the Roma ministries in Serbia and North Macedonia.

The Slovak Radio7 team used this time to restructure their internal broadcast systems, upgrading to a state-of-the-art playout system which enables the team to organize programs and serve their audiences at a new level. They also launched a new fundraising campaign through which they gained hundreds of regular monthly donors.

Despite not being able to perform live interviews, which has represented much of their past programming, the Czech and Slovak Radio7 teams kept producing loads of new content. The Slovak team was also able to finish production on a 260-part series on *Bible and Finances*, while also starting a new podcast channel.

The Hungarian team successfully improvised new *Home Bible Study* programs, which they began producing not long before the pandemic and were able to maintain and then grow the numbers of listeners – now at 10,000 listeners a month. They also started experimenting with video messages and

were able to place over 170 episodes on their YouTube channel. Because of the inability to continue with personal visits with their listeners, they worked on extended issues of the *Antenna* magazine with 2.5x more content than in previous seasons and have received great feedback from their audience.

The time of the pandemic was used by the Romanian, Bulgarian, and Serbian partners for the preparation of dozens of new, short *Thru the Bible* programs that are to be aired in Croatia, Romania, and Bulgaria in the coming years.

Our Lithuanian team has probably been the most affected by Covid-19 as many team members contracted the illness, but thankfully with only mild symptoms. The team was able to refresh their website allowing them to better present their cause to their audience and provide opportunities to support the various projects that they are managing including a network of Christian FM stations, a publishing house, and organizing events for leaders and youth in Lithuania.

During these times of lockdowns and restrictions, the people's exposure to media has increased, which supports our media team's decision to work hard creating new content, reaching new audiences, and using new broadcast channels while adjusting to the constantly changing work conditions. Many of them rose to the challenge by setting up studios in their homes and improvising to maintain good connections with their staff and volunteers. Several were quick to respond to the new issues the whole world has been facing by creating new programs, setting up helplines, and reaching out in practical ways to those most affected by the pandemic.

IN CLOSING, A SHORT STORY OF A LISTENER FROM SERBIA:

"I have a friend who contracted the coronavirus in June and had to isolate himself. In the middle of his loneliness, he began to think about his life. He knew I was a Christian, so he began to ask me many questions about God and my faith. He eagerly researched the Gospels and the Word of God. I suggested to him that he also listen to the *Thru the Bible* programs. He liked them and listened to them all day. They explained many things to him that he did not understand in the Bible. One evening he called me, and together we prayed that God would forgive his sins and then he surrendered his life to him. Since then, I have seen how God has been working in his life."





SOUTH EUROPE ministries

Despite all of the setbacks and delays that the pandemic brought to each of the Southern European partners last year, and especially considering the severity with which it hit Europe, the teams have persevered in their determination to not only faithfully produce and broadcast their former content, but also in how to use their resources to create new content for the mostly unreached audiences within their own borders.

THRU THE BIBLE SHORT UPDATES

For several of the Southern European countries, one of the main focuses of their efforts was on producing the new short *Thru The Bible* (TTB) programs, many of them receiving a new name and their own cultural flavor.

The main project is currently being produced in France by Radio Colombe, one of the only partners who translates, records, and broadcasts each successive completed book of the Bible immediately, before waiting to finish the whole series. 2 Corinthians has just been finished and the new scripts for Galatians have arrived. Soon, the translation process will begin. Most of the work for TTB is done remotely from home, including the recording process.

In Italy, the team calls the program *Fermata 5*, and it is currently their focus as well. This project had a production delay because of the pandemic. Currently, they are only able to work on the translation of the scripts. They have already translated 10 books of the New Testament, and the scripts of six more books were also recently received which will be sent to their translators. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions of Covid-19, they have not been able to start recording yet. Currently, they have a lockdown in the Lombardy region where it is forbidden to pass through to other regions. They hope that this situation can be resolved shortly and that Gianfranco (the speaker for the program) can travel to Lombardy to start the production.

O Som do Livro Bible Academy is the name given to TTB's short version produced in Portugal. The launch of classes was postponed to the beginning of 2021 due to some adaptations that were needed from Brazilian Portuguese to Continental Portuguese. Unfortunately, Portugal is now experiencing its second wave of Covid-19 and another lockdown. Several planned events and visits to key churches have led to different timetables for the program launch, now scheduled for early 2021. The Evangelical Alliance (through its TV program) will help to promote it.

Rota66 is the Spanish version, hosted by Fernando Díaz. In each episode, the Scriptures are explained, chapter by chapter, with a time for questions and answers. The program is the Spanish version of *Rota66*, created by Luiz Sayão and aired by TWR Brazil since 2006. We are airing and distributing the program since November 2020. Now more than 30 stations across 12 countries receive the program.



