

# REACH BEYOND

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NEW ZEALAND

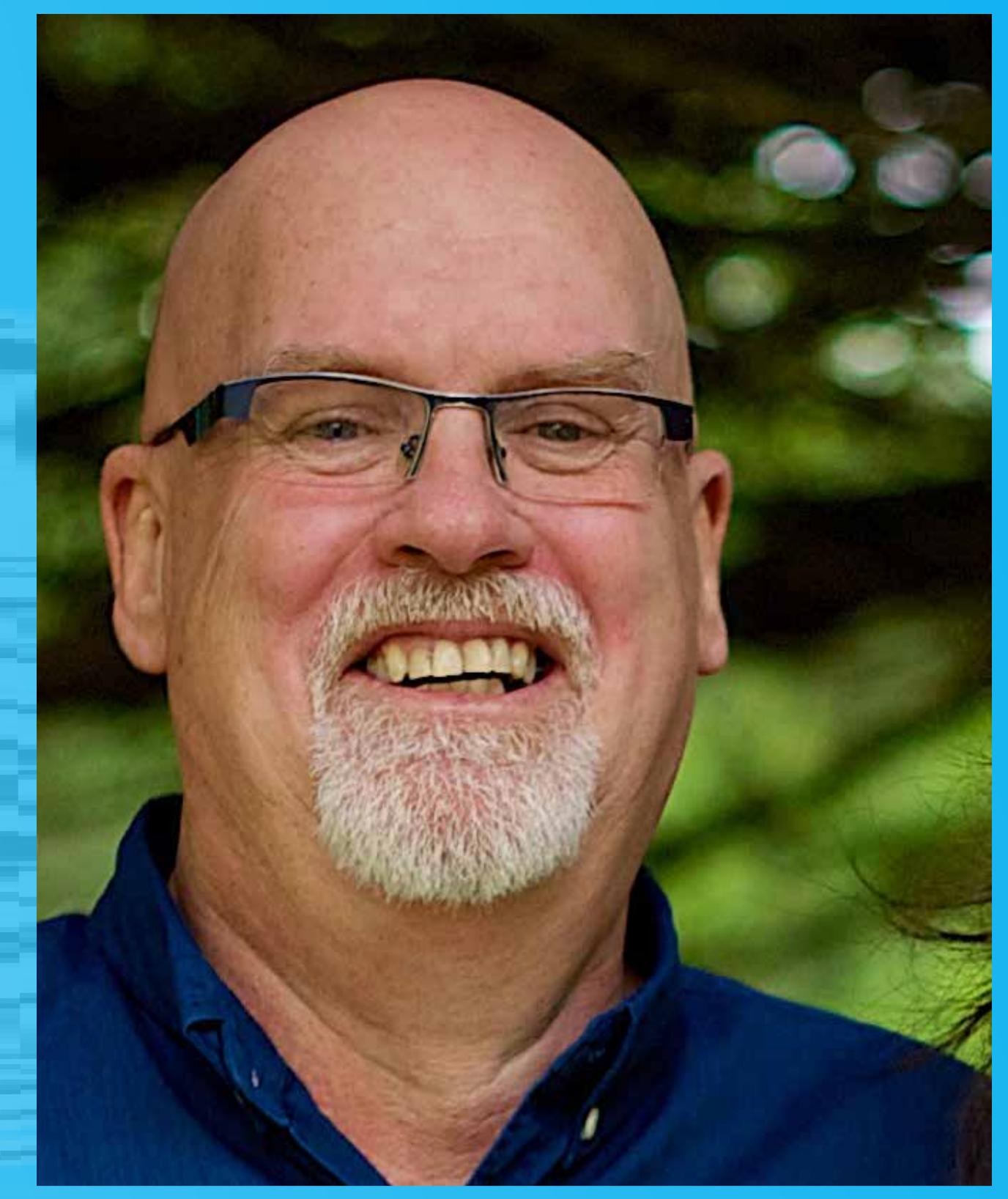
Formerly HCJB NZ  
VOICE & HANDS  
ISSUE 3 | SUMMER 2026

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SHARING JESUS. GIVING HOPE.  
TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES.

## A NOTE FROM OUR CEO



Greetings,

It is a real joy to once again write the foreword for another edition of our Voice and Hands magazine.

I continue to be deeply thankful, and honestly, quite amazed at how God is using the ministry of the Reach Beyond family to make a difference in some of the hardest-to-reach places on earth.

We love being able to share real stories of lives being transformed, and to let you meet some of the wonderful people God has raised up to carry out this work — our missionaries, trainers, technical teams, and faithful local partners.

For more than 94 years the heartbeat of Reach Beyond (formerly HCJB) has remained wonderfully steady. We exist to share the good news of Christ while practically demonstrating His love through media, healthcare and community development. We never forget that it is never about our clever ideas or hard work. True life-change only happens because God, through Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit, moves in people's hearts.

