



Girls searching for drinking water in Sana'a, Yemen.

A Door to Hope in Yemen

Yemen is in turmoil, again. For many Yemenis, the recent airstrikes and conflict inject fresh fear into a seemingly never-ending nightmare. The country had been in civil war for nine years since Houthi insurgents forcibly took control of Yemen's capital Sana'a.

The people of Yemen were plunged into a living hell. Infrastructure has been devastated. Only 50 per cent# of the health services and 65 per cent of schools are currently functioning. 4.5 million people are still internally displaced. 17 million Yemenis are food insecure. 21.6 million or two-thirds of the population are in dire need of assistance. The humanitarian crisis is one of the largest in the world.

Women face increasing restrictions to freedom and gender-based violence, yet

Statistics from the United Nations.

do not have access to protection and reproductive services. Children have been traumatised from the years of war. Discriminatory norms within the tribal society mean critical aid may not reach some pockets of people, like Christians.

It has been a long dark tunnel, with no foreseeable light at the end of it. But "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

A ray of hope

A small community radio station has been shining the light of Christ into this oppressive darkness. FEBC's partner has been airing 60-minute shortwave programs daily, in addition to online streaming and posts on social media. Despite the risks (Yemen ranks fifth in the world as the most dangerous place to be a Christian), the team perseveres.

Topics covered are close to the heart of listeners. One program provides professional advice on health issues. Others address topics for women, who are marginalised in Yemeni society. A popular program has listeners calling in live to discuss current issues. The station also airs a dramatisation of Biblical stories, which is applied to various ethical and moral issues communities face.

A 'Reality Church' program mirrors church fellowship for people to listen in and engage with. It reaches non-believers and provides a lifeline to Christians ostracised by family or are unable to attend church.

Program hosts are from the community. Women host the programs for women. A Yemeni Christian family hosts the Bible study program using the 'Discover Bible Study' method, which is popular in disciple-making movements. Family members authentically share what they learn about God and people from the passage, and how they can apply the learning in their lives.

"The people ask, and they ask...!"

The programs have sparked hope. The station receives around 3,000 responses each month. "The war has taken everything from the people. They are so tired, they have nothing to lose," a radio host shares. "The people ask, and they ask, and they ask!"

"There is one guy who asked me 'So, Christ is God?' I said, 'Yes. You see, you acknowledge that yourself.' Step by step, he came to this conclusion and was shocked with himself when he said, 'That means Jesus, He is God!'"

* Name changed to protect identity and ensure safety of individuals and families.

Finding Faith

Listener Hamid* also asked questions. "My story begins with a post on Facebook that I read by sheer chance," Hamid said. "The writing style and the message of love it conveyed captured my attention and I ended up reading all the posts on the page.

"I was drawn to this faith which is all about love, peace, redemption, and a beautiful relationship between God and man. I was eager to learn more about the true nature of God, so I began writing to the page hosts, asking for any information they could share about the Christian faith.

"They sent me a Bible, and I began to read it and discovered a loving God who cares about us regardless of our circumstances.

"I used to believe that I was intelligent enough to grasp the reality about God with my own intellect, but in the end, I learned that I couldn't do so apart from faith.

"Like many others, I'm uncomfortable with the word 'religion'. Rather than fostering peace and harmony, religion has been generating conflict and war all over the world for thousands of years.

"In my opinion, Christianity is more of a lifestyle than a religion. A Christian's lifestyle should resemble Jesus as the ultimate example, while pursuing a close relationship with Him. This lifestyle should be seen as an ongoing journey to become like Jesus and embody the characteristics of Christ.

"I'm delighted to be one with Christ now."



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A note from Janet: A Door to God's Story



Janet Cousens
CEO

In my various work adventures and my personal travels, I've walked through many gates and doors, both physical and metaphorical. Some are big, sometimes intricately decorated, and hard to miss. Others are humble and at times hidden away; but when found, are no less inviting.

I've discovered that each culture has unique doors, each with its own stories. Together, these diverse cultures, communities, and individuals create the beautiful tapestry of humanity that God loves so much.

Then there are the doors that only God can open.

Reading through different issues of Skywaves, I can see that God has opened some extraordinary doors for FEBC to share His love and impact lives amid challenging circumstances.

