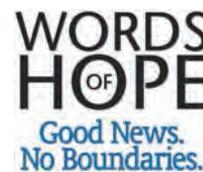


# WORDS HOPE

Good News.  
No Boundaries.

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# VISION & MISSION



## Introduction

Words of Hope was founded in 1945 as a U.S. broadcast ministry with a single mission: “To proclaim Jesus as the world’s only Savior.” This remains at the heart of what we do. But our mission and strategy have evolved through the decades. The strategic changes are outlined below. The change in the Mission Statement arises from the realization that the proclamation of the gospel is not an end in itself. It is the means to an end, the end being the growth of the church and the coming of the kingdom of God. So Words of Hope defines its mission the same way Jesus does his: to build the church (Matthew 16:18-19).

## Vision Movements over the Last Five Decades

Words of Hope has changed:

- From North American ministry to international ministry...ministry that embraces the need for Christian witness in the parts of the world that have less access to the gospel, especially through media.
- From “firing away” to following up...ministry on the ground, not just through the air.
- From radio only to various media...ministry that leverages new technologies to best reach new audiences.
- From partnering primarily with international parachurch agencies to partnering primarily with indigenous churches and organizations...ministry that emphasizes the local church as God’s primary means of communicating the gospel and making disciples.
- From focusing only on the production of radio programs (broadcast ministry) to focusing on the developing of Words of Hope-like media ministries in other places (mission agency)...ministry that helps churches start and sustain organizations that raise up and deploy indigenous Christian communicators and leaders.

## Mission Statement

***To build the church in the hard places by equipping indigenous Christian churches and ministries to proclaim the gospel, especially through the use of media.***

- **Purpose:** Our ultimate goal is to be used by Christ in building his church throughout the world (Matthew 16:18).
- **Focus:** We will focus on the world’s “hard places;” i.e. those places with least access to the gospel and/or fewest resources (human and financial) for media ministry.
- **Approach:** We will work with indigenous churches and ministries to help them equip and sustain Christian communicators who proclaim the gospel and teach the Word of God in the “heart languages” of their people.

- **Tools:** Media of many varieties; face-to-face gatherings and trainings; Words of Hope staff “champions” to do equipping of our international partners in specific areas of expertise and/or to facilitate such equipping through other experts.

## **Desired Movements over the Next Two Decades**

- Furthering the movement from broadcast ministry only to mission agency...ministry that fully embraces the implications and priorities that go with being a mission agency, i.e. ministry that focuses on helping the indigenous church to grow self-sustaining, self-governing, and self-propagating media ministries.
- From organization to movement...ministry that focuses on developing organizations and leaders that have the capacity to sustain and reproduce themselves.
- From supporting individual program producers to establishing working ministry partnerships with denominations, churches, and agencies...ministry that is genuinely collaborative.

# BELIEFS & VALUES



## Our Beliefs: What We Affirm

As a ministry in the reformed tradition, we wholeheartedly affirm the great Reformation principles: that we live under the authority of Scripture alone – our only infallible rule of faith and practice; that salvation is by grace alone through faith in Christ alone – the only way to eternal life; and that all we are and do is for the glory of the triune God alone – the blessed and only Ruler, from whom and through whom and to whom are all things.

As an evangelical mission agency, we wholeheartedly affirm the missionary principles expressed in the Lausanne Covenant (1974), in particular its statements on evangelism. “To evangelize is to spread the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, and that as the reigning Lord he now offers the forgiveness of sins and the liberating gift of the Spirit to all who repent and believe...In issuing the gospel invitation we have no liberty to conceal the cost of discipleship. Jesus still calls all who would follow him to deny themselves, take up their cross, and identify themselves with his new community. The results of evangelism include obedience to Christ, incorporation into his Church and responsible service in the world.” [The Lausanne Covenant, Section 4]

## Our Values: What We Hold to be Important

- **Media Ministry:** Our principal focus in the past has been the use of radio to communicate the gospel. Radio is universally available; it reaches large numbers of people, including those who are illiterate or living in “closed” areas of the world; and as a word-centered medium it is uniquely suitable for conveying the message of the Bible and its implications for all of life. Despite all the advances in technology, radio remains the primary medium for mass communication in most of the hard places we seek to serve. At the same time we are utilizing many of the new delivery systems for sharing the gospel that have emerged with digital and social media.
- **Literature:** Print and electronic distribution of Bibles and Christian literature is essential for evangelism and discipleship. We produce devotional and Bible study materials in English and distribute them in printed and digital forms. We enlist the cooperation of partner mission organizations to assist with follow-up literature distribution in other languages.
- **International Focus:** More than 90% of Christian media is produced in and directed to the United States. At Words of Hope we reverse that proportion. Most of our resources are invested in broadcasting in and to the rest of the world, with special emphasis on those peoples and languages with least access to Christian witness – “the hard places.”
- **Partnership:** We are committed to working in partnerships with other Christian organizations, churches, and individuals. Our goal is to enable national Christians to produce and distribute biblically focused media presentations in their own languages. Effective international ministry

can only be done through networks of partnerships. In many instances Words of Hope's partnerships have had excellent visible results, leading to the establishment of new churches and the growth of existing ones. We desire all our partnerships in media production to always be connected and committed to the growth of the local church.

- **Excellence:** We seek to promote the production of engaging, creative, culturally relevant, biblically balanced Christian media. We want to produce content that people – including non-Christian people – are attracted to because it is interesting and informative. We want most of all to introduce people to the word of God – both the written word and the Word made flesh.

## Historical Narrative

In 1944, the Rev. Howard Teusink, then pastor of the Trinity Reformed Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan, remained at home one Sunday morning too ill to preach. From his bed he turned his radio dial, searching for gospel broadcasts. After listening carefully, he became convinced of the need for a radio broadcast with a sound, well-balanced biblical witness to the evangelical Christian faith.

The consistory of his congregation overtured the Classis of Kalamazoo with respect to such an outreach, and the ministry of Words of Hope officially began under the name "Temple Time." The original articles of incorporation provided a firm foundation for the organization with the following statement of purpose: "to preach through broadcasting Jesus Christ as the only Savior . . ."

The first broadcast of the new ministry aired July 22, 1945, "live" from the Central Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. William Goulooze, then Professor of Church History at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, presented a message entitled "Consider Christ Jesus." Within months of this first broadcast, the gospel proclaiming work of Temple Time was soon adopted by three regional synods as their official broadcast.

A number of other Reformed Church ministers spoke on the program in its early years. The Rev. Harland Steele served as Temple Time radio minister from 1950-1952. Dr. Henry Bast, pastor of Bethany Reformed Church in Grand Rapids and later Professor of Preaching at Western Theological Seminary, served as radio minister from 1952-1972.

During Dr. Bast's time of service, Temple Time launched its first foreign language broadcasts: Japanese (1953), Chinese (1955), Russian (1958) and Spanish (1959). Temple Time also began production of a devotional booklet in 1952, entitled *Prayer Time*.

Glenn LePard, after a career in secular radio, became the Executive Vice President of the ministry and the announcer on its broadcasts in 1963.

In September 1972, when Dr. Bast's health was declining, Dr. William Brownson, then Professor of Preaching at Western Theological Seminary, became the Temple Time radio minister. His first broadcast was aired at Christmas-time, 1972.

The name of the broadcast ministry was changed in 1974 from Temple Time to Words of Hope. As foreign language ministries became more prominent, it was realized that the word "temple" in many cultures is customarily associated with non-Christian faiths. The staff and board decided upon "Words of Hope" as a title, which both avoided this difficulty and also pointed to the nature of the Christian message.

Also in 1974, production of Words of Hope television programs began with Dr. Brownson as speaker. These programs were originally presented on several national cable systems at no charge. Eventually, however, television time became so costly that in 1982, it was decided to stop production of Words of Hope telecasts. The staff and board had faced this decision: shall we, as a ministry with modest resources, become chiefly a North American television program, or shall we specialize in missionary radio? The unanimous choice of the Words of Hope staff and board was to do the latter. This proved to be a momentous decision.

Throughout these years, the devotional booklet, *Prayer Time*, continued to grow in popularity. Along with the ministry, its title was also changed to *Words of Hope* in 1975. Currently, approximately 90,000 copies of each quarterly edition are distributed worldwide.

In 1981, Dr. and Mrs. Brownson traveled around the world, visiting key broadcast facilities of Trans World Radio, Far East Broadcasting Company and the World Radio Missionary Fellowship (HCJB). The aim was to discover what the greatest needs were in missionary broadcasting and what overall strategy was in place to meet those needs. This was a rich and fruitful trip, but it became clear that the various broadcast agencies were operating independently with no shared plan for world evangelization. Words of Hope began to work with these broadcast partners toward closer cooperation. Since 1982, *Words of HOPE* has experienced an unparalleled advance in missionary broadcasting. Over 25 new foreign language programs have since been launched.

The major Christian broadcast agencies covenanted together in 1985 to form the *World by 2000* initiative, a cooperative effort to produce gospel broadcasts in all the world's remaining major languages (about 150 of them at the time) by the end of the century. Words of Hope has been active in this movement from the beginning. Approximately 80 megalanguages (a language with a million or more speakers) remain unreached with the gospel.

In 1985, Lee DeYoung joined the Words of Hope team after a career in secular radio to become the Executive Director. He has since become the Vice President for International Ministry.

The year 1990 witnessed the beginning of Words of Hope's fundraising campaign for increased missionary broadcasting entitled "World-Reach. This campaign, concluded in 1996, has enabled Words of Hope to begin 18 programs in languages previously unreached by Christian broadcasters.

Bill Brownson retired in 1994 and was succeeded by Rev. David Bast, who became Words of Hope's new President and Broadcast Minister.

In 2001 and again in 2004, through careful and thoughtful strategic planning with board and staff, Words of Hope expanded its ministry to the Muslim world. New programs are begun to Turkey, Iran, India, and Niger. A new theme is also adopted: "Building the Church Worldwide Through Broadcasting."

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen a growing cooperation between Words of Hope and Back to God Ministries International of the Christian Reformed Church. At present we have ministry partnerships with BTGMI for broadcasting to the Arab world, in India, and for both domestic and international English programs.

Today in more than 30 languages, Words of Hope is a leader in international Christian radio program production. For over 65 years Words of Hope has had one vision -- that of sharing Jesus Christ, the world's only Savior.

## CODE OF BYLAWS OF WORDS OF HOPE, INCORPORATED

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**CODE OF BYLAWS  
OF  
WORDS OF HOPE, INCORPORATED**

**ARTICLE I  
Identification**

**Section 1.1. Name.** The name of the Corporation is Words of Hope, Incorporated.

**Section 1.2. Purposes.** The purposes for which the Corporation is organized include the following:

- (a) to build the church worldwide by proclaiming Jesus Christ in the languages of the world's people;
- (b) to cooperate with agencies of the Reformed Church in America and with other Christian churches and organizations in the promotion of the kingdom of Christ;
- (c) to buy, sell, lease, and own real estate and personal property for the carrying out of the Corporation's purposes; and
- (d) to collect and disburse money for the conduct of the business of the Corporation.

The Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or equivalent provisions of subsequent United States Internal Revenue Laws (the "Code"). The Corporation may do such things and perform such acts to accomplish its purposes as are not forbidden by that Section of the Code.

**Section 1.3. Registered Office and Resident Agent.**

- (a) **Registered Office.** The Corporation shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Michigan a registered office which may be, but need not be, the same as its place of business.
- (b) **Change of Registered Office or Registered Agent.** The Corporation may change its registered office or its resident agent, or both, by resolution adopted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees. The change shall become effective on filing an appropriate form to that effect with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

**Section 1.4. Principal Business Office.** The principal business office of the Corporation is:

**700 Ball Ave. N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503.** The Corporation may change its principal business office by resolution adopted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Corporation may have other business offices, either within or outside the State of Michigan, as the Trustees may from time to time establish.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Board of Direction**

**Section 2.1. Election to the Board of Direction.** Two members of the Board of Direction (one clergy and one lay) shall be appointed or elected by each supporting classis of the Reformed Church in America. A supporting classis is one that agrees to encourage its member churches to support Words of Hope financially and through regular prayer, and to receive an annual report from Words of Hope at a regular scheduled classis meeting. In addition, the Board of Direction may elect up to nine (9) at-large members. Members of the Board of Trustees are also members of the Board of Direction. If a classis fails to appoint or elect a Board of Direction member, the Trustees may make an interim appointment. The interim shall serve until the expiration of the term for which he or she is appointed, or the classis entitled to elect or appoint the Board of Direction member does so.

**Section 2.2. Terms of the Board of Direction.** Board of Direction members shall be elected for terms of three (3) years. No Board member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. Service of less than one (1) year to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term of office. A member shall be eligible for re-election to the Board of Direction after being off the Board for at least two (2) years.

**Section 2.3. Duties of the Board of Direction.** The duties of the members of the Board of Direction are: to pray for and promote the work of Words of Hope, especially within their respective classes and congregations; to elect Trustees and Officers of the Corporation; and to approve the annual budget.

