

Skywaves



November/December 2022

Christmas decorations in Bagdad, Iraq.

Giving Iraqis Hope, Joy and Peace

Christmas in Iraq? Yes. Christmas has been an official holiday since 2020 and is gaining popularity in this 95.5% Muslim country. In fact, over 80% of the Christian population has fled because of persecution. But the popularity of Christmas is not because of a growing focus on Isa (Jesus). Iraqis commonly call Christmas trees 'New Year Trees' and Santa Claus 'Baba Noel'. Both bear gifts that usher in the new year, not the gift of a Saviour.

Yet peace, hope and joy are what Iraqis are desperate for. The Middle Eastern country has been rocked by bombings, violent militant ISIS occupations, uncertainty, rampant corruption and civil disorder for years. Daily, families face exorbitant fuel prices and sudden electricity cuts (the average family in Bagdad gets only six hours of electricity per day).

To bring restoration and healing, FEBC's partners have been broadcasting the Christian message of love, hope, forgiveness, and peace via community-based Iraq FM. Twenty-one programs, including seven live ones, are produced weekly. Dialogues about social issues such as violence against women and children and anger management support listeners emotionally and mentally. Entertainment programs provide relief from the pressures and problems of society. There are also fun programs for children and



Iraqis are desperate for peace, joy and hope in a country troubled by violent unrest for years.

Bible stories presented in an interesting way. The station receives 40-50 calls each day from listeners, opening opportunities to share the Gospel.

One listener is a Yezidi, in a Kurmanji-speaking minority group in west Mosul which had been targeted by ISIS militantst, taking their women into captivity. The listener asked in a personal

conversation what Christians think of Yezidis, to which the team could share the love of God for all people, including the Yezidis.

Another listener was at the end of his rope. Two years prior he had lost his sight in an accident. Since then, his wife treats him very badly and life has become so difficult. As the radio host prayed with him, he suddenly started shouting to Christ and cried. He said the radio is something different. He has never experienced such love and was touched.

What other listeners say:

"Voice of Joy Radio is bold and purposeful. It is the only media in Baghdad that cares a lot about Iraq and its people."

"Thank you for the joy and love you offer in a hostile and backward society."



[Click here to access Iraq's demographics.](#)

Let the Little Children go to Him

When it comes to Christmas, children have the biggest smiles. It's presents and more presents! Yet the biggest gift one can ever receive laid in a manger, wrapped in cloth, that joyous night when Christ was born. Jesus was God's best, given to us that whoever believes will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). But how can the children know and believe in Jesus if they have never heard about Him (Romans 10:14)?

FEBC Indonesia has been sharing God's gift of salvation to children. One project is a series of 40 videos entitled 'Berpetualang Dalam Kerajaan Allah' or 'Adventures in the Kingdom of God'. Children from as young as four in Central Java, Kupang, Kalimantan, East Nusa Tenggara and South Sulawesi have learnt more about God. And they love it!



"Claire woke up very early this morning and came into the kitchen where I was (she usually looks for her mother's hand so she can sleep well). I looked up BDKA's Youtube channel and instructed Claire to begin following days one to

six in Book One. She initially ignored it, but whenever she saw the video she would ask what it was and what it meant.

The next day when I heard voices from outside the room, I was worried about Claire. But I was surprised to find Claire watching the BDKA video seriously. On the third day, when the main character of the series learns about prayer, Claire followed – closing her eyes and waiting for 'Amen,' then following the words in the prayer. Claire was also intent on hearing the story. This has touched me deeply as a mother." – Claire's mother, Indonesia



'Children's Dream House' program and 'Fair Education' are broadcast every weekend. Children get to tell stories on-air for children in kindergarten or early childhood.

Together with the Children's Prayer Network in the city every Sunday, there are children who broadcast and testify of positive things for the younger generation. It helps young children to get accustomed to praying and reading the Bible.



