

WAVELENGTH

Spring 2015 | woh.org

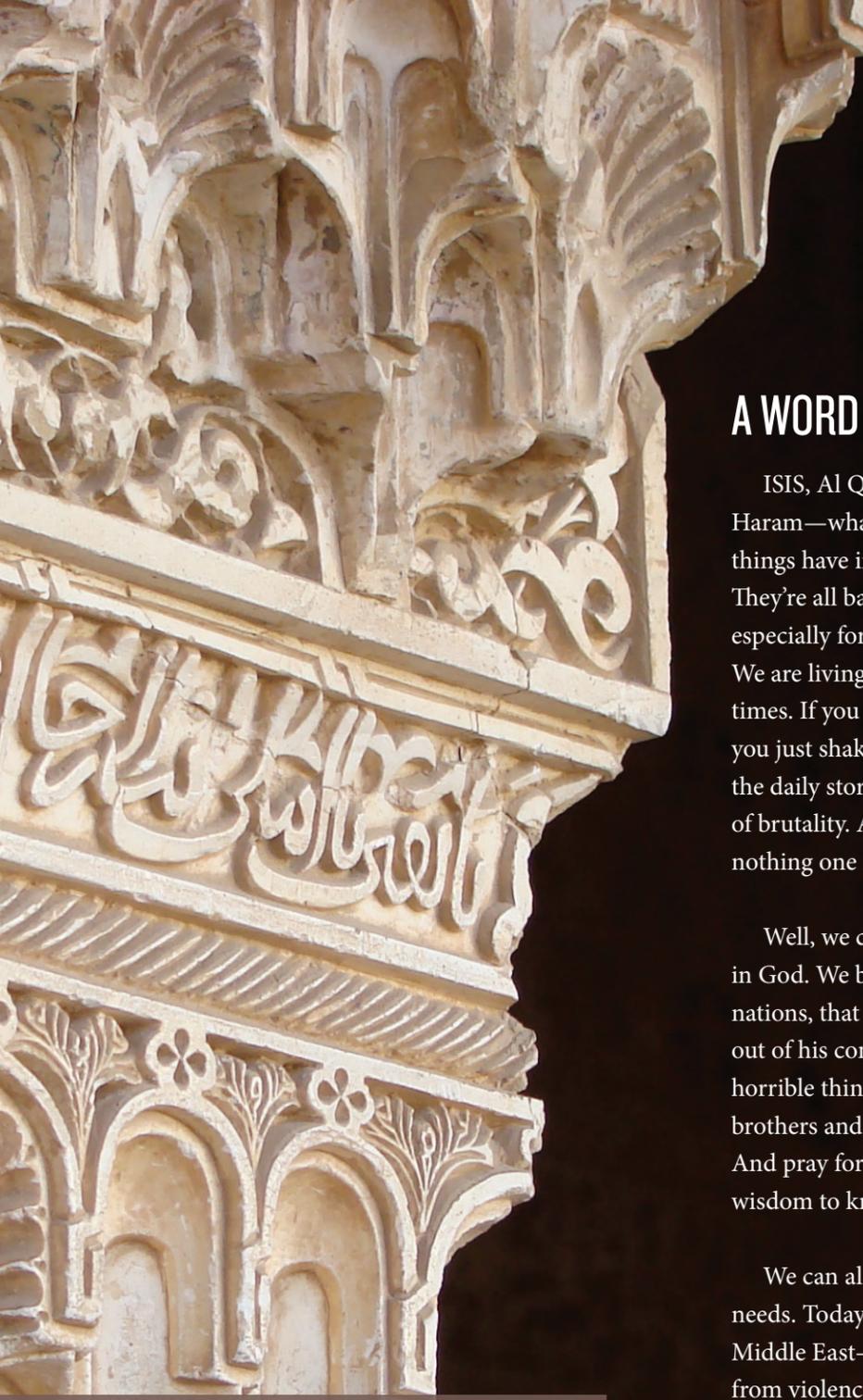
In This Issue:

- A Voice for the People
- Hope Amid Fear
- Facebook Draws Muslims to Christ



WORDS
OF
HOPE

Good News.
No Boundaries.



