



Representative image used to protect the privacy of individuals.

"I Can't Live Without It"

In Kyrgyzstan, a woman named Ainura* was frantically searching for hope. She had attempted suicide twice and was now considering a third try. Then she stumbled upon FEBC's Partner's radio broadcast.

"We were talking about suicide, how death was not the answer, about living a life before God. When Ainura came across the program, she stopped her suicide attempt. She is now our listener, and we are in contact with her," broadcaster Zamira* shared.

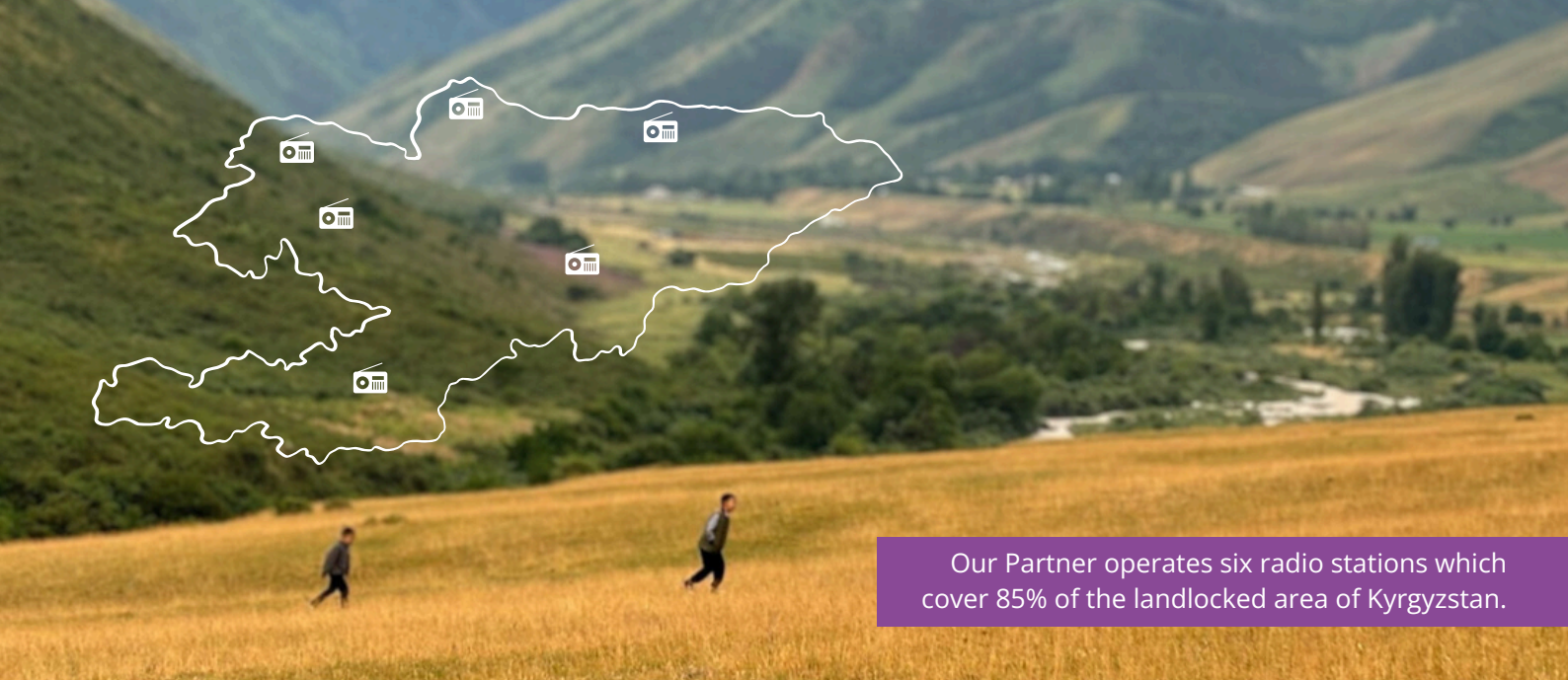
Sadly, Ainura's situation isn't uncommon in the young Kyrgyz Republic. The ex-Soviet nation ranks as the second poorest country in Central Asia in terms of GDP. Men, women, and teenagers are battling hopelessness, depression, drugs and dissatisfaction with life.

Saving Lives

FEBC's Partner broadcaster opens opportunities for conversations about Jesus by airing programs that address challenges experienced across society and weaving Christian principles into the broadcasts.