**Section 2.4. Removal of Members of the Board of Direction.** Any Board of Direction member may be removed, with or without cause, by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Direction members entitled to vote at any regular or special meeting.

**Section 2.5. Vacancies.** If a vacancy is created by the removal of a member of the Board of Direction, the classis that elected or appointed the removed member of the Board of Direction shall elect or appoint a successor to fill the vacancy created by the removal. If that classis fails to do so, or if the removed Board of Direction member was elected at-large, the remaining Board of Direction members may fill the vacancy.

If a vacancy is created by the death, disability, or resignation of a Board member, the Trustees may appoint an interim Board of Direction member. The interim member of the Board of Direction shall complete the unexpired portion of the term of the member of the Board of Direction he replaces.

**Section 2.6. Place of Meeting.** Meetings of the Board of Direction, annual, regular, or special, may be held either within or outside the State of Michigan. A member may participate in a meeting of the Board (or of a committee) by a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting may hear each other if all participants are advised of the communications equipment and the names of the participants in the conference are divulged to all participants. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this Section constitutes presence in person at a meeting.

**Section 2.7. Quorum.** A majority of the members of the Board of Direction entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Direction. The members of the Board of Direction present at a duly organized meeting may continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members of the Board of Direction to leave less than a quorum.

**Section 2.8. Notice.** Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Direction, or any meeting of any committee of it, shall be given at least ten (10) days before the meeting and delivered personally or given by mail, electronic mail, facsimile or telephone to each Trustee, or committee member, at his or her address, electronic mail address, facsimile or telephone number shown on the Corporation's

records. If electronic mail or facsimile notice is given, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the electronic mail or facsimile is delivered to the proper address or facsimile number. Any member of the Board of Direction may waive notice of any meeting by written statement, electronic mail, electronic voice message or facsimile sent by the member, signed before or after the meeting has been conducted. The purpose or purposes of any special meeting or committee meeting shall be specified in the notice of the meeting.

### **ARTICLE III Board of Trustees**

**Section 3.1. Number and Qualification.** The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of up to twenty-four (24) Trustees. The President shall be a voting member of the Board of Trustees by virtue of his office as President.

**Section 3.2. Election.** The Board of Direction shall elect the Trustees at their annual meeting. At least fifteen (15) days before the annual meeting, the Trustees shall prepare and submit to the Board of Direction a single slate of nominees for election to the Board of Trustees. Nominations shall also be accepted from the floor at the meeting. Trustees need not be members of the Board of Direction.

**Section 3.3. Vacancies.** A vacancy on the Board of Trustees may be filled with a person selected by the remaining Trustees.

**Section 3.4. Term of Office.** The term of office of Trustees shall be three (3) years. A Trustee may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. Service of less than one (1) year to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term of office. Each Trustee shall hold office for the term elected, and until a successor is elected and qualified.

**Section 3.5. Place of Meeting.** Meetings of the Trustees of the Corporation, annual, regular, or special, may be held either within or outside the State of Michigan. A Trustee may participate in a meeting of the Trustees (or of a committee) by a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting may hear each other if all participants are advised of the communications equipment and the names of the participants in the conference are divulged to all participants. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this Section constitutes presence in person at a meeting.

**Section 3.6. Quorum.** A majority of the Trustees then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The act of a majority of the Trustees present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Trustees.

**Section 3.7. Action Without a Meeting.** Action required or permitted to be taken pursuant to authorization voted at a meeting of the Trustees may be taken without a meeting if, before or after the action, all Trustees consent in writing. The consent has the same effect as a vote of the Trustees for all purposes.

**Section 3.8. Notice.** Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Trustees, or any meeting of any committee of the Board of Trustees, shall be given at least three (3) days before the meeting and delivered personally or given by mail, electronic mail, facsimile or telephone to each Trustee, or committee member, at his or her address, electronic mail address, facsimile or telephone number shown on the Corporation's records. If electronic mail or facsimile notice is given, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the electronic mail or facsimile is delivered to the proper address or facsimile number. Any Trustee may waive notice of any meeting by written statement, electronic mail, electronic voice message or facsimile sent by the Trustee, signed before or after the meeting has been conducted. The purpose or purposes of any special meeting or committee meeting shall be specified in the notice of the meeting.

**Section 3.9. Removal.** Any Trustee may be removed, with or without cause, at any meeting of the Board of Direction by a vote of a majority of the Board of Direction entitled to vote, or at a meeting of the Trustees by a vote of two-thirds of the Trustees then in office.

**Section 3.10. Interest of Trustees in Contracts.** Any contract or other transaction between the Corporation and one or more of its trustees or officers, or between the Corporation and a corporation, firm, or association of any kind in which one or more of its Trustees or officers have an interest, is not void or voidable solely because of such common interest, or solely because such Trustees are present at the meeting of the Board which authorizes or approves the contract or transaction, or solely because their votes are counted for such purposes, if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The contract or other transaction is fair and reasonable to the Corporation when it is authorized, approved or ratified.
- (b) The material facts as to such relationship or interest and as to the contract or transaction are disclosed or known to the non-involved Trustees, and they authorize, approve or ratify the contract or transaction.

Common or interested Trustees may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a Board meeting at which such contract or transaction is authorized, approved or ratified.

**Section 3.11. Compensation of Trustees.** The Trustees shall serve without compensation for their services as Trustees unless the Board of Direction authorized payment of reasonable compensation. The Trustees shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses they actually incur in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Corporation, upon substantiation of the expenses and approval of the Trustees.

#### **ARTICLE IV Officers**

**Section 4.1. Officers.** The officers of the Corporation shall be a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, President, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers and assistant officers and agents with such authority and responsibilities as the Board of Trustees may consider necessary. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

**Section 4.2. Vacancies.** Any vacancy occurring in any office by death, resignation, increase in number of offices of the Corporation, or otherwise, shall be filled by the Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee. Any officer so elected shall hold office until his successor is chosen and qualified.

**Section 4.3. Election and Term of Office.** The officers shall be appointed by the Trustees subject to the review and approval of the members of the Board of Direction at their annual meeting. The officers shall hold office until their successors are chosen and qualified, or until their death, resignation, or removal from office in the manner proved in Section 4.4.

**Section 4.4. Removal.** Any officer may be removed, with or without cause, by the Trustees, subject to review and approval of the members of the Board of Direction. Any such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person removed.

**Section 4.5. Resignation.** Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Trustees, or to the Chairman, President, or Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect upon its receipt by the Corporation or at a subsequent time specified in the notice of resignation.

**Section 4.6. The Chairperson.** The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Direction and the Trustees, and discharge all such other duties, which devolve upon a presiding officer as this Code of Bylaws provides or the Trustees may prescribe. The Chairperson shall have full authority to execute proxies on behalf of the Corporation, to vote stock owned by it in any other corporation and to execute, with the Secretary, powers of attorney appointing other corporations, partnerships, or individuals, the agent of the Corporation, all subject to the provisions of the laws of the State of Michigan, the Articles of Incorporation and the Code of Bylaws.

**Section 4.7. The Vice Chairperson.** The Vice Chairperson shall perform all duties incumbent upon the Chairperson during the absence or disability of the Chairperson and shall perform such other duties as the Code of Bylaws may require or the Trustees may prescribe.

**Section 4.8. The President.** The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of the Corporation and shall have executive management of the operations of the Corporation, subject, however, to the control of the Trustees. The President shall, in general, oversee and manage the work of the Corporation and all of its departments and activities and shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Trustees.

The President shall be appointed by the Trustees, subject to the review and approval of the members of the Board of Direction, and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Trustees, subject to any contract rights relating to the payment of salary or other benefits of the office.

**Section 4.9. The Secretary.** The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Trustees, and shall keep, or cause to be kept in a book provided for the purpose, a true and complete record of the proceedings of such meetings, and shall perform a like duty for all standing committees appointed by the Trustees, when required. The Secretary shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices of the Corporation and shall perform such other duties as this Code of Bylaws shall require or the Trustees may prescribe.

**Section 4.10. The Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for correct and complete records of account, showing accurately at all times the financial condition of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all moneys, notes, securities and other valuables which may from time to time come into the possession of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall furnish at the meetings of the Trustees, or whenever requested, a statement of the financial condition of the Corporation and shall perform such other duties as this Code of Bylaws may require or the Trustees may prescribe.

**Section 4.11. Salaries.** The salaries of the officers shall be fixed from time to time by the Trustees. No officer shall be prevented from receiving such salary by reason of the fact that the person is also a Trustee of the Corporation.

## **ARTICLE V Committees**

**Section 5.1. Committees.** Standing or ad hoc committees may be appointed by the Board of Trustees to assist in the supervision, management and control of the affairs of the Corporation. An Executive Committee and an Audit Committee shall be appointed at the annual Board of Direction meeting. The committees shall have the responsibilities and powers appropriate to the nature of the committees as provided by the Trustees in the resolutions creating the committees or in subsequent resolutions or directives. Each member of the Executive and Audit Committees shall hold office until the next annual meeting and their successor shall be appointed and qualified.

**Section 5.2 Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall be established as a standing committee of the Board of Trustees. It shall have the authority of the Board of Trustees between

meetings of the Board; provided, however, the committee shall not have the power or authority to: (a) amend the Articles of Incorporation; (b) adopt an agreement of merger or consolidation; (c) recommend to the Board of Direction the sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all of the Corporation's property and assets; (d) recommend to the Board of Direction a dissolution of the Corporation or a revocation of a dissolution; (e) amend the Bylaws of the Corporation; (f) fill vacancies of the Board of Trustees; or (g) fix compensation of Trustees for serving on the Board or a committee. The committee shall consist of the President and two (2) or more other members of the Board of Trustees.

**Section 5.3. Audit Committee.** The Audit Committee shall be established as a standing committee of the Board of Trustees to cause a suitable examination of the financial records and operations of the Corporation. The Audit Committee also shall recommend to the Board of Trustees the employment of independent certified public accountants to examine the financial statements of the Corporation and report to the Board of Trustees at least once each calendar year. The committee shall consist of two (2) or more members of the Board of Trustees.

## **ARTICLE VI Special Corporate Acts**

**Section 6.1. Authorization to Sign on Behalf of Corporation.** All deeds, mortgages, leases, and other written agreements to which the Corporation shall be a party; and all assignments or endorsements of stock certificates, registered bonds or other securities owned by the Corporation, shall, unless otherwise directed by the Trustees, or unless otherwise required by law, be signed by any two of the following officers who are different persons: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer. The Trustees may, however, authorize any one of such officers to sign any of such instruments for and on behalf of the Corporation, without the necessity of counter-signatures; and may designate officers, employees, or agents of the Corporation, other than those above-named, who may, in the name of the Corporation, sign such instruments. Any shares of stock issued by any other corporation and owned or controlled by the Corporation may be voted at any shareholders' meeting of such other corporation by any of the above-named officers of the Corporation present at the meeting; if none of the above-named officers of the Corporation is present, such person as any of the above officers shall, by duly elected proxy, designate to represent the Corporation at such shareholders' meeting shall exercise such authority.

## **ARTICLE VII Amendments**

**Section 7.1. Amendments.** These Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Direction, provided notice of the meeting and of the proposed amendment is given to each member of the Board of Direction as required by these Bylaws. The affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board of Direction present at a properly called meeting at which a quorum is present shall be required to approve a change.

These Bylaws were adopted on September 20, 2008.