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

ISIS, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram—what do these things have in common? They're all bad news, especially for Christians. We are living in perilous times. If you are like me, you just shake your head at the daily stories and images of brutality. And you wonder, "What can I do? There's nothing one individual could do to make a difference."



Well, we can pray. That's not nothing. We believe in God. We believe he is sovereign, that he rules the nations, that current events have not somehow spiraled out of his control. So pray that he will use even these horrible things to advance his kingdom. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who face such threats. And pray for our national leaders, as they seek the wisdom to know how best to respond.

We can also share our resources to meet people's needs. Today there are millions of refugees in the Middle East—not just Christians—who have fled from violence. They need our help. And let's not forget people's deepest need of all—to know God's love in Christ. We can share the gospel to meet that need as well. In fact, Words of Hope is doing exactly that in the Middle East, today and every day.

David Bast

WAVELENGTH Volume 4 | Number 2

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

All photos are by staff and volunteers of Words of Hope unless otherwise noted. Cover Photo: Pekka Tiainen, EU/ECHO.

Copyright 2015 by Words of Hope.

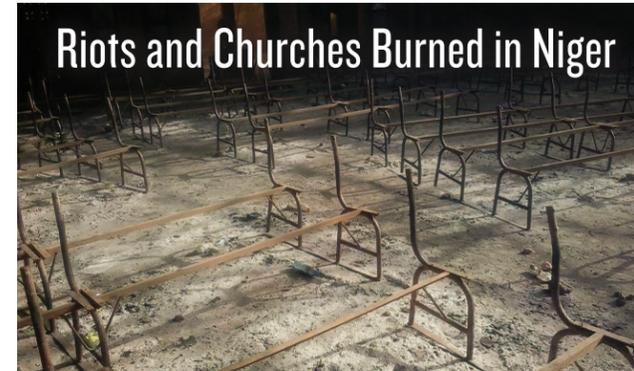
Words of Hope
700 Ball Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
1-800-459-6181
www.woh.org



facebook.com/wordsofhope

NEWS BRIEFS

Riots and Churches Burned in Niger



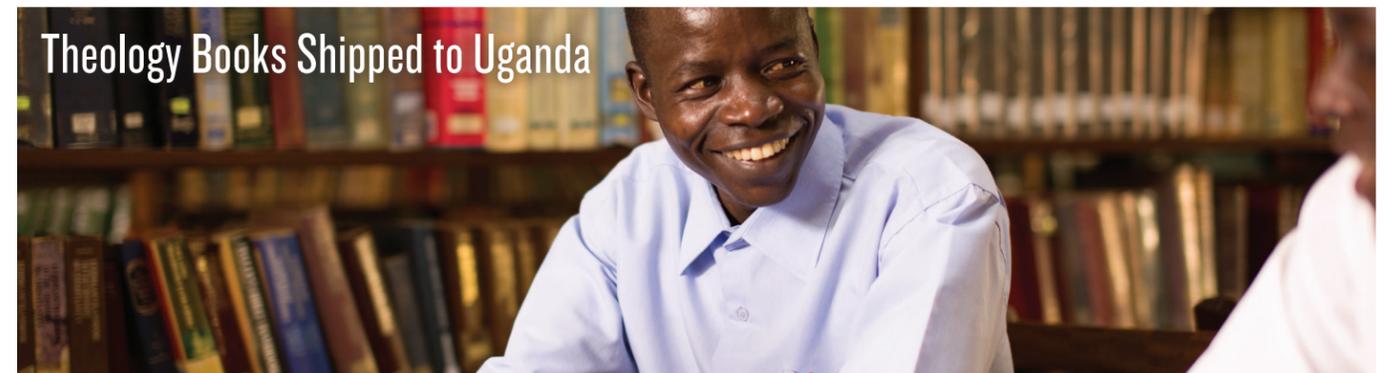
Churches were targeted in a recent slew of riots in Niger. Muslims angry over a French magazine's depictions of the prophet Muhammad, and dissatisfied with their current government, set fire to 45 church buildings. At least ten people were killed. Thankfully, other Muslims helped their Christian neighbors and friends to escape before the riots reached their homes. Peace seems to have returned inside the country at this time, though it will certainly take time to rebuild the damaged church buildings. Words of Hope's director in Niger, Pastor Sani Nomaou shared, "I call on every believer in Niger to forgive, to love Muslims with all their heart, to keep up the faith, to love Christ like never before. Although it is painful, and what we are experiencing is really difficult, we are God's children. We must love our persecutors. Let no one seek revenge."



