

Skywaves



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Truth and Love of Jesus Setting Pakistani Women Free

In the Muzaffarabad district in Pakistan, singing voices echo across the airwaves in the region. For the local FM partner radio station, this has been an amazing witness to the local population in the towns that tune in regularly to hear God's message of truth.

'Syban', the radio program hosted by FEBA Pakistan, was recently featured in the national newspaper for connecting with local students, particularly young women, in a nationally broadcasted singing competition. Three different schools participated on-air.



Students singing for the radio program 'Syban' on-air.

Having young women participate publicly in this on-air competition is significant. Pakistan is a largely Muslim patriarchal society. A 2020 UN report finds that 48 per cent of

young women aged 15-24 are not in education — 28 per cent of whom would have been married before the age of 18. 15 per cent of young women experienced physical abuse, and 44 per cent of young married women and men see no harm in wife-beating. The need for change is dire.

But FEBA Pakistan is helping to change the tide. Through radio and in-person seminars imparting biblical truths, FEBA Pakistan has been setting women free to pursue their God-given potential.

"By the grace of God, we are connecting with youth, men, women and families through these broadcasts. We are supporting them through our community development programs, including COVID safety training, health and hygiene, education, and women empowerment," shares Saleem, National Director of FEBA Pakistan.

A long-standing listener agrees. *"FM programs broadcast by FEBA are playing a pivotal role in community development. Program 'Syban', in particular, is holding us together in developing and uplifting all communities living in Muzaffarabad and surrounding areas".*

And thanks to the generous support of local partners in Australia, more now have access to this life-giving truth. Additional radio sets and literature were distributed to listeners within the country.

FEBC's partner has also been actively improving the health and education of marginalized, voiceless communities by amplifying their voices through community media, supported by off-air activities.

One such activity is a workshop on women's hygiene, with a free check-up and medicine available in a village. Most of these villagers are poor and can't afford long-distance travel to get medical care. Health and hygiene



FEBA Pakistan staff distributing radio sets.

Truth and love of Jesus setting Pakistani women free ... cont'd

are some of the most pressing issues the villagers face. With little or no education, women are the most marginalized and vulnerable unit of the family.

One participant remarked that no one else sees or cares for the women like the team does.



A free health workshop and check-up for marginalized women in an impoverished village.



Women given community media training.

The team has also been giving community-centred media training to women. A young girl, aged 21, who has never talked to any stranger in her life said, *"through this training I found the boldness and courage to talk to someone and share my views."*

The past year has been a tough one for the team in Pakistan, especially when four members of the already lean team were affected by the virus. But the team continues to press forward so that many more, like the schoolgirls and women, can also be loved into freedom.

One lady exclaimed, *"we were in darkness and our trainer brought us into light"*.



[Click here for Pakistan's demographics](#)

Setting Captives Free Within Thai Prisons

Think of freedom and most likely the image of someone being able to move without restraint comes to mind. But the prisoners in Thailand are experiencing a freedom like no other.

Thai prisons are no walk in the park. Thailand has the biggest prison population in Southeast Asia. Spartan jail cells are severely overcrowded and conditions are below international standards. Not surprisingly, COVID clusters broke out in the prisons during the height of the pandemic. There are also reports of labour exploitation of prisoners, whereby inmates are given threats of beatings or no wash. You can almost say it is a living hell — except, of course, hell is much worse.



Yet out of this pit of darkness, a movement of hope is gaining ground, and quickly. More than 25,000 listeners in Thailand are enrolled in FEBC's Bible Correspondence Course (BCC), many of whom are prisoners serving time all over Thailand. The course is an 18 lesson Bible Study, with real life application. On-air programmes provide extra content, and regularly promote the Bible Correspondence Course (BCC) as an ideal way to learn more about God, Christianity, and eternal life. Around 1,000 people enrol each year.

Thai prisoners being set free by FEBC's Bible Correspondence Course.

In a nation where 88.7% of the population are Buddhists, many of the students are also Buddhists, or were Buddhists when they began the course. The Buddhist worldview is one of an endless cycle of birth and rebirth into the suffering on earth, with the need to constantly accrue merit or receive karma. It is heavy bondage. Through the BCC, the truth of Christ has set many free from this bondage. Some are even leading small groups in their prison! The hope they have received and the joy that they carry from God are simply infectious!

Prisoner testimonies:

"Having learned the lessons from your Bible Correspondence Course, it made me realize and understand that Jesus took the punishment in place of me. He made me free now. I believe and accept Jesus as my Saviour with all my heart. Dear Jesus, I invite You to come and be imprinted in my heart and give me eternal life. Lord, with your help, I will live for you. Thank God for the salvation of my soul." – Mr. P., prisoner in Nakhon Ratchasima Province

"I'm now happy, and I'm willing to share my experience. When I first entered the cell, I suffered terribly. But when I met God here, I have a lot of hope in my life." – Mr. W., prisoner in Nakhon Ratchasima Province

"Thank you for sending me a good and easy-to-understand lesson about the Lord Jesus Christ. It is more valuable than anything. Due to COVID, everyone faces various problems, including my relatives at home. I miss and worry about them. Now I have made an application for the suspension of punishment, and it's approved. I'm going to live outside and serve God." – Mr. C., prisoner in Ratchaburi Province



[Click here to access FEBC Thailand's radio programs.](#)

In the Heart Languages

How do you wish someone “Happy Easter! Christ has risen!” in the heart languages?

