

Skywaves

July - September 2024



Reaching the Next Generation in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is a young country that gained independence in 1991. After decades of Soviet rule where the existence of God was denied, many elderly individuals are returning to their Islamic traditions. On the other hand, the youth[^] are searching for truth and hearing the gospel.

From live talk shows that engage the audience about daily issues to more overtly Christian material, FEBC's Kazakhstan team is reaching hundreds of thousands through social media. With more mobile phone subscriptions than the total population (130%);[#] social media serves as an efficient means of reaching Kazakhs dispersed across this vast country (the world's ninth-largest and the largest in Central Asia).

Reaching Young Lives

D*, a young man and second-year university student in Astana, Kazakhstan's capital, saw one of FEBC's videos about Christ and strongly desired to learn more. To find out if there were gatherings of Christians similar to what he saw in FEBC's videos, he wrote to the station. Today D* is reading the Bible and has become friends with young Christians in Astana.

Stories of transformation like these encourage our FEBC family in Kazakhstan, who are passionate about reaching the next generation of Kazakhs. The team sometimes faces threats because of their work.

[^] In 2023, 28% of Kazakhstan's population are between 14-35 years old (Kazakhstan's Bureau of National Statistics).

[#] Data from GSMA Intelligence.

* Names changed and faces blurred for security reasons.

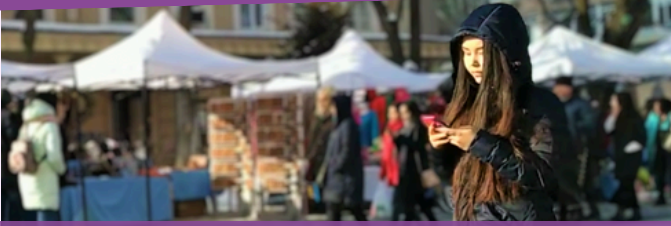
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Reaching the Next Generation in Kazakhstan (con'td)



The vastness of Kazakhstan, and popularity of mobile subscriptions make broadcasting through social networks an effective way to reach the next generation of Kazakhs.

Another listener named A* shared a touching testimony with the team. "I am a student at the university here in Almaty. My parents got divorced when I was very little. I also have a brother and a sister who are older than me.

"Our mother did her best in raising us, while our father was totally out of the

picture. We did not have good gifts for birthdays and holidays like the other kids. I am not complaining, since we learned a lot through those challenging times.

"Now I am taking care of myself. In some ways, I seem to be better equipped than my friends who did not go through such a challenging childhood.

"In a way, I feel blessed by God and now look out to people in need. I love to give birthday gifts to disadvantaged kids. Somehow, I feel God's presence when I do things like that. Keep on talking about such matters on your broadcast."

Please pray for the team in Kazakhstan as they reach the youth in spite of threats.

Heart to Heart

"Vicarious absorption." That's how Mark describes it - how the music and messages we hear on the radio have the power to shape us.

As a child, it was the music his parents played in the family home. As a teenager, it was the Billy Graham Crusades, reading the 'Decision' magazines, and the 'Jesus Revolution' of the early 70's.

Then, as a professional, Mark was on the other side of the equation: salesman at a commercial radio station; account executive at a Christian advertising agency; and once even support act for Andrae Crouch and Barry McGuire as part of Christian band 'Still Waters'! His story is riddled with the words 'radio', 'music', and 'media'.

Integrated Mission Work

Mark is an active member of Windsor District Baptist Church (WDBC) in western Sydney, led by Pastor Jonathan Hoffman.

Mark is involved with the men's Hobby Shed and Fettle's Shed (model railway), both outreach ministries of WDBC.



Gentle conversations about Christianity happen in these sheds, which are outreach ministries of his church that Mark is involved in.

Christian blokes and non-church goers are regulars.

Once a month, he drives the WDBC Adventurers sightseeing bus trips, which attract churchgoers and men from both sheds who don't attend church. Gentle conversations about Christianity are happening at the two sheds and on trips.

As a member of the new church pastoral care team, in partnership with his wife Elizabeth and others, they provide additional support to churchgoers who are lonely, grieving, or struggling.

"It's about reaching out and caring for them above and beyond what church folk might be able to normally do.

"We're not counsellors. My wife Elizabeth

is a trained Pastoral Carer and worked in an Anglicare aged care home. If someone needs counselling, we'll get the pastors involved."

"I've always believed in the effectiveness of radio."

Never one to rest on his laurels, Mark's other activities draw on his aptitude for radio, music, and media. He produces church services for Anglicare Sydney's aged care homes.

Earlier, Mark spent six years overseeing Evoke Radio at Anglicare, and in the '80's managed a country radio station. Today he's using his radio experience to create 'Easy Listening Radio', a brand-new station available online. It will soon launch across Australia. (Search easylisteningradio.com.au)

It was his passion for effective care ministry coupled with his experiences in media that drew him to the work of FEBC - God's love in action, through radio. He's rallied WDBC members to partner with FEBC Australia. The church has raised funds for over 200 radios to meet the needs of frontline soldiers and civilians in Ukraine.

But isn't radio obsolete these days? Not at all, according to Mark.

"I've always believed in the effectiveness of radio. 'Companionship radio' means a station can build a relationship with the listener.



"God is doing amazing things through FEBC. There will always be a place for radio."

FEBC Australia thanks the Pastors, elders, deacons and members of Windsor District Baptist Church for partnering with us in God's Great Commission through their generous giving.

Want to get your community onboard to support FEBC? Let's discuss!