TWR Hellas has faithfully continued their ministry to the people in Greece and on Cyprus via Kanali7 (mainly *TTB* in Greek). They are also growing their capacity and outreach using visual media and are currently working on producing the shorter five-minute *TTB* programs.

NEW INITIATIVES

God has greatly blessed the efforts of our partners who have undertaken new, original, and creative ways of reaching specific audiences.

M Ministry Web Radio – Although it is very difficult in France to obtain a channel on traditional radio, there is much more accessibility and almost no restrictions to use web radio, which is the next step Radio Colombe is planning to take to reach Ms in France. France has the second-highest number of Ms in Europe, many of them are young people who are second and third generation Ms with very different worldviews and values from their parents and grandparents. Radio Colombe will be providing the technical support services (computers, servers, etc.) and will partner with several other ministry directors in the region who specifically work with Ms and who will provide content for this project. Please also see our report on the M Ministry in Europe.

Foolish Life Academy – This program combines aspects of both evangelism and discipleship. It focuses on the younger generations and will approach their worldview in a logical, apologetics-based way, while also incorporating humor and cartoons. This project is still being finalized, however starting in April 2021, it should be ready to launch with the first group to be discipled. Meanwhile, they are planning to correct some errors in the material and are also testing their approach with this very sensitive and crucial audience. The team has nearly completed the editing of the lessons and have already assembled the team. They now need to finish the corrections to the written guidebook, based on input from their first test group.

Esto es Real Talk! is a podcast focused on millennials. The program consists of short interviews with young people who share interesting life experiences or activities, talking about transcendental subjects. The program is the Spanish pilot version of a TWR Europe project created by Lucas da Silva. The first season of six episodes received hundreds of thousands of plays. Starting in February 2021, we will begin the second season. Because the studio cannot be used for recording due to restrictions caused by the pandemic, a different format has been adopted and interviews are taking place via video calls.

DiscoverLifeMagazine.gr is a new project that seeks to specifically reach out specifically to young people although the content is relevant for people of all ages. This year it will be published four times, with a plan to start monthly circulation the following year. Since its creation, the site has had 600,000 visits and soon will be available in three formats: website, print edition, and as a PDF.



RUSSIA | UKRAINE | BELARUS ministries

TWR's ministries in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus have been able to welcome two new people on board. Our contact person for Belarus has now taken over the leadership role due to the pending retirement of the previous leader. Furthermore, our consultant for Russia has now become the head coordinator of the ministry activities in Russia. Both positions are crucial and we are grateful for both of these people as they have accepted their areas of responsibility in developing media ministry initiatives in this part of Europe.

MINISTRY IN RUSSIA

The team in Siberia is enthusiastic about their ministry work, which has been very encouraging. Outreach has expanded on local Siberian FM stations in the far eastern regions with five additional stations that have been added to the network. One radio station in the southern part of Russia covers 20,000 people via medium wave (!) and the man who runs the station is a local IT provider. Since he doesn't have a studio and cannot provide his own content, he uses the content from PureWave (with the knowledge and blessing of the team). He also set up internet filters for the people in his area to not receive any shady or inappropriate ads which are very widespread in Russia. Therefore, when people go to the website of PureWave in this area, it is suitable for children and youth to access the content without having to fear that bad content pops up.

In September, a regional radio station in the Northern Caucasus began to air *Women of Hope* content for the first time. This has been a wonderful open door to a generally closed region. The *Women of Hope* programs have been recorded by local people with their accents and dialect. These programs were also posted on Instagram shortly after the radio broadcasts were beamed out.

In the area of Tatarstan, where Christianity is a minority religion, there are promising developments and negotiations with radio stations to share gospel content.

The Russian team has also been involved for some years in sharing gospel content across the border in Mongolia on three FM stations. Due to the travel restrictions in 2020 because of Covid-19, the staff shared the entire next batch of content via the internet instead, which is not a given due to the generally unstable internet situation in the region. All programs are translated by a Mongolian woman

living in Russia. She is not yet a believer, but she is increasingly becoming open to the gospel message. Each station has a phone number of a local pastor at the end of the session where people can call and be connected to a local fellowship of believers.

Medium wave programs are still being broadcast from Eastern Europe into Russia.

MINISTRY IN BELARUS

A truly unique local program was developed last year called *Belarus History* which airs for 10 minutes each week. One of the historians in the local museum is a Christian. A connection developed between this historian and the leadership of TWR-Belarus and so the idea was birthed to do a more educational program in the style of a conversation that would also shed light on the Christian history and impact within the country.

From Belarus, many truck drivers go out to deliver their goods to various European countries. Quite often, these truckers are lonely and bored. Several years ago, a ministry developed to reach out to them by providing these drivers with gospel material and local sermons. Furthermore, they receive a banner they can hang in their trucks that has a blessing written on it. Currently, this material is being distributed on USB sticks.