Since its founding, God has been paving the way for the Good News to be heard in countries where it is difficult or dangerous to share the gospel. He has also provided the wisdom and means to reach remote communities.

I've read about individuals finding peace, families being changed, and those

forgotten by society being given opportunities to meet Christ and live out their God-given purpose.

I read of God's unchanging love for humanity and the many hearing about this love for the first time. I'm warmed by stories of hearts that have opened to receive Jesus. I'm thankful that God has used FEBC's broadcasts and outreaches to knock on the hearts of listeners.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20 NASB).

God's also knocking on the doors of our hearts as believers, prompting us to respond to His love by loving others. I feel privileged to be serving others together with you in the FEBC family.

God is still knocking on the doors of many hearts who do not yet know Him. I'm confident that we will continue to touch more lives as we journey together in fulfilling His mission.

In Christ's love,
Janet Cousens
CEO

Give with Love

Campaign Update

Thanks to your partnership and FEBC supporters worldwide, thousands of Thais heard about the Christ of Christmas for the first time. The campaign also brought together 205 churches and 2,170 volunteers in Thailand.



269 onsite events
including 117 schools

46 provinces
across Thailand

44,903 Bibles & books
delivered

> 1.8 million
online listeners & audiences

46,858 participants
for onsite events

30,225 children
received gifts

6,843
people received God's
gift of salvation

Photos from FEBC Thailand and campaign partners.

Click here to follow our Facebook for Mother's Day greetings you can send to your loved ones.

To all biological & spiritual mothers,

Blessed
Mother's Day!

Proverbs 31:29



Five members of this Yao family (pictured here with a Litala FM staff member) have recently been baptised.

A Mighty Door to Reach

Tanzania's Yao People

In a small village within Tunduru district in Tanzania, the lives of five Yao people have been changed forever. The world may not have heard of Mbatamila village or know these five people personally. But God knows each one by name, and now they are written in His book of life.

Through Litala FM's gospel broadcasts, they have received Jesus as their Saviour and been recently water baptised.

The Yao people are an unreached people group. They number 3,653,600** across Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia. Each matriarchal community typically numbers less than 100. The subsistence farmers and fishermen live in houses with thatched roofs, often with no access to electricity or direct water supply. Their simple lifestyles give no hint of their affluent past as coastal traders with Arab merchants.

One door closed, another opened

When Yao chiefs closed the door to Christianity in favour of their Arab trading partners' religion, the people followed suit. Today, most still practise a mix of Islam and animism (witchcraft and ancestor worship).



But God is re-opening the door to the Yao people in the Tunduru district in Tanzania. And it is no less mighty.

The Sultan of the Tunduru District in southern Tanzania (bordering Mozambique) has welcomed Litala FM, FEBC's partner in Malawi in his area.

"I thank God that the door is open for the Gospel to be proclaimed in my area and at the same time listening to shortwave radio. I am enjoying learning the Word of God through media.

"Many people were afraid to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to us Yao Muslims. Your coming will transform the area with the audio Bibles as well as radio." The Sultan has asked the team to establish churches in his area.

**Statistics from the Joshua Project.



Litala FM Director Amos with a Tunduru resident from the Yao people group.

Open hearts

With about a quarter of the Yao population being illiterate, sharing God's truth through radio is vital. The team also travels to encourage listeners and to give out more radios. Each journey takes two to three days via flight and buses. But it is all worth it.

"The ground is fertile," Director Amos Siyabu Phiri shares, referring to the hunger for God's Word. People are asking for more radios, and visits from the team. The doors to their hearts are wide open.

"We thank God that we are now saved through listening to Litala programs on shortwave. We are blessed by having the Word in Chiyao, which has given many of us hope for salvation. I am very grateful to receive an audio Bible together with the windup radio, which is my daily food."

"I am very grateful today that I have received Jesus Christ into my heart and am now the son of God through listening to FEBC programs."

The number of listener clubs has mushroomed to 40, and a total of 15 people have, like the five in Mbatamila village, been baptised!



Radios distributed to Yao people in Tanzania.



Reaching the Yao People

Countries: Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania

Number of registered listeners: 9,625

Number of listener clubs: 213

Number of baptisms: 48

(Statistics from 2023)

Did you know

From the start in 1945, FEBC's strategy has been for locals to share the gospel with locals in their heart language. This includes producing original media content for locals. We want to be close to the listeners!

