

January/February 2022



## Reuniting Chinese with their Spiritual Heritage

31 January 2021. Lunar New Year's Eve. A flurry of activity ensues in Chinese homes as families prepare to gather for reunion dinner and to usher in the Lunar New Year. Muted excitement builds in the hearts of parents waiting for the children they have not seen since COVID started. Will their children make it home this year for the Lunar New Year?

In even greater measure than these earthly parents, and the father in the Biblical story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), is our God who is longing for a reunion with His lost ones. For the Chinese, this is a special meaning they need to know more about, one connected to their heritage.

### Spiritual Heritage

Many Chinese words tell Biblical stories. These words existed before the Book of Genesis was penned by Moses. One is the very popular word '福'. You can see this hung on many doors during Chinese New Year and stamped on the red envelopes containing money that is given out in this festival. Another example is



Chinese words tell Biblical stories

the word 義 (Yi), which means 'righteousness'. Before the arrival of Buddhism, ancient Chinese worshipped an Almighty God called 上帝 (Shang di) or 'King above'. This God was a Creator God with characteristics similar to Yahweh.

All these points to a Chinese spiritual heritage of Christianity, and not Buddhism or Ancestral Worship as many Chinese believe.

# Reuniting Chinese with their Spiritual Heritage ... cont'd

## FEBC's heritage and growth in China

China is not just a nation important to God, it is also very close to the heart of FEBC. When the Christian mission was set up by John C. Broger, Robert H. Bowman, and William J. Roberts, the plan was always to broadcast the Gospel in China. Hence the name: Far East Broadcasting Co.

In mid-1949, when the Chinese government closed its doors to foreign missionaries, FEBC began its first broadcast into China.

Today, FEBC China is reaching millions through Liangyou Radio on websites, apps, or applets. In a nation where 989 million use the internet (200 million of whom are digital natives), digital is the way to go!

Despite challenges and restrictions, such as chat channels being shut down or IPs blocked, there has been a phenomenal growth in listeners. Late last year there were over 23 million downloads of the programs! FEBC China is feeding the spiritually hungry with 200 hours of programs each month, including broadcasts in seven ethnic languages; plus, Liangyou Theological Seminary equips local believers online for ministry.



Click to watch the beginnings of FEBC's broadcast into China.



Click to access Radio Liangyou podcasts online.



Click to access China's demographics.

## Listener Testimonies

*"Through listening to Gospel radio for three years, I've come to know that Christianity is not superstitious but a true belief. That's why I've decided to come to Christ." – Huang*

*"I began listening to Radio Liangyou in 1979 out of curiosity. By June of 1993, I got tired of life and wanted to commit suicide. I wrote to a program host describing my situation and got a reply letter quickly – with a gospel tract inside. I opened the tract to read. Before I finished, my heart was deeply touched by God's love. After that, I listened to every program on Liangyou every day, and 'Radio Counselling Corner' in particular helped me the most. In 1994, I was called by the Lord and became a pastor up until now." – Gao*

*"It was 1982 when I casually heard about God and was curious, and I continued to listen. Gradually, I learned about the only true God. I invited, my neighbour to listen as well. Later in the same year, my whole family became Christians. And since 1983 we started a small house meeting place. Thank the Lord! It was Radio Liangyou that told us this Good News so we could know Jesus Christ." – Zhang*

## New Station. New Hope. New Lives

To say 2021 was another turbulent year for Chad is an understatement. Chad is a country that has experienced civil war for almost 24 years. One in three people (or 5.5 million) need humanitarian aid. Of these, 2.7 million are children. Food insecurity and malnutrition affect 5.1 million, of which 401,000 are children under the age of five.

There are 406,673 internally displaced persons. Insecurity due to non-state armed group attacks, floods, and the search for humanitarian assistance, trigger regular displacements.

20 believers were recently baptised in Lake Chad.



In April last year, the President (who had been in power for three decades) was killed in clashes with rebels a day after he was elected. This political fragility took place at the same time Chad was also fighting extreme Islamic militants spreading in the region. In Chad, soldiers are everywhere, and most of the time the roads are blocked by the military. People live in fear, not knowing what is going to happen next. The number of women and children kidnapped has been on the rise.

Floods and fires have been made thousands homeless, whilst the country also battled COVID and measles.

The problems are so large and so many that only an intervention from God can bring about a turnaround.

Amid the absolute chaos and oppressive fear, the Good News that only Jesus can bring is reaching out. Thousands of Chadian listeners say they experience peace and comfort when listening to FEBC's broadcasts put together by pastors. Many have been connected to the church station manager Thomassin founded.



Just slightly over a year after the new Radio Shahada (le Radio au Coeur de N'djamena) was opened in northern Chad, 20 new believers were baptised in Lake Chad. They have received Christ Jesus and declared their new lives and new hope in Him!

