

REACH BEYOND



Dale Stagg

Chief Executive Officer
9 December 2021

Dear Friend,

As you know, Reach Beyond is committed to being the voice and hands of Jesus to the unreached and those with limited access to the gospel in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

Barely 18 months ago, we focused on expanding our use of WhatsApp to reach the people of India which contains one third of the world's unreached people groups. WhatsApp has proved to be a terrific complement alongside our shortwave broadcasts.

Today we are distributing the 'FRESH Daily Devotional' via WhatsApp in five languages with Tamil being one of them. When I recently spoke to our team leader Pastor Sam, he was confident the number of Tamil recipients would exceed 60,000 by the end of the year. Here is what he said—

"I thank the Lord for the WhatsApp Tamil ministry. Though we also do it in English, Kannada, Hindi and Marathi, Tamil was the first one to be started. It's almost 5 years now since we began printing the daily devotional in Tamil, but the COVID 19 pandemic caused us to react quickly by converting it to a digital format with WhatsApp.

WhatsApp audio has hit a great milestone this month reaching 60,000 people. We are also glad that many pastors who get these messages pass it on to their church members.

This has helped us to build some great networks and partnerships with our listeners, growing into a large audience. While we are sure that the reach is well beyond this, we will continue to produce programs in other languages.

The testimonies we receive encourage us to do more for God. This WhatsApp ministry started during the pandemic when everyone was shut down and locked in their houses. Their minds were locked, people were in stress, need and fear, indefinite situations in their life, no job and much more. But while everything was locked down, nobody could lock down the word of God! This is when the word started igniting in people's hearts. People who never looked up to God started praying for their protection and their life. We have seen how humble they were to listen to God's word during their time of struggle. And during these difficult times, people continue to receive the word of God and thousands and thousands are benefiting. These words are uplifting their spirit."

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**"I will stand
for the Lord
till the end..."**

Even Pastor Sam hadn't anticipated the impact our short daily WhatsApp messages would have throughout India. It has truly amazed us and taught us not to limit what God can do! What we didn't realise was the urgent need for encouragement to pastors and lay ministers serving during the most trying of times. This response is one of many we have received—

"I am a pastor running a church with two branches. For a year I was backslidden, left the city and the ministry. I heard the word of God through WhatsApp, the same word again and again; the message was about 'not giving up, but standing true to the calling'.

The whole message touched me, the word spoke to me continuously and it made me repent and turn back to the Lord and the ministry. I realized that it doesn't matter who you are when you are hit by the storm; if you are not strong, you will fall. I learnt how much more faith it takes for me to stand.

I am now back in the city and ministry hoping that God will help me stand. This timely word strengthened my soul and lifted my spirit up. I have taken a decision that I will stand for the Lord till the end. I will continue to forward the WhatsApp messages to many others."

From Pastor Prasad (Note: Name changed for security reasons)

"Now I am serving the living God"

Shortwave radio remains an integral part of our overall strategy to be the voice of Jesus to millions of people across the region. Currently we broadcast in 25 languages every week, including 18 Indian languages. The remaining languages focus on Myanmar, Bhutan, Korea and Japan.

Kannada is one such language—spoken by over 35 million people across India. It is the official language of the state of Karnataka in southern India and is also spoken in the states that border Karnataka. Evangelical Christianity barely registers in statistics in this region.

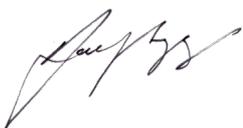
"I have been receiving God's word through the radio program. I heard about Jesus first while I was in school. My family didn't allow me to trust in God. I had to worship idols, and I knew that I was not happy. As I grew older there was a great emptiness I felt in my heart. When I lost my mother I didn't have anyone to cook for me and I started going to work, leaving behind my studies, and getting into some bad company and bad habits. When I got the same sickness as my mother's, I realized that it was a curse that I needed deliverance from. This was when I heard the word of God in Kannada. It spoke my language, and it was as if someone knew me well and answered my questions. I decided to give my life to Christ that same day, and today I am happy hearing God's word. The curse has been broken.

Rajesh, a listener of our Kannada programs

Thank you so much for your prayers and support throughout the year. May you have a blessed and restful Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our saviour Jesus.

If you're interested in receiving my regular email updates that share these and other encouraging stories please send us your email address.

Kind regards



Dale Stagg, CEO

PS: Can I encourage you this Christmas to prayerfully consider making a special gift towards our work, helping us to further broaden the reach of our programs to the unreached?