

January/February 2023



Through the war and despite real risks, broadcasts and outreaches from the FEBC Ukraine team never stopped but only intensified.

Revival in the Fiery Furnace of War

On 24 February 2021, bombs shattered the still morning in Kyiv, Ukraine. Trembling, FEBC's radio host Olesia fled her home, reporting as she went. Assistant Program Manager Igor and wife sent through a broadcast, Emma in tears. Bible program host, Pastor Sergey, calmly reported from his church what had just happened.

In the days ensuing, the reports from FEBC staff kept coming, even as staff were on the run. Some chose to stay in the epicentre of the war to minister. They would continue to broadcast about the love of Jesus, His Word and His protection.

Weeks, months, and now a year on, the broadcasts never stopped. Neither has the war.

But out of the destruction, God has brought expansion. Out of the devastation, God has birthed new life.

Prayer intensified; Inna led more prayer on social media daily. "We pray and people accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour," Inna shared. Her own brother came to faith through listening to her!

The ministry expanded onto the streets. Despite risks, Pastor Sergey distributed food, ministering God's love and promises to the traumatised. Igor waited at train stations, sharing hope to thousands fleeing to shelter and safety. 50,000 prayer books were distributed to the public. Audio Bibles were given to soldiers, many of them listening from the trenches.

Counselling increased; the team received four times the number of calls they would normally do - 4,000 received Christian counselling, per month.

Three new stations were birthed! Before the war, most Ukrainians were cultural Christians who didn't know about the Bible. Now, through FM radio, social media, and on ground ministry, one in four Ukrainians has heard the Good News of Jesus Christ through FEBC.



Ministry to Ukrainian soldiers increased. Soldiers received audio Bibles that served as torchlights too.



A new radio station in Kyiv started during the war. The team had prayed for this station for years. Kyiv is widely believed to be where Orthodox Christianity spread to Eastern Europe and Russia.

Out of the fiery furnace of war, revival has begun. The Lord added to the number daily those who were being saved.

"People feel the supernatural power of God's Word to give hope, consolation, motivation," Pastor Sergey shared. Videographer Dima described how some refugees placed their hope in Jesus when he

Revival in the Fiery Furnace of War ... cont'd

continued running the service for them, despite a nearby bombing. Thousands have found peace in Jesus through the radio programs.

A year on, it has not been any easier. The threats are still very real and the pain fresh. "Everyone on the team has lost somebody," Director Eduard shares. Himself and Pastor Sergey are still separated from their children and wives, who are in safe locations.

To joyfully provide hope and build up faith amid such tragedy doesn't get any easier.

"We are tired, but at the same time we can see millions of people who receive Jesus as their Saviour... We do not have electricity and light, but we have the light of Jesus Christ, and we should be shining more and more in these dark times," Igor shares. "This is the essence of our work," Pastor Sergey declares joyously.



[Click here to join us live for a recorded update from Ukraine on 16 February, 2023, 7.30pm \(AEDT\) or for the replay](#)



Most of the team are now back in Kyiv, despite risks. Pastor Sergey and Eduard are still separated from their families.

From Drug Addict to Church Leader

2022 wasn't without its challenges. But God gave tremendous growth to FEBC's Ethnic Ministry serving 17 ethnic people groups in Southeast Asia and China.

The number of followers on various New Media platforms grew to nearly 260,000. Engagement reached 12 million. When lockdowns lifted, the team met thousands at listener rallies, with thousands more joining in online. 200 Shortwave radios and 600 SD cards were distributed in Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand. Four new languages were added to digital program line-ups. The Mien audio Bible was launched on FEBC's Mien Radio station for Mien people worldwide. And 2,268 people received Jesus and were baptised!



2022 was a bumper year for FEBC's Ethnic Ministry with millions reached through New Media and traditional shortwave and FM radio.

But it's not just about numbers. Individual lives, like Mr. Toua Tang's, have been transformed.

"Before knowing God, I was a person who didn't know how to love," Mr. Toua Tang shared. For six years, Mr. Toua Tang was addicted to drugs and alcohol, but was in denial. "If anyone tried to tell me that I was addicted, I would get so angry with that person that I would want to kill him."

Then Mr. Toua Tang suffered an Ischemic stroke. "I couldn't move my body. I became disabled. I couldn't do anything and was unconscious."

Mr. Toua Tang's family brought him to Laos and Vietnam. For months they tried to find someone to heal him. They spent all their money and even went into debt. But his condition didn't improve. They eventually decided to bring him home. "All my relatives tried all kinds of religious methods to no effect. With no more hope left for my life, I waited for death," Mr. Toua Tang recalled vividly.

"At that time, I started to listen to the FEBC radio program. The radio host talked that God could help sinners and the sick. Even the lame could walk. So, I decided to believe in God.