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Tom Vander Lee  
Secretary

Adopted as of April 19, 1949  
Revised as of March 13, 1951  
Revised as of October 20, 1953  
Revised as of October 17, 1962  
Revised as of October 4, 1966  
Revised as of September 10, 1968  
Revised as of September 10, 1975  
Revised as of September 3, 1980  
Revised as of October 18, 1983  
Revised as of September 8, 1989  
Revised as of September 20, 2008

Revised as of March 28, 1950  
Revised as of March 18, 1952  
Revised as of October 14, 1955  
Revised as of October 15, 1963  
Revised as of September 12, 1967  
Revised as of September 11, 1974  
Revised as of September 6, 1979  
Revised as of October 19, 1982  
Revised as of September 11, 1987  
Revised as of September 9, 1994

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# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Rev. Jhonny Alicea-Báez, *Vice Chair*  
Reformed Church in America  
4500 60<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512-9670  
616-541-0881 (w); 616-350-8220 (cell)  
jalicea-baez@rca.org  
Term 1 - ending September 2016

Rev. David Bast, *President (ex officio)*  
1921 Concord SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
616-459-6181 (w); 616-617-4645 (cell)  
david.bast@woh.org

Mr. David Beemer  
5680 - 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Hudsonville, MI 49426  
616-669-8907 (h); 616-458-1391 (cell)  
dbeemer@terryberry.com  
Term 1 - ending September 2016

Rev. Jonathon Brown  
Pillar Church  
57 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Holland, MI 49423  
616-392-8686 x4 (w)  
jon@pillarchurch.com  
Term 2 - ending September 2018

Mr. Bob Bruxvoort  
551 - 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250  
712-722-2485 (h); 712-449-0120 (cell)  
bldmbrux@mtcnet.net  
Term 2 - ending September 2016

Dr. James Bultman  
741 Spyglass Hill  
Holland, MI 49424-2285  
616-786-9246  
bultmanj@hope.edu  
Term 1 - ending September 2017

Mr. Charles Damon  
300 Sligh Blvd NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
616-914-1161 (cell); 616-975-9951 x3130 (w)  
ced@dvbwlaw.com  
Term 1 - ending September 2018

Mr. Robert DeSmidt  
601 Ramaker Avenue  
Cedar Grove, WI 53013-1671  
920-668-6378 (h); 414-581-2020 (cell)  
robertdesmidt@yahoo.com  
Term 2 - ending September 2018

Mr. David Fieldhouse  
8975 W 1300 N  
De Motte, IN 46310  
219-987-4098 (h); 219-987-2500 (w)  
davecon@netnitco.net  
Term 2 - ending September 2016

Rev. John Kapteyn  
620 Thistlewood Drive, Unit 51  
London, ON N5X 0A9 Canada  
905-527-8764 (w); 289-237-4774 (cell)  
jkapteyn1@gmail.com  
Term 2 - ending September 2018

Mrs. Susan Kuiper  
632 Lake Drive  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
616-842-6552 (h); 616-402-0503 (cell)  
sukuiper@yahoo.com  
Term 1 - ending September 2017

Mrs. Judy Land  
2283 Byron Shores Drive SW  
Byron Center, MI 49315-8051  
616-878-1758 (h); 616-437-5485 (cell)  
landju@aol.com  
Term 1 - ending September 2016

Rev. Jonathan Opgenorth, *Chair*  
Trinity Reformed Church  
201 St. Paul Avenue SE  
Orange City, IA 51041-7450  
712-737-4542 (w); 712-737-2173 (h)  
jon.opgenorth@gmail.com  
Term 1 - ending September 2017

Mr. Larry Paarlberg  
20646 Bensley Avenue  
Lynwood, IL 60411-1541  
708-757-3276 (h); 708-721-3276 (cell)  
lpaarlberg@att.net  
Term 2 - ending September 2017

Rev. Steven Petroelje  
Woodhaven Reformed Church  
3959 68<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
616-532-0532 (w); 616-583-1967 (h)  
pastorsteve@woodhavenministries.com  
Term 1 - ending September 2017

Ms. Beth Snyder  
6169 Marquita  
Dallas, TX 75214  
703-307-4101 (cell)  
bsnyder@nms.org  
Term 1 - ending September 2018

Mr. Tom Stuit, *Executive Committee*  
1595 Sage Court NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525-9535  
616-942-8048(h);616-531-1900(w);616-813-0959(cell)  
tlstuit@gmail.com  
Term 2 - ending September 2017

Mrs. Eleanor Vonk, *Secretary*  
4948 North Quail Crest Drive SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-7539  
616-608-7856 (h); 269-275-0400 (cell)  
etvonk@aol.com  
Term 1 - ending September 2016

## **HONORARY TRUSTEES**

Dr. William Brownson, *President Emeritus*  
145 Columbia Avenue #658  
Holland, MI 49423-5707  
616-355-2287 (h)  
wbrownson@sbcglobal.net

Mr. Max DePree  
145 Columbia Avenue #539  
Holland, MI 49423-2986  
616-399-0967 (h); 616-335-9597 (w)

Mrs. Marjorie Maas  
145 Columbia Avenue #536  
Holland, MI 49423  
616-355-0692 (h)  
marjorie.maas83@gmail.com

Mr. John Myaard  
10900 Aspen Trail  
Zeeland, MI 49464  
616-233-2029 (w)

Mr. Richard Ruch  
145 Columbia Avenue #240  
Holland, MI 49423  
616-994-8239 (h); 616-395-0981 (w)  
Druch777@aol.com

Dr. Gordon VanWynen  
145 Columbia Avenue #600  
Holland, MI 49423-2980  
616-392-5635 (h)  
vanwynen@hope.edu

# BOARD OF DIRECTION



## Regional Synod of Canada

### British Columbia Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. David Zomer  
Powell River Reformed Church  
4372 Padgett Road  
Powell River, BC V8A 0T2 Canada  
604-485-9880 (h); 604-414-3796 (cell)  
davidzomer@yahoo.ca  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2018

#### Lay Representative

Mr. Alfred Kwong  
4471 Gander Drive  
Richmond, BC V7E 5R7 Canada  
604-277-0605 (h); 604-880-1838 (cell)  
kwongalf@gmail.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2017

### Canadian Prairies Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Pastor Albert Plat  
5210 - 47 Avenue  
Athabasca, AB T9S 1K3 Canada  
780-675-3458  
arcminis@telus.net  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2018

#### Lay Representative

Mrs. Priscilla Heidebrecht  
1634 - 30 Avenue SW  
Calgary, AB T2T 1P4 Canada  
403-561-7025 (cell)  
pbh@sbcglobal.net  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2018

### Ontario Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Leslie Boyd  
Grace Reformed Church  
241 St. David's Road West  
Thorold, ON L2V 2N2 Canada  
905-682-2092 (h); 905-680-4092 (o)  
gracecommunity@cogeco.net  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

#### Lay Representative

Mr. Robert Montgomery  
11 Stella Street, Box 1122  
Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0 Canada  
905-892-5631 (h); 774-238-8610 (cell)  
rsmontgomery@sympatico.ca  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

# BOARD OF DIRECTION



## Regional Synod of the Far West

### California Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Dr. Richard DeBruyne  
Lincoln Avenue Community Church  
1511 Lincoln Avenue  
Pomona, CA 91767-4435  
909-620-0626(h); 909-624-1281(w); 909-576-5214(cell)  
rdebruyne@msn.com  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2018

#### Lay Representative

VACANT

### Cascades Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Perry Raak  
3322 South 256th Street  
Kent, WA 98032  
253-839-5611 (h); 253-740-6744 (cell)  
perryraak@gmail.com  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2017

#### Lay Representative

Mr. Larry De Haan  
9846 Jackman Road  
Lynden, WA 98264  
360-354-3128 (h); 360-410-6836 (cell)  
stormhaaven@juno.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

### Central California Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Tim Arensmeier  
Sonoma Valley Community Church  
181 Chase Street  
Sonoma, CA 95476  
707-938-8100 (w); 707-738-2528 (cell)  
tim@svccrca.org  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

#### Lay Representative

### Rocky Mountains Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Phil Schuiling  
17699 East Hampden Avenue  
Aurora, CO 80013  
303-690-0143 (w); 303-250-6068 (cell)  
philschuiling@comcast.net  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2017

#### Lay Representative

Mr. Ray Pittman  
17052 East Amherst Drive  
Aurora, CO 80013  
303-690-1348 (w); 303-596-3924 (cell)  
karkwote@gmail.com  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2016

### Southwest Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Susan Hetrick  
PO Box 1472  
Sonoita, AZ 85637-1472  
480-993-9062 (cell)  
pastorsusanhetrick@gmail.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2018

#### Lay Representative

VACANT

# BOARD OF DIRECTION



## Regional Synod of the Great Lakes

### Great Lakes City Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Paul Wesselink  
6309 Scotthille SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
616-676-0592 (h); 616-666-2006 (cell)  
pauldwesselink@gmail.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2017

#### Lay Representative

Mr. Jim Wondergem  
2310 DeLange Drive SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
616-464-5704 (h); 616-514-0765 (cell)  
mjameswondergem@gmail.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2018

### Holland Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Kent Fry  
134 West 12th Street  
Holland, MI 49423  
616-392-1459 (w); 616-828-9040 (cell)  
kent.fry@trcholland.org  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

#### Lay Representative

Mrs. Leesa Schram  
1010 South Shore Drive  
Holland, MI 49423-4539  
616-335-8515 (h); 616-886-1965 (cell)  
leesaschram@gmail.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2017

### Muskegon Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

VACANT

#### Lay Representative

Mrs. Susan Kuiper  
632 Lake Avenue  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
616-842-6552 (h); 616-402-0503 (cell)  
sukuiper@yahoo.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

### North Grand Rapids Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Les Wiseman  
Knapp Street Reformed Church  
4025 Knapp Street NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
616-648-6214 (cell); 616-363-5078 (w)  
les@knappchurch.org  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2018

#### Lay Representative

Mr. John Jacobitz  
961 Oakleigh Road NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
616-791-6226 (h); 616-540-5813 (cell)  
johnjacobitz@aol.com  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2016

### Northern Michigan Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Peggy Byland  
6515 Mission Ridge  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
231-421-5269 (h); 231-349-5269 (cell)  
pabyland@gmail.com  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2017

#### Lay Representative

Mrs. Betsy Jasperse  
610 Iroquois Drive  
Fremont, MI 49412-1732  
231-335-2476 (h); 231-342-9305 (cell)  
eajasperse@yahoo.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2017

# BOARD OF DIRECTION



## Southwest Michigan Classis

### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Agshin Jafarov  
729 Whites Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
269-330-9027 (cell)  
ajafarov@yahoo.com  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2018

### Lay Representative

Mr. Al Jackson  
2410 Hunters Woods  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048-6104  
269-552-9681 (h); 269-873-8418 (cell)  
alanjudi75@gmail.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

## Zeeland Classis

### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Brian VanderWege  
Geneva Camp & Retreat Center  
3995 Lakeshore Drive North  
Holland, MI 49424-1104  
616-399-3150 (w); 616-886-9065 (cell)  
brian@campgeneva.org  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

### Lay Representative

Mr. Wayne Boeve  
4142 - 142nd Avenue  
Hamilton, MI 49419  
269-751-8283 (cell); 616-403-3308 (h)  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2016

# BOARD OF DIRECTION



## Regional Synod of the Heartland

### Central Iowa Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Mark Jicinsky  
411 Otley Street #127  
Leighton, IA 50143  
641-626-3451 (h); 641-781-0152 (cell)  
ebenezerreformedchurch@gmail.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

#### Lay Representative

Mr. Ron Dunsbergen  
103 North 5th Avenue  
Sully, IA 50251  
641-594-4263 (h); 641-891-0822 (cell)  
dunsfarm@netins.net  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

### Central Plains Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Victor Folkert  
Holland Reformed Church  
22005 South 96th Street  
Hickman, NE 68372  
402-890-7863 (cell); 402-792-2004 (h)  
vfolkert@windstream.net  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2016

#### Lay Representative

VACANT

### Dakota Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Fred Wilgenburg  
710 - 10th Avenue  
Valley Springs, SD 57068  
507-755-5235 (h); 605-201-9696 (cell)  
fred@centerofhopesf.org  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2018

#### Lay Representative

Mr. Brad Zomer  
41230 Rock Creek Drive  
Mitchell, SD 57301  
605-770-5088 (cell)  
bzomer@fnni.com; brdzomer@santel.net  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

### East Sioux Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Paul Van Maaren  
First Reformed Church  
1101 7th Street  
Sheldon, IA 51201-1808  
712-324-2130 (w)  
frcpastor@outlook.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2018

#### Lay Representative

VACANT

### Minnesota Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Nathan Huisman  
Chandler Reformed Church  
250 3rd Street  
Chandler, MN 56122  
507-227-8548 (h); 507-677-2248 (w)  
natehuisman@icloud.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2018

#### Lay Representative

Mr. George Bonnema  
601 Britz Drive  
Luverne, MN 56156  
507-283-4376 (h); 507-920-9809 (cell)  
gsbonnema@yahoo.com  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2018

# BOARD OF DIRECTION



## Pleasant Prairie Classis

### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Jack Ritsema  
Washington Reformed Church  
28182 Birch Avenue  
Ackley, IA 50601-9756  
641-847-2817 (w); 641-640-1720 (cell)  
washingtonreformed@gmail.com  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2016

### Lay Representative

Mr. Harvin Meyer  
18252 "H" Avenue  
Wellsburg, IA 50680  
641-869-5194 (h); 515-229-5944 (cell)  
meydan@agristar.net  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2016

## West Sioux Classis

### Ministerial Representative

Rev. R. Van Rathbun  
Central Reformed Church  
113 Main Avenue North  
Sioux Center, IA 51250  
712-722-1441 (w); 712-441-3681 (cell)  
van@centralreformed.org  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2017

### Lay Representative

Mr. Ron Boote  
2774 Harrison Avenue  
Hull, IA 51239  
712-439-2217 (h); 712-441-5225 (cell)  
rjboote@c-i-service.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

# BOARD OF DIRECTION



## Regional Synod of Mid-America

### Chicago Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Shane Sterk  
Faith Community Church  
910 Main Street  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
630-231-8230 (w); 630-777-7288 (cell)  
shane@faithchurchwc.org  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2018

#### Lay Representative

Mr. Earl Vander Wall  
11537 Lake Shore Drive  
Orland Park, IL 60467  
708-548-0190 (cell)  
earl@calvaryop.org  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2017

