

ISSUE NO. 168 | AUGUST 2019

REACH BEYOND

VOICE & HANDS

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Welcome to our bumper issue of Voice & Hands

Reach Beyond Australia is largely known for its shortwave radio ministry to the Asia Pacific. Every week, programs in 30 languages beam out to the unreached people of the region from our broadcast facility in Kununurra in the far north west of the country.

But Reach Beyond Australia is part of a much bigger picture. Building on our historical expertise of radio and medicine, Reach Beyond globally is committed to using every available media pathway and appropriate expression of community development to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel.

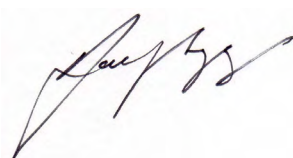
Working with indigenous partners through the world, Reach Beyond is reaching into cultures and locations where Jesus Christ is largely unknown.

In this issue of Voice & Hands, we're pleased to be able to share with you some of the incredible opportunities that God has put before us. I've also included an article by my good friend Steve Harling, Reach Beyond's global President.

You will also see an article about an exciting new project we are working on with our Kiwi friends at Reach Beyond New Zealand. Utilising state-of-the-art digital technology, we have combined resources to develop an internet radio station in the Urdu language to reach the people of Pakistan.

There is also an update on our work in the medical clinic in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh. Whilst this opportunity is coming to a close later in the year we are excited to see opportunities developing that will expand our reach to the Rohingya through radio.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. You are very much a part of what we do.



Dale Stagg
CEO



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Radio is still necessary today

By Steve Harling – Reach Beyond Global President

Your assignment, should you choose to accept it, is to get an urgent message out to as many people as possible, in as many places as possible, in as short a time as possible. How are you going to do it?

You could get online and post your message to all your friends on Facebook. That's a good method if you've got lots of friends who have access to the internet.

You could invest in an auto-dialling system for smart phones. That's a smart move for people who have smart phones.

TV? That's a good call for people who can get good cable.

No matter how you cut it...radio is still the best way to reach as many people as possible in as many places as possible. Almost everybody on the planet has access to a radio. Radios can be found in virtually every taxi cab, every coffee shop and every village square. In even the most remote and isolated places on the planet, radio can reach people. Whether it's AM, FM, XM, satellite, shortwave or internet, radio, in one form or another, can reach beyond every border and every barrier.

Since 1931, radio has been a crucial resource in the toolkit of Reach Beyond.

Reach Beyond pioneered missionary radio and our shortwave broadcasts circled the globe. Looking to the future, radio will continue to be one of our most significant tools for making Jesus known and loved among all nations.

Over the years, we've helped partners start more than 600 local radio stations all over the planet. We're not slowing down now. Every few months, we're launching new radio stations across Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and many other places.

While most of the world has moved toward local radio, there's still a very major and significant role for shortwave. Every day, millions of people across the Asia Pacific region in India, Japan, Myanmar and North Korea hear the Good News of Jesus Christ as it's beamed from our shortwave transmitters in the outback of Australia.

As some countries are closing the door to evangelistic radio, we're adapting to the use of internet radio. Every day, in North Africa, in the Middle East and in Central Asia, internet radio is reaching thousands of men, women and children, with the good news that Jesus loves them.

"I have been listening to your program continuously and are blessed. Though I am a Christian, I avoided church for so many reasons. Your radio program is like a church service for me. I am so glad that I can hear God's word right from my home..."

— Listener to our Kannada program



"...how can they hear about him..."

"But how shall they ask him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?"

ROMANS 10:14 (TLB)