(Representative image) After receiving Jesus through FEBC's broadcast, Mr. Toua Tang has a new life. He is now a pastor in his village church.

"After receiving Jesus as my Saviour, I prayed and asked Him to heal me. Miraculously, I started getting better and stronger. I even started to learn how to walk again. And then I was completely healed!

"I thought 'Wow! This is the real God! I want to know more about Him.'" So, Mr. Toua Tang went to FEBC in Chiang Mai to receive Bible training.

"I have learnt that God is the Creator, and He is love. God has changed my life. Now I serve God as a pastor in my village church, leading and taking care of my church."

Dear friends,

Happy New Year! It's such a joy for me to step into the new year with you. For many of you, we have ushered in many new years together, and I am thankful. You are God's biggest blessing.

The new year brings to mind fresh beginnings, an imagery of a bright new seedling emerging from the dark earth, or even from rubble. In our Australian context, this seedling could very well be emerging from the aftermath of a bush fire. Fire is in fact crucial to trigger the germination process.

It is a fitting image of how God brings forth life out of incredibly devastating circumstances. Out of Jesus' crushing crucifixion, horrific death on the cross, we can join Jesus in a resurrected, eternal life.

Across FEBC offices around the world, God is similarly at work. Out of COVID-19, sickness, extreme lack, and war, more have come into the light and life in Jesus.

Then there's this other truth: Jesus is with us in the fires of life. We emerge unscathed, just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did. And then the people will believe, just as King Nebuchadnezzar did.

"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God... Therefore, I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap;



because there is no other God who can deliver like this." (Daniel 3:25, 29 NKJV)

I know many are still in fiery trials, still suffering from the effects of world events. We, for example, are still facing inflation and a housing crisis. Know that Jesus is with you. My heart goes out to the people of Ukraine, including our dear FEBC family, who have endured the war for a year. I ask for sustained prayer for them. As we pray, give, and share, I look forward to witnessing, together with you, the new life that God will germinate this year.

In His love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kevin Keegan". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Kevin Keegan

National Director/CEO



FEBC Australia On the Road

We are coming to a town near you! Staff member Cherylyn McArthur will be speaking at churches on her road trip around Australia. Help us to spread the word about FEBC by getting her, Kevin, or any representative into your church or meetings. Book us in!

[Click here](#) to find out where we are and to book us in.

Other Events in January and February

Gather your friends to join us for these exciting events: **Online Prayer Gathering**, Live broadcast of the **Centennial Celebrations of the Gospel in Cambodia** and **Live Update from Ukraine!**

[Click here](#) to access the events.

“But COVID-19 would be a Partner for Us”

12 December 2019 – Amid much excitement, Radio Shahada aired its first broadcast in N’Djamena, the capital of Chad. Just days later, the entire city was abruptly locked down because of COVID-19.

Station Manager Pastor Thomassin was unflustered. “There is a common saying that if you succeed in ministry in Chad for three years, you can do anything,” Pastor Thomassin joked, his light-hearted tone belying the harsh realities in Chad.



Landlocked Chad has been plagued with calamities and violent civil, and spiritual wars for years.

Years of violent civil war, military coups, surging Islamic terrorism, strikes, drought and floods have plagued the impoverished, landlocked country for decades. There is no electricity nor running water for over 90% of residents. “If you fly over Chad, you see darkness,” Pastor Thomassin shared, a reflection on the darkness enveloping the country both in the natural and in the spiritual. Spiritual warfare is rife.

“I’m not worried,” the faith-filled minister states. “In the Bible, I see two trends when iniquity grows and when people continue to resist God. First, you run into judgement and things get difficult. Second, you turn to God and He heals you. God is using calamities to bring people into the consciousness of His sovereignty. I’m interested in the hearts of people turning to God.”



Radio Shahada’s Station Manager Pastor Thomassin (pictured in brown suit) sees God’s sovereignty through the pressing challenges that the country, and the station faces.

Just three years since its official launch in February 2020, God has been using Radio Shahada to turn people to Him, especially in the toughest of times.

“COVID-19 would be a partner for us,” Pastor Thomassin shared. Because churches were shut down and did not have streaming capabilities, every Sunday became a preaching marathon from Radio Shahada. Around 160 pastors from different denominations became involved in the radio ministry. For the first time since Christianity began over 100 years ago in Chad, churches collaborated. God used Radio Shahada, through COVID-19, to unite His Church in Chad.



@Dyo, Nuit du réveil

God used Radio Shahada to unite His Church in Chad – a first since Christianity began here over 100 years ago. Revival broke out through the historic large evangelistic rally in the city’s stadium.

This quickly led to another first: a large evangelistic rally in the city’s main stadium, where 5,000 believers from 43 churches gathered in unity to cry out to God. One further all-night prayer meeting was held, and one held live online for 24-hours – another first.