### Illiana - Florida Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Dan Jelsma  
American Reformed Church  
PO Box 366  
DeMotte, IN 46310-0366  
219-987-8067 (h); 219-987-5115 (w)  
pastordan@netnitco.net  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2017

#### Lay Representative

VACANT

### Illinois Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Ralph Beidler  
Spring Valley Reformed Church  
10960 Spring Valley Road  
Fulton, IL 61252  
815-772-3554 (w); 616-218-5010 (cell)  
ralph.beidler@gmail.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

#### Lay Representative

Mr. Richard Houzenga  
3187 Illinois Rt 78  
Thomson, IL 61285  
815-684-5313 (h); 563-212-0635 (cell)  
djhousenga@yahoo.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2016

### Wisconsin Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. John Ornée  
W2615 Riverview Terrace  
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085  
920-564-3434 (w); 616-283-3581 (cell)  
john@gibbsville.org  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2017

#### Lay Representative

Mrs. Sandra Tousley  
1108 Rock Avenue #13  
Waupun, WI 53963-1260  
920-324-5456 (h); 989-430-6878 (cell)  
tousley1@gmail.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2018

# BOARD OF DIRECTION



## Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics

### Delaware-Raritan Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. William DeYoung  
Harlingen Reformed Church  
34 Dutchtown Road  
Belle Mead, NJ 08502  
908-359-4705 (h); 908-745-9721 (cell)  
pastor@harlingenchurch.org  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2016

#### Lay Representative

Mr. Saleem Michael  
1859 Sanford Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19116  
267-667-8215 (h); 267-270-1422 (cell)  
smichael@students.nbts.edu  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2018

### Greater Palisades Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Dominick Apollo  
First Reformed Church of Palisades  
2420 Lemoine Avenue  
Fort Lee, NJ 07024  
201-837-6339 (h); 201-947-7240 (w)  
dominick.apollo@gmail.com  
Term 1 - ending August 31, 2018

#### Lay Representative

VACANT

### New Brunswick Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. David deForest  
95 Glenwood Drive  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724  
732-530-6462 (h); 732-747-1285 (w)  
office@rctf.org  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2018

#### Lay Representative

VACANT

### Passaic Valley Classis

#### Ministerial Representative

Rev. Sandra Sheppard  
60 Rhinesmith Avenue  
Wanaque, NJ 07465  
862-200-5810; 862-228-1547 (cell)  
pastorsandikay@optimum.net  
Term 2 - ending August 31, 2016

#### Lay Representative

VACANT

# INTERNATIONAL

## Overview

September 2015

# WORDS OF HOPE

Good News.  
No Boundaries.

Field	Production / Follow-up Partner(s)	Partner Location	Target Region	Population	Broadcast Languages	Broadcaster(s) (Distribution)	2015-16 Support Commitment
South Asia (India, Bhutan)	BTGMI, Good Books, Gaweylon, Transforming Leaders in Asia	India, Bhutan	India, Bhutan	1.3 B	Hindi, Dogri, Dzongkha, Garhwali, Kashmiri	TWR sw, FEBC sw,	\$ 303,254
Arab World	BTGMI, Middle East Reformed Fellowship	Cyprus, Egypt, Lebanon	Middle East	300 M	Arabic	TWR sw, BIBLE VOICE SW	\$ 257,172
Uganda	WOH-Uganda, [Anglican] Church of Uganda	Uganda, South Sudan	Uganda, South Sudan	38 M	Acholi, Alur, Bari-Kakwa, Bari-Kuku English, Luganda, Lumasaba, Luo Rukiga, Rukonzo, Runyoro, Rutooro	LOCAL FM	\$ 191,202
Turkey	Radio Shema, RCA Global Missions, WOH-Turkey	Turkey	Turkey	75 M	Turkish	RADIO SHEMA 98.0 FM, RADIO LIGHT 103.6 FM, SAT7	\$ 169,350
Niger	Evangelical Church of Niger, Remember Niger Coalition	Niger	Niger, Nigeria	17 M	Hausa, French	LOCAL FM LOCAL MW	\$ 134,771
Iran	TWR Canada, Thru the Bible Radio	USA, Canada, Armenia	Iran, Persian diaspora	110 M	Perisan (Farsi)	BIBLE VOICE SW, RADIO MOJDEH SAT, INTERNET	\$ 133,971
Albania	WOH-Albania, Radio 7	Albania, Kosovo	Albania, Kosovo,	3 M	Albanian	RADIO 7, RADIO EMANUEL, LOGOS	\$ 95,743
Sudan	Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, MERF, Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan, TWR Kenya	South Sudan	South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda	49 M	Dinka, Nuer, Bari-Kakwa	BIBLE VOICE BROADCASTING, LOCAL FM	\$ 74,085
Indonesia	BTGMI, Yayasan Komunikasi Bersama (YKB)	USA, Indonesia	Indonesia	250 M	Acehnese, Balinese, Batak Toba, Dayak Ngaju, Javanese, Minangese, Nias, Sumbanese, Sundanese, Tolakian, Torajan	LOCAL FM	\$ 60,000
South Asia (Tibet)	Gaweylon	India	Tibet, India	6 M	Tibetan (Lhasa dialect)	FEBC (BABCOCK) SHORT WAVE	\$ 34,000
South Asia (Nepal)	Cross-Way Church	Nepal	Nepal	27 M	Nepali	LOCAL FM	\$ 12,400

Words of Hope Budget | 2015-2016

	2015-2016 (Proposed)	2014-2015 Budget	2014-2015 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>			
Individuals	\$1,560,000	\$1,446,326	\$1,764,705
Website	\$700,000	\$715,000	\$622,385
Businesses	\$150,000	\$125,000	\$86,849
Partner Income			
<b>MERF</b>	\$53,721	\$53,721	\$53,721
<b>BTGMI</b>	\$104,000	\$104,000	\$104,000
<b>Reach Beyound</b>	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
<b>TTB</b>	\$24,000	\$0	\$15,110
Other	\$22,000	\$100,000	\$22,117
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,623,721</b>	<b>\$2,544,047</b>	<b>\$2,668,887</b>
Transfer from Restricted Investm	\$310,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Transfer from previous year	\$240,000	\$277,000	\$210,351
<b>Total Revenue Available</b>	<b>\$3,173,721</b>	<b>\$3,071,047</b>	<b>\$3,129,238</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>International</b>			<b>\$1,391,684</b>
<b>Arabic Ministry</b>	<b>\$257,182</b>	<b>\$234,471</b>	\$250,438
<i>Field Operations</i>	\$0		
<i>Ministry Leader</i>	\$62,582		
<i>Staff Costs</i>	\$18,000		
<i>Equipment</i>	\$0		
<i>Airtime</i>	\$175,000		
<i>Travel</i>	\$1,600		
<i>Misc.</i>	\$0		
<b>Iran Ministry</b>	<b>\$133,971</b>	<b>\$118,953</b>	\$75,359
<i>Field Operations</i>	\$12,550		
<i>Ministry Leader</i>	\$6,600		
<i>Staff Costs</i>	\$37,500		
<i>Equipment</i>	\$1,000		
<i>Airtime</i>	\$56,321		
<i>Travel</i>	\$0		
<i>Training</i>	\$20,000		
<i>Misc.</i>	\$0		
<b>Turkey Ministry</b>	<b>\$169,350</b>	<b>\$171,046</b>	\$165,790
<i>Field Operations</i>	\$10,800		
<i>Ministry Leader</i>	\$100,000		
<i>Staff Costs</i>	\$3,900		
<i>Equipment</i>	\$1,500		
<i>Airtime</i>	\$49,950		
<i>Travel</i>	\$1,200		
<i>Misc.</i>	\$2,000		
<b>Albania Ministry</b>	<b>\$95,743</b>	<b>\$100,042</b>	\$100,266
<i>Field Operations</i>	\$16,831		

Words of Hope Budget | 2015-2016

<i>Ministry Leader</i>	\$7,385		
<i>Staff Costs</i>	\$23,838		
<i>Equipment</i>	\$0		
<i>Airtime</i>	\$43,004		
<i>Travel</i>	\$500		
<i>Misc.</i>	\$4,185		
<b>Niger Ministry</b>	<b>\$134,771</b>	<b>\$148,300</b>	\$115,548
<i>Field Operations</i>	\$34,385		
<i>Ministry Leader</i>	\$6,594		
<i>Staff Costs</i>	\$23,461		
<i>Equipment</i>	\$3,000		
<i>Airtime</i>	\$61,431		
<i>Travel</i>	\$3,400		
<i>Training</i>	\$0		
<i>Misc.</i>	\$2,500		
<i>Ministry Expansion</i>	\$0		
<b>Uganda Ministry</b>	<b>\$191,202</b>	<b>\$167,518</b>	\$189,139
<i>Field Operations</i>	\$46,101		
<i>Ministry Leader</i>	\$16,376		
<i>Staff Costs</i>	\$71,194		
<i>Equipment</i>	\$3,500		
<i>Airtime</i>	\$45,960		
<i>Travel</i>	\$2,600		
<i>Ministry Expansion</i>	\$5,471		
<i>Misc.</i>	\$0		
<b>Dinka (South Sudan)</b>	<b>\$48,660</b>	<b>\$41,352</b>	\$72,197
<i>Field Operations</i>	\$4,100		
<i>Ministry Leader</i>	\$1,200		
<i>Staff Costs</i>	\$15,395		
<i>Equipment</i>	\$2,000		
<i>Airtime</i>	\$15,000		
<i>Travel</i>	\$4,000		
<i>Ministry Expansion</i>	\$6,965		
<b>Nuer (South Sudan)</b>	<b>\$25,425</b>	<b>\$74,000</b>	\$7,362
<i>Field Operations</i>	\$7,775		
<i>Ministry Leader</i>	\$0		
<i>Staff Costs</i>	\$8,400		
<i>Equipment</i>	\$1,000		
<i>Airtime</i>	\$7,250		
<i>Travel</i>	\$1,000		
<b>South Asia Ministry</b>	<b>\$303,254</b>	<b>\$295,274</b>	\$320,556
<i>Field Operations</i>	\$48,750		
<i>Ministry Leader</i>	\$30,000		
<i>Staff Costs</i>	\$80,450		
<i>Equipment</i>	\$7,000		
<i>Airtime</i>	\$94,354		

Words of Hope Budget | 2015-2016

<i>Travel</i>	\$3,700		
<i>Training</i>	\$7,000		
<i>Ministry Expansion</i>	\$6,000		
<i>Misc.</i>	\$26,000		
<b>Nepal Ministry</b>	<b>\$12,400</b>	n/a	n/a
<i>Field Operations</i>	\$0		
<i>Ministry Leader</i>	\$0		
<i>Staff Costs</i>	\$3,000		
<i>Equipment</i>	\$500		
<i>Airtime</i>	\$8,400		
<i>Travel</i>	\$500		
<i>Training</i>	\$0		
<i>Misc.</i>	\$0		
<b>Tibet Ministry</b>	<b>\$34,000</b>	n/a	n/a
<i>Field Operations</i>	\$18,500		
<i>Ministry Leader</i>	\$0		
<i>Staff Costs</i>	\$0		
<i>Equipment</i>	\$0		
<i>Airtime</i>	\$15,000		
<i>Travel</i>	\$500		
<i>Training</i>	\$0		
<i>Misc.</i>	\$0		
<b>Indonesia Ministry</b>			
<i>Field Operations</i>	\$60,000	\$60,000	<b>\$63,750</b>
<b>Chiapas</b>	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
<b>Misc. International</b>	\$6,000	\$5,000	<b>\$5,663</b>
<b>International Travel</b>	\$0	\$28,300	<b>\$25,616</b>
<b>English</b>			<b>\$109,491</b>
<b>Spotlight</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>	<b>\$15,595</b>
<i>Production</i>	\$5,000	\$13,000	\$15,595
<i>Events</i>	\$5,000	n/a	n/a
<i>Promotional Material</i>	\$0	n/a	n/a
<i>Mailing</i>	\$1,000	n/a	n/a
<i>Website</i>	\$10,000	n/a	n/a
<i>Misc.</i>	\$2,000	n/a	n/a
<b>Devotional</b>	<b>\$93,800</b>	<b>\$97,800</b>	<b>\$70,246</b>
<i>Writers</i>	\$12,800	\$12,800	\$12,075
<i>Editors</i>	\$8,000	\$0	n/a
<i>Printing</i>	\$55,000	\$50,000	\$58,171
<i>Mailing</i>	\$15,000	n/a	n/a
<i>Misc.</i>	\$3,000	n/a	n/a
<b>Books</b>	\$10,000	\$0	<b>\$1,666</b>
<b>Groundwork</b>	\$20,000	\$35,000	<b>\$21,984</b>
<b>Preaching &amp; Teaching</b>	\$3,000	n/a	n/a

