

September/October 2021



“This is why I’m still alive now”

Pekar Kue* is Hmong, but unlike Sunisa Lee, the Hmong gymnast who recently competed for the U.S.A. and won Olympic gold, her circumstances are very different.

Pekar was only starting to walk when she was sold into a new family. However, her new mother soon divorced for another man and left. Pekar lives alone with her new father in abject poverty.

Income is sporadic and scarce at best. Sometimes the sale of wild squirrels and birds fetches 100 kip (a few cents). Other times Pekar receives 60,000 kip (less than AUD 10) per day for hard labour; that’s if the farmers will hire her given her young age of 13 years.

As a result, there are times when the family goes without food for days, sometimes weeks. Once Pekar went hungry for two weeks. Most days Pekar will only have a small packet of noodles for the day so she can keep the rice for her father.



Representative Image

Unable to afford the school fees, Pekar has quit school. On top of all that, their landlord wants them out.

With no end of the struggles in sight, and feeling helpless, Pekar contemplated suicide. Just when Pekar came to the point of utter despair, she heard FEBC’s Hmong radio broadcast. Like a beam of sunshine into a valley of dark hopelessness, a voice came on the radio. It was in Pekar’s heart Hmong language, and it spoke of Jesus who gave His life so she might live.

“I got to know about Friendship radio station and listened. If I hadn’t heard from this FEBC Hmong radio, I would have already committed suicide. I’m so thankful that through this FEBC Hmong radio, I also came to know

Pastor T*. The broadcasts really encourage me to stay closer to the Lord. Till today, I still listen to this station every night and morning. This is why I’m still alive now. I thank the Lord with all my heart and soul for FEBC Hmong radio’s ministry.”

"This is why I'm still alive now"... cont'd

Without their own country, the Hmong, like many other ethnic minority groups, are living difficult lives, often without a home. But with your partnership, FEBC is bringing hope to the unreached, persecuted and marginalised people groups living in remote highland locations. As FEBC shortwave and mobile app programs go out, may many more hear the good news in their heart language and find light and life in Christ.

**Names have been changed to protect the identity of those mentioned.*



Typical Hmong village in a remote highland location.



Child labour is common amongst the marginalised Hmong.

Lifting Up Fathers, Transforming Families

Mongolia, the "land of the blue sky" has sadly seen increased domestic violence during COVID. Therefore, FEBC Mongolia's Family Radio has been broadening its programming and is making tremendous inroads in tackling this issue. In the city of Nalaikh, where 40,000 families reside, the station has been lifting up fatherhood in its programs. Practical talks, peer-to-peer sessions, and children hosts sharing their thoughts on the role of fathers is transforming mindsets. This FEBC Mongolia/FEBC Australia pilot project is now being expanded across the country. We celebrate the successes of the project and also FEBC Mongolia's 20 years of broadcasting the Good News.

What our listeners say:

"I have learned from the family programs an important quote that I keep repeating to myself: 'Always together, never apart. Maybe in distance, but never in heart'. My husband is the breadwinner and he does his best in trying to provide for us, even if it means he needs to travel far and stay apart from us. From the programs, I have also learned ideas on how to re-build family relationships and strengthen the family atmosphere."

"You deal with topics that are not often talked about and we have not learned about these topics from our parents."

"Hearing the children speak has softened my heart and made me want to be a better father."



Scan QR code to watch the teens in action.

Heart to Heart

Bataar – chief of FEBC Darkhan station in Mongolia, and godly father of four adorable children. Within his church, he serves in the worship team and preaches as a church elder.

"Preaching was overwhelming and challenging to me. But growing and developing myself in God means overcoming the challenges. Since I started preaching, **God has drawn me closer to Him through FEBC's radio program called 'Through the Bible'**. The episodes give me so many biblical and historical discoveries. Our radio ministry has empowered and inspired my preaching; and, I pray, others through me."



“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, He leads out the prisoners with singing” Psalm 68:5-6a

Welcome

I have six beautiful granddaughters. It is an absolute joy when I get to spend time with them. I just want the very best for them, as I do for all my children. God's love for His children infinitely surpasses my best.

Scripture is full of descriptions of God as the loving Father. The greatest demonstration of His love is His own sacrifice of His only begotten Son, Jesus, so we (you and I) can be adopted into His family. As members of His family, we are called to share that with others.

Fuelled by God's love, our field leaders, team and volunteers unflinchingly sacrifice even their lives so people can hear and know this love. It is not without risk to visit listeners, share hope, and distribute radios in impoverished, isolated and persecuted areas. One colleague recently succumbed to the risks. Kyaw* died through a complication arising from COVID-19. He had faithfully distributed radios and sought to reach the unreached in the most remote parts of Myanmar and Thailand. I think of his own

family and the child he has left behind, and I grieve for them and ask for your prayers for them; and for the others continuing his work.

Psalm 68:5-6a tells us that God wants to be the father to the fatherless, the defender of widows, and to put the lonely in families. He wants to bring restoration and hope into individual lives and families. He passionately wants to see them experience life as He intended. With your partnership, FEBC is doing just that!

Many of our stations provide practical life skills for individuals and families so that they may live abundantly according to biblical principles. Our counselling and pastoral ministries have been a lifeline, setting the lonely in amongst those who care. Through such intentional programming, our listeners hear about the hope of Jesus and love of the Father.

I pray you will be stirred as you read Skywaves. When I hear of children like Pekar* finding hope where there was none, or families transformed, my heart is full. I hope you too, are encouraged, knowing as you



Kevin Keegan, National Director,
FEBC Australia

pray and give that you help carry God's heart to some of the most remote and persecuted areas in the world where FEBC operates. Together, we will continue the good work that Kyaw has started; his efforts will never go to waste.