My prayer is that as you turn these pages you will be freshly encouraged, stirred to pray, and perhaps even prompted to partner with us in some new way.

So make yourself comfortable, maybe grab that cup of tea or coffee, and enjoy seeing again how God is still using Reach Beyond to share Jesus, bring hope, and transform communities, village by village, life by life.

Blessings and warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell".

Russell Grainger  
Reach Beyond NZ CEO

<https://www.reachbeyond.nz/>

# A MISSION POLES BRIEFING



## A Miracle Encounter

God is incredible. On my way back from Ghana last time, I sat next to a very fine Christian man who has a responsible job with the Ghanaian Government. He is responsible for the allocation of Government funds to aid rural development and empowerment in remote communities. As we chatted and I told him about the mission poles he got very excited as he could see how the poles could help advance the desires of the government to better the lives of rural villages. We swapped phone numbers and I have been chatting with him on a regular basis since then. He has asked me and Bob to travel back to Ghana to meet with him and the Minister of Education to talk about the poles and how we might work together. Isn't God amazing! Of the more than 200 people in economy class, God placed me next to just the right man! Please pray for the upcoming meetings and for our relationship with the Ghanaian Government.

## Recent Updates

Our previous manufacturer in Ghana kept raising prices, making poles unaffordable. Through prayer, creative thinking, and God's clear guidance, we explored manufacturing in China. Bob invested significant time researching options, and we've now identified a reliable supplier and sent our designs.



To make it cost-effective, we need to order and ship 40 poles at once—a major expense far beyond our NZ office budget.

We have just made the order for the 40 new mission poles to be made in China. Please pray for wisdom for Bob and I as we negotiate with the manufacturer, other suppliers and the shipping agent.

### **Testimonies from Ghana**

The first testimony I want to share is from the chief of a village where we installed a pole in October. It is a village called Okpenwa and the pole was fully funded by a generous Reach Beyond NZ supporter. This is what he said;

*"We are so very thankful for the pole. It brings us light. We listen to the scriptures every day, and at night, when the music starts to play, we gather 'round the pole, and we listen to the music and then to the scriptures, and then we have our community meeting. It is a wonderful gift you have given us."*

Other testimonies we have received:

*"We can acknowledge that things are changing. Thank you for the Gospel."*  
Chief Atakwa of Doglokpo

*"[The mission pole] now overshadows the old shrine."* – Elder of Doglokpo

From mostly Muslim to mostly Christian, with the chief having converted too. – Village of Akurakese



*"Yesu akpe looo!" (Thank you, Jesus!) – People of Dekpevie*

*"I am thankful this community can hear the Bible read aloud to them." – Chief of Dofforkame*

Another village in the Volta region wrote; *"The pole has truly become the centre of our village. For example, when we have a funeral, we use the microphone and loudspeakers to pay tribute to the one who has died."* (We never imagined that use for the poles!)

In another village, when Bob was there, a young girl in her early teens, came up to him and said

*"You have no idea how much this means to me and to the village. We feel cared for and we can discover new things"*

These stories warm my heart! Alfred, our dedicated partner on the ground in Ghana, is receiving constant calls from nearby villages begging for their own Mission Pole. The demand is growing fast. Already, 16 villages in the Northern region, where Islamist groups are active, are waiting eagerly.

Each Mission Pole costs NZ\$9,000 to manufacture, ship, and install—transforming an entire village with light, phone charging, daily Bible readings, Biblical teaching, music, and community gatherings.

We've created a secure webpage where you can view waiting villages and sponsor one directly (or partially). Please visit <https://thefaitfund.org/> today—and feel free to share it with friends and family!

Your gift will bring lasting hope and the Gospel to unreached communities.

# ALEX & LYNETTE WEIR



1980 - An unsuspecting Alex Weir, from small town Raetihi, had completed his plumbing apprenticeship and thought he'd go into business. He had NO IDEA what surprises God had in mind. Alex had picked up a little pamphlet at church and read a two-sentence article: HCJB (renamed Reach Beyond) needed a plumber and electrician to help build a complex to house missionaries, radio studios and a transmitter repair workshop in Italy.

**BAM!**



In his heart he immediately felt God saying, "I want you to go." Alex had no desire to leave NZ but now he had absolutely no peace about starting a business or saying NO to God. So, after many confirmations that God was calling and opening the way for him and electrician, Russell Grainger to go,

they arrived in Italy six weeks later. Alex saw firsthand God working nothing short of miracles through the lives of missionaries Harry and May Yeoman and their faith in God to provide.

After the project was completed and Alex thought he'd finished the overseas missionary call of God, he could now start his NZ plumbing business. It didn't happen. Once again God called Alex in 1983, this time to go to Ecuador with HCJB to help build a hospital on the edge of the Amazon jungle.

