

# WAVELENGTH

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WORDS  
OF  
HOPE

Good News.  
No Boundaries.

# A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



I cannot tell you enough how much you all mean to me as we serve Christ together by speaking hope into the hearts of people around the world. As I write today from a training conference in Central Asia, let me offer a few observations:

*The hope of Jesus is incredibly personal.* Although we reach

millions of people each month with the gospel message, it is in the depth of individual human hearts that the Holy Spirit works. Whether in a Sunday school class of senior saints in Michigan or with new believers in Central Asia, I am struck by how we each long for the hope that only Jesus can give.

*The hope of Jesus is fueled through his Word.* The same Word that encouraged Jesus in the wilderness and sustained Paul

in prison still feeds saints the world over. Person after person I meet expresses thanks for how a key devotional gave them hope at just the right time.

*The hope of Jesus is a living hope.* As we near Easter, 1 Peter 1:3 echoes in my soul: God has “caused us to be born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” On the day I am writing to you, I baptized a woman from a closed country. I saw again the power of hope in Jesus. Under threat of persecution, this woman’s joy was palpable, a joy that can only come from a hope that is living.

Be inspired, friends, by the living hope of Jesus. And thank you again for your prayers and encouragement.

To the King!

*Jon Ogenorth*  
Jon Ogenorth

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## NEW LANGUAGE

Saraji language outreach is impacting many in the country of India. In the first year of work, 100 programs have been produced, and the gospel message has been distributed online, on CDs, and on thumb drives to interested listeners. The producer for these programs is himself a young Hindu convert—the only believer in his family and village. As of yet, no church exists among the Saraji people.

“It is a matter of praise that the members of our radio listener group in the Saraji area are growing spiritually and in the knowledge of the Word of God,” reports Director for South Asia, A.K. Lama. “They encourage others to listen to our radio programs as well as gospel broadcasts by other ministries. We praise God for these enthusiastic listener groups and hope to see more formed in the days to come. Pray that these listeners to our new Saraji programs will grow in their faith.”



## PERSECUTION IN IRAN

An Iranian believer and friend of Words of Hope was imprisoned for his faith some months ago. He has recently been released, however, the conditions of his release require that he abstain from all Christian activity. If he does not follow these terms, he risks being sent back to prison for five years. We are thankful that this Christian brother has been released, yet we know that he longs for opportunities to meet with other believers and share

about his faith with his friends and family. He also knows that if he is imprisoned again, the rest of his family may face harsh consequences. Please pray for protection and wisdom for this believer, and for the many Words of Hope listeners inside the country of Iran. “We use your programs as our teacher. Please pray for us,” shares a listener.



## SUFFERING IN SOUTH SUDAN

Words of Hope’s Dinka language team leader Bishop Alapayo Kuctiel reports that food is scarce throughout most of South Sudan, and the limited supply of food that he has access to has become terribly expensive. Alapayo lives in Rumbek, a Dinka region that receives preferential treatment from the administration of South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir, who owns a personal residence there. Such poor conditions in Rumbek suggest that things are much worse elsewhere. Even security is a problem with frequent fighting in the area. It seems that conditions in South Sudan are only worsening. At this time, many attempts at ceasefires have failed, rebels and government forces have committed war crimes, and the region is on the brink of widespread famine.

Please join us in praying for this country. Pray for peace between neighbors, pray for food provision for the many who are starving, and pray for wisdom for international leaders who must decide what actions to take in order to save innocent civilians.



# NEW HOPE

In a country where church buildings are illegal, dedicated Bhutanese Christians are finding fresh ways to share the gospel.

## A BUDDHIST KINGDOM

The landscape of Bhutan is dotted with Buddhist monasteries. These magnificent structures can be found nestled low in valleys and perched perilously on craggy cliff faces, their whitewashed walls gleaming in the sun.

The scenery in Bhutan is pristine, unspoiled. Tourists to the region must travel under the care of registered guides in an effort to limit exposure to western ways and preserve aspects of national life and culture.

Buddhism seems woven inextricably into the fabric of Bhutanese society. It is the official state religion, and those who practice it are privy to a variety of state benefits, including free education and health care.

## AT THE MONASTERY

In the eastern part of the country, an elderly married couple goes to the monastery every day to shuffle circuits around the perimeter. In their right hands they spin Buddhist prayer wheels. In their left hands they clutch wooden beads.

Buddhist prayer wheels come in many shapes and sizes, but these two are using small, handheld wheels. Each wheel sits atop a handle and has a weighted chain to help it spin. Continuous small motions of the wrist keep such wheels in motion for hours on end.

As they walk, the couple chant mantras, an important aspect of the Buddhist faith. A mantra is a religious saying designed to be repeated many times during

The National Memorial Chorten is a stupa located in the center of Bhutan's capital city, Thimphu. The word *chorten* means Seat of Faith.



meditation. Buddhists believe that such repetitions can cancel out their bad deeds. The more mantras they say, the better their chances of being reborn into a superior life after they die.