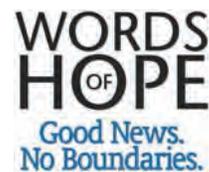
Words of Hope Budget | 2015-2016

<b>Advancement</b>			<b>\$79,896</b>
<b>Development</b>	<b>\$41,000</b>	<b>\$36,500</b>	<b>\$41,452</b>
<i>Travel-Todd</i>	\$8,500	\$26,000	\$7,090
<i>Travel-Tom</i>	\$6,000	n/a	\$12,619
<i>Travel-Bryan</i>	\$6,500	n/a	\$2,382
<i>Travel-Gary</i>	\$0	n/a	\$926
<i>Travel-Dave</i>	\$5,500	n/a	\$7,611
<i>Auto Expense</i>	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,184
<i>Trustee/Donor Events</i>	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,095
<i>Entertainment</i>	\$3,500	\$3,000	\$5,545
<i>Misc.</i>	\$3,500	n/a	n/a
<b>Communications</b>	<b>\$70,500</b>	<b>\$52,500</b>	<b>\$38,444</b>
<i>Direct Mailing</i>	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$34,737
<i>Postage and Processing</i>	\$6,000	n/a	n/a
<i>Print Resources</i>	\$8,000	n/a	n/a
<i>Website Development</i>	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$1,260
<i>Website Maintenance</i>	\$5,000	n/a	n/a
<i>Promotional Supplies</i>	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,447
<i>Video Production</i>	\$3,000	n/a	n/a
<i>Misc.</i>	\$6,000	n/a	n/a
<b>Operations</b>			<b>\$1,493,427</b>
<b>Staff Expenses</b>	<b>\$978,076</b>	<b>\$968,770</b>	<b>\$945,888</b>
<i>Staff Salaries</i>	\$841,076	\$833,907	\$801,408
<i>Payroll Taxes</i>	\$62,000	\$61,463	\$62,558
<i>Housing Allowance</i>	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$32,500
<i>403 (b)</i>	\$44,000	\$43,400	\$49,422
<i>Professional Development</i>	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>\$228,300</b>	<b>\$223,300</b>	<b>\$231,088</b>
<i>General Insurance</i>	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$13,525
<i>Group Health Insurance</i>	\$205,000	\$200,000	\$208,044
<i>Life Insurance</i>	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,914
<i>Disability Insurance</i>	\$4,300	\$4,300	\$4,605
<b>Building and Grounds</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>	<b>\$47,000</b>	<b>\$52,978</b>
<i>Building Maintenance</i>	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$14,458
<i>Equipment Maintenance</i>	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,184
<i>Utilities</i>	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$9,303
<i>IT Support</i>	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$26,033
<b>Tech. and Office Supplies</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$104,000</b>	<b>\$174,907</b>
<i>Postage</i>	\$30,000	\$53,000	\$42,380
<i>Mailing Supplies</i>	\$500	\$0	\$0
<i>Mailing Services</i>	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$18,764
<i>Computer Supplies</i>	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$6,304
<i>Offices Supplies</i>	\$7,000	\$8,500	\$3,212
<i>Telephone and Internet</i>	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,681

Words of Hope Budget | 2015-2016

<b>Annual Meeting</b>	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$39,215
<b>Annuity Payments</b>	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$14,615
<b>Bank Service Charges</b>	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$11,862
<b>Depreciation</b>	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
<b>Misc. Operations</b>	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$7,874
<b>Investment Income (Gain/Loss)</b>			-\$69,313
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,167,634</b>	<b>\$3,119,826</b>	<b>\$3,005,185</b>
		Growth	<b>\$148,810</b>
			<b>\$3,153,995</b>

# PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS



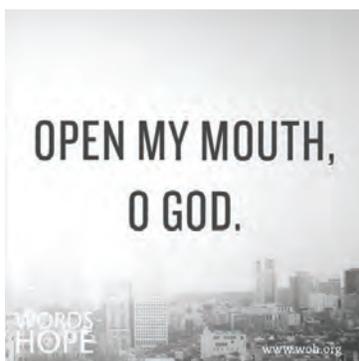
Visit [www.woh.org](http://www.woh.org)

for more information about our ministry fields, the latest news from around the world, and a database of newsletters, videos, and devotionals.



Words of Hope's videos can also be seen on our Youtube page.

[youtube.com/user/WordsOfHOPE](https://youtube.com/user/WordsOfHOPE)

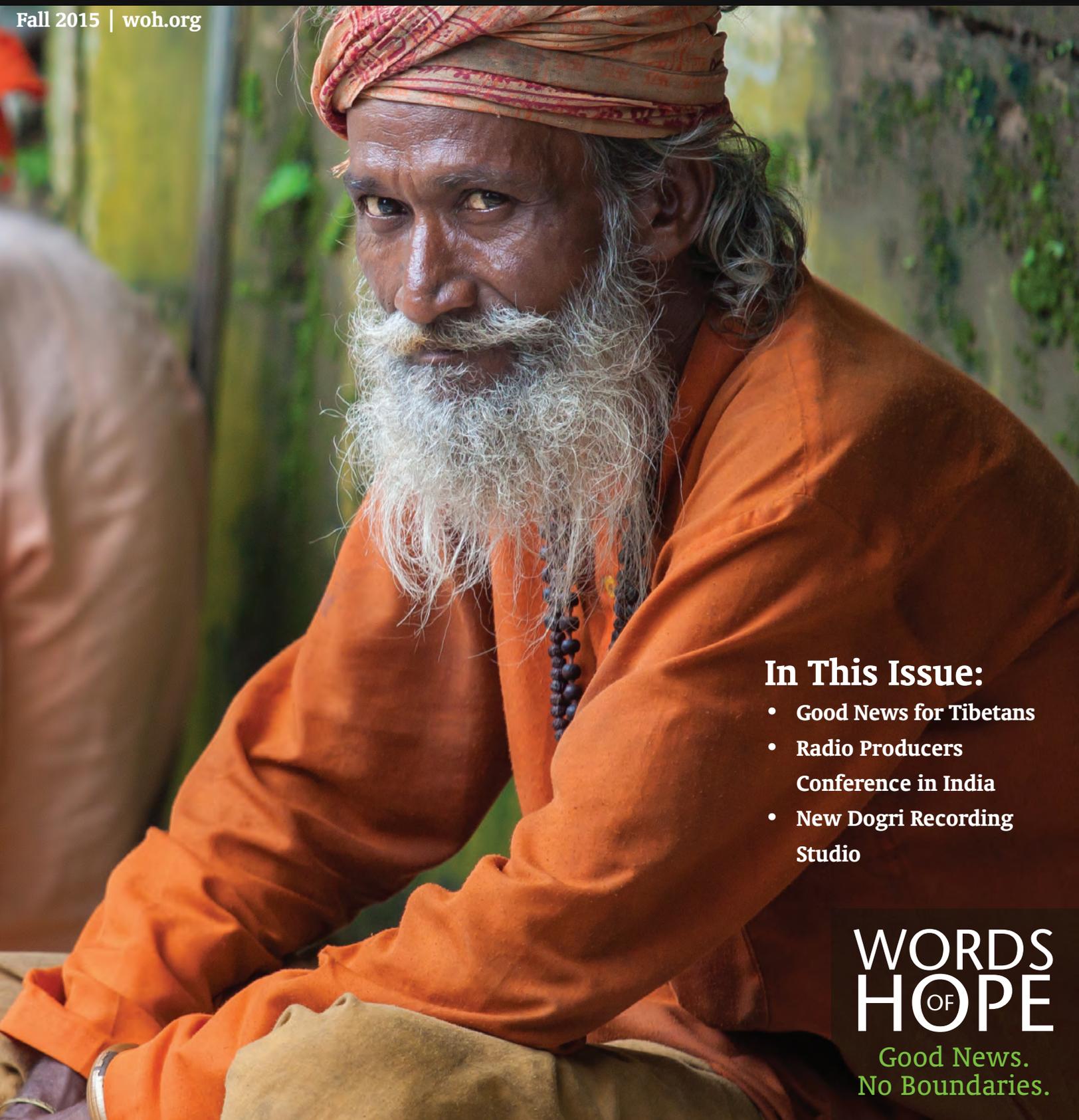


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[facebook.com/wordsofhopeDevo](https://facebook.com/wordsofhopeDevo)

# WAVELENGTH

Fall 2015 | woh.org



## In This Issue:

- Good News for Tibetans
- Radio Producers  
Conference in India
- New Dogri Recording  
Studio

WORDS  
OF  
HOPE

Good News.  
No Boundaries.

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

On the wall of the recording studio in the Words of Hope office hangs a beautiful hand-painted tanka. A tanka is a traditional Tibetan religious picture. It depicts scenes from the life of the Buddha, which fill an unbroken circle whose rim is held in the grip of a demon. The message is that life is an endless cycle of suffering that can only be escaped by achieving enlightenment as the Buddha did—but the escape is into nothingness.



Our tanka is different. It was given to us by our partners from Gaweylon. It conveys a different, Christian message. The circle is filled with scenes from the life of Christ. Its rim is not solid, but broken in two places—pierced by the light of a star shining from heaven down into Bethlehem's manger, and blown open by the risen Christ as he ascends into heaven. And the demon is no longer holding the wheel of life. His grip has been broken by a stronger power.

I often look at our Tibetan tanka painting when I go into our studio to record my own radio program, Groundwork ([groundworkonline.com](http://groundworkonline.com)). It's a powerful reminder, both of the good news we have to share with the world, and of the hard places that still need to hear it.



David Bast

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Tom Vander Lee Retires



At the close of 2015, Tom Vander Lee will be retiring after serving with Words of Hope for 21 years. His primary role at Words of Hope has been that of Operations Manager. "A goal of mine has been to maintain our financial integrity," Tom explains. "I have always felt that every gift given was special and needed to be used for the kingdom. I rejoice and am thankful for the years the Lord has allowed me to work. It has been a growing and rewarding experience."

While reflecting on Tom's time at Words of Hope, President David Bast notes, "I am so thankful for Tom Vander Lee's dedication and service over the past 21 years. Tom came to us at a time when his professional abilities and experience were greatly needed, and our organization benefited from his gifts in many ways during all those years. His commitment to the ministry and his willingness to assume whatever additional responsibilities needed to be undertaken were invaluable. Even more important was the love he demonstrated for Christ and the gospel. For Tom, Words of Hope was never just a job—it was a calling through which he served the Lord."



### Radio Producers Conference in India

Recently a training conference was held in Dehradun, India, for all Words of Hope South Asia radio producers. "The focus of the instruction was on how to make programs relevant and effective for potential listeners. Please pray that the skills learned may benefit the radio producers," shares Director A.K. Lama. One of the participants, Neelam Sonali Tirkey, reflects on her experience at the conference: "I learned how to make more interesting, effective, and powerful radio programs. It was a great opportunity to attend this kind of training program. I am very thankful to our Almighty God who has given me this opportunity to serve him and his people through Words of Hope."



### New Dogri Recording Studio

An office space has been turned into a recording studio in the heart of the Dogri-speaking area of Jammu and Kashmir in northern India. This studio will improve the efficiency of our Dogri staff, who previously had to travel to a different recording studio every two weeks (a journey that took four days roundtrip) in order to record their programs. The location of the studio will also allow our producers to get more local pastors involved as guest speakers for the broadcasts. The studio was recently dedicated for the Lord's service in a ceremony attended by local Christians who gathered to sing Dogri praise music and listen to a meditation from Words of Hope's Director for Ministry to South Asia, Dr. A. K. Lama.

WAVELENGTH Volume 4 | Number 4

WAVELENGTH is published quarterly by Words of Hope to raise awareness of the work being done around the world by our ministry partners.

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Words of Hope  
700 Ball Ave NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
1-616-459-6181  
[www.woh.org](http://www.woh.org)



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# GOOD NEWS FOR TIBETANS

Megan and Claudia talk with  
Words of Hope's Tibetan ministry director.

By Megan Nollet

## View from the Top

Our taxi winds up the narrow road, honking incessantly. Children and dogs scamper across the street, making way for the occasional car venturing up. Cows, considered sacred in this area, lounge in the road as well. They are not honked at, and rarely move, forcing cars to make way for them instead.

We are on our way to the Gaweylon Center, located at the top of the hill in Old Rajpur, just outside the capital city of Dehradun in Uttarakhand, India. Gaweylon is Words of Hope's Tibetan ministry partner, and Claudia and I are excited to visit their offices for the first time.

The Gaweylon (Good News) Center is the hub for all Tibetan outreach in the area. Up on the center's flat rooftop, we can see around for miles. Mountains peer out of the mist, women hang clothes on lines to dry, and Tibetan prayer flags wave in the wind like festive banners.



The Sakya Centre Buddhist Monastery  
near the Gaweylon Center.

## Ministry History

This part of northern India is home to many displaced Tibetan people. In 1950, China took control of the country of Tibet, and has since been eliminating elements of Tibetan culture, religion, and ethnic identity. Revolts and civil unrest are common. Many Tibetans have left their homeland to settle in the surrounding countries of India, Nepal, and Bhutan. Words of Hope radio programs are reaching them in all of these areas.