**REACH
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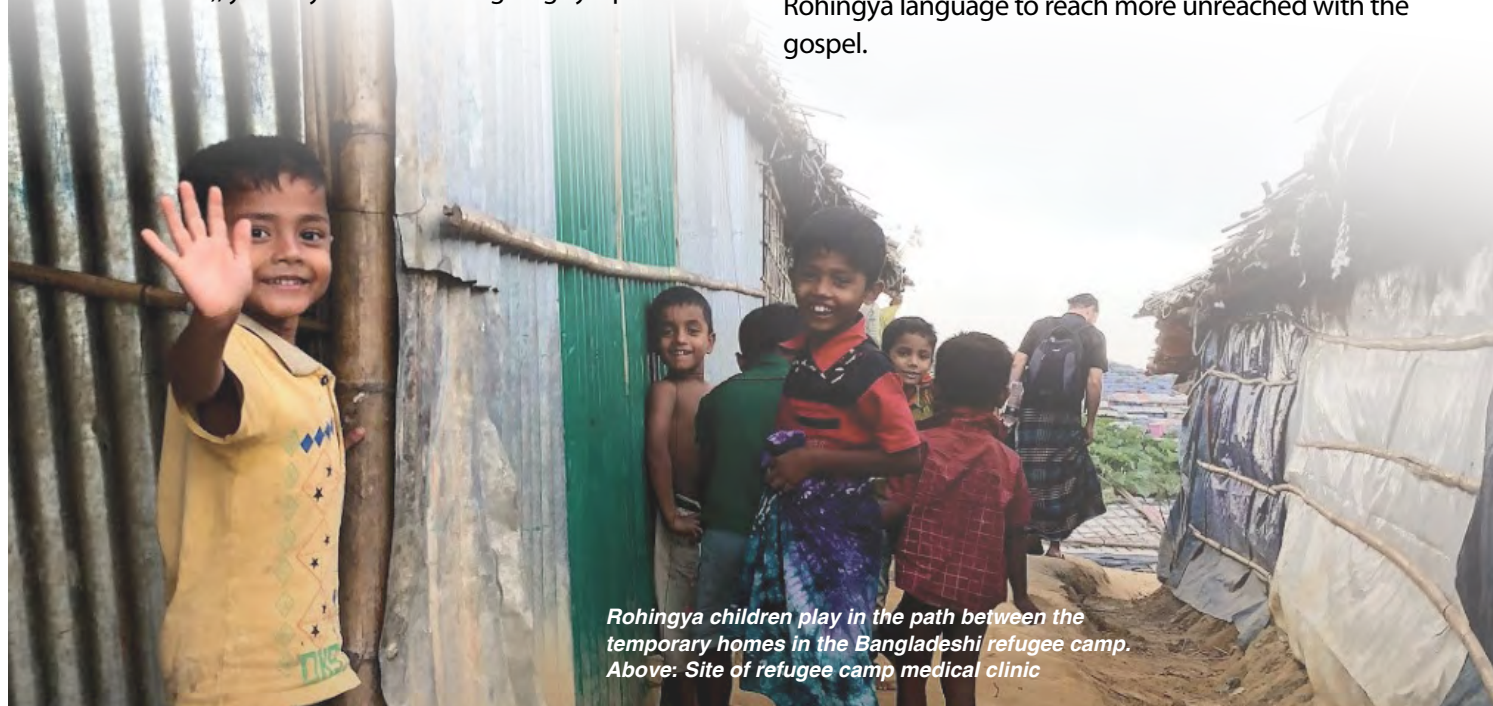
OUR VISION: To see Jesus known and loved among all people.

ROHINGYA UPDATE



The Rohingya refugee situation in southeast Bangladesh, which reached crisis proportions in August 2017, remains unresolved for the near million Rohingya who call the refugee camps their home. They are stateless people, denied citizenship in Myanmar and forced to flee their land and villages under extreme duress. Hundreds of thousands crossed the border into Bangladesh. Now, nearly two years since the crisis began, the Rohingya are getting on with life in the camps but still hope to return home someday.

While the immediate physical needs of the refugees are being met very well through the coordinated work of the NGOs and Bangladeshi government, the long-term effects of the peoples' trauma are more difficult to address. At the Reach Beyond partner medical clinic, doctors have noted many cases of headaches, dizziness, gastric issues, insomnia, and overall weakness. Physically, the people seem generally well (there was only one baby who measured on the malnourished scale during the March medical team), yet they have these ongoing symptoms.



Rohingya children play in the path between the temporary homes in the Bangladeshi refugee camp. Above: Site of refugee camp medical clinic

Our doctors feel that the unaddressed trauma, coupled with the uncertainty of the future, is contributing to their physical ailments. The trauma and fear produce a belief that there is something physically wrong.

We have been given a unique window of opportunity for physical and emotional contact with a people group who were previously very isolated from the outside world, however, this window is closing with the clinic coming to a close. As the emergency has stabilised, it has become increasingly difficult to secure visas for our medical teams, permissions and funding for the clinic. Many other NGOs face similar issues. We praise God for what He had done to this point, and for new opportunities which are emerging for Reach Beyond to engage with the Rohingya in other diaspora situations. Pray for continued emotional and physical healing of the Rohingya people.