Inside the spinning prayer wheels, hundreds of mantras are written. The couple thinks that each spin of the wheel multiplies the efficacy of their recitations. They count their prayer beads to keep track of how many mantra repetitions they have accomplished.

## HOPE FOR BHUTAN

Many elderly people in Bhutan spend their days (and sometimes even their nights) at monasteries, spinning prayer wheels as insurance against the future.

Words of Hope's Bhutanese radio program producer explains the uncertainty of their situation: "Buddhists think that their bad deeds (karma) will be compensated and therefore their rebirth will be better than their present life. But they don't have any assurance or certainty about what will happen to their souls."

The country of Bhutan does not allow church buildings to be used by Christians. The government also forbids overt evangelistic efforts. But your prayers and





Large stationary prayer wheels (left) are spun with hanging ropes. Perimeter prayer wheels (below) surround the monastery grounds and are rotated by hand.



Men and women (right) circle the perimeter holding mani, or hand-held, prayer wheels.



support are now helping a handful of Bhutanese Christians to reach out to their monastery-going neighbors in new ways.

Words of Hope Bhutan's staff members travel the countryside to distribute the sure hope of the gospel message in ways their fellow citizens are ready to accept. Gifts of portable radios are popular with many. Recipients are given instructions on how to tune in to the Words of Hope programs.

Thanks to you, we have also been able to give hope in the form of gospel recordings on micro-SD cards and thumb drives. And the Bhutanese are responding to the messages of Christ that we share. A systematic discipleship program has already been set in place as a way to follow up with those who show initial interest in the gospel message. First-generation Christians are finally setting down their prayer wheels and looking with assurance and hope to Christ.

### WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We don't know yet if the elderly couple at the monastery will respond in faith to Christ. In many cases, our Bhutanese producer notes, elderly citizens show initial interest in the good news, but are strongly discouraged from converting by their children.

But we do know how important the decision to follow Christ is, in any season of life. And we know that we serve a God who can multiply our efforts at sharing the gospel to bring about sincere faith, even when such a change seems improbable or impossible to us.

We have faith in the words of Scripture, which say: "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).

Our Bhutanese producer puts it this way: "I don't know, but I pray and trust

the Holy Spirit to do the impossible in the hearts of these people. Such change of heart is not possible with mere human effort."

Thank you for supporting the local mission work that is being carried out by a faithful few in the country of Bhutan. As we pray, we trust the Holy Spirit to accomplish his saving work for the people of Bhutan. ■



# YOU ARE BUILDING *the Church In Niger*

## LOCAL OUTREACH

In the African country of Niger, less than one percent of the population identifies as Christian. But this staggering statistic

has not stopped local churches from setting faith-based outreach goals. In fact, the Evangelical Church of Niger (EERN) has a strategy to plant 52 new churches within the span of five years!

In order to lay the groundwork for their church planters, the EERN produces Christian radio programs with Words of Hope in the local tribal languages of the people they are trying to reach. Such broadcasts serve as an unobtrusive introduction to the gospel. The church-planting pastors provide contact phone numbers at the end of each program so that interested individuals can call the station with their thoughts and questions.

## NEW LANGUAGES

In addition to the widely spoken languages of French and Hausa, Words of Hope Niger is now broadcasting throughout the country in five additional tribal languages: Zarma, Fulfulde, Gourmantche, Kanuri, and Tubu. Such expansion is possible because of your faithful support.

While primarily Muslim, many in these tribes also retain aspects of traditional animism, or the worship of nature elements, in their religious practices. Among the Zarma, for example, cults, spirit possession, and demon worship are all familiar parts of local religious life.

## GOOD NEWS BY RADIO

Radio is the ideal tool for outreach to these people groups for a variety of reasons. The Fulfulde people are nomadic and carry radios with them from camp to camp, providing a unique opportunity for Words of Hope Niger to reach out to them through Christian broadcasting. The Gourmantche have extremely low literacy rates, so audio resources are especially important as they come to know the Savior.

Already listeners are responding positively to the good news shared on the radio! In the past year, 13 new churches have opened successfully, and Christian converts are receiving baptism.