New Kashmiri Programs Recorded

Words of Hope Kashmiri programs are being produced again! In November of 2011, our former Kashmiri ministry coordinator was forced to flee the region. Now two new team members have been found who know the Lord, are strong in their faith, and are excited to be a part of this ministry. Both feel that radio is a wonderful tool for presenting the gospel to their people. These men have been receiving training and guidance from Words of Hope as they begin working on the new Kashmiri programs. Already 47 Bible stories and 47 health and wellness programs have been recorded! "Thank you for your prayers and encouragement, which open new doors and opportunities to preach the gospel in the hardest places," one of them shares. "Pray so that we can see a new beginning to extend God's Kingdom in this most needful area."

Theology Books Shipped to Uganda



Many pastors and lay leaders in Uganda have not had the opportunity to receive a formal theological education, but donor generosity is helping to change this. Words of Hope has compiled a basic Christian resource library that will soon be distributed to 50 pastors and church leaders in Uganda. This book library will be available for the enrichment of the pastor, as well as accessible to nearby church leaders looking to expand their knowledge base. Books include biblical study resources like the *New Bible Commentary*, theology books like *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* by Wayne Grudem, and the counseling resource: *Effective Biblical Counseling: A Model for Helping Caring Christians Become Capable Counselors*, by Larry Crabb. Our prayer is that these books will assist many Ugandan pastors to even more effectively serve their congregations and lead individuals to Christ.

HOPE amid FEAR

How the rise of ISIS is changing the climate for evangelism in the Middle East.

What Muslims Believe

Ever-growing numbers of Muslims are eager to learn about the gospel accounts of Jesus Christ, and the terror inflicted by members of the Islamic State (ISIS) has not been successful in silencing these questioners. In fact, the violence exhibited by ISIS may be one of the driving factors leading many Muslims to contact Words of Hope to learn more about Christianity.

Muslims already know a lot about Jesus. They revere him actually. In the Quran he is seen as the second greatest prophet sent by God (Muhammad being number one). Muslims affirm that Jesus was born of a virgin, performed many miracles, and even that he is now alive in heaven and will return to earth at the end of time.

The similarities stop when it comes to the matter of salvation. Muslims do not believe that Jesus is God, and they deny that he died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. They argue that death on a cross is too shameful for such a holy

teacher. They believe that God will measure each person's good works on the last day to see who merits going to heaven.

And yet, the fact that Muslims do revere Jesus (referred to as Issa in the Quran) provides a remarkable starting point for evangelism. Many Muslims are eager to learn more about the life and teachings of Christ.

The Radical Islamic State

The violent Islamic State has shattered the lives of many living in the Middle East, Muslims and Christians alike. Members of ISIS believe that they are following a direct descendent of Muhammad, and that the Quran requires them to expand their rule as far as possible.

Muslim-background converts to Christianity are in the most danger from the state. Seen as apostates, these individuals are marked for death (crucifixions, beheadings—ISIS gleefully spreads terrifying videos and images of violence through social media).



Photo credit: UNRWA/Taghrid Mohammad

Even moderate Muslims are in danger from ISIS, however. Followers of the Islamic State believe that all true Muslims must adhere to the laws of the state and support its bloody conquests. Those who do not (or who insist on wearing Western clothing, or who have served in positions of secular government) are in just as much danger as their converted brothers and sisters.

While ISIS believes it is conquering land and purifying the ranks of Islam, it is effectively waging a war on many of its own people.

Looking to Christ

Unsurprisingly, the violence and hatred exhibited by the Islamic State is causing many affected by it to ask more questions about the religion ISIS so strongly opposes—Christianity.