Urdu – مبارک عید! (Mubarak Easter. Masih utth gaya he!)

Ukrainian – З Великоднем! Христос воскрес! (As Velikodnya! Christos voskres!)

Russian – С Пасхой Христовой! Христос воскрес! (S Paskhoy Hristovoy! Hristos voskres!)

Kyrgyz – Машайак көтөрүлөт! (Machayac kotorulot!) (The word “Easter” does not exist in Kyrgyz language)

Thai – สุขสันต์สุขสันต์วันอีสเตอร์! พระเยซูทรงฟื้นขึ้นจากความตาย. (Wan Easter! Phrayesusongfuenchontakwangdai. – Jesus rose from the dead.)

Dear friends,

There's been a lot of talk recently about freedom. People want the freedom to choose, to go places, to live as desired. But freedom for me, as a Christian, means something else.

As I look to Easter's cross and empty tomb, my heart is filled with gratitude for the freedom that Jesus so graciously purchased for us.

Jesus' death freed us from a bondage to sin, and His resurrection freed us from eternal death. “It is finished.” (John 19:30) The debt of sin has been paid, the victory over death won. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can be free to live abundant lives. This abundant life isn't characterised by wealth, power or external freedoms. Rather, it's a life lived purposefully and joyfully regardless of circumstances; a

life free to love others without the sting of fear or rejection, because we are loved.

The world celebrates Women's Day on 8 March. We too celebrate the freedom in Christ that FEBC has been able to birth with women through on-air and off-air programs. Women have been liberated from trauma, domestic violence and lower social statuses. Through Bible teaching and broadcasts, even prisoners were freed from oppressive worldviews into joyous purposeful lives despite being still in prison. Even in the midst of persecution in the case of one of our Kyrgyzstan staff, there is joyous freedom. The truth of Jesus Christ really sets people free.

All these are only possible because of your support in finances and prayer that have been so freely and faithfully



Catch Kevin on Vision Christian Radio. Follow facebook.com/FEBCAustralia for updates.

given. For those who have given through bequests, their giving has continued to resurrect hope and bring forth new life. Their legacy, and yours, can live on.

Kevin Keegan

National Director, FEBC Australia



“I suffered from age-related macular degeneration that made me blind. I was so discouraged with life and wondered how to live on. Then I turned on the radio. Your program made me start to have the courage to keep my life going. Later I opened my heart to receive the Lord Jesus into my life. Now I have God with me every day.” - Mrs. P., Chachoengsao Province, Thailand

Experiencing Freedom through Victory in Ukraine

Hearing the testimonies of new believers is always a welcome sound, and in Ukraine there has been an outpouring of stories from listeners around the country who have found freedom through personal encounters with the truth of the Gospel message.

As the second-largest country in Europe, the former Soviet Union member has had its share of struggles. It is landlocked by larger countries and has experienced political conflict over the past several years, which has been escalating across the border.

However, team members in FEBC Ukraine remain resilient in their efforts to share the truth of God's Word with their fellow countrymen and women. As recently as last September, FEBC Eurasia was able to launch the New Evangelism Center in Kyiv, providing access to professional counsellors to connect with listeners in regard to a range of spiritual conversations about abuse, suicide, strife and personal tragedies.

Irina, one of the FEBC Eurasia workers based in Kyiv, shared recently that, *"One of our listeners wrote to us that she was going through a really difficult period in her life; she had gone through a divorce, and her adult daughter had attempted to commit suicide. But every morning, she gets up early at 8am to listen to FEBC, and the words of the program help her to live and go on, and to believe that God will help her, that God is with her, and He goes with her through all the challenges of life"*.

There are many families suffering as a result of war. They are physically and emotionally challenged. Emerging from an Atheist communist regime means there is no rest to be found in a God that is non-existent. Yet the work of FEBC Eurasia continues through a community program known as "Wounded by the War", which involves taking relief packages and supplies to households affected by the war in Ukraine.

One lady in particular, Julia, relates her experience of meeting local FEBC workers who had come to visit her. She says, *"At first, I was wary of them, this group of smiling people bringing me food and religious books. But I accepted their help – I had three kids that needed to be fed, after all. The next Sunday, I got my kids together and we went to church. I'm still not sure how it happened, but the next thing I knew, I was walking forward to accept Jesus and was asking him to come into my life and into my family, and I truly meant it"*.