Sitting down with Anil Alfred, the director of Gaweylon, we have a chance to learn more about the nature of evangelism among Tibetans. Radio programs are the primary focus at the center. "Shortwave radio very easily reaches Tibetans despite restrictions, despite censorship," explains Anil.

Follow-up is another key aspect of the ministry. Through support from Words of Hope, Gaweylon is able to produce literature, CDs, and other resources that cover a variety of topics. They also help Tibetans in need and train and mentor young people.

Radio has proved to be one of the best means of making contact with Tibetans. People living inside Tibet scan their radios listening for programs in their own language. They are not happy to listen to the censored broadcasts recorded inside the country, and often search for alternatives. Shepherds take small radios out into the fields and tune in from there. Others listen to radio programs in their homes with headphones so others will not report them and so they are able to quickly change the station if necessary.

## The Appeal of Tibetan Radio

Tibetans are one of the least evangelized people groups, but Anil is optimistic. "I feel very strongly that God has called us to do something. When we sow, sometimes we don't see the results. But we sow the seed, and at the right time God will bring a harvest, a big harvest."

Words of Hope's Tibetan programs include health information, stories, jokes, Tibetan and Christian songs, and moral teaching from the Bible. Buddhist listeners do not find the Christian messages shared offensive, and often express appreciation for Jesus' teachings.

"We are very careful," explains Anil. "We don't have to compare Jesus to anybody. We don't talk badly about other religions. All we do is share the good news, and it is good news! We share the good news, and God touches hearts. We don't have to bring anybody down or up. Christ is risen himself, and he stands above."

## The Growing Church

Despite restrictions and hardship, we know that Tibetan broadcasting is having an effect. Anil shares that when a Tibetan makes their faith public, there is often a tremendous cost. Christians can be ostracized from the community and even kicked out of their own homes. But slowly and quietly, people are growing in the Lord.

**"WE SHARE THE  
GOOD NEWS, AND  
GOD TOUCHES  
HEARTS."**

"We've had many cases where we know we have touched hearts," Anil says. "That formal step of declaring faith takes time, though. God is at work, and sometimes we need to be more patient with people." If someone contacts Gaweylon asking to learn more about Christianity, they are connected to mature Christians for mentoring. Though Tibetan Christians are still few in number (in the low thousands) their churches are acquiring indigenous leadership and culturally unique worship patterns.

After leaving Dehradun we fly to New Delhi, the capital of India. There we are met by a Tibetan pastor who shows us around the city. He takes us to a small Tibetan colony where we shop for handicrafts and enjoy authentic Tibetan food. Before the meal, we pause to pray together.

Surely the grace of God is here, and the good news for Tibetans is spreading.

# TIBETANS RESPOND

Tibetans are listening to Words of Hope's programs, and many send in their responses. These good reports give us much reason for thanksgiving.

"All my life I have been a Buddhist and practiced Buddhism. I did not know much about other gods or religions. I have been listening to your program for many years, especially to the teachings of the Lord Jesus that you share in the program. I have now started to believe in the teachings. I thought that all messages were the same, but after listening to your messages, I know Christianity is different. Jesus is such a loving and caring God that he gave his life for others. If he can give his precious life for us, then he can give us everything."

~ Listener from a Tibetan Camp

"I am aware that Gaweylon is a Christian program. Some years back I and the leaders of the monastery wanted to stop the monks from listening to the program because of the Christian teachings in the program, as it would influence them. We later decided against it as the program had other very useful features on health, general knowledge, history, and culture, which was good for the monks and increased their knowledge."

~ Head Monk of Buddhist Monastery



"I listen to your programs regularly. You tell us to read the Bible every day and believe in it. The Lord Jesus gave his life and shed his blood on the cross for all of us. If we believe and accept his sacrifice for us, our sins can be forgiven. I now understand that I must believe. Jesus is different from all others. He is a kind and merciful God. My eyes are opened to many new truths."

~ Tibetan Monk

"I listen to your program regularly in Tibet. There are many others in my place who listen to your program. We are not allowed to listen to foreign stations, but people are eager for news and information. They listen in their homes using earphones. Many also listen while they tend their flocks in the fields. People listen on earphones as they are not sure who will report to the authorities. I like the Christian messages that you give in the programs. We get hope and peace while listening. Please share about health and sanitation as people in the rural areas of Tibet need health education."

~ Tibetan Farmer



# TIBETANS VOLUNTEER

Regularly, members of the Gaweylon team travel the countryside to meet listeners face-to-face, distribute radio program schedules, and provide people with printed literature and CD resources.

In the past year alone, nearly 20,000 health tracts have been distributed. Many of these tracts are printed in the Central Tibetan language—a special blessing for those who have been displaced from their homeland. The most popular tract educates readers about tuberculosis. Another sought-after handout explains the dangers of smoking.

Before distributing at a camp, Gaweylon workers visit the camp leader and request permission to give the tracts and CDs. Often the response is affirmative, but when a leader requests that Christian tracts not be distributed, their wishes are respected, and only health information is given out.

It would be impossible for the Gaweylon team to reach all the Tibetan camps themselves, but Tibetan Buddhists are now volunteering to help distribute health literature and Christian CDs in their own areas. Over 880 volunteers now help with the

distribution. A nurse living in one Tibetan camp in India even went door to door herself to distribute literature to all 2000 residents of the camp.

The willingness of our many Tibetan volunteers shows how worthwhile they consider these resources to be. We are thankful for their help that allows the good news to reach so many.



Gaweylon staff member distributes stacks of literature in a Tibetan colony.

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM DAVID BAST

I am writing with significant news both for me and Words of Hope. Last month I announced to our board my intention to retire in January, 2017, when I turn 66. I believe that after more than 20 years as president it is time for the organization to have new leadership, though I do hope to continue in ministry in some way, and to have an ongoing, supportive involvement with Words of Hope.

The board has formed a search committee. It is a wonderful team, whose members have great wisdom and experience, knowledge of our work, and love for the Lord and his church. They will be praying and working together during the coming year, and I would like to ask you to join them.

Please pray for the committee and their search. And, if you know of a person you think would make a good leader for

Words of Hope, share that name—or any other thoughts you have—with the search committee. Write to:

Mr. Skip Pylman  
99 Monroe Ave NW  
Suite 800  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Email: [nhpylman@gmnp.com](mailto:nhpylman@gmnp.com)

Thank you so much for the support you have given to Words of Hope. It has been such a personal encouragement to me. But I believe that with God's blessing, the best is yet to come!

Sincerely,

## Words of Hope proclaims the gospel through media in order to build the church.

**We rely primarily on radio** because it is universally available, does not require literacy, and is the staple means for conveying news and entertainment throughout the developing world. As newer forms of communication technology become more popular in these countries, we work to share the unchanging message of Scripture in additional media formats.

**We work in heart languages** because people need to hear the gospel in the language they know best.

**We partner with indigenous denominations,** churches, and other Christian organizations to provide local follow-up and connect listeners to church families.

**We work in hard places** where ministry is difficult because of poverty, geographical challenges, or restricted religious freedom.



### **We know that prayer is powerful and effective!**

Visit the Words of Hope website to sign up for our quarterly newsletter, the *Wavelength*. You will learn about the challenges and triumphs facing the gospel today so that you can support the ministry with prayer.



**The more people you tell** about the ministry of Words of Hope, the more people will be reached with the gospel of Christ! Sign up to receive Words of Hope's monthly eNewsletter, the *Shortwave*. The condensed stories in this resource can easily be shared on social media, forwarded through email, or shared with friends face-to-face!



**When you support the ministry** of Words of Hope financially, you are providing a living wage for media missionaries around the world who are reaching people with saving good news! You are also financing the purchase of communication tools like radio station time, recording equipment, and audio Scriptures.

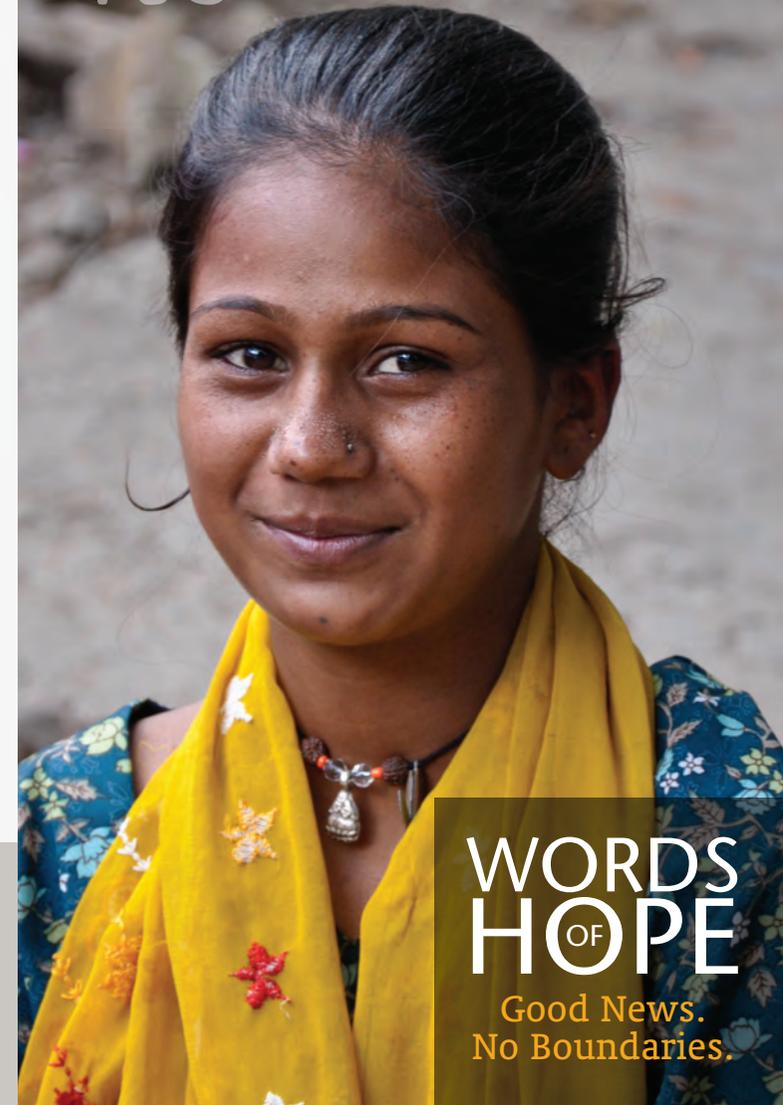
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# 4.7 BILLION PEOPLE

have never heard about Jesus.

**YOU** can introduce them.



**WORDS OF HOPE**  
Good News.  
No Boundaries.

# YOU CAN...

## Extend Your Reach *through technology*

So many of the world's unreached people live in hard-to-reach areas of the world—places you will likely never get to visit in person. But through Words of Hope, you can share the gospel with people who live at the ends of the earth! Twenty-first-century technology enables you to share radio, podcasts, and digital recordings of Scripture and Bible teachings with the people who need to hear them most.

## Multiply Your Impact *with partnership*

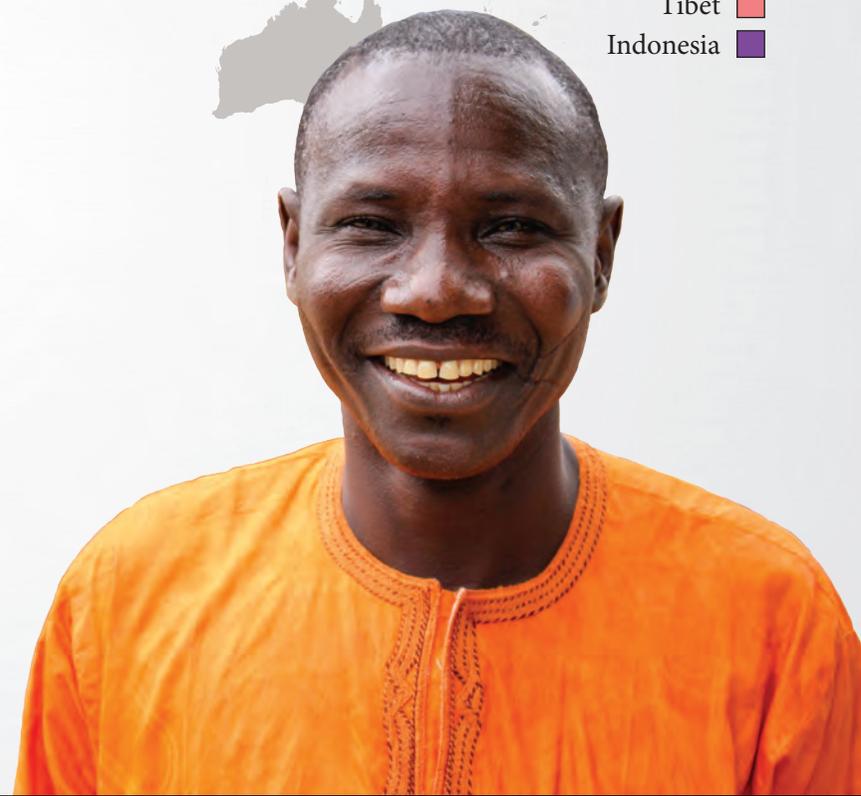
How many people can you reach with the gospel? Quite a lot! Words of Hope connects you to a large network of international missionaries, churches, and Christian organizations working to reach people in their own countries. Hundreds of thousands of individuals have heard the gospel because of the evangelism network of Words of Hope. Partner with us so that more people can learn about Jesus in their own languages.