Programs about marriage, motherhood, raising a family and more are popular with people of all faiths. "The station shares the image of Christianity as okay, as positive" says Rudi, who helped start the station. These programs bring God's peace to people who are struggling. They have helped save lives like Ainura's.

One listener was a desperate woman and her husband knew little about Jesus. She heard the program and contacted the radio station.



Our Partner operates six radio stations which cover 85% of the landlocked area of Kyrgyzstan.

Her 13-year-old son committed suicide and his 21-year-old brother also tried to hang himself. He was saved in the nick of time when his mother noticed his attempt.

The broadcasters helped her understand that she was not alone in her challenges at home, and that there was hope. "Without you I wouldn't be here," the woman commented. She found peace with Jesus as her Lord and Saviour. Her eldest son has also become a follower of Christ.

Going Beyond, Building Relationships
FEBC's Partner in Kyrgyzstan goes a step further beyond on-air broadcasts. They stay in contact with listeners who reach out to the station, with in-person visits and counselling. The team has given a radio to the woman listener's husband. He wears it around his neck and listens to the programs almost all day.

"We work with listeners, build relationships, and help them. One other listener was going through a hard time, we invited him to come for tea, he came, we talked, and he accepted the gospel," Zamira* shares.

Through the visits, prayer and counselling, listeners learn about the love of Jesus and how He cares for them. Many have placed their trust in Him.

Reaching Far and Wide

God continues to bless the team's faithful and passionate efforts. The radio programs have become very popular. FEBC's Partner runs a network of FM stations in

Kyrgyzstan established in 2012, with content fully based on Biblical principles. It has recently been voted in the top 10 radio stations in Osh, the country's second-largest city with a predominantly Muslim population.

Through six radio stations, 80% of the people in Kyrgyzstan can access the radio programs. With social media and mobile apps, the programs reach even neighbouring countries.

In a land where more than 60%[^] of the population live in rural areas, it has been a spiritual lifeline for followers of Christ, who make up a minute percentage of the population. This first generation of believers are also using the radio programs to reach the next generation.

Listener Gulperi's* testimony sums it up: "I can't imagine what my life would be like without your radio station. I turn on the radio at 7 a.m. and the rest of the day is filled with these radio programs.

"These programs have helped me find the right path and make the right decisions. My life has transformed and continues to transform. My husband is not a believer yet, but he listens to these programs all day. We are praying that he will become a believer.

"This radio station gives me great opportunity to reach out to my friends. I ask Zamira to say the name of my friends on air. They hear their names and start listening to the station.

"I live in a small village where everyone else

is not a follower of Christ. Your radio station is a key source of spiritual food and growth. It has been my only contact with other Christians. Five years ago, I first heard and now I can't live without it."

Ainura's life has also changed. She is no longer thinking about suicide and is discovering hope and purpose in her first steps towards God.



Kyrgyzstan Facts

- World's furthest country from the ocean
- Population: 6,787,000 #
- Unreached: 93.3%# of population
- Languages: Kyrgyz, Russian
- Largest Religion: Islam (93.7% # of population)
- Traditional Food: Besh Barmak (Lamb, horse or beef with handmade noodles and minced onions)

* Names changed and faces blurred to protect the identity of individuals.

^ Statistic from DataReportal.

Statistics from The Joshua Project.

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(Click on the links above to access the webpages)

Giving Without Cheques

At FEBC Australia, we want to support you as banks phase out cheques. Here is a list of alternative ways of giving.

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BSB: 032-151; Account Number: 36-0931

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A Note from Janet

Our Relational
God
Always Close,
Always Present



Top: Janet with listeners in Kyrgyzstan.
(Faces blurred to protect the privacy of individuals.)

Bottom: Praying for Kyrgyz pastors.

In this issue of Skywaves we celebrate our God, who is always close and always desiring to be in relationship with us.

In July I had the privilege of visiting the beautiful, predominantly Muslim nation of Kyrgyzstan where I met with our Partner. The team members are vibrant Christians who are open about their reliance on God and the joy they have in relationship with Him. Some of the stories of the listeners I met whose lives have been changed through our radio programs are shared in our article 'I Can't Live Without It'.

I also had the privilege of meeting a Kyrgyz couple pastoring a rural church. Ministry was initially difficult for this couple, they received threats from local villagers that their house would be burnt down, however they knew that God was with them and so they persisted in demonstrating His love through acts of generosity in their community.