During COVID-19, the team would receive at least 1,000 calls each day for spiritual help. There were baptisms almost every day. God used Radio Shahada to bring about revival in Chad.

One person who was revived was Rosin. Rosin had been in an abusive marriage. For years, she had been angry at God, and stopped going to church. When her husband abandoned her and her child, she was completely broken. Then she came across Radio Shahada and went to the prayer meeting, where she re-dedicated her life to Jesus.



Click here to watch Pastor Thomassin share more about Chad.

It has begun

"In the beginning God ..." so the Word of God begins. God was in the beginning when His Word landed in Cambodia in 1923. 100 years later, FEBC Cambodia is beginning the year with the biggest Christian celebration the country has ever seen. "It's a big year!" FEBC Cambodia's Director Makara remarked in calm excitement.

On 27-28 January 2023, 30,000 Cambodian Christians and others globally will unite in Koh Pich, Phnom Penh to celebrate the 'Centennial Anniversary of the Heritage of the Gospel to Cambodia'. More are expected to join FEBC Cambodia's live broadcasts on air and online.



Celebrations for the 'Centennial Anniversary of the Heritage of the Gospel to Cambodia' kicked off in June 2022 with 10,000 Christians onsite and online. 30,000 believers are expected onsite and more online for the main event in Phnom Penh on 27-28 January, 2023.

The team has been pivotal in getting churches to collaborate for this momentous occasion. The committee, made up of different Christian organisations within Cambodia, has been meeting weekly for a few years. 300 leaders from all denominations across Cambodia rallied together in prayer for the celebrations. And in a kick-off event in June 2022, 2,500 believers on-site and more than 8,000 online gathered in united praise. There is a real sense of the beginning of revival.



FEBC Cambodia helped gather 300 leaders from all denominations in united prayer and collaboration. Revival is brewing.



Once depressed, Oum Srey Lai Loeur and daughter Mineak now rejoice because of their new lives in Jesus. And that calls for the biggest celebration.

"God has been faithful through the generations," Makara noted. When the Vietnam War occurred, God added to the number of believers rapidly, from 1,000 to 10,000. Despite the Pol Pot regime decimating the number to 200, God has brought about restoration. Through distributing radios with shortwave broadcasts, FM radio and social media broadcasts, and Cambodia Community Bible Institute courses, FEBC Cambodia is on track to reach the unreached in every province in the country with the Good News.

Oum Srey Lai Loeur in Chhep Lech village, Preah Vihear is one who has begun a new life in Christ through FEBC's broadcasts. "I sometimes cry alone because of my family situation. I have a son who has a brain problem and a daughter who has mental illness and runs away from home. Soon I fell into depression. Krusa FM always encouraged me through Bible passages. I decided to receive Jesus as my Lord and Saviour and give everything to Him. God is an awesome God. I dance in praise of Him because He answers prayers. My daughter believes in Jesus now and lives a healthy life. God has given me a new life through faith in Jesus."

And that calls for the biggest celebration, as heavens rejoice.

Join us live for the Centennial Anniversary of the Heritage of the Gospel to Cambodia on 27-28 January, 2023, 1.30-3.30pm (AEDT) on Facebook @FEBCAustralia



Click here to watch Makara's New Year greeting.

In the Heart Languages

Wish someone
“Happy New
Year” in
their heart
language!

French (working language in Chad) *bonne année*

Ukrainian *щасливого Нового року (shchaslyvoho Novoho roku)*

Khmer *រីករាយឆ្នាំថ្មី (rikreay chhna thmei)*

Hmong *zoo siab xyoo tshiab*

Heart-to-Heart

Mr. N was a young Vietnamese man in Ho Chi Minh City. He was a skilled computer hacker and designed computer games. His family was Buddhist, but he called himself an atheist. A friend gave him a Gospel Speaker Box with the audio Bible. The first thing he heard was completely new to him: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth.”

For two years, he listened to our programs, seeking truth. He was given a Bible and attended church with his friend. Later, Mr. N prayed to receive Christ, and his life changed. “I was becoming a new person,” he said.

Using the Gospel Speaker Box, Mr. N witnessed to his mother, siblings, and close friends. They all turned to Christ.



(Representative image) Mr. N – an atheist hacker turned Christian broadcaster.

Mr. N was a successful programmer, but he wanted to use his skills to share Jesus. Eventually he joined the tech team in Vietnam – for a fraction of the pay. When asked why, he said: “The work here has eternal impact.”



REGULAR GIVING

Want to start something new this year? What about regular giving? *
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* The security of your personal data is extremely important to us. We do not keep your

Ways to
partner
with FEBC:



PRAY

febc.org.au/prayer-guide-sign-up/



GIVE

febc.org.au/2301-n-dg/



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