In general, TWR-Belarus has greatly increased its distribution of materials by digital means of MP3 players and SD cards. Furthermore, the staff seek to visit a variety of churches throughout the country to share about their media ministry and offer the possibility of connecting with local pastors and leaders to create content together. One local church decided to financially support the series *Bread of Life*, which is a remarkable and inspiring step of faith for the people in this country which ranks among the financially weakest in Europe.

Apart from the local ministry focus, TWR-Belarus also supports the development of women's media ministry in Vietnam. This has provided the local believers with an opportunity to be directly involved in the Great Commission, even if they cannot go to the "ends of the earth" themselves. The local people understand the meaning of living in challenging circumstances and can easily relate to the difficulties believers face in Vietnam.

MINISTRY IN UKRAINE

The team from TWR-Ukraine had to overcome various challenges during 2020. With the outbreak of Covid-19, the leader of the digital ministry was stuck in the U.S., unable to return to his family and the ministry team in Ukraine until months later. This created some holdups with the ministry work, but it could continue, albeit on a lower level for a while.

The coronavirus outbreak and the trying times that ensued for many people living in Ukraine provided the incentive to create a video to encourage the local people and point them to the light of the gospel during these dark days. The video link with English subtitles can be found [here](#).

The pilot project designed to share programs on a different Christian network did not have the audience response we hoped for. Therefore, the spotlight shifted toward purchasing an FM license in a town south of Kiev. This is close enough for the programs to be heard even in the southern outskirts of Kiev. The plan is to have the programs broadcast for 12-14 hours per day with reruns filling up the remaining time.

A developing Roma ministry tied with TWR-Ukraine took a hit when Elena, the producer, passed away. However, the Lord quickly provided for a successor who has been able to connect with the listeners and increase the reach of the ministry. One of the key aspects has been the focus on Roma culture through locally produced, Christian Roma music. Since this has been a focus, the responses have increased.

Toward the end of 2020, a new program was produced for the Ukrainian audience called *Studying the Bible Together*. This has become a wonderfully received program where a variety of local Christian leaders and scholars come to the studio to share their insights with the goal to have an in-depth, inspiring time for the audience to study the biblical message and understand its worth and value.

Lastly, programs from the entire ministry region are being shared, which is an encouraging development that is made possible through our digital reach. For example, Siberian programs are aired in Barcelona; Ukrainian programs are aired in Sacramento. This goes to show the many opportunities to speak hope to native speakers living outside of their home country.





CENTRAL ASIA ministries

GOD'S POWERFUL HAND

In the book of Revelation, the glorified Jesus gives His message to the church of Philadelphia: “He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens...” (Rev. 3:7-8). Even while the situation and challenges of this church are different from ours, we have experienced in our ministry the mighty hand of the Lord. For most of 2020, He shut the door for traveling but opened another door for establishing various digital ministries, which are already bearing fruit. God is sovereign and nothing in the world can stop Him from accomplishing His plans. He says these words to us: “My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure” (Is. 46:10).

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

During 2020 we worked throughout Central Asia to extend our presence with Christian media content on various digital platforms. In Kyrgyzstan, we launched the YouTube channel with our audio files, animation clips, and some musical pieces. God gave us a huge audience on Facebook and Instagram. In Kazakhstan, we continued to develop YouTube and Instagram; on the Telegram channel, we are involved in Christian evangelical ministry in the Karakalpak language.

One user, Dinara, wrote to us: “We discovered your YouTube channel. We share the link with many people, including those who do not know Christ. The channel positively impacts them. Thank you very much!” One Instagram user, Gulmira, writes: “Hello, I have listened to the program and it was very good with encouraging words. May the Lord bless you a lot! I have not been visiting the church for a long time, but God is strengthening me through your programs.”

Our radio distribution project was nearly completed. Hundreds of people received radios and SD cards with our programs. Still, many people ask us to give them more radios and MP3 players. It reveals to us how hungry the people's souls are for the truth.

We are also amazed how God has kept all medium wave and local broadcasting in Central Asia without any serious interruption. Many people in remote villages have heard the Word of God on their radios and in their languages!

PLANS FOR FUTURE MINISTRY

In 2020 we started to think about the possibility of a digital ministry in Uzbekistan. We prayed, searched for a partner, and the right people to work in the ministry. We want to start a solid digital ministry in the Uzbek language, using available platforms.

More than 30 million people in Central Asia speak or understand Uzbek. Please pray with us for this project. We would like to be active on digital platforms in the Tajik and Turkmen languages as well. We need partners to support this ministry and the right people to manage the work.

