

Skywaves



May/June 2023



Portable Missionary (or 'PM') radios then and now still reaching the unreached in hard-to-reach places.



75 Years, 26 Languages, Countless Souls, 1 Calling

4 June, 1948, 6 pm. FEBC Philippines' first station, KZAS "Airways of Salvation" – now known as 702 DZAS "Agapay ng Sambayanan" successfully went on air, opening its maiden broadcast with the triumphant song, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name". 75 years later, FEBC Philippines' single-hearted calling remains unchanged – communicating Christ to the world.

And God has given the increase.

From one studio and one antenna, the Gospel went out to the unreached in the Philippines and beyond. Portable Missionary (or 'PM') radios were distributed to places where people otherwise would have no radios. Mr. and Mrs. Para were amongst the Philippine's inaugural religious station's first listeners. The radio broadcasts of DZAS reached their island Mindoro, where there were no other Christians or missionaries. The couple shared in their own words, "the Spirit of Truth came upon us."

Reaching 65% of the Philippines

Today, God's story is heard in 65% of the country. 13 AM & FM radio stations and numerous online platforms weekly broadcast 1,500 hours of Christian content on-air, and 1,200 hours online. Biblical teaching, *Papuri* music (original Filipino Gospel music), community-based and biblical lifestyle programs are delivered in 26 local languages. Each unique people group hears about the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their own heart language.

Like God, who wants none to perish, the team's heart is for no tribe to be left out.

The team still distributes PM radios and sometimes critical supplies to the unreached and hardest-to-reach people groups. The areas are so remote that helicopters are used! Listeners in mountainous Ambaguio, Nueva Vizcaya were so impacted by the Kalanguya language broadcasts that they built the first church in the area. ➤



75 Years, 26 Languages, Countless Souls, 1 Calling ... cont'd

Reaching China and Southeast Asia

Even people groups outside the Philippines are being reached. One of the main motivators that started the ministry was to communicate Christ into China, which was closed to foreign missionaries. That broadcast started in 1949. Seven decades and five years later, the team weekly transmits 286 hours of shortwave broadcasts in 42 languages. The broadcasts reach an astonishing three billion listeners (approximately) in different people groups within China and Southeast Asia. One listener sent a photo of her well-worn handwritten Bible, which was her grandmother's. Her

grandmother had copied it down through a Bible dictation program titled 'The Bible at Dictation Speed'.

Within the Philippines, 30 out of 202 people groups remain unreached*. Some live in deaf spots, which occupy 35% of the country. But as the team's chosen verse for the 75th anniversary says, "what we have done, You have done" (Isaiah 26:10), God has grown the reach of the ministry. He'll surely bring it to completion.

** Statistics from The Joshua Project.*



Click here to watch how FEBC Philippines is reaching the unreached.

Reaching the Unreached Through the Generations

When Bob Bowman, John Broger, and William Roberts followed God's lead to start a missionary radio to share Christ to the world, they had one particular country in mind – China. Hence, Far East Broadcasting Co. (FEBC) was born.

Their very first broadcast was aired from Shanghai. But by 1948, China had closed its doors to foreign missionaries. Yet airwaves can travel where no missionaries are allowed to tread. So FEBC moved its base to the Philippines, where the broadcasts continued to reach the unreached in the communist state.

Three Generations Touched

Song was one woman who heard the broadcast. One day, her husband brought home a radio set from Shan Xi province where he used to work. It was momentous as radios were expensive then. Song came across Radio Liangyou and started listening to it. She heard about Jesus in her own language and received Him into her life.

Thereafter Song would summon the entire family to listen with her, including her grandson Wai. "Listening to the messages were like going to childcare. They accompanied me as I grew up," Wai shared.

Song would often share these messages and her testimony with her family and other villagers. She would include Biblical truths in her reasoning to her



When FEBC started its broadcasts, many unreached Chinese, especially the women, were illiterate. 'Bible in Dictation Speed' was a key program that brought God's Word to listeners.



The Nanjing Tai Dong Seminary choir that provided FEBC with music for its broadcasts.

grandchildren. "Her teaching was always very rational. Whenever my older brother and I got into an argument, her admonition became very helpful," Wai recounts fondly.

"He saved my life"

"Under grandmother's influence, as well as regular listening to Liangyou programs, I began to know God in a real sense as early as my senior high years. He saved my life."