**Christ enlightens the mind
and liberates the soul like
no religion on earth.**

Words of Hope, in partnership with Middle East Reformed Fellowship and Back to God Ministries International, has the privilege to interact with Middle Eastern Muslims and Christians on a daily basis in ways that protect their anonymity in these dangerous times.

Words of Hope airs radio programs every night throughout the region so that people can tune in within the privacy of their own homes. Websites with streaming content allow for call-in programs so people can interact with our producers live on the air.

Email, text-messaging, and Skype all allow those with questions to safely contact indigenous follow-up staff in order to learn more about the true story of Jesus contained in the Gospels.

Responding in Faith

More and more people are responding in faith and, despite the current danger, are unafraid to share their newfound peace and hope with others.

A well-known Arab scholar recently urged Muslims to explore the gospel accounts of Christ for themselves, saying: "If you want civility, freedom, refined knowledge, heavenly spirituality, and divine love, go to the New Testament. Christ enlightens the mind and liberates the soul like no religion on earth. He has done this for me. Our people need this kind of knowledge and this kind of life."

Recently twenty-one Christian men were beheaded by ISIS for refusing to recant their faith. Even in these darkest of days, the love of Christ is made apparent in the responses from family members of the victims.

When the mother of one of the men murdered by ISIS was asked on TV what she would like to see happen to her son's killers, she replied through tears: "We forgive them and pray for the Lord's mercy for them and for their families."

You Can Help!

The truth about Jesus Christ cannot be silenced, and the love demonstrated in his life is apparent in the life and death of Christians in the Middle East today.

When you support Words of Hope's Arabic ministries, you allow us to continue reaching out to brothers and sisters in these places of conflict. Through media technology, we can provide counseling, encouragement, and answers without exposing people to violence.

Pray fervently with us that the ugly terror of ISIS will be defeated. Pray for safety for Muslims and Christians living in the path of ISIS. And pray that in these darkest of days, the love of Jesus will be a strong light drawing many to eternal life in him.





Many young Muslims are singing the words of a song titled “Kifaya” (Arabic for *enough*). Just as the song expresses, these Muslims have had enough and are looking for cultural and social change.

Words of Hope’s indigenous Arabic partner, Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF), created and produced the music and lyrics for “Kifaya,” and asked ministry volunteers to record it. These volunteers represent many young Arabs who have experienced political tensions due to Islamic rule.

“For Islamist politicians,” explains Words of Hope’s Arabic director, “the use of religion is key to gaining ground, especially among the simple and uneducated. Young people in Arab countries have had enough of political and religious propaganda. They long for freedom and openness and are curious about anything new.”

The song “Kifaya” first aired on *Dardasha*, the ministry’s radio program. The program urges followers to discern what they are hearing from their political and religious leaders. As growing numbers of people find comfort in the lyrics of the song, “Kifaya” has gained popularity among other FM stations in Arab-speaking nations. The program *Dardasha*, which means *chat*, draws younger listeners to our Arabic ministry’s website for additional information, discipleship materials, and online listening. “The concept of online radio is naturally appealing to young people,” says our Arabic director. “It wonderfully enables people from all walks of life to listen at their own convenience.”

One line of the song says, “I see through the lies of politicians and those who use religion to confuse people.” More and more are asking questions in the Middle East.

Pray that our Arabic broadcasts proclaiming the gospel of Christ would speak holy peace to those who have had enough of conflict and fear in their lives.

***He who has ears,
let him hear.***

Matthew 11:15



PEOPLE >

60,356 likes

Invite your friends to like this Page

ABOUT >

<http://www.dardasha7.com/>

مرحباً بكم في راديو دردشة 7، راديو كلّ الشباب العربي

استمعوا لباقة من البرامج المميزة على مدار الساعة، فقراتنا الشبابية والشيقة تتضمن : حوارات - دراما - قصص - كوميدى

الاردواجية في مجتمعنا العربية موضوع دردشتنا اليوم ضمن برنامج (دقة قلب) مع خالد منصور وريم المصري وذلك في تمام الساعة الخامسة بعد الظهر بتوقيت السعودية عبر www.dardasha7.com

نرحب بأرائكم في خانة التعليقات أدناه، وعلى بريدنا الالكتروني dardasha7@gmail.com

THANK YOU
for your prayers and support that make it possible for many Muslims to learn the truth about Jesus and find hope in him!