CHALLENGES IN CENTRAL ASIA

The biggest threat for our co-workers in Central Asia in 2020 was the Covid-19 pandemic. Many people were infected, but we praise the Lord that none of our co-workers lost their lives. The unstable

political and economic situations in several countries of Central Asia is another threat and challenging factor. In some countries, certain food items and medicine prices increased – some even doubled. Please pray with us that God would give us politicians and governments that will allow us to continue our Christian outreach and ministry.





MIDDLE EAST ministries (ARABIC)

COVID-19 AND WORK PROCESS

The recent Covid-19 pandemic has had significant psychological and social effects on the whole global population. In our region, we tried to continue the process of the ministry during the different lockdown periods as much as possible. We are grateful for Zoom technology that helped us meet regularly as a team to keep the work going as smoothly as possible.

Studio technicians prepared some small home studios that would assist in continuing the recording and editing process. Different Arabic programs used the *What's Happening* series during the pandemic to produce special related episodes that help listeners/users stay in touch with what matters through fear, uncertainty, the future, health, family, etc.

HOPE FOR YEMEN

The audio online program *Hope for Yemen* attracted a lot of listeners from Yemen. Listeners that are seekers of the truth sent their feedback, as well as those who were irritated by the name of Jesus Christ. Our Yemeni producer tackled important issues that resonated with his fellow Yemeni and their needs, such as: *Does God allow pain and suffering? Who caused the pandemics? Who is Jesus?* Feedback was also being handled by a Yemeni brother and he has been following up with those who correspond through social media and WhatsApp.

HOPE FOR SUDAN BROADCAST

Another highlight is the launching of the radio broadcast block titled *Hope for Sudan* that airs for one hour, five days a week (Monday-Friday). These Arabic programs are sent through TWR Africa's shortwave (SW) transmitter, reaching the Northeast of Sudan. The SW broadcast started on October 25, 2020, at 6 p.m. GMT. Production of the Sudanese dialect program is still in the making, designed to reach men and women, to speak hope to those who have no hope and give peace to those who are in desperate need of Jesus.

PRODUCTION OF VIDEO-TEASERS

On a different level of production, a few of our Arabic programs started a trial run of small teaser videos that were mainly produced for Christmas, containing the message of the gospel. Other attempts were made to produce teasers for the actual radio programs to encourage people to listen to the episodes. Examples of programs that have started the 'video ministry tool' are *Hope for Syria*, *The Way*, and *Healing Touches*.

LOCAL BROADCAST FROM THE MIDDLE EASTERN REGION STARTED MAY 1, 2020

We rejoice that for the first time in many years, our programs are being aired on a local station right in the heart of the Middle East. The station's broadcast also reaches the northern part of Syria. We pray that this opportunity will open new ministry horizons and will allow many more people to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and that more lasting fruit will be produced.

Each day, one hour of Arabic programs are being broadcast. This hour is divided up into blocks of 15 minutes where four high-quality, contextualized, and in-depth program series are being shared: *Hope for Syria*, sharing testimonies and promises from the Word of God to encourage Syrians going through tough times, *Our Life with God* presents realities of our existence and God's plan for our lives, *Journey of Life* provides steps to help new believers in their spiritual growth, and *The Prophets* tells stories from the Bible with profound applications on issues of daily life. Our ministry team conducts the follow-up with listeners and provides valuable interaction with the Arabic-speaking audience.

PODCASTING

Our department has started podcasts for several programs with numbers reaching 23,680 downloads without advertisement. The top locations are the USA, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco, and Germany.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter and YouTube) have been key in spreading the gospel through different programs. The numbers of engagements in 2020 have increased. Each page and account vary in percentage, but all have been growing. Praise the Lord.

Challenges concerning social media continue to persist, especially with Facebook as our ad account has been disabled for the second time as a result of reporting from M people. But "God's Word never returns void" and people are still corresponding and engaging. Please pray for this matter.

LISTENER FEEDBACK

The feedback from different programs and initiatives is encouraging. Here are a few highlights:

Vicki from Egypt shared:

"I've found encouragement in your episodes and posts of the series *Hope for Tomorrow*. I do love the Lord and I know He loves me. I've just been and still am under so many stressful events. My relationship with my parents and sister is not good as they are pushing me to marry a man that I do

not know. I've been praying and your encouraging messages have kept me going as I want to be wed to a person who loves Jesus, but to my family that is not important. So I've been faced with much verbal abuse and tough times. I'm hanging on to the Lord's promise and knowing that there are people like you supporting me keeps me strong, too. Thank you."

"Months have passed and I was away from sending messages to you but I kept listening and reading your program, which kept me strong. I just want to let you know that miraculously I've met a person at church; he loves Jesus and now we are getting to know each other. Thank you for staying with me and please keep praying if this is God's will that it happens."

