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VOICE & HANDS



REACH
BEYOND

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"I heard there is only one true living God..."

By Jonas Santos – Media Manager

Reach Beyond is broadcasting to Myanmar every day in shortwave. Our programs are aired in three local languages: Burmese, Matu, and Rohingya. We also support our teams with guidance on the production of programs and the use of other forms of media like Facebook Messenger, data cards, and mp3 player portable devices.

With more than an estimated one million people forced to leave their villages and towns since the military took control two years ago, having our teams on the ground across Myanmar is a vital part of our ministry.

Ministering to the Displaced

We recently added a new member to one of our teams, Ps D. His role is to visit and minister in one of the IDP (Internally Displaced Person's) camps in a rural area of West Myanmar. There are over 10,000 people from one people group living in this specific camp. Our teams have already visited the area and distributed shortwave radios.

To get to the camps, Ps D embarks on a three-hour boat ride from his village. It is a long journey – but always a fulfilling one. Just recently he shared with me some of the feedback he gets from listeners when he speaks with them face to face. One person said this about a program on the creation story—

"I heard there is only one true living God who created all the animal and humans; that we have behaved badly toward God and disobeyed him. We need to be obedient."

The same listener was encouraged to hear helpful information regarding health and wellbeing on a community development program that we air. They now know that when health problems arise, they need to see a health worker and not take whatever medicine they have at home.

In relation to the programs in the Matu language which are produced by Ps A and his team and distributed via shortwave and FB Messenger, Ps A shares:

"It is amazing to hear from listeners from far and near, using the internet through FB Messenger and commenting on the FB page every day. The focus of our radio program is mainly for the Matu people who live in remote areas."

This combination of radio and digital is helping spread the Word in places where people find themselves under severe duress. In some cases, the government has even banned gatherings of more than five people. The HA Matu program helps listeners overcome this sense of isolation and fear. One listener says:

"It would be almost impossible for us to hear the Word of God every week without the HA program... What I like the most is that in addition to hearing messages from pastors, we have other interesting topics related to our current struggles and challenges."



"We don't even have a phone line"

By Dale Stagg – CEO

When people ask me about the ministry of Reach Beyond, they are sometimes puzzled, but then, amazed that shortwave remains such a vital tool in our media toolbox.

There is often an assumption that everyone is 'online'. How wrong we could be!

Jonas, our Media Manager, recently returned from a major gathering in Tunisia of broadcast media professionals from around the world. He shared research that shows an estimated 5.3 billion people, or 66 per cent of the world's population use the internet or are 'online'. That leaves 2.7 billion people who still do not use or have access to the internet!

This affirms the importance of our commitment to reaching unreached communities with the gospel across the globe through shortwave radio and is seen in Mr Aung's story below.

Since the unrest began in Myanmar in early 2021, Mr Aung along with his family, left the city of Yangon and went to his village for a short time. However, even there, things were not as he hoped. When he arrived at his native village, there were wars and unrest there too.

He wanted to go back to Yangon as soon as possible but he couldn't due to the Covid-19 pandemic and unrest in the region with roads being blocked.

However, after more than a year he was able to return to Yangon with his family at the end of December last year amid various challenges along the way.

In a recent meeting with the Hingna Awl team, he spoke about his gratitude for the HA program, and he shared with us what he experienced during his stay in the village—

"I am very proud of the people who make the HA program, and to see how many villagers in the regions were blessed as they are hungry for God's Word and listen to the program every week."

"In the village where I live, we don't have even a phone line. The message we heard was passed on to unbelievers as well. Praised be the Name of the Lord!"

And to all of you around Australia reading this, we continue to be grateful for your constant prayer and financial support.

Leaving a Lasting Gift

A Gift for Future Generations

Once your family has been considered and provided for, would you consider naming Reach Beyond in your Will? Your gift will give many people the chance to live a different future and hear the gospel for many generations to come.

By remembering Reach Beyond in your Will, you will be helping to ensure Reach Beyond continues to reach millions of people every day who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For further information, please call us on 1300 653 853 or download **A Gift For Future Generations** brochure from our website at reachbeyond.org.au/get-involved/

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Making a Difference

"I was born into an orthodox Hindu family. We worshipped idols, my father was a priest. One day my friends and I went to see a prayer meeting in our village. On returning, my father was very angry and beat me up with a whip and threw me out of the house.

That night it rained, and I was bitten by some insects which soon led to infectious boils with pus all over my body. As I could not go home, my grandmother secretly took me to local doctors.

This went on for months, I was suffering and so weak. My father would not listen or forgive me.

One day my grandmother told me to go to a 'Prayer Meeting' in another village.

The people and pastor prayed for me, and soon I was healed completely. My grandmother and I began listening to radio programs from GMTA in the evening. We quietly began attending church in another village. A few months later my father found out. He was angry but could not do anything against grandmother.

It was very hard, but today my parents, grandmother and I worship and follow Jesus Christ as our God.

We have been baptised. We are so blessed to have radio programs, a loving caring pastor and people who teach us to reach out to people who still don't know Jesus."

— Raj, listener from central India

"I have been listening to the program from the time our local pastor recommended it. I usually turn it on while doing some work. But this particular week, I was going through a lot of problems. I was hoping to manage them by myself – it didn't work. My children and wife started facing problems. My wife fell sick, and my children were not doing good in their education.

I was hard pressed on all sides and had sleepless nights. The word was spot on – "Not by might, nor by power but by my Spirit". I thought God was not speaking to me all these days. I was wrong. He was speaking through His word and I was not listening.

I learnt a great lesson in my LIFE. Praise God!

I have now, introduced this program to many of my friends, and we as a family will continue to listen to the word of God."

— Shanmugam, Tamil listener

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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.

Reach Beyond
PO Box 291, Kilsyth VIC 3137

1300 653 853
meloffice@reachbeyond.org.au
reachbeyond.org.au

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