Click here to email us at

office@febc.org.au

or call us on 1300 720 017

Ways to Partner with FEBC

Pray



[febc.org.au/
2407-issue-dg](http://febc.org.au/2407-issue-dg)

Give



[febc.org.au/
2407-n-dg](http://febc.org.au/2407-n-dg)

Tell



[febc.org.au/
socials](http://febc.org.au/socials)

(Click on the links above to access the webpages)

**BLESSED
FATHER'S
DAY** Proverbs 20:7

*May all come to know of the love
of our heavenly Father!*

Send a Father's Day e-greeting to a father you know from www.facebook.com/febcaustralia (Click here to access)

A Note from Janet:

God's Generosity & Yours

In the six months since I joined FEBC Australia, we have been very aware of the realities of war, disaster, and the pressures of the increasing cost of living for communities across the globe. For many, life is a dark place, and our mission to bring the love of God to those who have not heard feels more urgent than ever.

I have also had the opportunity to engage with some of you over the phone, via email or in person. I am warmed by our interactions, humbled by your giving, and excited about the impact our partnership will deliver overseas.

We, as the FEBC's staff and board are deeply grateful for your unwavering support and for your generosity through giving, prayers and our personal interactions through visits to your church or to your home.

This issue of Skywaves continues our focus on generosity, partnerships, and lives transformed.

For those of us who donated last financial year, you will find enclosed a summary of your giving and a statement of gifts. Thank you. Our gratitude extends beyond finances. Your prayers uplift us, sustaining us through challenges. Your feedback guides our growth,



Janet Cousens
CEO, FEBC Australia

ensuring we strive for excellence in all we do. Opportunities to meet help us listen and learn about your interests as well as sharing updates on the work of FEBC internationally.

In John 3:16, we see God's greatest act of generosity: giving His Son for us. This extravagant love empowers us to give freely in return. Your selfless partnering echoes the early church's spirit while demonstrating the power of God's love in action.

In a world often focused on personal gain, your generosity shines brightly and enables us to reach a suffering world with God's love. Thank you for partnering with us to see lives eternally impacted by the gospel. With God's limitless love and your unwavering support, there are no limits to what we can achieve together.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Janet Cousens

CEO, FEBC Australia

Did you know

John 3:16 is one of FEBC International's foundational scriptural references. Do you have one?

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
(John 3:16 NKJV)

An advertisement for the J3 16 Gift Catalogue. On the left, there is a purple graphic with a white square containing the text 'J3 16' in yellow and white. Below this, it says 'GIFT CATALOGUE' in white. Further down, it says 'Click here to shop online or call 1300 720 017' in yellow. On the right, there is a photograph of an elderly woman with short grey hair, wearing a pink floral shirt, sitting outdoors and holding a red Bible.



FEBC's partner Vox Radio station manager accompanies the District County Commissioner and other officials during a food distribution to displaced communities.

A Lifeline in Drought and Deluge

“After four years of devastating drought and food insecurity, no one was ready for this,” says the station manager of Vox Radio, FEBC’s partner in Tana River, Kenya.

Lethal flash floods have swept through Kenya and other East African countries following heavy rainfalls. Some villages have been completely submerged. Sadly, some deaths have been reported and hundreds of thousands more have been displaced. Crops and farm animals have also been decimated.

Thankfully, before the rains arrived, Vox Radio had begun preparing the communities with flood-rated advice and information. When the floods struck, the community radio station became a lifeline. The station listened to the community, gave them a voice, and provided timely and crucial information.

Bringing the Community Together

“We rallied community leaders from the government, religious groups, and the broader network of development workers to share messages of hope, give direction, and reassure the affected communities. This fostered a sense of community resilience and unity,” shared the station chairman. Emergency care packs were also distributed.



FEBC's partner in Tana River, Kenya has been serving the community through years of drought, and now, floods.

So trusted is Vox Radio that one family rang the station when their house was submerged. The staff promptly alerted the authorities for the rescue.

The team also mentored vulnerable youths when they visited the temporary camps for internally displaced people.

As the floodwaters recede, Vox Radio remains committed to supporting the community. “Even in the darkest times, the power of community-centred media can bring people together and help them rebuild,” Vox Radio’s Chairman adds.

Thank you for your generosity in enabling Vox Radio to respond to the flood crisis. Please pray for those affected. Pray for God's restoration, protection against diseases, and miraculous provision as the agricultural resources they rely on have been destroyed.

Supporting You in the Phasing Out of Cheques

As you know, our banks are moving away from the use of cheques as a payment method. At FEBC Australia, we want to support you in this transition. Here is a list of alternative ways of giving.

Alternative Ways of Giving

Direct Bank Transfer



Make a Direct Deposit through your bank



Online
Banking



Your bank's
mobile app



Visit a Westpac
bank branch

(Please note that the bank
charges may apply.)

You will need either our bank or PayID details:

Bank details:

Account Name: Far East
Broadcasting Co. (Australia)
BSB: 032- 151
Account Number: 36-0931

PayID:

PayID (ABN) 68000509517

Provide the following information when making the deposit OR or email office@febc.org.au:

- your FEBC account number (located above your name and address on the mailout)
- whether your donation is TD (Tax Deductible) or NTD (Non-Tax Deductible)
- surname if possible.



Call us on 1300 720 017 to set up a Direct Debit

We will send you a form that authorises us to debit funds from your bank.

Credit Card



Call us on
1300 720 017



Online: <https://febc.org.au/donate/>

For your security, please do not email us your credit card information.

Thank you for your faithful giving! Give us a ring on 1300 720 017 should you encounter any difficulties setting up direct deposit or starting monthly giving.

For all the latest updates from FEBC Australia, go to www.febc.org.au,
or click here to follow us on social media: febc.org.au/socials

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