There are also other exciting opportunities to reach the Rohingya people through shortwave radio. With the strong shortwave following, we are now looking for suitable content to expand our broadcasts in the Rohingya language to reach more unreached with the gospel.



THROUGH
EFFIE'S
EYES

A REFUGEE'S STORY...

Reach Beyond doctor, Steve Nelson, has returned from working alongside our partner in the primary healthcare clinic. Here, he recounts the story of one eight-year-old Rohingya girl, Effie.*

Effie arrived at the Rohingya refugee clinic looking pretty sad. In fact, sadness seemed to be her only diagnosis, even though they said she had a fever. She had been referred around a bit from one place to another, trying to get to the bottom of why she didn't go out and play, and why she wasn't interested in eating. She had certainly lost her smile along the way. There were no clear answers yet.

After going over the medical history and looking her over without finding a specific reason for her problems, I asked ... through the translator about what was going on at home. Was her dad there? Did the family all get along? Was anybody hurting her in any way? Negative answers to these questions brought me back to one more question I addressed to her mother; *"did anything happen to you all on the way to the camps?"*

It was then that she opened up and said her daughter had witnessed an auntie being hacked to death during the terrifying escape from Myanmar. Forty years of practice as a doctor doesn't really prepare you for this.

They allowed me to pray for her... for them... and we did, asking our Father to bring some healing to the family and especially to Effie and the terribly wounded 'eyes of her mind'. But we knew that she was going to need some gentle, same language coaching and counselling to get on the path towards health again. Thankfully there are organisations in the camps providing trauma counselling and we accompanied her to one of those clinics.

Please pray for Effie. These stories are everywhere in the Rohingya refugee camps. But every now and then, you get caught up in the pain and misery of a whole people through the eyes and heart of one child like Effie. Please don't stop praying for the Rohingya. The end is far from over.

* Name changed for security reasons

5

Myanmar

Laos

India

Thailand

Rohingya
Clinic
Bangladesh

Average number
of patients
seen per day

100

Thanks to all those involved
with our Golf Day last
November where we raised
\$10,000 which has been given
to the medical clinics for the
Rohingya refugees in
Bangladesh.

These funds provided
medical supplies for the
clinics. Many lives, like Effie's,
have been dramatically im-
pacted from the efforts of so
many generous people.

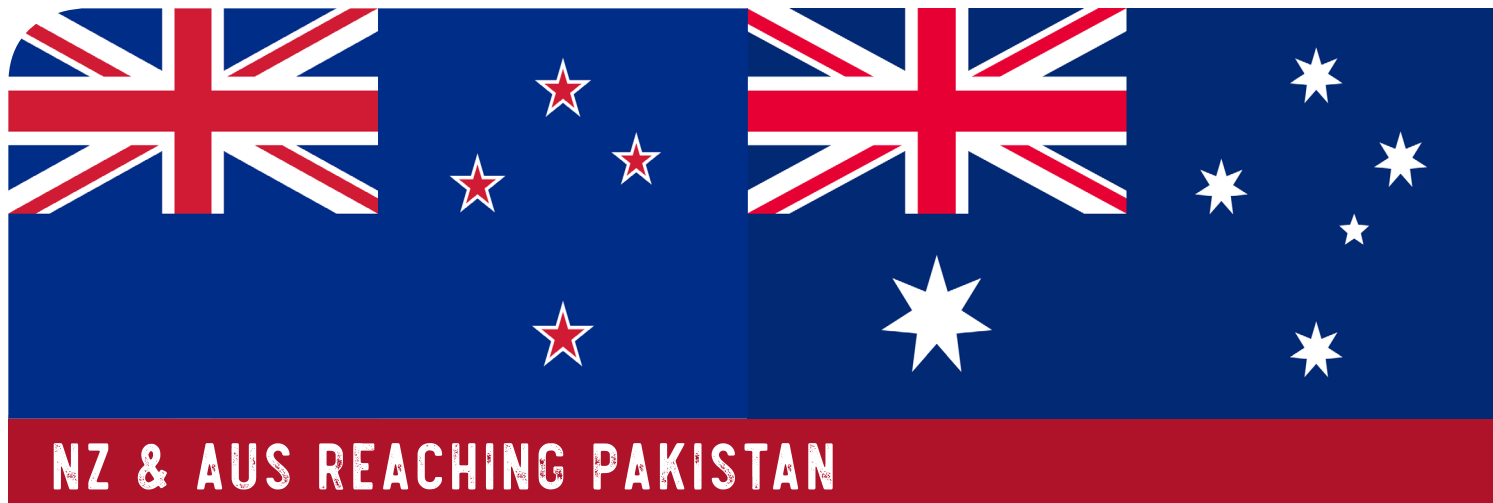
Please continue to pray for
the plight of the Rohingya
people.