Facebook Draws Muslims to Learn About Jesus

As a Muslim, Zafir had many questions about the Christian faith. But looking for answers in the Middle East is risky. Contacting a Christian or purchasing Christian literature can be very dangerous.

But thanks to Words of Hope’s media outreach, God’s Word is reaching Muslim seekers, new believers, and seasoned Christians—including Zafir!

One of the most exciting new ways we are reaching people in the Middle East is through an Arabic Facebook page that shares inspirational quotes from Jesus every day. Most Muslims think of Jesus as a great prophet, so they are open to hearing what he has to say. The majority of users who visit the Facebook page are Muslims attracted to the hopeful words of Jesus.

Facebook offers an opportunity for Muslims to engage in conversation about the Christian faith with trained mentors who invite them to send text messages with additional questions. Through these text message conversations, the mentors encourage seekers to read specific Bible passages available on our Arabic ministry website.

Each day our Arabic ministry receives an average of 12 first-time responses from Muslims who want to know more about the Christian faith. Already some have made a commitment to follow Christ!

Zafir testified, “As a Muslim I had many questions and doubts about Jesus the Christ and the Holy Gospel. I am truly grateful for the loving spirit of those who have guided me and others to the true ways.”

Navajo Ministry

Words of Hope partners with Western Indian Ministries and Prescott Community Church to produce gospel radio programs that are broadcast across the Navajo reservation. This reservation is the largest in the United States,



Stephen Joe and wife Darlene

encompassing 17 million acres in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. The Navajo population within the reservation is about 180,000. One of the most challenging parts of evangelism in this area is that many Navajos live in remote areas across the three states. Radio is extremely important in helping to reach all parts of

the Navajo nation, especially the areas where it is difficult to make frequent personal contact with individuals.

Pastor Stephen Joe is the Navajo broadcaster for the region. He explains that many Navajos are seeking God daily, but it is a struggle since Navajos are raised with idol worship in their homes. Drugs and gangs become a problem for young people searching for something to get them out of their rut. "They have a form of religion, but no power," says Pastor Stephen. "Their religions do not free them. Jesus Christ is the only one who can free them."

One radio listener sent the following message: "Your radio ministry has blessed many people like me over the years. I had a very difficult childhood. I became an alcoholic. I eventually ended up in prison. While in prison I had a small walkman radio and one day tuned to your program. Tears flooded my eyes. My day of depression became a day of sincere desire to change."

In Memoriam

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

Revelation 14:13

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

Joe Ted Aalsburg
Floyd Achterhof
Carol Beerens
Louis Benes, III
Adriana Boender
Jessie Bos
Shirley Buis
Robert Chandler
John Damon
Cora Hoksbergen De Ronde
Harold De Roo
Wayne Dykshorn
Benjamin Fackler
Antje Groeneveld

Russell Hall
Louis, Sr. and Leona Harvey
Eugene Hofmeyer
Joseph and Anna Holbrook
Edward Jansen
Gertrude Jaquays
Donald and Berdene Kallemeyn
Kevin Karhoff
Clarence Kiel
Anna Lageveen
Irving and Norma Lemmen
Stephen Mitchell
Terry Nibbelink
Arthur Oom

Marvin Piersma
Judy Potter
Andrea Ravella
Leon and Marian Reimink
Marjorie Reinders
C. Jay Rietveld
Patricia Ruch
Bert Schipper
Anna Schoon
Herbert Schuiling
August Tellinghuisen
Charles and Ruth Ten Clay
Lucille Toren
Gilbert Van Beek

George and Alice Van Der Molen
Florence Van Eenenaam
Donald Van Egtern
LaVern and Betty Van Kley
Hariena Van Peursem
Wilmina Van't Hul
David Ver Lee
Harrison Visscher
Adrian and Cornelia Woldring

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