"Your prayers have been answered. Emad has asked to marry me, and I said Yes! I cannot thank you enough for you standing by me. I've been sharing your episodes and posts with my female friends. :)"

Ammar from Syria shared:

"I was a M but love Jesus now. Here in Syria I cannot declare this to anyone. But listening to your program has given me the courage to contact you and I am just asking you to pray for Jesus to help me love Him more and that He can accept me even with all my sins and all my past full of hatred! Thank you. Pray for me as I am in need."

"I'm Ammar, just a small note that I have been found because of your program and your care. I'm chosen because Jesus loves me."

"I'm an ex-M but I love Jesus and want to follow Him even if it will cost me my life."

Shamel from Iraq wrote:

"I've been listening to *Talmatha* for years now. I'm 26 years old and I work in media with the Iraqi authorities. The city I live in has no churches anymore because all of them are ruined. Since I've started listening, I feel that Christianity and the Bible are what feed my soul and what I've been looking for since my teenagerhood. The religion I grew up with didn't make sense to me and never made me feel good or loved or that I have a great God. But with *Talmatha*, something triggered that made me commit my nights to listening to the episodes. So how can I become a real Christian? I do love Jesus Christ and I want to be His disciple and I want to meet Christians because here in my city they all left, and I feel like a stranger among my own people."

Karim from Yemen shared:

"The daily materials of *Talmatha* that you send to me through WhatsApp are helping me to grow and give me the courage to tell people here in Yemen about Jesus. Life is harsh and hard here but I believe that because Jesus is with me, I'm kept well and safe. I'm thankful. Don't stop sending these to me please because I'm eager to keep learning."





NORTH AFRICA AMAZIGH ministries

OUR VISION FOR MINISTRY AMONG THE AMAZIGH

We are thankful to the Lord and full of praise for what he is doing in the lives of people in North Africa through the continued growth of the Amazigh ministry. The goal remains to move forward with our vision and aim to reach the Amazigh (Berber) peoples through media, in their diverse Tamazight languages. We want to see the lives of these colorful people become positively transformed as they choose to follow Jesus. It is our desire to help strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ, so that they may also take part in God's Great Commission – reaching out to others in North Africa and beyond, for HIS glory!

FROM TRIALS TO TRIUMPH

Before 2020 began, plans were underway to have a first-ever gathering of the ministry team that works to reach the Kabyle of North Africa. This was to be a combined strategy and training event in April. However, with tensions mounting and protests happening from changes in the government, we were advised to reschedule the event for May. There are times in ministry when we can easily become discouraged as trials and challenges come our way. After weeks of praying and planning together, our coordinators for the Kabyle ministry prepared to welcome our growing Kabyle team of five who had traveled a great distance to attend the training. Upon arrival at the airport, with no substantiated reason given, and after passing through immigration, the team was held up by customs and put in a holding cell at the airport, only to be deported back to their country late that evening. The coordinators who had worked tirelessly in planning for this training event and were eagerly waiting to receive the team were deeply discouraged and perplexed at this turn of events. Their immediate concern was for the safety and emotional well-being of the team who had traveled so far. As the team arrived back home, and the coordinators could reconnect with them, it became evident that amid this setback, the team had grown closer and stronger to the Lord and one another and were determined more than ever that the training should still go ahead.

We are thankful that the training did get rescheduled, and eventually took place in late October. We praise the Lord for all that he has done amid this setback, to show his perfect plan for the growth of the ministry team who work to reach the Kabyle of Algeria. It was also the first time that TWR's Ministry Director for the Amazigh Ministries, Nathan Anderson, was able to meet the entire team, and finally, get to know them on a more personal level.

NEW MINISTRY

In April and December, two trips took place with the purpose to explore new opportunities for media ministry to the non-Arabic Amazigh people groups in the far northwestern part of Africa. While there,

we were able to reconnect with local ministry personnel whom we have partnered with in the past. As a result of these trips, we developed a preliminary media strategy on some first steps to relaunch our broadcast media outreach in this country for the Amazigh. We obtained new and invaluable information to work from in understanding the ways that people are utilizing new media. Three separate groups who work among the Ishelhayn (Tachelhit speakers), Tamazight (Middle Atlas), and Riffi (Tarifit speakers) are interested in a recalibration of our joint efforts for reaching these Amazigh people groups. During this time, we discovered that there is a significant amount of quality archived content that is cataloged and stored and can be repurposed for broadcast or distribution on digital platforms.

NEW PROJECTS

Power in Persecution – After proposing to produce and broadcast the series *Power in Persecution* in Kabyle, funding was approved by a European donor to begin with translation and production. We are praying the remaining funding need will be provided for this series to be broadcast on medium wave from southern Europe.