Reach Beyond now broadcasts
weekly programs to the
unreached Rohingya people
via its shortwave facility in
Kununurra.

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PSALM 96:3: "Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvellous deeds among all peoples."



By Dale Stagg, CEO

Do you remember that TV advertisement that has the line “That’s not porridge”? I suppose porridge has changed over the years. Flavoured porridge, quick porridge, slow porridge. Well radio has changed too!

Whilst Australia’s shortwave broadcasting shows no sign of slowing down, Reach Beyond Australia and New Zealand, along with its international partners, are collaborating to develop a new type of radio ministry to the people of Pakistan.

Set to launch in mid-October, Sachai Radio is the brainchild of Reach Beyond NZ’s Bob Arend.

This Urdu language radio station will broadcast the message of Jesus Christ to the people of Pakistan directly to their mobiles phones, computers and TVs.

“Sachai Radio is first of the new app-based radio stations which utilise a completely cloud-based server and station infrastructure. When we talk about ‘the cloud’ or ‘app-based radio’ we’re simply saying that all components of the radio station, from the station and transmitters, to the listener’s receivers are internet based. Anyone with an internet connection and a device like a tablet, smart phone and even TV’s can listen to this radio station. It’s like traditional radio, but broadcast on the frequency of the internet.” Bob said.

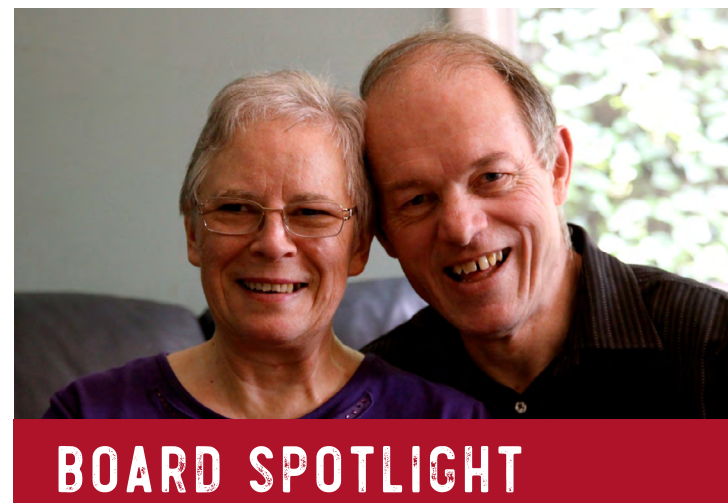
A joint project between Reach Beyond NZ and Australia along with Pakistan’s Gospel Youth Mission, Sachai Radio’s programs will originate in Lahore, Pakistan but be broadcast remotely from New Zealand. Gospel Youth Mission is especially known in the Faisalabad region for its sports evangelism programs, featuring ‘Kabaddi’ tournaments (a popular local game). Through this program, many have come to know Jesus Christ and His unconditional love for them.

Beyond sports and broadcasting, Gospel Youth Mission also actively reaches out through Children’s Sunday School programs, live drama, village video screenings, and a correspondence Bible literacy program.

“Cloud based and app-based radio is making it possible to spread the gospel to areas that are culturally and politically difficult to access. All you need is the ‘App’. And if that’s difficult – ask your grandchildren” said Bob.

Please pray for this exciting new joint initiative, as it is hoped that many more stations will be birthed from this new and cost-effective method of Christian broadcasting.

Call us on **1300 653 853** if you would like to assist with our initial setup and production costs.



BOARD SPOTLIGHT

One of our recent appointments to Reach Beyond’s Board is **David Solomon**. David is a retired Telecommunications Engineer who has worked in the area of satellite control ground systems. He was involved with Australia’s first national satellite system with Aussat. David has been a long-time supporter of Reach Beyond and is committed to seeing the gospel message shared throughout the world.