For poor families who are unable to financially support their children in school, FEBC Indonesia is helping with the children's education. This stops the vulnerable children from being taken to Islamic boarding schools. Known locally as 'Yaski', FEBC Indonesia, as part of the 'Family and Children' project, has developed an on-air formal early childhood education program for the poor, as well as a scholarship/school aid program. The educational program also teaches children about biblical values. Through 'Cahaya Bangsa School', 50 children who do not have good educational facilities at home or environmental education are supported.

Children also get to go on-air to encourage other children and, in the process, grow their confidence. One program has children sharing their testimonies, helping the younger generation to know God's gift and their forever friend, Jesus.



Click here to access Yaski's Facebook page.



FEBC Indonesia's 'Berpetualang Dalam Kerajaan Allah' (BDKA) videos teach children about God in a fun way. They answer some questions after each video to consolidate their learning. Students who answer correctly get a prize!



Dear friends,

I am grateful. As I reflect on the past 12 months, as I am challenged by the faith and courage of our partners across the world making known the Good News, as I realise the opportunities before us, as I think of each one of you as I write this – I am grateful. I am grateful to be able to meet some of you again face to face, for your growing support and unflinching partnership, and grateful for the privilege to serve our Lord Jesus in His mission alongside you. I am grateful and humbled to be a part of God's eternal story.

When Christ was born, those in the narrative unexpectedly found themselves inside the story that changed humanity's history. They were people that the world did not expect God to choose. Mary was an ordinary, young Jewish girl. The magi, who visited Jesus when He was a toddler, were pagan astrologers. Shepherds, who first received news of the birth, were not esteemed by society.

Yet each was valued, each loved, each chosen by God to be a part of His story that would eternally change the world. In turn, their own lives were eternally changed.

But here's the twist: our story has always been a part of God's story. Right from creation, we were made to have a loving relationship with Him. This is the Good News that the shepherds went on to tell that joyous night: that, in Jesus, God's story becomes ours again. This is the Good News FEBC bears. And this is also our part to play in God's story: letting others hear about the Gospel.

"When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them." Luke 2:17-18



Kevin Keegan, National Director,
FEBC Australia

I pray that your hearts are filled with the joy that Jesus came to give, and you will be amazed as you read about the men, women and children in Mongolia, Iraq, Philippines and Indonesia in this issue of Skywaves. Their lives were eternally transformed – just like Mary, the magi and the shepherds – when God's story unexpectedly became a part of their story. It did not matter if they were pagan or looked down upon by society. As a result, they pass on the Good News, just like the shepherds did – and what you do, when you support and pray for FEBC's work. So, may Christ be birthed in your hearts and homes anew. Merry Christmas.

In His love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Keegan'.

Kevin Keegan

National Director/CEO



Okiddo!



'Okiddo' is FEBC Philippine's radio program from kids for kids.

When God came down to be with us as one of us, He chose to come as a helpless babe, reliant on Mary and Joseph to provide for Him. Yet there was no mistaking who He was. The tiny baby was the Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, prophesied by Isaiah. By the time Jesus was twelve, He was preaching in the temple. Such wisdom from a small child was unexpected by the society; but not by God.

God esteemed children. "But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these' (Luke 18:16). Catching God's heartbeat for children, FEBC Philippines has a program where children reach out to children.

Introducing 'Okiddo', a 4/14 radio program for kids, by kids! '4/14' refers to ages 4-14. In missiology, this is the best time to reach someone with the Good News of Jesus. Most adult Christians heard about Jesus whilst in this age group.

On 'Okiddo', 'kiddos' enjoy music, funny jokes, trivia, interviews, prayer, and Bible stories dramatized by kids. 'Okiddo' exists to let every Filipino child hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And true to FEBC's strategy, what better way to reach a people group than to have peers share



'Okiddo' exists to let every child in the Philippines hear the Gospel, including young fans Elzar and Skyler, pictured here.

to peers? Nine-year-old program host Mica agrees: "It's important that kids be involved in a kids' show because kids understand it more."

The award-winning weekly program on 702 DZAS (AM Band), Facebook, and GCTV ASIA Cable Channel 185 reaches 500,000 listeners in the Philippines.