Thank you for helping us to reach new people groups with the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ in Niger. ■

## THE PRODUCERS



**Hausa**  
HACHIMOU YAHAYA  
5.5 MILLION SPEAKERS



**French**  
RABO GODI  
2.2 MILLION SPEAKERS



**Zarma**  
DJIBRIL MOHAMEDINE  
2 MILLION SPEAKERS



**Fulfulde**  
BOUBACAR ALI  
500,000 SPEAKERS



**Kanuri**  
OUMARA ASSAN ELYSEE  
280,000 SPEAKERS



**Gourmantche**  
IDANI ADAMOU  
30,000 SPEAKERS

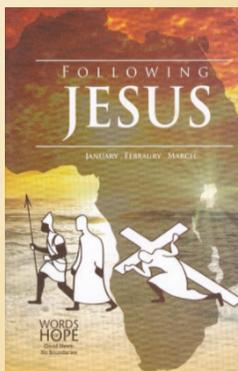


**Tubu**  
MOUSSA BOUBACAR  
10,000 SPEAKERS

# DEVOTIONALS FOR UGANDA

Words of Hope's daily devotional is now being printed and distributed in Uganda. In Uganda, good Christian materials are hard to find and expensive to buy. The Words of Hope devotional now provides Ugandans with theologically sound teaching. The booklets are available at a nominal fee that is charged to readers who can afford it and waived for those who cannot. The first print run of 10,000 copies was distributed by bus across the country in all 13 dioceses that partner with Words of Hope.

The original Words of Hope daily devotionals are contextualized by Ugandan editors to better apply to their own local readership, and devotional covers and ad pages are changed in order to direct Ugandan readers to Words of Hope radio programming and church services within the country. The next print run of devotionals will include devotional submissions written by local Ugandan writers that will coordinate with themes being addressed in Ugandan churches. Please keep Words of Hope Uganda and the many readers of this new devotional in your prayers. ■



## Words of Hope Daily Devotional

# TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

At Words of Hope, we value relationships, especially our relationship with you, our readers and supporters. We want to learn more about you, so that we can continue to serve you with inspiring devotionals every day.

At the link below, you'll find a brief survey. We have a few questions about you and what you think about the devotional. We will be using this information as we evaluate and plan for the future of this ministry.

*This survey is for readers of the Words of Hope devotional. If you don't read the devotional, we encourage you to try it! You can sign up for a free daily email subscription at [woh.org/devotional](http://woh.org/devotional).*

To take our short survey, visit:  
[www.woh.org/devotionalsurvey](http://www.woh.org/devotionalsurvey)

Christ is our hope throughout all of life. Ratih is a Words of Hope listener who lives on the island of Kalimantan, Indonesia. She belongs to a thriving listener community there—a group of 50 Christians who gather together in each other's homes to listen to radio programs and discuss them.

Because of your help, she was also given a radio of her own so she could enjoy listening to spiritual broadcasts and uplifting music in her own heart language, Dayak Ngaju. Since she was never taught to read or write, the radio programs have been an important source of encouragement for her every day.

Now Ratih is 68 years old, and has many health struggles. She shares, "I have undergone

surgery four times. At first I often asked, am I so sinful that I must experience this?" But the radio programs have helped Ratih to understand that her struggles are not punishment, and that God promises to be near her no matter what she goes through.

# In His Hands

"I often listen to the radio," she says. "All the programs confirm my faith in Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, who has saved me from sin. Now my health is declining. I get tired easily, and have to go to the hospital every month. I don't know when it will end. But through the radio programs, I am compelled to trust the Lord with all my problems. In his hands I feel peaceful and secure." ■



Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." — *Revelation 14:13*

## IN MEMORIAM

In the past year, Words of Hope was blessed to receive memorial gifts and bequests in remembrance of:

Calvin Andree  
Bob Bell  
James Blair  
Robert Boers  
Helen Bolt  
Henry & Jeanne Breederland  
E. Randall Brower  
Lillian Cook  
Clarence Crozier  
Wilma De Jong  
Peter De Young  
Peter A. De Young  
Harold Dykstra  
Jay Dykstra  
Virgil Dykstra  
Benjamin Fackler  
Donald Fieldhouse

Marian Folkert  
Marilyn Heetderks  
Walter Henrichsen  
Lavina Hoekstra  
Marvin Horjus  
Norman Idema  
Peter Igarashi  
Richard Johnson  
Phyllis Joosse  
Mollie Katsma  
Wayne Kiel  
Marcia Kirmse  
Betty Kruger  
Stephen Mitchell  
Jeanette Nagelkirk  
Esther Plantage  
Gladys Prins

Myra Ratering  
Andrea Ravella  
Ruth Rewerts  
Richard Ruch  
Gordon Schuiling  
Herbert Schuiling  
Leon Schultz  
Anita Silverstein  
Robert Sonneveldt  
Harold Steenbergen  
Angeline Streur  
Burton & Mildred Tempas  
Chester & Lucille Toren  
Paul & Florence Van Eenenaam  
Ruth Van Engen  
Kees Van Markenstein  
Bertha Van Milligan

Larry Van Milligan  
Mildred Van Oostenburg  
Herbert Van Vuren  
Marion Van Zandbergen  
Donna Veenstra  
Joan Ver Steeg  
Johanna Vermeer  
Alfred Vogel  
Robert Vollink  
Katie Vroom  
Michelle Wester  
Garrison & Elizabeth Wever  
Maxine Zwiers

**These generous gifts are helping to build the church in the hard places of the world.**