Many experience post-war trauma and struggle to survive in regional areas, where many are

engulfed in isolation and loneliness. In Eastern Ukraine, most suffer from unemployment and economic deprivation. The air is stale with a lack of hope and the feeling of abandonment. This especially applies to women, who often deal silently with pain, anger, and unresolved familial issues. FEBC Eurasia has been able to respond by bringing the message of freedom and hope to those who desperately need to hear it, through a special project where well-trained Christian counsellors work personally with women, helping them to share their stories through a series of radio programs.

One of the broadcasters based in Ukraine shared, "We

recently had a call from one of our listeners. Her name is Svitlana. Her husband was cheating on her, and thereafter, she became sick. She then called us and asked us, 'What should I do? Where is God in my situation?' We spoke to her, prayed with her. We told her God loves her. We explained to her what her responsibility is and how God's guidance is available for her. We then prayed the prayer of salvation with her, and she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour".



Julia tuning into FEBC broadcast



Broadcasting the message of freedom and hope across Ukraine.



Click here to watch a report from Ukraine.



Click here for Ukraine's demographics.

Bringing the Kingdom to Kyrgyzstan



View from one of the transmitters.

Struggling to be accepted, seeking desperately to be saved. This is the heart cry of so many in Kyrgyzstan, a country that has seen its share of persecution and devastation over the past several years.

With a population of over 5,849,296 people, of which over 90% identify as Muslims, the small Christian community has gone through a period of intense circumstances.

Yet, within this region, the Gospel message is still ringing out, loud and clear. FEBC Kyrgyzstan has been able to broadcast across the length and breadth of the land, with many coming to faith as a result of the Word sounding out on the airwaves.

"The situation is not easy. Primarily, due to the spread of COVID-19, with more and more cases as a result of the virus, with up to 1,400 cases per day; most of the cases coming from the capital Bishkek.

Through our programs and broadcasts, we try and convey Biblical values and influences for society, and we believe that our work is necessary and important", shares one of the managers from FEBC Kyrgyzstan.

Six different stations broadcast the truth of God's word across the country to over one million listeners. Listeners hear the life-changing messages daily as a result of the tireless efforts of FEBC in Kyrgyzstan. When other radio stations shut down during a political upheaval, FEBC Kyrgyzstan chose to remain open to serve the people as best as they could, in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Zukhra, a small business owner, lives in a small village in Kyrgyzstan and recently contacted one of the FEBC Kyrgyzstan stations to share her story.

"I decided to call you because you are talking about what I need – hope. No one talks about

Heart-To-Heart Spotlight: Graeme and Elizabeth Furlong

They say you are never too old to make a difference, yet in the case of Graeme and Elizabeth Furlong this is probably an understatement.

For 20 years, Graeme and Elizabeth have been faithfully spreading the word about FEBC's mission around Australia and across the world. Having represented FEBC in Queensland for many years, Graeme shares his passion for the lost to hear.

"I often tell people that FEBC has possibly won more souls to salvation in trusting Jesus than any other ministry in the world in the last century," 87 year-old Graeme says.



Long-standing supporters Graeme and Elizabeth

things like that nowadays. With all my success as a businesswoman, I am dealing with a husband who is an alcoholic and a son who recently attempted to commit suicide," she shares.

FEBC staff went to visit Zukhra, bringing Christian literature, talking with her and sharing the Gospel. Zukhra has been visiting a church in the nearby village for the past several months, and her son has also now accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.

The power of the Good News has been able to transform many lives across the country of Kyrgyzstan, and it is through your support that the message of God's Word continues to touch lives, bringing the Kingdom of God into the hearts of others.

"My father drank a lot. He was a driver and was gone a lot. When he came home, he got drunk. There were lots of fights with mother, and he often beat her. In my childish imagination, I thought that somewhere far away there is an old man with a white beard who sees everything and is somehow in charge. Whenever I was sad or there was a problem at home, I went out and looked up to the sky, and talked with him. With tears in my eyes, I told him everything. Now I understand that I was talking with the living God",

FEBC staff Seil shares.

For Seil, she somehow saw that the only way to change her situation was to cry out to God for help.

"As I contemplated suicide, I tried overdosing on pills. I also prepared a rope to hang myself. Somehow, I was always too afraid to go through with it. Now, I understand that God simply did not let that happen.



Seil broadcasting the message of God's Word.

Even then, God had His plan for me. And now, as a follower of Christ, I want to share the Good News with many. For ten years, I have been making Christian audio programs. I do believe that these radio programs will be of great help. My mom came to know the Lord five years ago. My father has stopped drinking and it has truly changed him. He is now respecting

my mother. I am really thankful to the Lord for this. Please pray for us as we expand the reach of FEBC's radio ministry, so that through the radio many more souls will be touched. This is my dream," Seil testifies.

With your support, we can make this dream a reality by continuing to broadcast God's kingdom message to the people of Kyrgyzstan.



[Click here to watch a report from Kyrgyzstan.](#)



[Click here to watch Seil's story.](#)



[Click here to download a bequest pack today.](#)

Leave a Legacy

When you leave a bequest with FEBC, you leave a legacy of resurrected hope and lives eternally changed in Christ Jesus. Together, let's let them hear in their heart languages.

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