The most important thing for the volunteer child hosts is to make God's story known to their peers. "I'm part of 'Okiddo' because I want to share the Gospel and Good News to the children who don't know Him yet," Mica shares, "I feel blessed." Beatrice puts it simply: "I think I should share God to others because that is what a human's role in the world is. It doesn't matter if you are a kid, you are an adult." She prays, "God, please help our programs to touch their (listeners') lives and turn them to you."



[Click here to watch a video about 'Okiddo'.](#)

'Okiddo' kids hosts in action - recording, on the road, and dramatizing a Bible story.



Most Valuable Heritage

Two birthdays are celebrated country-wide in Mongolia every year: Buddha's (in June) and Chinggis Khan's (in November). The birth of Yesu (Jesus)? Not when more than 98% of the population in the former Soviet Union do not know who Jesus is. Many still live a nomadic lifestyle in hard-to-reach areas. And for those who do hear the Gospel, Christianity is looked upon as a Western religion, not suitable for the Mongolian heritage, which Mongolians are very proud of.



Mongolians are proud of their heritage.

What has often been passed down for generations is Tibetan Buddhism. On the family altar, inside the gers (yurts) of Mongolian herders, are Buddhist idols.

Mr. Mayagmar was no different; he inherited a belief in idols. Like many Mongolian men, Mr. Mayagmar struggled with alcoholism. In fact, Mongolians are dependent on alcohol at a rate three times higher than Europeans. It is one of the main causes of domestic violence and divorce in the country. Mr. Mayagmar added to the grave statistics; his idols unable to help him save his marriage.

Just when he was about to throw in the line, one of his classmates from the former Soviet KGB school visited him and told him about Jesus Christ. "I have been given a second chance when God has found me," Mr. Mayagmar joyfully shared about his conversion.

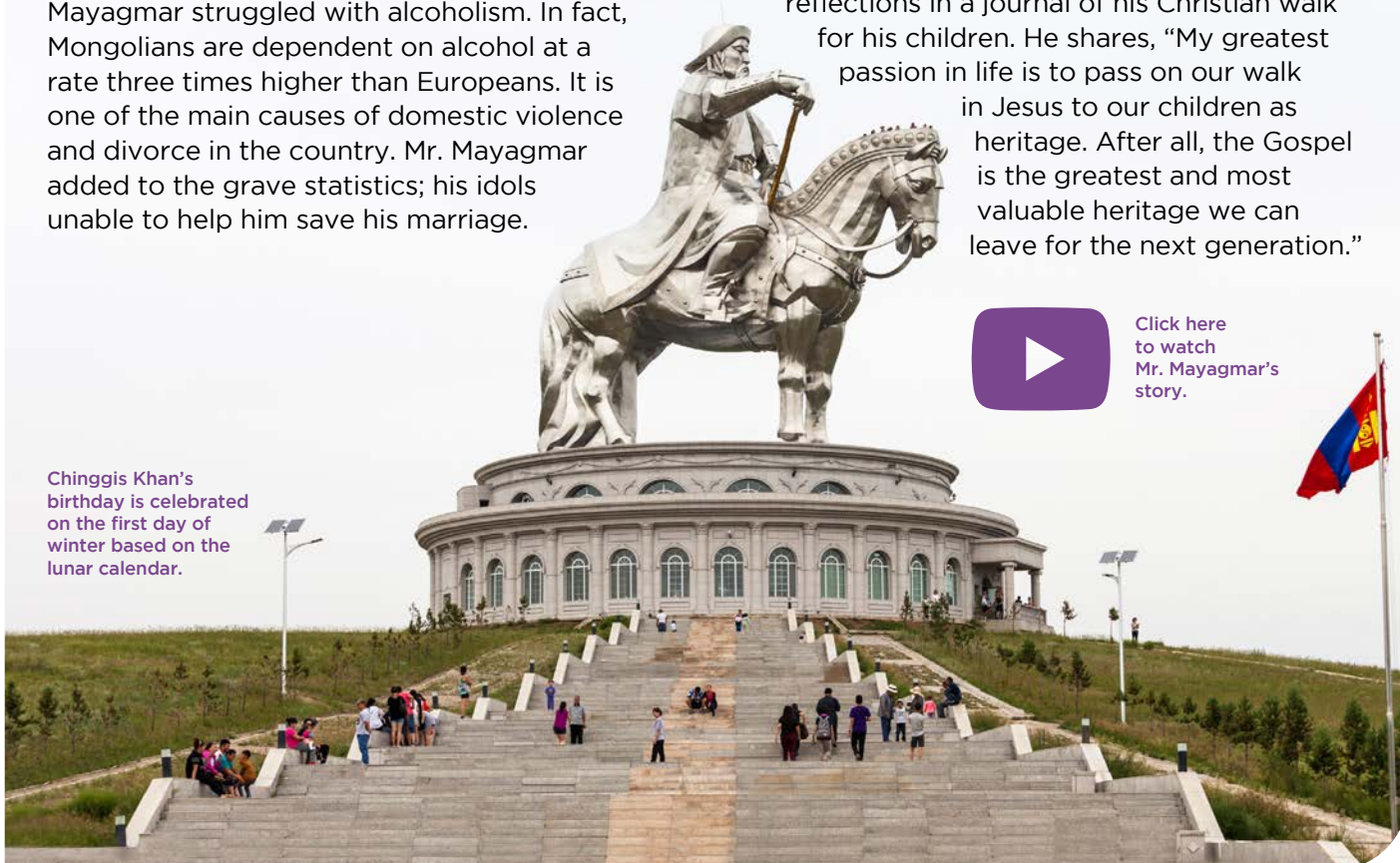
He started his life anew, met his wife in church and they raised eight children together. Then they moved to the countryside after retirement. Unable to regularly travel the vast distance to a church, FEBC's radio broadcasts have become the source of spiritual sustenance for the couple.