## Build the Church *with Words of Hope*

Since Words of Hope partners with local organizations around the world, follow-up is only a phone call or text message away for anyone who wants to take the next step of faith. Media allows many to hear the gospel daily. Media also allows us to connect personally with each individual who wants to commit to Christ so that we in turn can connect them with a body of believers in their area, or provide them with resources to start a house church.

## Where We Work

- North America
- Albania
- Turkey
- Iran
- Arab World
- Niger
- South Sudan
- Uganda
- India
- Nepal
- Bhutan
- Tibet
- Indonesia



## Director Update

Pray for those who commit their lives to Christ through our ministry. Pray that they might find a local church and grow in their life as followers of Christ.

Our efforts are ongoing to expand our ministry in new and creative ways to further the gospel.

Our newest project is to convert 365 testimonies into a devotional. Many local leaders from Albania and Kosovo are contributing to this project. We are also seeking to provide audio players with our programs and the Albanian Bible for people in local churches who cannot read or see.

Two churches in Tirana have recently started hosting Spotlight English Clubs. Pray that God will use this tool to give



**Erion Prendi**  
Director, WOH Albania

more opportunities to the local church to engage in Spirit-filled conversations with non-believers.

We continue to support many pastors and leaders involved in church planting. Pray that our team at Words of Hope Albania will be sensitive to the voice of the Spirit and know how to help accordingly.



## ALBANIA

Albania is a hard place. One of the poorest nations in Europe, Albania was ruled by a hard-line Communist party for many years. Under this regime, no religion was allowed to exist within the country. This meant that all religious activities such as listening to gospel broadcasts were strictly forbidden. Thankfully, when Communism lost power in the 1990s, the religious ban was also lifted, and legal provisions were made for religious freedom. Having been liberated from the government mandate of atheism, 62% of the population now identifies as Muslim and 30% as Christian. The Albanian church is growing, and indigenous Christian leadership is impacting communities with the gospel. Albania has a long way to go to recover completely from the devastating impact of atheistic Communism, but today, thanks to Words of Hope's supporters, Albanians can listen freely to Christian radio broadcasts. With additional media tools ranging from print devotionals to smartphone apps, Words of Hope is bringing the good news of Jesus into the hearts and homes of Albanians.

### WHO WE ARE

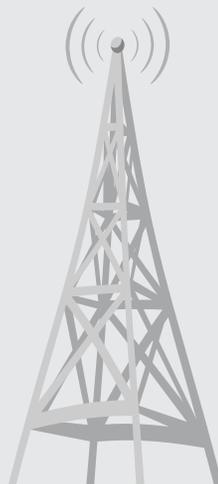
Words of Hope is an international media ministry founded by supporting classes of the Reformed Church in America.

### OUR MISSION

Words of Hope's mission is to build the church in the hard places by equipping indigenous Christian churches and ministries to proclaim the gospel, especially through the use of media.

### WHY WE WORK

Words of Hope believes it is the joyful responsibility of all Christians to bring others to Christ and encourage one another in the life of discipleship. Christ died to offer salvation, and we want the world to know!





The staff at Words of Hope's partner radio station

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“I want to thank you for having such good ideas. Whenever I get five free minutes, I can open the app and be inspired. I thank you wholeheartedly because you are the balm of my heart.”

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## Ministry Background

Words of Hope began ministering in Albania in 1987. Our first producer worked from outside the country due to the hostile environment towards Christianity that existed at the time. Our current Albanian team has been openly working inside the country to share the gospel since 2007.

The broadcaster who voices many of our Albanian programs today came to Christ when he heard an early Words of Hope broadcast as a young man. Now he shares his faith in a much more open environment.

## Building the Church

Words of Hope is building the church in Albania by giving those curious about Christianity a safer way to explore the faith. Many people still experience strong social pressure from their family and friends if they visit a church building. Radio programs and smartphone apps provide an easier first step for those curious about the faith.

Churches in the region are also partnering with Words of Hope to lead English conversation clubs. Some of the radio programs we broadcast in Albania are in Specialized English—a form of English with a simplified vocabulary. The programs are voiced slowly, made specifically with English-learners in mind. This provides existing congregations with a holistic outreach method that helps them connect with people who are currently unchurched.

## How You Can Help!

Words of Hope Albania is able to share the truths of Scripture in this formerly atheist country because our donors faithfully remember us with gifts and prayers. Thank you for your interest in carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth with us! When you give to Words of Hope, you help provide:

- Air-time and production staff for the radio broadcasts
- Translation services for print devotionals
- Software development for discipleship smartphone apps
- Quality sound-recording equipment
- Increasing broadcast efforts into neighboring Kosovo

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“Words of Hope programs seem to fit well with our reality. The simple language used by the speaker on the radio makes the message the Bible gives even more understandable. It is a real blessing to have the opportunity to hear Christian radio in our city.”

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## ALBANIA AT A GLANCE

**Capital City:** Tirana

**Population:** 3 million

**Urban Population:** 52%

**Official Language:** Albanian

**Religion:** 62% Muslim, 30% Christian

**Life Expectancy:** 76.5 years

**Population Under 15:** 24%

**Population Growth Rate:** 0.3%



## Director Update

I aim to see that our staff and producers, who are currently engaged in four different language broadcasts, are excited about what they are doing. I want them to become even more passionate about it. This is why we are starting to have producer training workshops to improve the quality of the programs. I want to see our programs become much more effective and reach more listeners. That is my hope.

India is such a large country with 1.25 billion people that speak some 300 languages. I want to see us pioneer some of the new frontiers where the gospel has not yet reached. We recently appointed two new producers, and I hope that we will be able to reach out to other new people groups soon. Finally, we need to strengthen our



**Rev. Dr. Ajoy Kumar Lama**  
Director of Ministry to South Asia

network with the churches. We want the churches to become our partners in reaching out to these unreached places. We can help to strengthen and mentor the churches. As we build good networks and partnerships with churches, they help us to follow up with radio listeners. We aim to see all our listeners join existing churches.



## SOUTH ASIA

South Asia is a hard place to do ministry. More unreached people live here than anywhere else on earth. In many areas of northern India and Bhutan, less than 1% of the population is Christian. Remnants of a harsh caste system make evangelism here particularly difficult. Low-caste individuals who embrace Christianity may become ostracized even more, while higher-caste members of society see little need to follow the humbler example of Christ. Good education and health services are also limited inside the region. (A mere 55% of women are able to read, and overall life expectancy in the country is a shockingly low 63 years.) Despite the many challenges to sharing the gospel that exist in South Asia, through radio and the hard work of pastors and lay leaders, Christ is drawing hearts to himself. Thanks to the generosity of Words of Hope supporters, broadcasts in four different heart languages can be heard by those who still need to learn the truth.

### WHO WE ARE

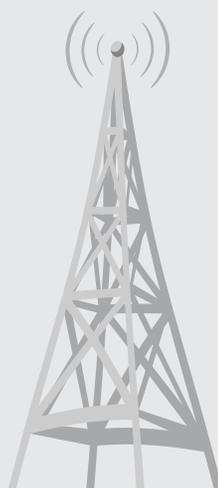
Words of Hope is an international media ministry founded by supporting classes of the Reformed Church in America.

### OUR MISSION

Words of Hope's mission is to build the church in the hard places by equipping indigenous Christian churches and ministries to proclaim the gospel, especially through the use of media.

### WHY WE WORK

Words of Hope believes it is the joyful responsibility of all Christians to bring others to Christ and encourage one another in the life of discipleship. Christ died to offer salvation, and we want the world to know!





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“Radio is my teacher! Through radio programs, I came to know the gospel and became a Christian.”

---

## Ministry Background

Our ministry in India began in the 1960s with an organization called Good Books Educational Trust (GBET) that established Christian bookstores. Words of Hope began working with GBET in 1978 in order to provide Christian radio programming and publications. In 2009, Back to God Ministries International joined the partnership to expand the reach of the ministry.

The first programs were broadcast in the Hindi language. Additional broadcasts have since been added in the languages of Dogri, Garhwali, and Dzongkha.

## Building the Church

Words of Hope is building the church in South Asia through radio broadcasting. Following programs, producers give out their cell phone numbers so that listeners can contact them personally. Listeners are then connected to a nearby church congregation where they can be further nurtured in their faith. Churches that were almost dead have been experiencing new growth as a result of the radio programs.

In Bhutan, where church buildings are not allowed, the program producer organizes Christian support groups that travel to visit new listeners to help disciple them in community. Baptism is offered to new converts, and Christians can enjoy fellowship even though they are forced to keep their conversion a secret from the authorities.

## How You Can Help!

Words of Hope South Asia is able to share the good news of the gospel with those who need to hear it most because faithful supporters like you are upholding our ministry efforts with prayers and donations. Thank you for helping us reach the hard places with the love of Christ! When you give to Words of Hope you are helping to provide:

- Air-time for the radio programs
- Training for radio producers
- Quality studio recording equipment
- Community outreach in listener areas
- CD distribution



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“I was a non-Christian, and one day I listened to the radio programs. The producer said that in order to receive peace, one must receive Christ. I called and said I wanted to know about Jesus. I left the old traditions and took baptism. I am very thankful to the Lord Jesus.”

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## SOUTH ASIA AT A GLANCE

### BHUTAN

**Capital City:** Thimphu

**Population:** 970,000

**Official Languages:** Dzongkha, Tibetan and Nepali dialects

**Religion:** 75% Buddhist, 22% Hindu, 2% Christian

### INDIA

**Capital City:** New Delhi

**Population:** 1.25 billion

**Official Languages:** There are 22 official languages; Hindi is most widely spoken.

**Religion:** 74% Hindu, 14% Muslim, 6% Christian



### Leadership Update

Communication in Indonesia is very limited. Many areas still lack electricity. Radio is very important. It is helpful that people can listen to the Word of God every day by radio.

~ Local pastor

More and more I am realizing the importance of broadcasting programs in local tribal languages.

~ Production team leader

The listeners feel that the message is very close to them, and the teachings do not sound strange in their ears.

~ Production team leader



The staff at YKB

I hope that through these radio broadcasts, people will be proud of their languages. Parents can teach their children the tribal languages, and the languages will be preserved. The radio broadcast is very important.

~ Program producer



## INDONESIA

Indonesia is a hard place to do ministry. Made up of 17,500 islands (6,000 of which are inhabited) the country of Indonesia is incredibly diverse in language, culture, and religion. The population is 80% Muslim and 16% Christian, but the religious climate here varies greatly from one island to the next, with some strong pockets of Christianity and others of Hinduism and Animism. Though recognized as one of the official religions of the country, Christianity is often overshadowed by Islam's greater numbers and positions in power. Islam is given preferential treatment, and Christian activities are often limited. Christians may be subjected to threats and violence because of their faith. And yet, even in this hard place, the gospel of Jesus Christ is gaining a foothold through radio because of the generosity of Words of Hope supporters. Broadcasts in eleven different tribal languages can now be heard in this island country, bringing a geographically separated church together under one shared gospel of grace.

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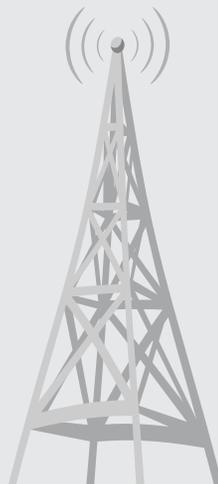
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“What a surprise for me to listen to the radio programs in the Dayak Ngaju language. I’ve never before heard Christian teachings in Dayaknese.”

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## Ministry Background

Since 2011, Words of Hope has been ministering in Indonesia with YKB (Foundation of Joint Venture and Communication) and Back to God Ministries International. YKB has been doing media ministry in Indonesia for over 40 years.

YKB produces Christian radio programs in the national language of Indonesian. Words of Hope producers then work to translate two YKB programs (“Majestic Plan” and “Guidance for Living”) into eleven different tribal heart languages that are broadcast to specific islands.

## Building the Church

Words of Hope is building the church in Indonesia by organizing listener communities throughout the country. These communities have become essential to church growth and faith formation within the country. Nearly 300 listener communities have already begun, in which people gather to listen to and discuss the radio programs together.

These communities are facilitated by a trained coordinator so that listeners can talk, ask questions, and have fellowship with other Christians in their area. Sometimes these communities serve as the start of a new church plant; sometimes the community is coordinated as a small discipleship group within an existing church congregation. Our coordinators report that individuals who join listener communities grow more quickly in their faith.