The pastors listened to our Partner's radio station for their own encouragement and introduced the villagers to our Partner's



programs which address current life issues with Christian principles. Many of the programs have generated discussions that have enabled the pastors to lead people into a relationship with Christ. And the villagers have

come to accept the pastors and their growing congregation of nearly 50 members, seeing that following Christ brings blessings to the community.

The Bible says, "The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth" (Psalm 145:18). This edition of Skywaves bears testimony to our Partners and listeners who remain close to God and live with the confidence of knowing that He is near to them.

Thank you too for remaining close to the call to share the Good News of Christ. Your prayers and financial support enable us to share the message that God is near, that He cares, and that He wants a relationship with each of us.

Thank you for your steadfast partnership. Together, we continue to make God's love heard, felt, and known by all.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Janet Cousens

CEO, FEBC Australia

Did You Know

In some countries Christmas and Easter are the only two occasions where FEBC broadcasters can share about Jesus by sharing the facts about these events. Please pray for open hearts as broadcasters prepare to share the love of Christ this Christmas.

Heart to Heart

"How Do You Get By When You Don't Know the Lord?"

It's an intriguing thought for a Christian to think of a life without Jesus and what that may look like. Imagine not having the comfort of reading the Bible, praying, or having fellowship with other Christians.

Meet Vonne, a dedicated FEBC Australia supporter whose commitment spans over twenty years! This is the question Vonne ponders about with much concern and compassion for those who do not know Christ. And it's what continues to compel her to support FEBC Australia.

Vonne's journey with FEBC began when a fellow church member introduced her to the ministry. She was immediately drawn to FEBC's unique ability to penetrate areas that are difficult to reach. "It's wonderful that they're getting into places that people can't get into," Vonne shares about FEBC with much enthusiasm.

For Vonne, FEBC's innovative approach to spreading the gospel by radio and media in an ever-changing world is truly inspiring. From humble beginnings with radio broadcasts, she's witnessed the ministry evolve to embrace modern technology, ensuring the message of hope reaches younger generations.

Vonne's hope for those who encounter FEBC's broadcasts is simple yet profound. "I hope they respond to the message and experience what it's like to know that God loves them," she shares. "I want them to connect with other Christians, to find fellowship, and to know that no matter what happens, God is always with them. For our young people especially, in a world filled with loneliness and despair, I hope they discover the love of God and the hope it brings."

But Vonne's passion for mission doesn't stop



Vonne with Luke in Vonne's church, Gerringong Uniting Church, where Luke shared about FEBC.

with FEBC Australia. A retired teacher, she dedicates her time to numerous causes, including Samaritan's Purse (Operation Christmas Child), CBM (Christian Blind Mission) and the sponsorship of children through World Vision and Light Home. She is also a Rotarian with a current interest in supporting Alchemy Chorus South Coast, a choir for people with dementia and their carers. "These are just some of the ways you can shine for Jesus," she says with a smile.

Help **spread the word** of what God is doing through FEBC!

- Share the stories from the website.
- Invite us to speak in your church, small group or company.
- Request for extra copies of our 'Skywaves' newsletter for your community.

Click here to email us at office@febc.org.au or call us on 1300 720 017.



Bringing Light to Darkness

The Power of God's Word in Cambodia

Psalm 119:105, says "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." This powerful verse encapsulates the transformative impact of God's Word, offering guidance, hope, and illumination in a world often overcome by darkness. For those living in some villages in Cambodia, the metaphor of light carries profound significance.

During a two-day 'love mission' organised by our Partner in Cambodia, Krusa FM, from 8 to 9 May, 2024, FEBC Australia played a pivotal role in bringing both literal and spiritual light to these villages. By providing solar lights and MP3 players/radios to 20 families, including those who had never heard the name of Jesus, the mission extended beyond mere practical gifts. The radio programs became a beacon of hope, illuminating the hearts and minds of those living in physical and spiritual darkness.

One woman, deeply touched by this gesture, expressed her gratitude: "These presents are a blessing and make us very happy because there is no electricity in the area. I now have the chance to hear the Word of God and have the lights turned on in our

house at night without having to pay for charging the battery."

This mission embodies FEBC Australia's commitment to spreading the gospel – the eternal light of God – by meeting both physical and spiritual needs through our partners. Just as a lamp lights the way in the darkness, God's love shines a light in the lives of those in need, guiding them on a path toward eternal hope and salvation. Through these efforts, the mission of FEBC Australia is fulfilled as lives are transformed by the light of Christ, even in the most remote and unreached areas.



"I now have the chance to hear the Word of God and have the lights turned on in our house."