It was there he met Lynette. In 1980, Lynette was working in the hospital laboratory in Minnesota, USA. She had grown up on a dairy farm and attended a mission-minded church all her life. She had felt God calling her to medical missions in her late teens, but more specifically to Ecuador



in 1980 after visiting her relatives who were missionaries there with the CMA mission. She went back to the USA to begin preparations to go to Ecuador and arrived in 1983, never expecting to meet Alex. In the small jungle town of Shell there were only a few single missionaries who often spent free time together, developing friendships that would last a lifetime.

Alex and Lynette were married in 1985 and have continued to feel God's calling time and again throughout their lives. When you feel God calling and you say, "Okay, here am I, send me," get ready for adventure! "Don't be anxious about

anything." He's got it; Trust Him; He's always present; He opens impossible doors and gives you joy like you can't experience outside His will for your lives. Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."



The Weirs continue to be led by the Lord. So far, they have served in 13 different countries with most of their years of service spent in Ecuador. Each of those countries have distinct cultures and most have different languages to try and learn. All glory and praise go to God who has helped them live frequently outside their comfort zones and through so many unknowns. They are happy to do this so

people have a means to hear the Good News of who Jesus is and why He came to this earth. A huge thank you to those who regularly pray and support them and the work God continues to do.





# REACH BEYOND SWEDEN

DRIVEN BY A  
PASSION TO  
MAKE DISCIPLES

## The story of Reach Beyond Sweden

began in 1966 in Hestra, under the name Radio HCJB Sweden. Inspired by the vision of HCJB pioneers Clarence Jones and Swedish-American Reuben Larson, the mission was clear when the Swedish office was founded: to reach the unreached with the gospel through radio. The first Swedish shortwave broadcast from Quito, Ecuador, aired as early as 1937, and for decades, programs were transmitted to the Nordic countries from HCJB's station in South America.

In the 1970s, a radio facility was built in Mariestad, which served as the hub until 2004. Since the founding of Radio HCJB Sweden, many full-time missionaries have been sent out from Sweden. The "jungle hospital" in Shell, Ecuador—also known as "the Swedish hospital"—was built in the 1980s thanks to Swedish governmental aid funding, coordinated through Radio HCJB Sweden. In 2014, the Swedish office changed its name (together with the global organization) to Reach Beyond Sweden, reflecting a broader vision: to go beyond borders, beyond words, and beyond ourselves.

Reach Beyond Sweden is part of the international Reach Beyond movement, which serves through media, healthcare, and community development. The Swedish office focuses on radio broadcasting in Russia and North Africa/Middle East, community development in Central Asia, and reaching unreached people groups migrating into Europe—particularly in Greece.

## VILLAGES TAKE THE LEAD



Reach Beyond Sweden's vision is to see Jesus known and loved among all peoples. The strategy is built on three pillars; Voice – reaching beyond borders through radio and digital media, Hands – showing Christ's love through practical help and healthcare, and Together – working in enabling partnerships with churches and organizations across the globe.

This vision is now being carried out through several projects, where partner organizations in the target areas do the groundwork, with visitors from Sweden offering encouragement and support once or twice a year.

One of the key goals is to mobilize the next generation into mission. Through discipleship journeys to Central Asia and Greece, participants gain hands-on experience in missions—helping at children’s camps, serving refugees with medical care, or building/refurbishing houses where we can provide care for people. The hope is to ignite a passion for future service.



**(Photo)** Jan Korpegård (Country Office Director), Jakob Dalenbring (Board member), Ingela Tauson (Country Office Director) and Gunela Rosenvik (Chairman of the Board) from left to right. Ingela Tauson and Jan Korpegård share the leadership of Reach Beyond Sweden.

Ingela says “We are called to prepare the ground. Just like Jesus sent out the seventy-two disciples ahead of Him, we go where the Spirit leads—building trust, showing love, and waiting for the right time to sow the gospel. It’s a deliberate and prayerful process, and we’ve seen beautiful fruit from it.”

Jan adds: “Technology opens new doors for mission. Whether it’s digital radio, online training, or innovative tools, we want to use every means available to reach hearts behind closed doors. Our mission is not just about broadcasting, it’s about transformation. Jesus says, ‘As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.’ (John 9:4). We are finding ways to support our partners in the target areas, despite pandemics or war. A key part of our strategy is equipping local partners to be self-sufficient in case of closed borders, while also maintaining a long-term commitment to support them for as long as we can. That, and the opportunity to use my gifts as an engineer for the Kingdom, is why I got involved with Reach Beyond Sweden and why I continue to be part of the work.”