## How You Can Help!

Words of Hope Indonesia is able to share the good news of the gospel throughout the many islands of Indonesia because of the faithful prayers and support of our many donors. Thank you for caring about the millions of Indonesians who still need to be introduced to Jesus for the first time! When you give to Words of Hope, you help provide:

- Air-time for the radio programs
- Translation and production for the tribal language broadcasts
- Training for the listener community coordinators
- Quality sound-recording equipment
- A living wage for hard-working indigenous staff

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“Radio is a very effective way to reach all the regions. I once worked in a rural area where the only media of information was through radio. The gospel has brought very positive impacts not only in our faith, but also in education.”

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## INDONESIA AT A GLANCE

**Capital City:** Jakarta

**Population:** 250 million

**Urban Population:** 52%

**Religion:** 80% Muslim,  
16% Christian

**Median Age:** 28 years

**Official Language:** Bahasa Indonesia, more than 700 distinct languages and people groups in Indonesia



## Director Update

Christianity in Turkey has deep historical and cultural roots. However, it is a country where 97% of the more than 70 million people adhere to Islam. Though the country maintains religious freedom, it has one of the lowest percentages of Christians worldwide, with only about 7,000 evangelicals.

Since Christians represent only a small fraction of the current population, reaching large masses with the gospel is an important, formidable task. People in Turkey are desperately in need of good news!

Our vision is to build the capacity of local Turkish believers to create a wide range of quality Christian programming for broadcasting throughout Turkey. We need Turkish Christians to emerge as leaders!

Pray that the programs produced will continue to be relevant to what God is doing in this country. Please also pray for guidance as we seek to expand Turkish ministry into new areas of the country.



**Haluk Bilgen**  
Director, WOH Turkey



## TURKEY

Turkey is a hard place. The original birth-place of the early church and a center of Christianity for over 1,000 years, modern-day Turkey has transformed completely. Nearly 97% of the current population is at least nominally Muslim. Only 7,000 evangelical Christians remain. Few Muslims living in Turkey have ever heard a thorough or truthful representation of the gospel. In fact, Islam is so ingrained in Turkish life that many people say that to be a Turk is to be a Muslim, and to convert to Christianity is treason. The sad history of the Crusades cemented an enmity towards Christianity that still persists today. And yet, even in this very hard place, the church is slowly growing. Dedicated supporters of Words of Hope are making it possible to reach out from within the region with both Christian television and radio programs that are connecting Turkish people to life-changing good news.

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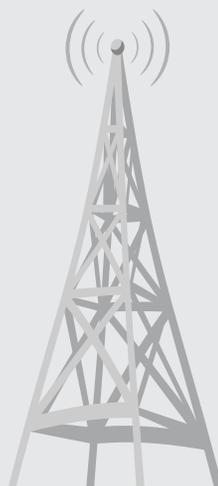
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“God has touched my heart, but you were the ones who started me on this, so thank you very much. I want to see my new brothers and sisters and go to church.”

---

## Ministry Background

Words of Hope has been ministering in Turkey since 2002. The country has an oral culture. This means that Turks often prefer information that is passed along verbally—through radio or television—over written communications. This gives Words of Hope in Turkey a distinct advantage, since the spoken content helps tear down existing stereotypes about Christianity.

Words of Hope partners in Turkey with two Christian radio stations and a satellite TV channel to reach the country with Turkish Bible studies, Spotlight English programs, and Christian music in both English and Turkish.

## Building the Church

Words of Hope Turkey is building the church through radio by spreading the gospel across the country. Media, especially radio, is seen by pastors in the region to be a strong tool for reaching the tens of millions of non-believers unlikely to set foot in a church on their own.

Words of Hope radio programs bring God’s Word to people in their own homes and workplaces. Our programs enable them to listen to and learn about God’s Word. As they become more interested and knowledgeable about Jesus, many do seek out church families, often for the first time. Our vision is to continue to expand the reach of Christian media in Turkey until the whole nation can hear—and understand—the good news of Jesus Christ.

## How You Can Help!

Words of Hope Turkey is able to share the truths of Scripture in one of the least-evangelized countries in the world because generous supporters like you continue to remember us with your gifts and prayers. Thank you for your commitment to carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth! When you give to Words of Hope, you help provide:

- Air-time for the radio programs
- Satellite TV programming
- Quality sound-recording equipment
- Repeater technology to expand station reach
- Varied program content




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“I have been listening to your radio for a long time now. I love your programs and your music. The topics that are talked about truly make me think, and I have begun feeling things that I never thought possible.”

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## TURKEY AT A GLANCE

**Capital City:** Ankara

**Population:** 81 million

**Religion:** Turkey is a secular state with no official religion. 0.2% of the population is Christian.

**Median Age:** 29.6 years

**Life Expectancy:** 69 years

**Internet Users:** 46% of the population

**Official Language:** Turkish, spoken by 70-75% of the population. Other minority languages include Kurdish, Arabic, and Zaza.



## Director Update

“Iran is one of the worst 10 countries in the world for persecution of religious minorities, especially evangelical Christians.

The Iranian Constitution states that Christians have the right to worship, but in reality the authorities have taken away this right. More than 500 Iranian Christians have been imprisoned in the last two years.

All registered Persian Evangelical Churches in Iran have been forced to close. Many house churches have been raided and closed. Some of the house fellowships have been warned that if they meet again they will be thrown in jail and no one will know what has happened to them. Since the churches have been closed and no money is

being collected by the churches for their benevolent funds, it has become a real challenge to support Christians in Iran who are struggling with poverty and bad health.

Praise God, in spite of the persecution and challenges, the body of believers in Iran is growing. Many believers resist the pressures and in the fullness of the Holy Spirit state that they will stand for their faith to the end.

Even though the new believers are limited in their knowledge of the Bible and their Christian faith, they are filled with zeal in sharing their belief with their loved ones and trusted friends. This has encouraged us to do more in the way of discipleship.”

~Director, Words of Hope Iran



## IRAN

Iran is a hard place. Less than one percent of the population in this Middle Eastern country is Christian. What’s more, Muslim-background converts to Christianity risk facing the death penalty since Iran is one of the most persecutory countries in the world. All evangelical churches have been forced to close; Bibles may not be published; and people who meet together in house churches fear discovery and punishment. And yet, even in this very hard place, there is a sincere longing for the good news of the gospel. The underground church in Iran appears to be growing faster now than ever before, proving that hope in Christ is stronger than the fear of death. Through many gifts and prayers offered by supporters, Words of Hope is finding ways to share life-saving good news with Iranians without putting them or our producers in danger. Radio, Internet, and other tools are helping us reach further with the gospel than we ever could before.

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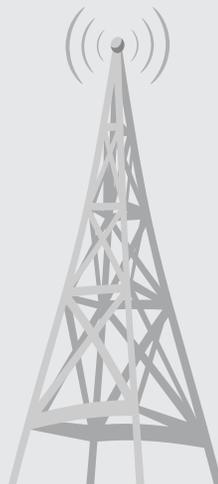
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“Through your radio programs, God helped us to understand the Bible. Slowly but surely we got answers to our questions by listening to your programs almost every day. I praise God for your program.”

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## Ministry Background

Words of Hope has been ministering in Iran since 1998. We equip Iranian Christians living outside the country with the tools they need to send Christian hope back into their homeland through media. Radio programs are recorded and then broadcast across the border. It is very difficult for the government to block these radio waves.

We also organize Bible conferences at safe locations outside the country. Iranians travel to these locations to learn about the Bible and worship in community, often for the first time.

## Building the Church

Words of Hope Iran is building the church one soul at a time in one of the hardest places on earth. We record daily Christian programs in the official language of Persian. People can gather to listen to these messages of truth in their own homes. We also equip house church leaders with recordings and digital files of the Bible and other Christian resources, which are much easier to utilize without detection by the authorities. These digital resources are also safer to smuggle into the country than bulky books.

When Iranian Christians travel outside the country to our Bible conferences, they are able to safely network with other Christians, often learning that some of the other attendees live nearby. House churches are springing up as a result of these meetings!

## How You Can Help!

Words of Hope Iran is able to share the life-giving good news of Jesus Christ in one of the hardest-to-reach places on earth because people like you are generously supporting and praying for us. Thank you for caring about our brothers and sisters in Iran! When you give to Words of Hope, you are helping provide:

- Air-time for the radio programs
- Digital copies of the Scriptures for distribution inside the country
- Safe accommodations for conference attendees traveling outside the country
- Website development in order to utilize the power of Internet to communicate with young Iranians
- Biblical training for Iranians interested in Christianity

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“I was invited to the Bible Conference. Your inspired teaching had such an impact on me that I cannot even put my gratitude into words. I took careful notes of everything you said and collected it into a booklet. This I have copied several times and shared with other believers. They too have grown in their faith after reading your teaching.”

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## IRAN AT A GLANCE



**Capital City:** Tehran

**Population:** 80 million

**Official Language:** Persian (Farsi; Dari and Tajik are major dialects); almost all Iranians speak some form of Persian as a mother tongue or second language

**Literacy:** 85%

**Religion:** 99.4% Muslim

**Median Age:** 28 years

## Director Update

“My prayer is that all of Uganda be reached by this radio ministry. We used to preach the gospel going to markets and doing open air crusades, but now media is very important. If we can go to all these radio stations and get the programs aired, I think we can reach the church in a greater way.

We have discovered that we need a relationship with the pastors, because when we put our programs over the radio, we need the churches and dioceses to help us with the follow-up work. We need to equip pastors for caregiving; we need to equip lay leaders, and form local churches into safe havens.

Radio is a very important tool that can impact many people, including those you may never get to meet. When the



**Rev. Titus Baraka**  
Director, WOH-Uganda

message goes out into the world, the response from the people excites me. Then you know you have made an impact. People call, even from places where you cannot imagine they would call from.”



## UGANDA

Uganda is a hard place. Though Christianity is popular in this country, extreme poverty and lack of education make it nearly impossible for churches to adequately disciple those who are coming to know Jesus. Words of Hope’s Ugandan Director explains that while many are born into the faith, they often starve spiritually because no support structure is in place for their growth. Nominal Christianity is common. In fact, many Ugandans who self-identify as Christians simply know that they are not Muslim. Lack of proper education and discipleship allows Ugandans to be swept up into false wealth-gospel belief systems. Many also mix older tribal religions with Christianity in their search for truth. Through the support of generous donors, Words of Hope is empowering Ugandan pastors and churches to effectively nurture their people in the life of Christian discipleship. In the midst of this hard place, radio is bringing truly life-changing good news.

### WHO WE ARE

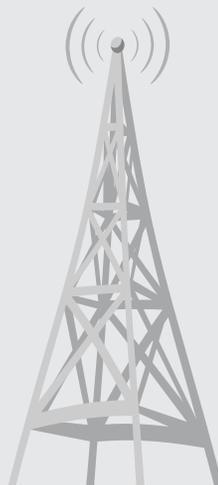
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“I thank God for the ways in which the Word is preached today. We have been privileged because now we do hear it in our own mother tongue.”

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## Ministry Background

Words of Hope has been active in Uganda since 2006, and currently produces Christian broadcasts in eleven different languages in the country. We are able to coordinate with pastors throughout Uganda, which both allows the pastors to increase their own outreach, and provides Words of Hope with a solid follow-up system for those who listen to the programs.

Words of Hope trains new Ugandan producers, builds recording studios in the country, and provides Ugandan staff with the necessary technical equipment for producing good quality broadcasts.

## Building the Church

Words of Hope Uganda is addressing the church’s discipleship needs. We provide training and theological resources for church leaders who can then use radio to share daily the truths of the gospel with a large audience. Working through the local church ensures that radio listeners are quickly connected to the larger body of believers.

People who live far from a church or are tied to their farming on the weekends can stay connected to their church family through the constant companion of radio. No matter where they are, many Ugandans can now tune in to solid, Biblical teaching shared in their own heart language. Through radio programs of all types, from music, to Bible studies, to counseling, Words of Hope Uganda is claiming all areas of Ugandan society and culture for Christ.

## How You Can Help!

Words of Hope Uganda brings the good news of the gospel into the hard places of Uganda with the help of your support and prayers. Thank you for your interest in this ministry. When you give to Words of Hope Uganda, you are providing:

- Air-time for the radio programs
- Up-to-date recording equipment for the studios
- Discipleship training for Words of Hope programmers and producers
- A living wage for Ugandan producers who are working hard to share the good news with their neighbors and families through radio
- Radios so people can listen to the programs




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“These messages do benefit all of us. My children love sharing from the Bible these days, and we now have an opportunity to read the Bible. It is also very good for us to know how to pray in Jesus’ name.”

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## UGANDA AT A GLANCE



**Capital City:** Kampala

**Population:** 35 million

**Urban Population:** 16%

**Official Languages:** English, Swahili. There are 43 other recognized languages spoken in Uganda.

**Life Expectancy:** 54 years

**Religion:** 85% Christian, 12% Muslim

**Median Age:** 15. Uganda is one of the youngest countries in the world.

**Average Income:** \$455/year