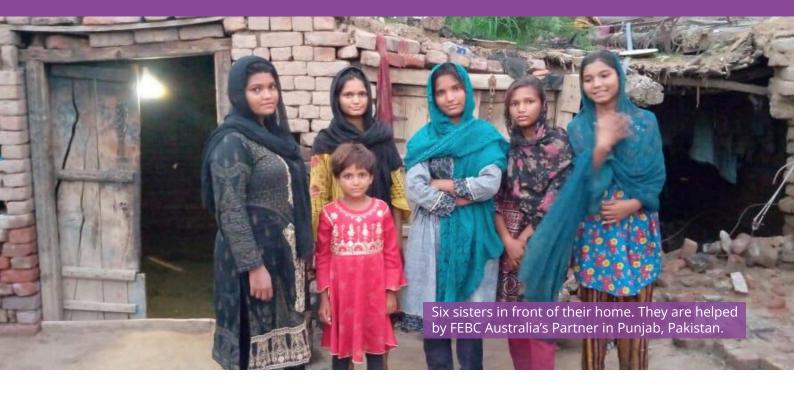
# Skywaves

April - June 2025





### "Where is God's Love for Us?"

This story is written by Hazeen, FEBC Australia's Partner in Pakistan:

For six sisters in a remote community in Punjab, Pakistan, having "nothing to lose" has given them boldness to take risks to improve their future. But it also reflects the sad reality that they have been abandoned, left vulnerable and in poverty.

The sisters live in the village where we started the 'Roshan Ghar' (Bright Home) sewing centre, where women can develop new skills.

When our first batch of participants enrolled in the 'Roshan Ghar' training, I was told by the class teacher that some of the girls were very poor. They did not have enough to eat each day. The teacher told me that they were known locally as the 'Six Sisters'. Two of them could attend the sewing centre. The others

wanted to enroll too but they were too young.

I was shocked to hear that their mother, because of poverty, had abandoned them a few years ago when their father had died, and she had re-married. The youngest of the six was just three years old at that time. What a tragedy.

The girls used to say they hated their mother who lived near their village with her new husband who already had several children of his own. Two of the girls came to the sewing centre regularly. The younger ones also came along with them as there was no one at home. Their door was broken and could not be locked. But they were not worried, as they had "nothing to lose".

When the sisters started coming to class, one of the younger girls asked the teacher,

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### "Where is God's love for us?" (cont'd)

"Where is God for us? We live in one room which leaks when it rains. The rainwater not only comes from the roof but also through the walls. Even our floor level has sunk down. We have only one bed made from grass rope and a broken smaller bed where my elder sister sleeps. We often go to bed hungry, and we all sleep squeezed on one bed, unable to turn right or left. There is no extra thing to sit on or for just hanging out. Winter and summer are both a challenge for us.

Where is God's love for us? Many men come into the house saying they want to look out for us, but we can tell in their eyes that their intentions are bad. We have an uncle, but he is also poor. Still, he feeds us and supports us from time to time. We go to his house for food after his family has eaten.

People gave us their used clothes. But now, after Roshan Ghar sewing centre, we will wear new clothes."

#### Transformed by love

In the Roshan Ghar sewing centre, we use Bible speaker boxes as a support for spiritual growth. The programs start with a devotion in the heart language of the participants. Many of the participants choose to join the devotions, keen to know more about Christianity and the love that compels the Christians who serve the community. One of the six sisters started memorising the Gospel of Matthew. Life is still hard and at times it is still a struggle. But where previously they were filled with rage and thoughts of revenge, the six sisters have found some peace in their hearts.

When I asked recently how the sisters were doing, the sewing centre teacher said to me, "When they started coming to the sewing centre, they were shy and would stay quiet but now they talk and talk. They enjoy what they do and they've also made some good friends."

Our organisation supported the girls with new locally made beds and a pedestal fan. The efforts inspired the community to help. The neighbours next door shared their electricity supply as the girls' supply had been cut due to non-payment.

When I asked, "what is your dream?", the girls all looked at each other and quietly spoke, "we want to live a peaceful life and have our home fixed, nothing more." The second oldest said, "I want to study and study and study this is my dream."

The little one, the youngest, said nothing but kept smiling.



The second oldest sister who wanted to go to school received fee support. Since then, she has studied very hard, scoring A+ for her examination. To support the sisters while upholding their dignity, FEBC Australia's Partner also provides a stipend to this second oldest sister for her volunteer work as a nurse's assistant in the health program they run. Apart from studying, she now has dreams in the field of health.

'Roshan Ghar' means 'Bright Home'.
Through on-air and on-the-ground
initiatives, the project aims to empower
marginalised rural communities living in
poverty and inadequate health and
education facilities to address local issues,
reduce family violence, improve health
outcomes, and enable women to become
effective agents of change.

From the free sewing classes, some women have started to earn income for the first time, from the sale of the clothes sewn or through skilled employment.

## A Note from Janet

God loves the world



"Where is God's love for us?" This question was posed by one of the sisters enrolled in our Partner's free sewing training program in Pakistan. As highlighted in this issue of Skywaves, they endured incredibly challenging lives. Yet, as our Partner reached out to the six sisters, I am reminded of the same love Jesus exhibited when He touched the outcasts of society, restoring lives and instilling hope.

It is this message of love that we are so privileged to proclaim through media and through practical demonstration. God loves and cares for the well-being of every individual. His redemptive love is all encompassing: addressing social injustices and meeting our physical and emotional needs. But the ultimate redemption is one of eternal significance— when He restores our relationship with Him. And He relentlessly pursues this.

During Easter, we are reminded of Jesus' profound love. As God incarnate, He took on the brutal punishment for our sins so that we might live eternally with and in Him, filled with His peace, love, and joy.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Like God's unchanging love, this verse has been a foundational pillar for FEBC Australia, serving as our motivator and consistent message for the past 60 years.