You may not all be biological fathers or mothers, but in partnering together, you indeed nurture others as a father or mother would. So I wish all of you who are fathers, including those who have filled in that role for the fatherless or those with absent fathers, Happy Father's Day!

Kevin Keegan
National Director, FEBC Australia

* Names have been changed to protect the identities of those mentioned.



“I know God because I've listened to FEBC's program. The teaching of God's Word on the program has changed my life and my family life. From loving to go out and not taking care of my family, I am now a new person after knowing God. I want to thank FEBC Hmong Radio.”

Representative Image

Leaving Islam for Christ

- Change Amidst Crisis

Mali is in crisis. After the recent coup d'état, the lives of Mali's people are being tossed about in different directions. The security situation is worsening daily. It is hard to know who to trust, even among family members. Communication has become very risky as information leads the Islamists to kidnap or kill people, plant bombs, or besiege entire villages.

The new government has officially requested the withdrawal of the presence of the United Nations. Jihadists have spread to the Ivory Coast and as far as Burkina Faso. Schools are closed. Workers are often on strike. The economy is in ruin. And all these catastrophic events are happening in the middle of the pandemic.

But FEBC Mali is charging ahead with God's mandate to make known the Good News. Churches in villages where FEBC Mali is based recently organised an event and several came to Christ, including an imam's son:

"I listen to the radio station KanuYah FM very regularly and have acquired much knowledge



Violent protests rock Mali in the midst of a military coup and jihadist threats.



*on what it means to be a Christian. I know for sure which way to go if I want to be saved. **I know that Jesus is the way and the only one. So I did not hesitate for a moment to tell my father, the imam of the village, that I wanted to become a Christian.** I was prepared for my father to react very badly, but he did not. Instead, he simply said that he would not oppose my decision because no two people go together on the journey beyond the life on earth. I am very grateful to the radio station, my only teacher in matters of faith. I thank God, whose Spirit must have led my father to not react violently when I told him I was going to leave Islam and follow Jesus."*

Knowing that you, and the entire FEBC family in Australia and worldwide, are standing with the staff of FEBC Mali in prayer and support means so much. Together God's mandate for all to hear the gospel cannot be stopped.

Two Kingdoms One Reign

The cooler rainy months have seen a spike in coronavirus infections in the Kingdom of Cambodia. But COVID will not stop the advancement of the Kingdom of God. FEBC Cambodia (Voice of Love) has continued to bring the hope of Christ to its people through Krusa (Family) FM, shortwave radio, social and digital media. Volunteer Mr Yame Rin has been faithfully distributing solar radios in Mercy village. The villagers are happy to listen to praise and worship songs as they go about their recycling, construction and other manual work.



Volunteer Mr Yame Rin distributed solar radios in Mercy village.

Though face-to-face schools are closed because of the pandemic, staff from Cambodia Community Bible Institute are teaching through radio programs and audio lesson SD cards. One church planter in a rural region was elated to get these resources for a new class he just started in his church. We also started six new classes in Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Udon Meanchey, Siem Reap and Banteay Mancheay. Along with our existing 17 classes in Kampong Speu, Kampong Chang, Takeo, Pursat, Battambang and Pailin, the classes have impacted 200 students. 80 students just graduated! God and His purposes will reign, COVID or no COVID!

In the Heart Languages

As followers of Jesus we are adopted into God's family as His children. Scripture says God sends the Holy Spirit into our hearts, calling out "Abba! Father!" (Galatians 4:6)

What would different people groups call "Abba! Father!" in their heart languages?

Abba אבא
(Aramaic)

Aab АА
(Mongolian)

Cha
(Vietnamese)

Pita पिता
(Hindi)

Txiv (Hmong)

‘FAFE ផាផេ
(Khmer)

Tian Fu 天父
(Chinese)

Bat'ko батько
(Ukrainian)

With your partnership, FEBC reaches the unreached around the world in people's heart languages.

Because each heart needs to hear the good news of Jesus. **Let them hear.**

For all the latest FEBC Australia news go to www.febc.org.au,
or follow us on  [febcaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/febcaustralia)

Life Changing Testimonies from FEBC Cambodia Listeners

"Just two hours of shortwave radio has brought me joy and 'familyship' as a blind man. May God bless FEBC radio to be the hope for the hopeless."

- Listener Kim Khen

*"I was so sad when I looked at my life as a follower of Jesus. I made many mistakes. Then, I heard about God forgiving Peter's mistake through Krusa FM's Drama Bible program. I realized that the Lord forgives me when I repent. **Now I know that Jesus loves me even when I am a sinner.**"*

*"When I face problems, I sometimes want to deny Jesus. But FEBC Cambodia's speaker shared practical tips with me when I shared my burdens. **Now I have turned back to God.**"*



Cambodian singer
KHEM shared
his testimony on
Krusa FM

*"I started life in a Buddhist family who persecuted other Christians. We did not like those who told us about Jesus Christ. Yet God in His mercy sent faithful believers to share the gospel of hope. **Now the whole family has chosen to accept Christ. I am not ashamed to tell others about my faith and thank God for giving me a testimony to share on Krusa FM radio.**"*

- famous Cambodian singer KHEM



Let them hear this Christmas!

Christmas Catalogue Out in October!

What more meaningful gift for Christmas than to share the hope of Christ? FEBC reaches the least, the lost and the unreached forgotten ones through radio ministry and practical help. Partner with us through your gift giving. Watch out for our Christmas catalogue coming out in October!

**How can
you help?**

