

September/October 2022



Reaching out to Aghani refugees.

“Because of Your Prayers, I saw Jesus Christ”

Afia* reaches out to her scalp. The itch is unbearable, but so is the sting from the open wound. The killing of her husband in Afghanistan, plus the immense stress and malnourishment over seven years as a refugee in Indonesia have compromised her immunity. Now she is suffering an extreme allergic reaction to the water that causes her scalp to lacerate. She does not have the money for medical treatment.

Exhausted and unable to take anymore, she resolutely prepares a cheap concoction of detergent to drink, to end her life. Even the thought of leaving her three children does not deter her.

Afia's story is not unique to the 13,000+ refugees stranded in Indonesia, of which more than half are from Afghanistan. At least 13 people have committed suicide since 2014. One torched himself on fire and several sewed their lips in protest.

Unable to return to their own country nor remain long-term in Indonesia, the refugees can only wait for resettlement in a third country. But resettlement numbers have dropped dramatically since the COVID pandemic. And should the third resettlement attempt be unsuccessful, the refugees will be deported, which would mean certain death. Whilst waiting, they are not

allowed to work or marry, and have little access to education and other necessities. They are trapped in limbo, for years, with no hope in sight. Many break down.



Stressed and malnourished, Afia* developed a severe allergic reaction from the water.



FEBC PARS ministry leaders give Afia a package of food monthly and pray for her.

But Afia's journey takes a different turn from most. Refugees themselves, FEBC Indonesia's PARS ministry leaders Mustafa and Maria have been reaching out to Afia. The Iranian couple shares hope in Jesus in the Persian** language via Telegram. They also share God's love through practical help and care to Afghani and Iranian refugees. Mustafa and Maria give Afia a package of food monthly and pray for her in the name of Jesus Christ.

Just as Afia is about to drink the detergent, she hears a comforting, loving voice. And then she sees Jesus Christ. “Don't drink that cup,” Afia recounts what Jesus said to her, in Dari, her heart language. “Give your burdens to Me. Leave your problems and illness to Me.”

Afia broke down and surrendered her burdens to Jesus. She felt relief come over her. Today, her living conditions are improving and she is thankful she did not commit suicide. Afia believes it is because of the prayers of Mustafa and Maria that she saw Jesus.

* Name has been changed to protect the identity of the individual.
** Persian - Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan - Farsi speaking.



For ethnic Chinese in Taiwan and other nations, mid-autumn festival is the second largest festival next to Chinese New Year, where families will gather. Most will eat mooncakes and play with lanterns.

Introducing A Personal God and Loving Father

Each year on one day in September or early October, the usually bustling streets in Taiwanese cities become quiet. Bathed in the light of the full moon and paper lanterns that decorate homes, families gather to celebrate the mid-autumn festival. They enjoy a sweet round pastry called mooncakes.

The reality of most Taiwanese families is less sweet and wholesome. The Taiwanese father is mostly physically and emotionally absent. In traditionally patriarchal Taiwan, fathers are expected to provide for the family, whilst mothers are the primary caregivers to the children. But long work hours mean fathers are rarely present. The roles are slowly changing, but not quick enough. Except for younger dads, you will be hard pressed to find a Taiwanese father hugging his child or giving words of affirmation, something children need to feel loved.



Many Taiwanese are performance-driven. The idea of a God as a heavenly Father who loves unconditionally is foreign.

To top it off, typical Taiwanese society and religion (a mixture of Buddhism, Taoism, and ancestral worship) dictate that you are a good person by what you do. Children become performance-driven to earn approval or love. The idea of a personal God who is a loving, present Father is foreign.

In response, FEBC Taiwan's programs on Liangyou Radio (良友电台) take on a very personal tone. 'Not a Lonely Earth' (不孤单地球) is a talk show for youth, journeying with them through life. Some programs are translated into Taiwanese and Hakka for Taiwan's local listeners. With the Hakka-speaking ethnic group being largely unreached, the translations are making an impact.



FEBC's broadcasts in Taiwan take listeners on an intimate journey to discover a personal, loving God.

One listener felt the program 'The Book Corner' (书香园地) was speaking to him personally: "I have experienced too much denial and abuse since I was a child. I felt confused and struggled when I grew up. I lost myself and could not live out love. Every sentence of the book 'Approval Addiction' seems tailor-made for me and inspires me. The voice of program hosts has the power of comfort. I love this program very much. Thank you, Liangyou Radio. The programs are practical, and truthful."