The Way of Righteousness in Kabyle was approved as a priority project by TWR's Global Media Services team, and funding appeals then began for this series to be translated and produced throughout 2020.

The *Radio Kabyle* website – The development of a new website called www.radiokabyle.com got under way to serve the Kabyle audiences in Algeria. Despite challenges along the way and taking longer than expected, the site is up and running and will grow as existing and new content is made available to audiences. We are looking forward to seeing this become a useful platform for the future of the Kabyle ministry.

MONITORING

In the past questions were being asked regarding how far our medium wave broadcast from southern Europe reaches into the northwestern region of Africa and could listeners even receive the broadcast. Addressing this concern, we had some monitoring done which confirmed that we have a good broadcast signal into 10 of 12 locations. We also had monitoring done in a neighboring country which confirmed that the same broadcast signal is strong and reliable in this location as well. We are grateful for this continuing broadcast outlet that provides a good signal that listeners rely on for hearing life-changing messages of hope. We have been able to establish two individuals who will continue to monitor our broadcast signal and provide the needed monitoring reports as requested.

PRODUCTION AND BROADCAST

Thru the Bible (TTB) production and broadcast in the Kabyle language has continued on schedule in production and being aired from southern Europe. We are thankful for an increase in listener response and that the production is still on course for completion of the first five-year cycle in 2021. The producer has worked hard, and the production quality is at a very good level. We are grateful to the Lord for his faithfulness to this TTB broadcast.

Our *Women of Hope Kabyle* production continues to be a high standard production and is making an impact in the Kabyle regions of North Africa. The team of ladies who gather stories, visit listeners, and minister to those in remote areas are a blessing to this ministry as it grows. The Kabyle team has had some major personal challenges in their lives and of their families this year, but they continue forward

WOMEN OF hope



OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

The year 2020 will be remembered as the year of the pandemic, of home office work, and lockdown orders. However, it will also be remembered as the year of media. As people were forced to stay inside and be separated from family and friends, we turned to media, not only for entertainment, but for human connection, meetings and conferences, and even church services. The year left behind a dark shadow of lost lives, economic challenges, loneliness and depression, political tensions, and natural disasters, but the challenges and change also birthed new opportunities. Media doesn't have curfews. It doesn't require social distancing – the programs of *Women of Hope* continued to reach women in the Europe and CAMENA regions, despite the global pandemic.

In March, when the first round of lockdowns was mandated across various countries, our coordinators quickly and skillfully adapted. Homes were turned into interim studios and content was modified topically. In the Middle East, for example, the *Women of Hope* programs addressed the topic of Covid-19 and shared biblical messages to give hope to many worried minds. Many feared contracting the sickness and even death, and our teams could speak into those worries with comforting messages from the Bible.

Travel restrictions and limitations on gatherings resulted in many Women of Hope prayer groups moving to virtual meetings via Zoom or WhatsApp. Several planned events and conferences were cancelled or moved to a later date. However, some also stepped outside their comfort zones by hosting virtual events for the first time, such as the Finnish Women of Hope team, which organized and carried out a live conference to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Finnish Women of Hope ministry.

STAFF CHANGES

In August 2020, Miia da Silva joined the Women of Hope team in full-time service. Eeva Vähäsarja, who served as regional coordinator since 2014, retired in January 2021, with Miia being chosen as Eeva's successor. She stepped into the role of the coordinator in November 2020 and Eeva supported her until her retirement as Senior Advisor. We are thankful for Eeva's many contributions to the ministry over the years, for her diligence, hard work, gentleness, prayerfulness, kindness, and much *sisu* (Finnish: perseverance, grit).

We were blessed with a new translator from the Faroe Islands, Alice Mortensen, who will assist in the translation of our French *Women of Hope* calendar. The team in the Middle East also welcomed a new program producer in the second half of 2020.

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

In early 2020, the Women of Hope ministry was launched in Serbia. So far, the prayer calendar mailing list includes 300 Serbian intercessors and church partners. The local team is active on social media with adding daily content in addition to weekly programming. Last year, 52 programs were produced.

In October, the first episode of a new *Women of Hope* program in the Northern Caucasus went on the airwaves. The program is broadcast three times per week: one new episode and two replays. In addition to radio broadcasts, an Instagram account was created, which by the end of the year had reached almost 200 followers. We are blessed and thankful for our new voice and producer, who is passionate to bring the message of hope in Christ to women in the Northern Caucasus.

In the fourth quarter of the year, the Women of Hope ministry was invited into the planning of a new ministry initiative in Northern Cyprus. Research and the experiences of ministry partners in-country showed that the situation of women in the region is particularly troubling and Women of Hope, with its programs consisting of both practical and spiritual teaching, were considered a great option to begin the outreach. Several planning meetings have already taken place and the project will continue to take shape in 2021.