Wai was riding a motorcycle to church one day when he came across a speeding truck. Just as the truck sped through the red traffic lights, Wai heard a voice charging him, "Get going, quick!" "I went as fast as I could, and because I did, I escaped being hit. That's when I knew without a doubt that the God my grandmother and I believe in is a true God," Wai voiced in awe.

"As a bonus, I came to know my wife through my Christian faith. Now our whole family are Christians, all because of grandmother's Gospel radio. For that I am grateful to God."

Today, millions more ethnic Chinese living in China, Taiwan, Hongkong, and around the world have joined Wai in listening to Radio Liangyou. Programs are available online, on traditional radio, and on web app, in eight different languages. It is an exciting journey for FEBC's Chinese Ministries to see generation after generation reached.

Dear friends,

It gives me great joy to celebrate milestones with FEBC colleagues around the world. FEBC Korea's station on Jeju island was launched 50 years ago. And FEBC Philippines celebrates its 75th anniversary this June. In its infancy, FEBC on Jeju-do broadcast into Japan whilst FEBC Philippines transmitted into China. Both aimed at reaching the unreached with the Gospel of Jesus.

We have not stopped. FEBC exists to reach the unreached with the Good News through the media. It is God's mandate. And we do so in each people group's own language.

This year, 28 May marks The Day of the Unreached. It is also Pentecost, when God gave His Holy Spirit to help us be His witnesses. Reaching the unreached is clearly on God's heart.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Yet more than 2,000 years since Jesus' commission, 42.4% of the world's population, or more than 3.3 billion people in 7,388 people groups*, have not heard the Gospel. Jesus bled for each one.

The unreached are people without any Christians, churches, or resources around them. They may be in places that are hard to reach physically or places where Christianity is outlawed or ousted by the community. Most also live in the poorest places in the world.

But radio and media can reach where missionaries cannot, and when people are unable to read. That's why we have not stopped.



As I interact with FEBC teams around the world, it gives me immense joy to hear and witness the transformations in individuals, families, and communities. And I invite you to hear these stories too.

Beyond the milestones, my heart lights up when faces lighten in the presence of our Almighty God. I may not understand the language, I am certainly not accustomed to the dances, but I rejoice with all of heaven, and with you, our partners. Together we can reach every tribe, tongue, and nation. Let them hear.

In His service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Keegan". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'K' and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Kevin Keegan
National Director/CEO

**Statistics from The Joshua Project*

♥ HAPPY ♥

Mothers Day

Happy Mother's Day to all biological and spiritual mothers!

"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." (Proverbs 31:29) We honour you.

May each of you be encouraged by God as you nurture others.

May the joy of the Lord be your strength and may you find rest in Him.

Mongolian Kazakhs preserved their eagle hunting culture. Kazakhs form one of Mongolia's 28 unreached people groups.



Reaching Kazakh Families in Mongolia

125,000 Kazakhs live in Mongolia. The famous eagle-hunters call the remote Bayan-Ulgii province in the picturesque western Mongolian Altay home. Some also live in Nalaikh and Erdenet cities. Having fled from Kazakhstan during Soviet rule, they now form 4%* of Mongolia's population.

Sadly, the Kazakh people group are also a part of 98%* of Mongolia's population who are unreached. Only 0.8%* of the Kazakh people group in Mongolia profess to be Christians. Unlike Mongols, who are largely Buddhists, most Kazakhs follow Islam.

They may be a smaller people group in Mongolia, but they are significant to God, and so to FEBC Mongolia. Dedicated programs in the Kazakh language have been reaching the community.

"Your radio program in Kazakh language changed my life."

Single mother Gulsaule is a listener.

"I am Kazakh. Now 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. Life was hard," Gulsaule said.

"Before, I had no radio device. Then someone gave me a Galcom radio. I started to listen to your Kazakh language program. While listening to the radio program, my tears usually fall. The worship songs are so beautiful. They tell me how much God loves us.

I heard the declaration about Jesus Christ by the radio program. Then I understood that I have to make decision. I decided to receive Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I cried out to God, 'O God, I want

to receive You as my Lord'. Now I attend a local Christian church with my teenage daughter.

Your radio program in Kazakh language changed my life and my character."

"My mind has been completely changed"

Jaina, a mother of two, shared her story: "I especially love hearing the testimonies on the Kazakh program. Storytellers share how God helped them. I often deeply think about myself and understand life's meaningfulness.

Then I went to Kazakh program's audience meeting. That day I made the most valuable and important decision in all my life. I received Jesus as my Saviour.