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."

- Nelson Mandela



Meet the Team

I joined FEBC Australia in October 2023 as the Head of International Projects. I was born into a Christian family in Minnesota, USA. At the age of two, my family moved to Ghana to serve as missionaries with SIM. My family relocated to Kenya when I was 11 years old and then again back to the US when I was 15.

My youth pastor began asking me questions that challenged my Bible-story understanding of scripture. I began searching scripture for answers to these questions and in the process discovered there was much more to Christianity than what I had thought. It was amid this search that I fell in love with God.

Not long after, I became aware of my own calling to the mission field. A few years later, I finished high school and began studying Child Psychology and Sociology at the University of Minnesota with the goal of returning to the mission field.

In 2004, I moved to Lima, Peru to work in community development with 'Food for the Hungry', a Christian relief and development organisation. While in Lima, I met Priscilla Wong, who was a SIM missionary from Australia. We got married in 2009 and she promptly recruited me back into SIM.

As newlyweds, we moved to Santa Cruz, Bolivia to help develop a discipleship ministry among university students in conjunction with El Alfarero (The Potter) Student Center. Over the next 14 years, I worked with SIM in Bolivia and Chile serving in a variety of leadership roles, including country director and regional director for South and Central America.

I worked with several different multicultural teams composed of people

from around the world, including Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, Australia, and, of course, South America.



Dr. Luke Lundstedt
Head of International Projects

I also helped form partnerships between SIM, a couple of urban churches, and a local ministry (FRALIC) focused on strengthening rural indigenous churches and their pastors in Bolivia. Together, we collaborated on a strategy for planting new churches in rural villages that are very resistant to the gospel.

I completed a Masters in Global Leadership in 2014 and a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership in 2023.

My wife Priscilla grew up in Hurstville, NSW. Our two children Eliya (10) and Gabriel (8) were born while we lived in Bolivia. As a family, we left South America in mid-2023 and moved to Wollongong, NSW so that I could join FEBC Australia.

I am passionate about helping FEBC thrive in fulfilling its purpose of using media to make disciples of Jesus Christ among those who have not yet heard the Good News.

FEBC works across 50 countries - conducting projects in conjunction with teams from a variety of cultures requires a lot of sensitivity, discernment, flexibility, and strong processes. I hope to use my experience managing projects with culturally diverse teams to ensure that the projects funded by FEBC Australia are effective at reaching out with the Good News to those who do not yet know Jesus.

Ways to Partner with FEBC

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febc.org.au/socials

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febc.org.au/2404-n-dg

Heart to Heart



John is 73, has been married for 51 years, and has three children. To John, our response to God is the most critical decision in life; it will last into eternity. That decision came early for John. Suffering severe allergies as a child, he doesn't remember much about that time but does remember being in his cot and looking up and seeing Jesus sitting there. This may have been when he became a Christian.

Eyes on Eternity

John has had a varied work life, including working on a farm, in administration, and at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre. He has suffered many health issues over the years but remains thankful to God despite his struggles.

He learnt a long time ago that when he starts to feel sorry for himself, he thinks about the places in the world that would be terrible to be in, like Ukraine. Of his

chronic fatigue and burnout, John describes it in jest, like “a battery in your back gives you energy, and then suddenly, someone takes it out.”

In the Christmas of 2006, God gave John a pivotal revelation. John was lamenting to God, saying, “Why God?” God responded that the remark should be, “Wow, God!”

“When things go wrong in life, those experiences grow and shape us with what will last into eternity. If we sit down and cry about what tomorrow may bring, then we'll waste what He has in store for us today,” John shares with deep conviction.

Living by Faith

One of the trials John went through was bankruptcy. It was at this time that John started to donate to FEBC as an act of faith. A story in Skywaves moved him. It was about a young boy in a Muslim country who became a Christian by listening to FEBC on the radio in secret. His sister discovered him one day and said, “You're a Christian too!”. The children continued to listen in secret but were soon found out by their parents. It turns out their parents had already been listening to the radio themselves and had become Christians too!

John's love for God and unflinching focus on His plan are evident as he gets excited talking about God. “It's such an honour that God uses us for His purposes.”

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