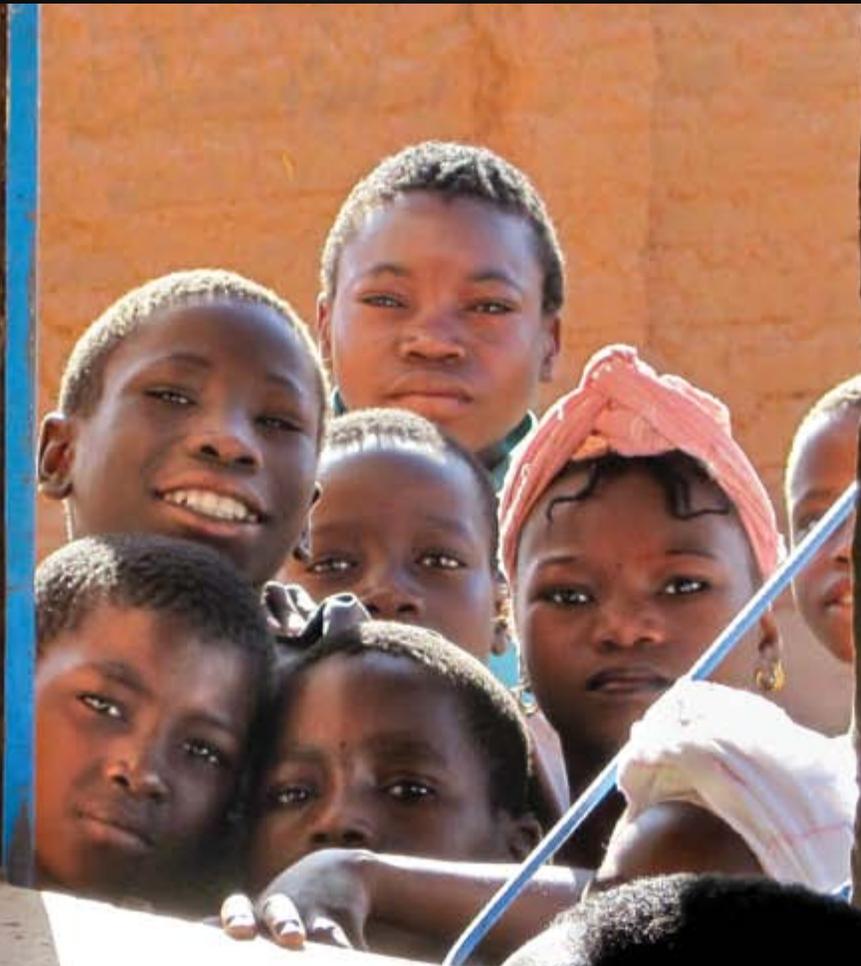


WAVELENGTH

Winter 2012 | woh.org

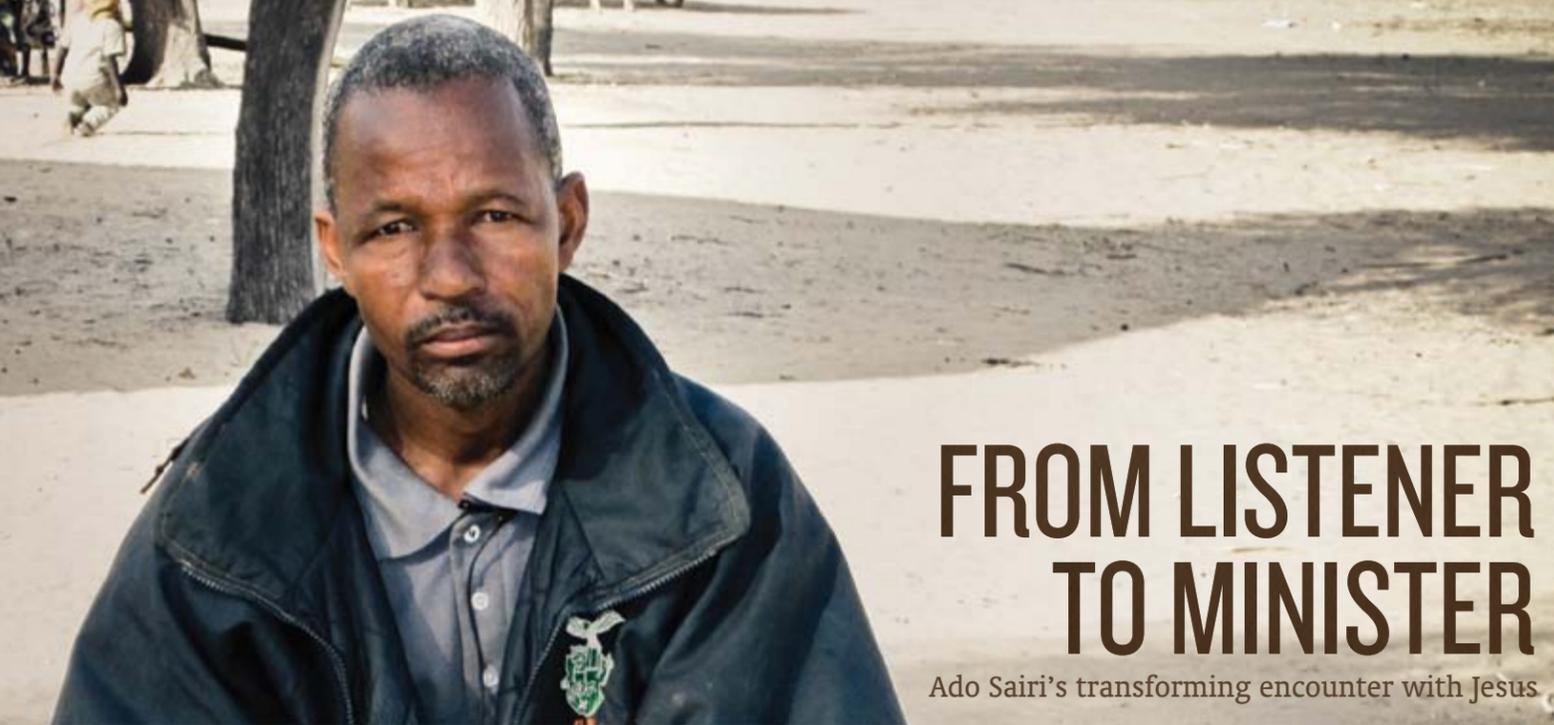


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WORDS
OF
HOPE

Good News.
No Boundaries.



FROM LISTENER TO MINISTER

Ado Sairi's transforming encounter with Jesus

Tuning in to the Gospel

For Ado Sairi, the night was like hundreds of nights before. After a day's work he sat listening to the radio. If Ado lived in the United States he might have chosen to watch television, but Ado lived in the remote city of Malloua, in Niger, where radio is the primary source for news and entertainment.

Ado tuned his radio to a local Words of Hope station, which was airing a Hausa-language Words of Hope program. When the program ended, he thought about what he heard and what it might mean for his life. Ado spent a year thinking about giving his life to Jesus before telling a local evangelist that he wanted to know more. He explained, "I first heard the Christian message through the radio. When I learned God can forgive every kind of sin, that's when I decided to commit my life to Christ."

Reaching Out to Ado

Ado's request to learn more about the Bible was passed on to Ibrahim Adbou of the EERN.* Ibrahim wasn't sure what to expect when he arrived to visit with Ado. In a country with a population that is 98 percent Muslim, conversion to Christianity is not always taken well by family members or the wider community.

Bringing the gift of a crank-powered radio (see sidebar), Ibrahim saw that Ado's family might not welcome his decision to become a Christian. At the same time he saw the strength of Ado's conviction. Ibrahim said, "I visited in his house. I met his family and we talked together. He had a difficult time with his family, but he told me with certainty that he wanted to study the Bible."

Before Christian radio, the only knowledge most Nigeriens had of Christianity was what Muslim teachers told them. This information made most people suspicious of Christian activity. But now that Nigeriens are able to hear directly from Christians about their faith, they are beginning to understand more clearly. Ibrahim says, "Through Words of Hope programs people are seeing what real Christianity is."