Reach Beyond Sweden remains a small but passionate part of a global movement. Through faith, perseverance, and generous support from donors in Sweden, people in some of the world’s most remote and unreached areas are hearing the gospel—and experiencing the love of Jesus in action.

**Written by Jan Korpegård**



## NEW ZEALAND

- Social Media Content Creator
- Graphic Designer
- Programmer - AI Specialist

## THAILAND

- Repairing transmitters.
- Making lightning protection devices.
- Repairing SonSet radios.
- Organizing tools and equipment (setting up a new workshop).
- Surveying a radio station to identify needed repairs and upgrades, and/or making repairs and upgrades at a radio station (Pending partner approval).

## AUSTRALIA

- Trades that include plumbing, electrical, concreting, painting, earth moving, welding, diesel mechanic, tree maintenance, tractor driving, etc.
- Software or ICT skills
- Electrical engineering, i.e. electronic repairs for transmitters, etc.
- CAD drawing and technical documentation

## CENTRAL ASIA

- Radio Broadcast/Electrical Engineer
- Media Trainer
- Medical Professionals - All Fields
- Primary & Secondary School Teachers

## AFRICA

- Media Project Coordinator
- Community Development Project Coordinator

## EUROPE

- IT Systems Administrator - Spain
- Refugee and Immigrant Outreach Coordinator - Spain
- Office Manager - Spain
- Nurse / Clinic Administrator - Greece
- Refugee Ministry Team Member - Greece

# Testimony Corner

I am a drummer, and I play at funerals. We wait for the bad news to arrive, and when it does, it's a bittersweet blessing for us—it means work.

We gather together, sharing drinks before we strike the drums. As the rhythm begins, mourners emerge from all corners, drawn into the solemn ceremonies. We play as a team, united in our craft.

There are days when business is scarce, and hunger gnaws at us, forcing us to eat just once a day while our children go to bed with empty bellies. I battled an illness that drove people away, including my family, and every breath I took felt like a struggle against the weight of poverty. With no one to turn to for help, I often thought it would be easier to die than to live this way—sick and impoverished, mentally exhausted.

After three long months, an opportunity to play at a ceremony finally emerged. I called my team together, urging them to get ready. But just then, one of our members, the one holding all our drums, was missing. By the time we tracked him down and reached the venue, a different team had already been hired. We lost our chance, and despair settled over me like a heavy fog.

Feeling uneasy and disturbed, I couldn't find the strength to return home immediately. I took refuge in a nearby community space where people were playing cards and chatting. Among them sat a man, Swami, listening to a radio program. He was listening to the words about God—"The truth will set you free." Intrigued, I approached him and asked what he meant by truth. He replied simply, "God's word is true." I scoffed, "But my life's problems are very real. What can your God do for me?" He looked at me thoughtfully and asked, "What can you do now to find the truth?" I replied, "I will listen to Him."

He then shared his own story of salvation and how God helped him. He shared about being cast out by his family for failing to provide. He finally found work at a mission hospital caring for the dead in the mortuary. Now, he could support his family again. His journey resonated with me, striking a chord deep within.

Today, I am also saved through that radio program, and I now work alongside Swami in the hospital, united by our shared experiences of loss and hope.

**Shankar – Tamil Radio listener**



LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE

# TRANSFORM LIVES FOR CHRIST

**You can leave a lasting impact for God's Kingdom. Your legacy gift to Reach Beyond can transform lives and bring hope to those in desperate need of Jesus Christ. Here is what your support can do:**

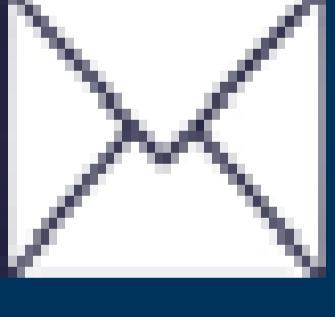
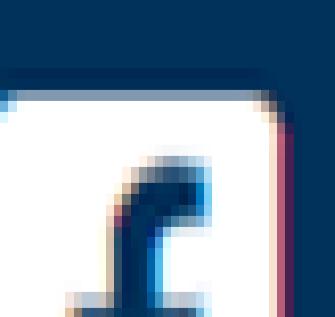
**Expand the reach:** Your gift will extend ministry around the world to reach even more people who don't know Christ.

**Transform lives:** Through our radio, digital media, healthcare, and community development ministries, we witness miraculous changes as people find hope and come to know the saving power of Jesus Christ.

**Ensure your vision lives on:** Leaving a legacy gift means you will be investing in reaching the unreached for Christ into the future. By making a planned gift, you can continue the work of Reach Beyond during and after your lifetime.

Please contact us so we can answer questions and talk through the options. Have you already included Reach Beyond in your estate planning? Let us know!

**REACH BEYOND**

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**BEYOND WORDS**

**BEYOND BORDERS**

**BEYOND OURSELVES**