In a country where Christians are facing increasing persecution, the choice to follow Jesus adds risks to already turbulent lives. Just recently a few new converts were attacked. It isn't easy to birth disciples. Yet the Holy Spirit is



Click to  
access Chad's  
demographics.

pouring out. There is a new hunger.

*"Pastor, I beg you to show me the way to meet Jesus. I'm so happy to listen to your programs, which are a source of strength for me. I want to continue to create awareness among young people so that they too can get to know God."*

*I was in pain, but then I suddenly got up. Thank God! Thank you, Radio Shahada. I am bedridden due to illness, but your programs are doing me a lot of good."*

## Looking back, envisioning the future.

### Happy New Year!

It's a blessing to start the year with you and to send our heartfelt wishes to you and yours for the year ahead.

The new year is always filled with fresh hope. For many of us, we have had to put some plans and dreams on hold for the past year. A new year presents a new chance to try again. But, with variants of COVID surfacing, the future still holds some uncertainties. Yet our hope is steadfast and sure.

As Christians, we are very blessed to have our hope anchored not on circumstances but a Person – Jesus. He is unchangingly good, the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He has plans for us, plans to prosper us, to give us a future and hope (Jeremiah 29:11). He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end (Revelation 22:13). We may not know what our future holds, but we know who holds our future.

By looking back at what God has done and acknowledging His

faithfulness, sovereignty, and other characteristics, we can confidently look ahead in hope.

*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19*

As we begin the new year, may you be encouraged and renewed with fresh hope as you read these stories from the field, of God paving a way in persecuted places, reaching new lives, and preparing new ways. Despite persecution, the Church in China, restricted areas in Southeast Asia, and predominantly Muslim Chad and Kazakhstan, continue to thrive.

FEBC's broadcasts have been able to bypass physical restrictions to reach thousands in their heart languages. Apart from radio, FEBC's live streaming on social media and social chat platforms is bringing new audiences hope and life.

I am deeply touched by so many of the stories and the unabated love and reckless pursuit of God and His



Kevin Keegan, National Director,  
FEBC Australia

kingdom despite extreme persecution. You have helped to ignite that now-unquenchable fire for God in these brothers and sisters in Christ. I am looking forward to our continued partnership with eager anticipation, envisioning together the abundant harvest of new lives touched by God this year.

**Kevin Keegan**  
National Director, FEBC Australia



Representative image

*"Since I have lived here, I have not met any other believer. I asked my neighbours if they know Jesus. They said that there were no Christians around here, only in the city. There are no churches here either. I have not been able to worship God at church, but I pray continually. I am so glad to be able to listen to the Word of God on the radio." – Mien listener in China*

# Making a Way Where There Seems None

*"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit" - Matthew 28:9*

This is the Great Commission Jesus gave to all Christians to fulfill, and this is what FEBC is doing through media. The Greek word for 'nations' is 'ἔθνη' (ethnē). It refers to ethnic groups, not nations as drawn out by political boundaries.

The Mien is one such ethnē. Originally from China, now spread across China, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Denmark, France, and United States. They believe in Spiritism, ancestral worship, and Taoism.

The Mien only have a spoken language. Any written language is borrowed from Chinese characters. This is where FEBC's broadcasts become critical for them to hear the Good News. At least 1,000 Mien in China have come to Christ because of FEBC's broadcasts in their language!

Christians in communist Laos and Vietnam face intense persecution from the state and their own families.

## Persecution and Imprisonment

Soldiers raid houses and put false accusations to try to silence believers. Despite persecution, the Mien Christians are fervent to share about God.

*"I knew God because I listened to FEBC radio when radio Pastor taught us God's story. I listened to the program every day. Everybody in the village also listened. I received Christ as my Saviour.*

*When we believe in God, the policemen or the government officials came and persecuted us very hard. I had to flee to live in the jungle. There were times that the policemen came while I was teaching the Bible and I could not run away. I have been put in prison three times.*

*But I've never stopped teaching the Bible to the new believers living near me. The policemen threatened me many times. So, I prayed for God to bring me to stay with a believer in another village. My husband followed me later with the children and I lost three of my children at that time. Then God led my husband to believe in Jesus at the same time with my children. In this*



Mien dress in black, with red knitting wool around the neckline.

*village, we have been charged again many times, but we haven't been put in prison.*

*I kept bringing more people to know Jesus and the church is growing." - Ms Y.L, Laos*

*"But God turns everything around for good for those who love Him and are called to His purpose ." (Romans 8:28). There's even a Saul to Paul account!*

*"In my past, I joined the Laos military. I disliked anyone who was Christian, and all Christian radio programs. I monitored all Christian programs, waiting for the day to put them to jail. Day by day, God presented Himself through the radio as I listened. God revealed His truth in His Word. The Scriptures teach that God is love; God is a healer. That was the beginning of my journey with God. When I left my soldier career and got a new job in another province in Thailand, I accepted Christ with Mien people." - Mien listener, Laos*

## Rivers in the Desert

The odds are high. But spirits are even higher. God has been making a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19) He has been pouring out His love and truth through FEBC's broadcasts via shortwave radio and websites. Now another new thing: live streaming through social chats and social media. Facebook posts regularly get more than 10,000 views.