As the voice of the friendly host teaching the Bible wafts through the yurt into the steppes beyond, Mr. Mayagmar diligently takes down notes. He compiles these with his daily reflections in a journal of his Christian walk for his children. He shares, "My greatest passion in life is to pass on our walk in Jesus to our children as heritage. After all, the Gospel is the greatest and most valuable heritage we can leave for the next generation."



Click here to watch Mr. Mayagmar's story.

Chinggis Khan's birthday is celebrated on the first day of winter based on the lunar calendar.





Geoff Russell sharing a joyful moment with his mother, the late Joy Russell. Joy's love for Jesus and for the unsaved lives on in Geoff.

Heart-to-Heart

"As far as I can remember, my mother Joy had a passion to help people become saved. She loved the Lord.

When she first discovered the mission of FEBC, she knew giving to your radio and shortwave radio program would enable many people to hear the Word, especially in places where Bibles were banned. So, she faithfully gave over the years until she got dementia in 2016. But before Joy got dementia, she made sure that FEBC was included in her will.

That love for the Lord and passion to see people being saved has been

passed onto me. I wholeheartedly supported her decision and thoroughly enjoyed sending FEBC cheques as per Joy's dying wish. I have also been giving to FEBC, both at Christmas time by buying radios and through monthly giving. I treasure her for her love for the unsaved and for FEBC, but my wife Karen and I also believe in your work.

'Only one life, 'twill soon be past
Only what's done for Christ will last.'

My wife and I live by this quote from C.T. Studd. We are storing up our treasures in heaven!" – Geoff Russell



Leave a Legacy for the Gospel

Want to leave a legacy in your will for others to hear of the Good News of Jesus? We have made it easy for you. There's also a 50% discount for writing your will when FEBC is included. Click here to get started today.

In the Heart Languages

Connect with someone in heart languages like FEBC does! How do you wish someone "Merry Christmas" in the heart languages?

Arabic عيد ميلاد سعيد (eid milad saeid)

Indonesian Selamat Natal

Filipino Maligayang Pasko

Mongolian зул сарын мэнд (zul saryn mend)



LET THEM HEAR GOD'S STORY

This Christmas, help make God's story their story.

◀ Click here to give a gift of impact from our gift catalogue.

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Join us for
our first gathering
in the new year:

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SIGN UP

Online Prayer Gathering
19 January, 2023
Thursday, 7.30-8.30pm
(AEST)
via Zoom