“ Through Words of Hope programs, people are seeing what real Christianity is. ”

Understanding Real Christianity

Ado is now studying and growing in faith alongside other Christians at the EERN's school. This school offers Christians basic training in the Bible, but because the average person receives only five years of formal education, it offers courses in reading, writing, and general education as well.

Ado's ultimate goal is to share his faith with other people. "I would like to move to the next level, to become a pastor. Once back home, I would like for people around me to give their lives to Jesus." Ibrahim has seen evidence that Ado is already doing this, "The last time Ado went home to visit his family it was really impressive! His family members were all very happy about him. Now everyone sees that we have been helpful to him! We Christians are helping him grow in his life."

While Ado's story shows how a radio program can reach into someone's heart and begin a process of transformation, it is the Good News of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit that deserve the credit for Ado's change. He says, "What touched me is that when you give your life to Jesus, every sin you had is forgiven." ❖

**EERN is the Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger, the denominational partner for Words of Hope in Niger.*



Top: Ibrahim (right) visits an EERN church near Ado's village. Middle: Ado's school in Aguié. Bottom: Hachimou Yahaya - Words of Hope's Hausa broadcaster.

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



I don't know how you react to Ado's story, but it thrills me! Jesus said that as the seed of the Word is "broad-cast" (Matthew 13), some would fall on receptive soil and bear fruit. We see that happening today in Niger.

Only God can give new life, but conversion also involves our work. Ado came to faith through gospel

radio programs in his heart language, Hausa – programs made possible by people like you.