Our focus is on sharing the gospel through media and practical support so that lives are transformed. We hope and pray that everyone involved in our mission will experience this transformation which is a life in all its fullness through Jesus (John 10:10).

In my time at FEBC Australia, it has been a joy to witness lives transformed by God's love, such as listener Tamang's life in Nepal. It has been a blessing to engage with you and our overseas Partners and see how God's love fuels our shared mission.

As we approach Easter and Pentecost, I pray that you and your family experience a fresh revelation of God's redemptive, relentless, unchanging, transformative love. I also pray for those who doubt God's love. May they, like the Pakistani sisters, come to understand that His love is available to all, and may they come to know the fullness of life through a relationship with Him.

Yours in Christ.

Janet Cousens CEO, FEBC Australia



Compelled by Love, Blessed to Give

When Carolyn moved to Australia from New Zealand with her husband, God had already prepared a path for her. Shortly after settling in Caringbah in southern Sydney (where FEBC Australia is located), Carolyn saw a job opportunity on her church's newsletter and applied. That was 16 years ago. Carolyn has been with FEBC Australia since, serving as an accountant.

In addition to serving, Carolyn and her husband are long-time donors to FEBC Australia. She firmly believes in the effectiveness of media to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. "And FEBC has people on the ground to disciple those who have heard, which is very important and impactful."

Her conviction stems partly from her experiences. Bible stories on shortwave radio and the Bible reading with American missionaries (who were her university English teachers in Harbin, China) gradually introduced Carolyn, then an atheist, to Jesus.

#### In awe of God's love

John 3:16 was one of the first Bible verses Carolyn encountered. After 35 years of walking with Jesus, she remains in awe of God's love. "I can hardly comprehend the enormity of God's love. Giving up His one and only Son for our eternal welfare is heartbreaking," the mother of three adult children reflects. "This demonstrates how

valuable we are to God. I am still a sinner and continually learning, but God has never given up on me, and He never gives up on us. He is so faithful."

Compelled by God's love, Carolyn is passionate about sharing her hope in Christ with others. "I see the need; so many people still don't know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Without Him, I would be pursuing money, fame, and status, believing that was success. Now, I define success as knowing Jesus, serving His people. I have the hope that when I die, it is not the end but that I will be with God in glory. I want other people to know about this hope that brings so much joy."

#### Blessed to give

Carolyn feels profoundly blessed by her service and contributions. "I am incredibly grateful for our partners. Each time I answer their calls, their joy and overflowing gratitude humble me. Sometimes, I hear, 'Sorry, I can only give you \$10 because I'm on a pension.' It melts my heart to see their deep desire to give.

When my children were young, I sometimes worried, 'What if there isn't enough?' But I've learned that faith and joy grow when we put our trust in God. Giving is a gesture of gratitude and an expression of the overflowing love God has shown us—I just can't contain it," Carolyn shares, her smile

### Heart to Heart (cont'd)

wide and her arms gesturing the flow of a fountain, expressing the overflowing joy she has found in Christ.

"Through the years, I have seen God's faithfulness. It is not about us as individuals or FEBC as an organisation; it is His will, His plan, and His kingdom. We are blessed to be part of it."



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Thank you for your partnership that has enabled FEBC Australia to share God's love for 60 years.

Your prayer, giving and sharing about the work of FEBC is vital.

Together, we can help let every tribe, tongue and nation hear the Good News of **lesus Christ!** 





### **Bequests**

A beguest in your Will ensures that FEBC Australia can continue to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through media and practical support for generations to come, impacting lives for eternity.



Click here to leave a bequest or call 1300 720 017.



We are extremely grateful for your continuing partnership that has made it possible for thousands to hear the Good News and be inspired to follow Jesus. Thank you for those who have sent in your surveys to help us formulate our move forward in God's mission.

Stay tuned to updates as we celebrate God's faithfulness, and your support in this 60th anniversary of FEBC Australia!



In September 2024, with the funding provided by FEBC Australia, our Partner launched community radio station 'Radio Bharosa' ('The Voice of Trust') in Dang district, Lumbini Province, Nepal. Owned and operated by the local association of churches, Radio Bharosa aims to spread the message of God's love and support to

marginalised communities through its

broadcasts and local initiatives.

Like our Partner's Afno FM network of community radio stations, Radio Bharosa will amplify the community's voices on social issues and share relevant information that addresses their concerns so as to effect positive change. Around 370,000 listeners of diverse faiths and caste affiliations in Dang will have the opportunity to receive muchneeded access to health and agriculture information, education, and entertainment programs which share Christian values.



Radio Bahrosa's station manager, along with teams from the Afno network and other journalists in the Dadelhura area attended a training camp to learn how to leverage radio for societal change.

One notable impact of our Partner's radio broadcasts was seen in the life of listener Muna Khatiwoda. Muna had an eye condition. She could not see with large amounts of light, so she was bound in darkness at home. The radio became the young lady's only companion and connection to the world outside.

While listening to a broadcast from Afno FM, she learnt about a surgical procedure available at a nearby hospital for her medical condition. Excited by the information, Muna contacted the hospital and successfully underwent the surgery. Muna not only regained her sight, but also saw her life transformed. She now freely shares the poetry she wrote during her time at home and has become a well-known poet in Nepal.

Another listener, Kumari Tamang, was inspired by the messages of love and service she heard on the radio and witnessed in the Christian hospitals affiliated with Afno FM. "I am inspired by Christians, their love, concern, service, so now I live my new life in Jesus." Tamang put her trust in Jesus on 13 April, 2023.



Click here to watch Tamang's testimony.