Personal counselling is also offered on the on-air counselling program. Listener Tang was greatly impacted. "Although I had already been listening to Liangyou Radio, I was prejudiced and annoyed with Christians around me. I did not want to follow Jesus. Then my marriage hit a rock. The on-air counselling helped me save my marriage! That softened my heart of stone and I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. Thank you, Pastor Zhou and co-labourers on Liangyou Radio!"



Click here to access Taiwan's demographics.



Click here to access Liangyou Radio's various platforms.

Dear friends,

With the coming of September, we enter the last quarter of the year, a time when we look forward to the weather getting a little warmer. It's the beginning of spring, and even with the turmoils that surround us in the world we pray expectantly and with hope. Plus, at the beginning of September we celebrate Father's Day in Australia. So, to all biological and spiritual fathers, Happy Father's Day.

But there's a more important reminder in that because fatherhood is central to God's story. In a world of broken promises, heartache and despair, God models for us the perfect father figure. A heavenly Father who we can turn to for advice, support, guidance, or help. A Father whose deep love is both strong and compassionate; who is full of grace, mercy and truth; and who leads and shepherds. We need that – our world needs that. Our Father God is always present, always empowering. His love is not self-serving and is unconditional. And God so loves us.

This is the message FEBC shares. This is the only truth that can heal hearts and provide peace in times of despair. This is the father figure that can only be found through Christ, our God and Father who longs to be in relationship with His people.

"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:18).

May you again be encouraged by this Skywaves that reflects the work of God through your support and partnership. Together we declare our Father to the



Kevin Keegan, National Director,
FEBC Australia

fatherless, the unloved, and the outcast. I pray you will be stirred and inspired by stories of God's love – reaching Persian refugees in Indonesia, healing the hearts of orphans in Cambodia, and changing mindsets on the role of husbands and men in traditionally patriarchal cultures in Taiwan and Kyrgyzstan.

Right now I pray that each of you will know a greater measure of God's love. May you be refreshed, renewed, restored and embraced by the love of our heavenly Father.

In His love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Keegan". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'K' and a long, horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Keegan

National Director/CEO



Representative image

"I have always persecuted believers. There was a time I was very sad. I almost gave up my life. By the grace of God, those whom I persecuted came to pray and encourage me. They encouraged me to listen to Krusa FM. Comfort and love changed my whole life to seek God. Krusa FM brought me to dedicate myself, and I decided to accept Jesus Christ." – Chea Long, Kampong Thom, Cambodia

Cambodia has many orphans. First it was the Pol Pot regime, and now children are forcibly separated from vulnerable families and placed in orphanages that earn a profit from overseas volunteers.



Krusa FM conducts a family seminar in a different province each month to strengthen families.



Voice of Love to a Nation, Family to Orphans

'Krusa' means 'family' in the Khmer language. This is the name of FEBC Cambodia's FM channel, whilst its shortwave broadcast is named 'Voice of Love'. The names aptly express how FEBC Cambodia sees listeners as family and invites all into God's loving family.

To a nation full of orphans, the longing for family runs deep. Many Cambodians were orphaned in the Pol Pot regime. Today, far too many children are forcibly separated from their families and placed in lucrative voluntourism-friendly orphanages, or worse, trafficked. Krusa FM's invitation to family is a river of life to parched, lonely hearts.



Auntie Phon listening to Krusa FM.

Auntie Phon is one recipient. "My name is Vanny. I live in Phnom Penh City. I am an orphan from the Pol Pot regime. I was staying alone. Out of pity, my foster mother took care of me. Sometimes life is hard. I am blamed for some things and face discouragement.

Every time I go to the market, I go through the church and want to join them. One day I decided to ask permission to go to church. My mother said yes. Encouraged by the warmth of the people and the service, I grew to know God

and received Jesus as my Saviour. The church encouraged me to listen to Krusa FM.

When my foster mother started to persecute me and stopped allowing me to go to church, I continued to listen to Krusa FM. One day my foster mother cut me off and sent me away. With tears in my eyes, I thanked her for everything and for providing for me.

My heart was broken. Krusa FM showed me kindness and encouraged me. I started to trust in God's plan. Trusting in God gives me joy, strength, and hope. Thank you, Krusa FM."