In 2004, one generous man gave \$90,000 to build a recording studio in Niger. Since then annual gifts, many from Reformed churches in Canada, support the staff who make these programs. When challenged to contribute personally, our board bought a vehicle for the ministry, so programs can be delivered

to the dozens of radio stations that broadcast them. And someone – perhaps children in a Sunday School class – gave \$40 to provide Ado with a crank radio.

God could save people directly. He could rain Bibles down on them from heaven, or draw a picture of the cross across the sky. But instead, he chooses to use our efforts and our contributions to bring people the gospel. That thrills me too!

David Baat

NOTES FROM OUR LISTENERS

"After many struggles I have come to the conclusion that what the gospel teaches about religion is the truth... I now fully believe that Jesus is the true and full Word and Spirit for all human beings."

- Listener from Egypt

NO POWER? NO PROBLEM!



Many people in the world don't have electricity. But with a few minutes of turning the crank on the back of this radio, they can listen for hours.

To date we have distributed almost 2,000 of these radios. Because of this creative solution to a common problem, people who would not otherwise be able to tune in to our programs can hear the Good News.

"I listen to your [Hindi] radio program 'Mahima Ke Vahan.' You explain the teachings of Jesus in such a way that I feel very close to Jesus himself while listening to it. I am helped to grow in my faith. I have told my friends and relatives about this program. They listen to it too. The songs and other related programs are very encouraging."

- Student in India

MEDIA IN UGANDA

We do research to ensure that we use the best form of media for each ministry field where we work. For every 1,000 people in the country of Uganda, there are 7 PCs, 14 TVs, and 144 radios. What do you think is the best way to reach people in Uganda?



source: nationmaster.com

NEWS BRIEFS

Kosovo



Words of Hope's ministry partner in Albania, Radio 7, has begun broadcasting in Kosovo. A new recording studio was built and staff were hired. In November, staff members from both Albania and Kosovo gathered for a week-long training seminar about audiences, program production, and program development. This new broadcast will be the first Christian radio programming in Kosovo.

Radio 7 has also been granted a new frequency and license to broadcast in Northern Albania. Previously, CDs were the only method of distributing programs there, so this will make reaching people easier and less expensive. Two new transmitting towers are planned for 2012, which will also reach into neighboring Montenegro, a country with 33,000 Albanian speakers.

Spotlight Radio



In November, Words of Hope's Spotlight staff gathered with partners from England and Chicago for a conference in Quito, Ecuador. Almost fifty local listeners joined the Spotlight team for a night of fun and fellowship. The team members were able to introduce themselves, show a video introducing Spotlight team members who couldn't attend, answer questions, and even do an impromptu reading from a Spotlight script.

Indonesia



This month (February) several Words of Hope staff members will be traveling to Indonesia. This trip will lay the foundations for our new ministry in the country.

We will travel with a representative from a partner organization, Back to God Ministries International. Our purpose is to meet new staff, visit listener communities, interview people, and build relationships for ongoing ministry.

Later in the week, focus groups were held to test aspects of the program like speech rate and topic selection. But the groups gave even more feedback. Listeners spoke about how the program had helped them improve their English for school and work and how building relationships at their local Spotlight English Club was an important part of this process. Spotlight Producer Liz Waid said, "You could tell that people were not listening 'just because.' They're listening with a purpose."

By the end of the trip it was clear that people really liked Spotlight and listened not only to learn English but also to hear stories, discover something new, and even learn about Jesus. Producer Rena Dam, who began working on Spotlight in 2011, said about the trip, "It was clear that people are really listening and they're really excited!"

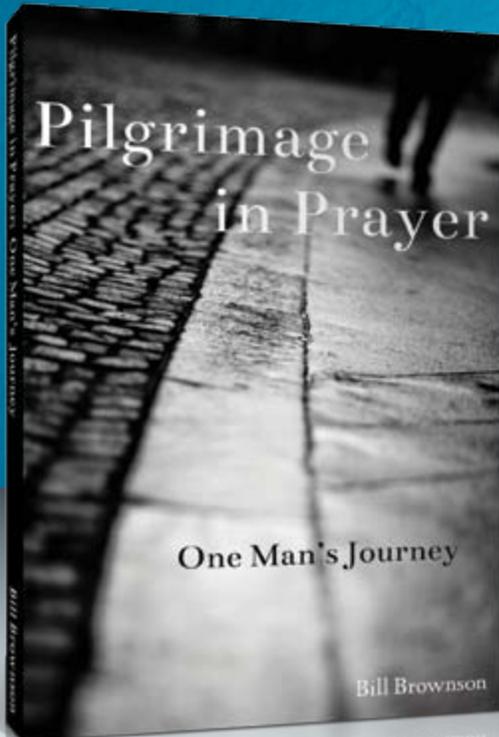
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- Dr. Tim Brown, Western Theological Seminary

The story of how one man learned to practice prayer as the secret to intimacy with God and effectiveness in service.

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