David said: “My wife Helen and I first visited Kununurra in the early 70’s but it wasn’t until 2009 that friends of ours learnt of the work of Reach Beyond. They encouraged us to join them in returning to Kununurra the following year, however for multiple reasons this did not happen.

But in 2011, we spent almost three months working with Reach Beyond in Kununurra at the Broadcast Facility and repeated this again in 2012. Helen would tell you that she was initially reluctant to go, but after the first visit, she was very keen to return, believing that God had a purpose for both of us there. The invitation to join the board of Reach Beyond is a further opportunity to share the blessings God has given us.”

We thank God for our Board members who share the vision God has set for the ministry. Please pray for them as they seek God for His wisdom and direction.



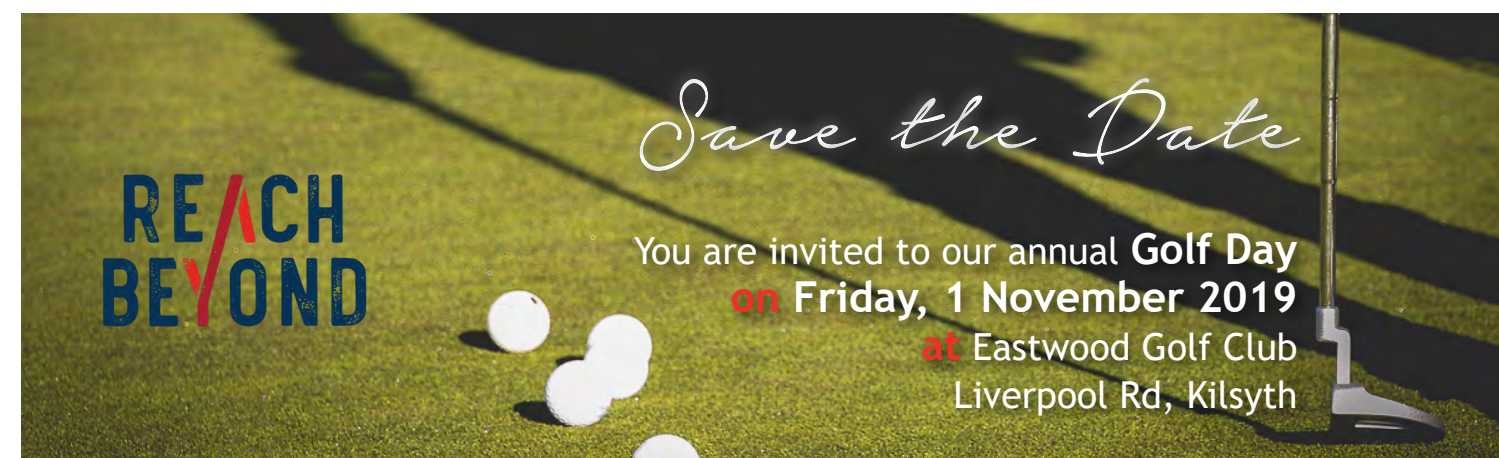
LISTENER COMMENTS

“I have been listening to your radio program regularly. It is really a blessing. My son is 5 yrs old, he couldn’t walk – I went to the doctor, they said it could be nervous issue. One of my friends recommended the radio program and thank you for giving me a radio to listen to your program. When I heard your sermon “God is able” I believed and prayed – within three days my son started walking. Thank God. This has increased my faith in Christ. I believe in Jesus. Please continue to pray for us.”

— **Sivagami, listener to our Tamil programs**

“Dear Brother, I was always against Christianity – I used to tease them and speak against them. I fell sick last month and was admitted in the hospital. I was not sure whether I will live or not after I was terribly ill. Three ladies were listening to your program in the hospital ladies ward. I also thought I will listen to them, not knowing that it is a word of God. After started listening, the specific word “The word God will help you live” touched my heart and I started crying. The God I have rejected – found me again. I am saved now. Thank you for your program.”

— **Valli, listener to our Tamil programs**



GOLF DAY – 1 NOV 2019: For further information

contact Adrian Olney on 1300 653 853

REACH BEYOND

GIVE, GO & PRAY

GIVE: Help us continue to be the VOICE and HANDS of Jesus to the unreached.

GO: Has God been speaking to you about serving or volunteering with Reach Beyond?

PRAY: Pray that God will continue to open doors for us to be able to share the love of Jesus to the unreached.