HIDDEN TREASURES

The Covid-19 pandemic halted the *Hidden Treasures* ministry significantly this year. As brothels were shut down, many of the women working on the streets ended up homeless and out of reach of our partnering organizations. This meant that we were able to hand out fewer program-filled MP3-players through our partners. However, in early 2020, a new *Hidden Treasures* website, www.hishiddentreasures.com was launched, which gives access and the ability to download the programs in various languages. For the new website, a new *Hidden Treasures* graphic was designed by Lydia Kosobucki.

The production of the Hindi version of *Hidden Treasures* was completed. In addition, Spanish and Korean versions are underway.

WHEN THE WALLS COME TUMBLING DOWN

On the 29th of December, the nation of Croatia was shaken – literally and figuratively. A listener tells her story: “Just before the strong earthquake, my dog jumped on me and dragged me to the door of the apartment, and that saved my life. In the next moment, it started to shake a lot, and the closet collapsed on the place where I was sitting. The building was not demolished, but the walls cracked, the bathroom collapsed, there is no wall in the bedroom. My home literally disappeared before my eyes.”

Many were left without their homes or lost loved ones. The earth continued to move in the following days and weeks, which made people live in constant fear of the next tremor. Crisis often wakes people up to their humanity and the fragility of life itself. We grieve with those who are suffering, and we agonize with those whose walls have literally crumbled. But what about spiritual walls? We as Women of Hope will continue to reach out to those who are hurting, or who feel alone and worthless, bringing them the message of hope in Christ Jesus – to women around the world, and across generations.

AN INTRODUCTION

My name is Caleb Petersen and I am a consultant for TWR Europe. I'm Danish and have a background in theology and media communications. For four years my family and I ministered abroad in the Middle East before I began my work with TWR Europe in March 2020.

STRATEGIC REFLECTIONS

My task at TWR is to help grow the new M ministry in Europe, which was initiated in 2020. As part of this process, we needed to develop a strategy on how to approach this huge and sensitive task, as well as define how to approach the local audience in various countries across Europe.

During my research, I felt the need for some tools to help us better develop and evaluate what kind of content is needed for the different audiences we are focusing on. What came out of this was the AF3C-model (Audience Focused Contextualized Content Chart) which helps us better understand a person's journey toward Christ and the challenges in the various stages of his or her spiritual journey. The goal is to be better able to provide relevant content all along the journey, and thus "walk with our audience."

WEB RADIO FOR REACHING NORTH AFRICANS IN FRANCE (AND BEYOND)

The first place we wanted to start the M ministry was in France, where almost 9 percent of the population have an M background. These are mainly immigrants from Maghreb countries in North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, etc.). Among these people, there are very few Christians.

Our main audience will be the second generation of this group. Based on the available research and in speaking with various people in France, we decided that web radio will be the best way to reach these people. The ministering language of the programs will be French, preferably with a North African accent.

This ministry initiative is being developed now in partnership with our TWR national partner in-country as well as in collaboration with other individuals working among North Africans in France.

OPEN DOORS IN NORTHERN CYPRUS

The second location where we have started to explore opportunities is in Northern Cyprus. Within a broadly mixed group of interested ministry partners, we are working to find the best possible approach to start a M ministry there. We have decided to begin with an online women's ministry among the Turkish-speaking majority in Northern Cyprus.

Also, we are exploring and evaluating the implications and possibility of launching a local radio station. In this process, we are working closely with one of our Turkish partners, who has a



deep understanding of the cultural, language, and legal processes we need to be aware of to build a good network and a solidly funded ministry in Northern Cyprus.

PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

- Praise the Lord for opening doors to reach the growing population of Ms living in Europe – sharing the love, peace, hope, and eternal life in Christ.
- Pray for God's guidance and protection for the people involved in developing the projects in both France and Northern Cyprus.
- Pray for clear ideas and good communication among the teams across language barriers and different cultural backgrounds, especially in this time where we can only communicate and meet online.

A woman wearing a blue headscarf and a patterned vest over a dark long-sleeved shirt stands in a mountainous landscape. The background shows a wide, dry riverbed or valley floor with some sparse vegetation and distant mountains under a hazy sky. The title 'NORTH CAUCASUS MINISTRY report' is overlaid on a dark blue rectangular box in the upper right corner of the image.

NORTH CAUCASUS MINISTRY report

The year started with a training camp on learning how to set up and implement a social media strategy. Five nationals and a handful of ex-pats attended the workshop. The result was the beginning of a coalition of three coordinators who are responsible for reaching out to people in the Northern Caucasus region and those living in the diaspora.