Click for  
FEBC Mien's  
Facebook page.



Click for  
demographics  
of the Mien



# New Ways. New Contacts.

52% of Kazakhs are Muslim. Only 0.61% of the population are evangelicals. The majority of the Christians residing in Kazakhstan are made up of Orthodox Russians and Ukrainians who have migrated to Kazakhstan.

Whilst Christianity is not illegal, proselytizing is. What do you do when your mission is to share the Good News but you cannot persuade people to receive Jesus? You produce relatable content that reflects God's love, which speaks to their issues, and that creates interest enough for people to contact you to find out more. In missions, this content prepares hearts. It is pre-evangelistic content.

## Pre-evangelism

Traditionally, FEBC uses radio to reach the unreached. Now FEBC Kazakhstan is using a new methodology: videos and social media for broadcasts.

The team has produced videos across a wide range of topics that point people to Jesus. The Facebook posts on iconic people's views about Jesus and background on commonly celebrated festivals, like Christmas, reached 280,000 viewers.

Live talk shows on Nazar FM Media streamed

online have received great responses. "Nazar" in Kazakh means "attention, view". Counsellors discuss topics such as family, parenting, and youth with audiences.

Because of COVID, audiences have been asking more questions about life, death, and God!

Listeners share how the programs have impacted them:

*"From my childhood, I have been very shy and insecure. I hated my legs. I hated to wear skirts. You talked about the inner value we have, which is of much higher value. I am beginning to understand that it is most important to listen to God, to understand how God sees me. This is changing my entire life. I can feel God's healing*



## Heart-to-Heart

Hi, I am Mairagul. I am Kazakh. I live with my mother in Khovd province in Mongolia. I work as a Kazakh language program coordinator and host in the Kazakh language at the Khovd radio station, FEBC. I am working filled with joy and peace.

I am one of few Christians in my big family and relatives. My mother is Christian too. I always read my Kazakh Bible. Sometimes, my pre-believing siblings want me to pray for their business and private life problems. In those cases, I mobilize them to pray together. I am here to declare Jesus as my Lord to my big family and relatives.

within me.” - Altyn

*“I like your approach that God can help us in any situation. I am a teacher; I never really took God seriously. But your broadcast makes me think.”* - Marita

### The Way, The Truth, The Life

With pre-evangelism content underway, FEBC Kazakhstan has started a new broadcasting channel with more openly Christian material. “Jol, Shyndyq, Omi” (“The Way, The Truth, The Life”) includes video teachings and testimonies from believers. The channel even has short video clips on the life of Isa (Jesus).

When audiences contact the team to find out more about the Gospel, the team can answer their questions without breaching the law.

The successful broadcasts have reached more than 100,000 Kazakh viewers, the majority of whom are Muslim. People have mixed reactions, but are not indifferent. The team follows up with those expressing real interest in Jesus, and partners with local churches to continue the contact and discipleship.

Some radical Muslims have left angry comments, giving the team the chance to

make contact! It is not a coincidence that people of different faiths come across the testimonies. FEBC believes the seed is sown and, in God’s perfect timing, will bear fruit.

Kazakhs are being reached not just through FEBC Kazakhstan in the country, but also through FEBC Mongolia’s Kazakh language broadcasts to the Kazakhs living in Mongolia.

This is one listener’s account:

*“I am Kazakh. I am 51 years old. I live with my daughter in Nalaikh city. I am a single mother. Several years ago, my husband passed away. Before, I had no radio device. Then Galcom radio was given to me. I started to listen to the Kazakh language program. I heard the declaration about Jesus Christ. I understood that I have to decide. So, I decided to receive Jesus Christ as my living Saviour. I cried out to God, ‘O God, I want to receive You as my Lord’. I started to attend the local church with my teenage daughter. I usually tear while listening to the worship songs and hearing about God on the radio program. The worship songs are very beautiful. Those songs tell me how much God loves us. Your radio program in the Kazakh language changed my life and my character.”*  
- Gulsaule



Click to watch a testimony of a man who found God.



Click for FEBC Kazakhstan’s Facebook page.



Click for Kazakhstan’s demographics.

## In the Heart Languages

How do you wish someone ‘Happy New Year’ in the heart languages?

**Mandarin** - 新年快乐 (xin nian kuai le)

**Kazakh** - Жаңа жылыңызбен (zhana zhylynyzben)

**Mien** - Beangh Orn Siang Hnyangx

## LET THEM HEAR

Partner with FEBC to bring the Good News to all nations. Let them hear in their heart languages.



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