To prevent more people from experiencing fatherlessness, 'family' has been a central theme in Krusa FM's on-air and off-air programs. Each month, the team takes its family seminar to a different province. Topics include pre-marriage and post-marriage values and raising children in a positive way. Families have been saved and strengthened.

"Two months after marriage I went to South Korea for work. Because I live far from my wife and son, we have many problems, especially in the areas of family relationships and trust for each other. I felt discouraged every day. But one day I saw Krusa FM broadcasting the program called 'Strengthening Family' through Facebook Live. Hearing what the speaker said relieved me of my troubled heart and encouraged me. Krusa FM has shown me the key to keeping my family relationship strong till now."

– Yeourn Savith, Preyveng Province, Cambodia



Click here to access Krusa FM's Facebook page.

Combating Violence with Love

Some figures you don't want to see climbing. In the case of Kyrgyzstan, it's domestic violence. But even then, the true figures are unknown since most remain silent because of societal stigma and pressure. According to the National Statistics Committee, 92% of domestic violence abusers are husbands.

Listener Mukhabbat's* situation is not uncommon. "I am living in the South. I have a family and children. My husband has become a street preacher of Islam. He often is gone from home for weeks. When my husband is gone, my father-in-law becomes my 'boss', telling me what to do and how to live. My husband is quite abusive. I am living like a slave at home. I am doing my five daily Muslim prayers. However, there is no hint of God's peace, love, or excitement within me."

Whilst the authorities work on the legal and support framework to combat domestic violence, FEBC Kyrgyzstan is changing mindsets towards marriages. Programs such as 'Formula for the Family', broadcast from six FM stations across the nation, provide tips on creating healthy marriages based on biblical principles. It's advice that many have not heard before.

"God saved my family through your broadcast. Most changes begin with me. With God's help, I changed my attitude towards members of my family. I learned to respect them and value them. We have gone through difficult times. Nevertheless, by listening to your broadcast for the last five years, many things have changed for the better. Thank you!" – Shumkarbek*, Kyrgyzstan



Domestic violence is on the rise in Kyrgyzstan.

Those who need help with domestic issues now also have a place to turn to.

FEBC Kyrgyzstan's talk show host contacted listener Tazagul* when she reached out to the station: "For two weeks now I am contemplating killing myself. I simply cannot take the abuse from my husband any longer. It is mainly with words. Nevertheless, I simply can't go on like that and do not see any other escape." Tazagul later replied, saying how she was sure that FEBC's broadcasts are helping many like herself.

For Mukhabbat*, the broadcasts led her to the truth. "I started searching for truth, searching for the living God. What are we on this earth for? For what are we suffering? Your broadcast seems to give some meaningful answers to my quest. Unfortunately, you are so far from where I live. I have not found any Christians in my area. Thank God for your broadcast. It is my only source of encouragement."

**Names have been changed to protect the identities of individuals.*



Click here to watch families reached in remote Talas, Kyrgyzstan.



FEBC Kyrgyzstan's team reaches out to families both on-air and off-air.

In the Heart Languages

Father's Day falls on different dates in different countries. But that doesn't stop us from wishing someone "Happy Father's Day" in the heart languages!

Kyrgyz Аталар күнү менен куттуктайбыз
(*Atalar kunu menen kuttuktaibyz*)

Farsi روز پدر مبارک (*Rooze pedar mobaarak*)

Mandarin 爸爸節快樂 (*Bàba jié kuàilè*)

Khmer វិក្ករាយថ្ងៃទីវាណាកឌីពុក
(*rikreay thngai tivea lokaupouk*)

Give the Love of the Father

Did you know our gift catalogue is available the whole year round? Let's show every tribe, tongue, and nation the love of the Father.



Heart-to-Heart

Listening to shortwave broadcasts from the Philippines whilst in an "underground" church in Siberia. Hand-copying portions of the Bible from a Bible dictation program. Rev. Dr. Rudi Wiens' affinity with FEBC goes a long way back.

He did not know it back then, but God knew that he would go on to serve the media mission for an illustrious 40 years and more. Rudi has witnessed millions come

to Christ through shortwave radio broadcasts into USSR. He has pioneered FEBC ministries in Russia and Ukraine. Now he oversees the next generation of media ministries in Eurasia, which includes Central Asia. Rudi has done it all!

Yet Rudi remains as dedicated as ever, wanting to make the bonus years God has given him from a near-death experience count for the Lord.



Missed Rudi's talks in Australia? Click here to access our Youtube channel for recorded replays and other videos.



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