Four different platforms were opened to reach out to these different audiences. One channel was connected to food and medicine distribution to the poor in spring 2020 when Covid-19 hit the hardest. Two websites have been started that are connected to their respective Instagram accounts with content posted introducing the Good News to that audience base. One of the websites provides a discipleship course that will be started with a dozen people who reacted to the social media posts. TWR was involved in producing the content for this initiative but the strategy is carried out in partnership with nationals and other organizations.

Another very exciting new development last fall represented the start of airing a new women's program from the only Christian radio station in the region. This was accompanied by an outreach on social media platforms. The focus is on reaching out to the many isolated women from the predominant religious background in the North Caucasus. The voice talent used in these broadcasts will shine through as that of a friend who knows the audience's current joys and hardships.

The Northern Caucasus region is one of the most ethnically diverse places on the globe with around 50 different people groups that mostly use their own languages. It is also the poorest region of Russia. An app was developed featuring content in some of these languages. We also know what communicating the Good News in the Russian language is helpful because it is the lingua franca and many people are using smartphones to access our programming.

Toward the end of the year, a new broadcast was started in Tatarstan which is also an encouraging development and answer to prayer. While not part of the Northern Caucasus region, Tatarstan is nevertheless similar in terms of people living there who come from the same religious background.

FARSI MINISTRY report

An encouraging development and great answer to prayer within the CAMENA ministry has been the appointment of a new Farsi Ministry director with the focus on Farsi speakers in the Middle Eastern region. This new director, who was born and raised in Iran and now lives in Western Europe, started his role in August 2020. When asked about which areas he would like to focus on developing, the director responded: “I am here because we want to bring radio programs to Farsi speakers and also organize the follow-up with listeners. There is also the possibility of using social media to share the gospel. My idea is that we need to use social media networks that are near the radio frequencies of our listeners and to use social media as a way to broadcast radio programs, too.”

In the meantime, the 30-minute program *Discipleship on the Air* has been airing 4 times per week via medium wave signal that covers the so-called Persian-speaking world. Furthermore, the material is also available online at www.dota.net.



further updates FROM EUROPE AND CAMENA

NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH SENDING AGENCIES

One of TWR's core values that is deeply ingrained in our identity is partnering. TWR is partnering with organizations and people in all parts and on all levels of our organization, including the Human Resources team. Last year we were able to see wonderful growth in the number of organizations that are partnering with us in sending missionaries into our global media ministry. We were grateful to sign secondment agreements with seven new sending agencies from Europe. These new partnerships in Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Norway are an answer to prayer and hugely encouraging. We are partnering with 16 European organizations and behind all of these partnerships are missionaries that are serving with TWR to follow their calling.

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF STRESS

Another one of TWR's values is training and learning. We want to see people grow in their faith but also in their maturity, skills, and leadership. In 2020 as well as in 2021, our focus on training is on building resilience. In May 2020 we started hosting Resilience trainings sessions via Zoom and are facilitating this training course in all of TWR's global regions. This is a highly relevant topic given the amount of pressure and stress all of us are facing. The global pandemic has impacted us not only in the areas of our work but also in our personal lives. Other training themes the European HR team is currently offering are on the topics of dealing with stress, developing strong teams, working and leading remotely, and member care. Please contact Philipp Rüschi, Director of HR in Europe and CAMENA, at pruesch@twr.org if you would like to learn more.



NATIONAL PARTNERS CONFERENCE – GOING DIGITAL

The Marcom and Donor Services department within TWR Europe and CAMENA is tasked with organizing the annual National Partners Conference (NPC), which takes place each September. This meeting is the biggest highlight on our calendar since it is a unique time for TWR's regional leadership to meet with the leadership and board members of our regional national partners on a larger stage. However, the disruptive nature of the worldwide pandemic also affected the plans for the hosting of the NPC, so the decision was made to go purely digital. With the technical assistance of the European Evangelical Alliance, the digital NPC turned out to be a success. Furthermore, this was the year when we were going to have the festive signing of the partnership agreements for the next term of 3 years. Not being able to celebrate on-site was a disappointment. However, a unique video tribute to all national partners was created that added a special personal touch which was well received. Despite the encouraging success of the 2020 digital NPC, we greatly hope to have the next NPC event from 7-10 September, 2021, on-site again in Bratislava, Slovakia.

STABLE AND HEALTHY FINANCES

With amazement, the Finance department experienced how the Lord continued to provide for the financial needs of our ministry through our donors and supporting national partners. We also saw some financial savings because the global crisis hindered us in realizing all the plans we had for the ministry. This means that in these challenging times we were able to enter 2021 in a financially healthy situation. We praise our Lord for this provision that we do not take for granted.



Trusting God
for more open doors
and fruitful
ministry in 2021



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