Since I believed in Jesus Christ, I have deeper biblical understanding. I understand that God gives His power and ways to overcome difficulties. Looking back, I think that my heart was being prepared to hear the Word of the Lord and to receive Him through the testimonies.

Because of the Kazakh program, my mind has been completely changed."

Jaina is now in a Kazakh women's fellowship. Her husband has joined her in listening to the programs and attending a Christian church. "So many Kazakh people like listening to your radio broadcast like our family," she says.



Kazakhs Jaina and her husband encountered Jesus through FEBC Mongolia's Kazakh programs.

“Because You Are Christian”

Pakistan has the second largest Muslim population in the world. FEBC's partners have been quietly changing mindsets about Christians through their faithful, humble service to the poorest of communities. Like Jesus, they have been reaching out to the lost, the forgotten, the marginalised.

Gospel in Action

Through community radio programs, the team amplifies the voices of the voiceless. The people may be silenced out of fear of the feudal lords, or just resigned. As the team goes into the communities, they hear the heart cries of the people. And they meet their needs.



FEBC's partners giving out free medical aid.

The team runs free medical camps for women and children who sorely lack the basics. They provide vocational training for women who are denied education. They teach the community to produce community radio programs. They dig water bores so each village can have safe drinking water. They are there when floods occur, bringing critical supplies to villagers. They are still there after the floods and when everyone else has left, cleaning up houses, restoring lives, providing vital training on dengue prevention.

FEBC's partners are putting Jesus' love in action. They are bringing His Gospel to the people. And they have been doing it for so long, people now welcome Christians with a smile.

Living Water for Displaced Afghans

One community the team impacted lives in a village in Northern Pakistan. As IDPs (Internationally Displaced Peoples) from



The team could use this lady's house for sound recording training because she trusted Christians. "We did not feel that a stranger could come in our house and talk to us like this. We felt comfort with you." Face blurred for security reasons.

Afghanistan, the community does not have access to basic needs. For 40 years, they have lived without electricity, clean drinking water, and proper infrastructure for a healthy life.

When the team brought these needs to light on a FM radio program, one Pakistani lady volunteered her help. The reason for her decision? That the team was Christian. "I will not trust anyone when it comes to send money. But as because you are Christians, I find that you will lead the well digging. I feel relaxed and happy," the lady shared.

Because the team carried Christ's heart, for the first time since their displacement the Afghan community felt seen. And for the first time in four decades, they now have clean water to drink.

99% of Pakistan's population, or 232.4 billion* people are still unreached. But one village at a time, FEBC's partners are reaching them with God's tangible love.



Bringing clean drinking water to Afghan refugees.

* Statistics from The Joshua Project.



Unreached in Focus

People Group: **Pale Palaung**
 Location: Myanmar, Thailand and China
 Population: 308,000
 Main Language: Palaung, Ruching
 Largest Religion: Buddhism (99%)
 Christian**: 0.1% (Evangelical 0.06%)
 Reached by: FEBC Ethnic Ministries

Statistics from The Joshua Project.

*** Anyone who professes to be Christian. It is not an indicator of the degree of commitment or theological orthodoxy.*

Heart-to-Heart

Out of FEBC Japan's 20 programs broadcast per week, 'Keiko's Mailbag' is the most popular. The program allows people to air their deep questions about God and Christianity without embarrassment, a vital need in the context of Japanese culture.

Keiko Yoshizaki, former Director of FEBC Japan, has been faithfully producing the program for more than 50 years.

Through her program, God has used Keiko to avert numerous suicides in a country where many end their lives due to despair and hopelessness.

Reflecting on the 300 letters and e-mails she receives monthly, Keiko said: "People feel so isolated, and they just want to know that someone is listening and cares for them – that's why they share their most personal concerns.

They're looking for a Saviour, but most have no idea that His name is Jesus. I point them to God's promises and truth."

97.9%* of Japan's population are still waiting to hear about Jesus. That's why Keiko will not stop even after retirement. It's a lifelong service to God and her fellow countrymen.

Keiko Yoshizaki,
Executive Advisor,
FEBC Japan



**Statistics from The Joshua Project.*

Ways to partner with FEBC



PRAY

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



GIVE

febc.org.au/2305-n-dm/



TELL

febc.org.au/socials/

Monthly Giving



It's time to act. Let the 3.3 billion unreached hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. [Click here](#) to give monthly to the ongoing mission of reaching the unreached.

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