

REACH BEYOND

NEW ZEALAND

VOICE & HANDS

ISSUE 1 | SUMMER 2024/2025

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SHARING JESUS. GIVING HOPE.
TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES.

A NOTE FROM OUR CEO



Welcome to the first ever Reach Beyond New Zealand Voice & Hands magazine.

We are really excited to get this magazine to you. It has been a dream of mine since I took on this role. This magazine, which we hope to get out twice a year, is a chance for us to tell you about the work of RBNZ and RB worldwide in more detail. We pray that you will be encouraged.

New Zealand, generally, has a reputation of punching above its weight in many things—whether it be sailing, the Olympics, business, etc., and RBNZ is no exception. We are a small country office, but because of our dedication to adapting and using new technology and our absolute commitment to sharing the gospel through media, healthcare, and community development, we find ourselves in the envious position of having some cutting-edge evangelism and discipleship tools, reaching the unreached.

In this 1st issue you will find three uniquely NZ stories. One about our life changing 'mission poles' that we are putting in Ghana, another about the SuperBible and Heroes of History Apps and another about Herman and Elaine and their short term mission to Thailand. The opportunities to serve God through RBNZ are endless.

You will also find some wonderful stories about the ministries of other World Offices.

Having been involved with HCJB/Reach Beyond for over 45 years, I am excited to see that the original vision of using dynamic media, healthcare, and community development to reach the unreached is still our core business. Please sit back and enjoy reading.

Blessings

Russell.

Russell Grainger
Reach Beyond NZ CEO

https://www.reachbeyond.nz/



TUNING INTO TRANSFORMATION

The Story of Mary Moshoeshoe and Christian Radio in Africa

IN THE HEART of Southern Africa, Mary Moshoeshoe's life story unfolds like a tapestry woven from threads of faith, resilience, and love for her community. Born in Lesotho but currently living in Ladybrand, South Africa, Mary is following God's calling to serve her community through Christian radio with Reach Beyond.

MARY STARTED A RADIO STATION LIKE NO OTHER

Mary's journey to becoming a key player in Christian media was neither straightforward nor easy. "When the Lord spoke to me about the radio, I was studying in Australia. I was just a young girl …but I felt in my spirit that I needed to go to Bible College to learn more about God", Mary recalls.

This divine nudge led her to an unexpected path: "The Lord spoke to me about being involved in Christian radio. I tried to resist…but to cut a long story short, I eventually agreed."

Under Mary's leadership, Harvest FM in Lesotho became a lifeline for the local community. "We believe Christianity is about helping people," Mary explains, noting that they build houses and provide food parcels to vulnerable families, showcasing the station's tangible impact beyond the airwaves.

REACHING CHILDREN VIA THE LITTLE HEROES

Mary's 'Little Heroes' project is a brilliant example of her innovative approach to fostering a sense of national pride and leadership among children by enabling them to experience roles like 'Little Prime Minister' or 'Little Chief Justice.' She entertains while educating and empowering the next generation.

Mary passionately describes this initiative as a great way to teach children about leadership, to teach them to love Lesotho and to change their mindset about their country.

A BIGGER VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Now, as Mary carries a vision for Christian radio stations across Sub-Saharan Africa, she seeks to share her knowledge with Christian radio stations emphasizing financial sustainability, professional management, and impactful programming to continue their vital work for the gospel.

> "OUR GOAL IS TO HELP THESE STATIONS BECOME VIBRANT COMMUNITY VOICES THAT ATTRACT LISTENERS AND INSPIRE THEM TO EXPERIENCE THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF FOLLOWING JESUS"

HARVEST FM



NEW ZEALAND

- Social Media Content Creator
- Graphic Designer

THAILAND

- A number of transmitters need troubleshooting and repairing
- Organizing the workshop
- Testing and evaluating equipment
- Arranging and installing lightning protection
- Teaching English

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

- Community Development Engineers
- School Director
- Medical Professionals

AFRICA

- 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

TOGETHER
MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Hamid Awuba, village Chief at Akurakesse, Ghana: “We have had the pole in our village for more than 2 years now and we are so grateful. The first thing that we noticed was that our Cacao beans (our village’s main source of income) were not being stolen because of the lights on the pole. This has been very beneficial for our village. The other thing I have noticed is a change in our youth. They love listening to the youth programmes in the afternoon and they are acting better than they used to. I am a Ahmadi Muslim but because of the good I see the mission pole doing and the effect it has, I will become a Christian.”

A Tamil listener from India describes their experience: “I heard your program and there was a message about heavenly Father. I cried a lot and asked forgiveness to the Lord and accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour. Today I am living because of Christ. I am going to a nearby church and introducing this program to many people as well. Thank you so much for this radio program.”



Omar* describes his transformation from a radical who despised Christianity and attacked Christians, to someone seeking a relationship with Christ. Initially hostile to discussions about Jesus, he was confronted by a counsellor who responded to his aggression with kindness and an offer to pray. Reluctantly, Omar agreed to pray and experienced a profound emotional release. Over the next few days, he engaged deeply with the Bible and the teachings of Christianity, ultimately expressing a desire to become a Christian. Now, he is learning about Jesus and growing in his faith through a discipleship program. *Name changed

JESUS BRINGS LIFE TO BROKEN PEOPLE

INDONESIA ANNOUNCER TRAINING

"I'm really enjoying this workshop!" said Dinah. "It's so helpful, and I'm learning a lot about all the equipment in the studio!" She said this during a Thursday lesson about how to build a studio using a loose pile of equipment. Students worked in teams, with the first group to both record and play sound, winning a small prize.



Why teach skills like this? Small Christian stations in provincial Indonesia usually have commercial licenses, because they can't get funds to run the station without looking for income from the community. But with financial shortages come staff and equipment shortages. Most stations have only one studio computer, and to do production, the computer must be connected to the mixer in a slightly different way than is typical in broadcast setups.



The workshop in Indonesia lasted five days and was attended by 16 experienced announcers from stations around the country. They work in relative isolation in a majority Muslim country and far from other Christian broadcasters. That can make it difficult for them to grow in skill and develop their radio programmes over time. So training in studio set-up was just one of the topics taught that week in August.

Janice Reid (RBNZ), who prepared all the content for this workshop, also taught announcers to do good quality recordings, and drilled them in the software settings needed to save (then edit) voice recordings. Our Indonesian partner taught how to add extra 'tracks' to the recording, creating commercials with music or sound-effects. Nitha (RB Indonesia) did translation, assessed students' work, and arranged a voice-actor to join us in a Zoom meeting about recording commercials with the appropriate mood or energy for the message.



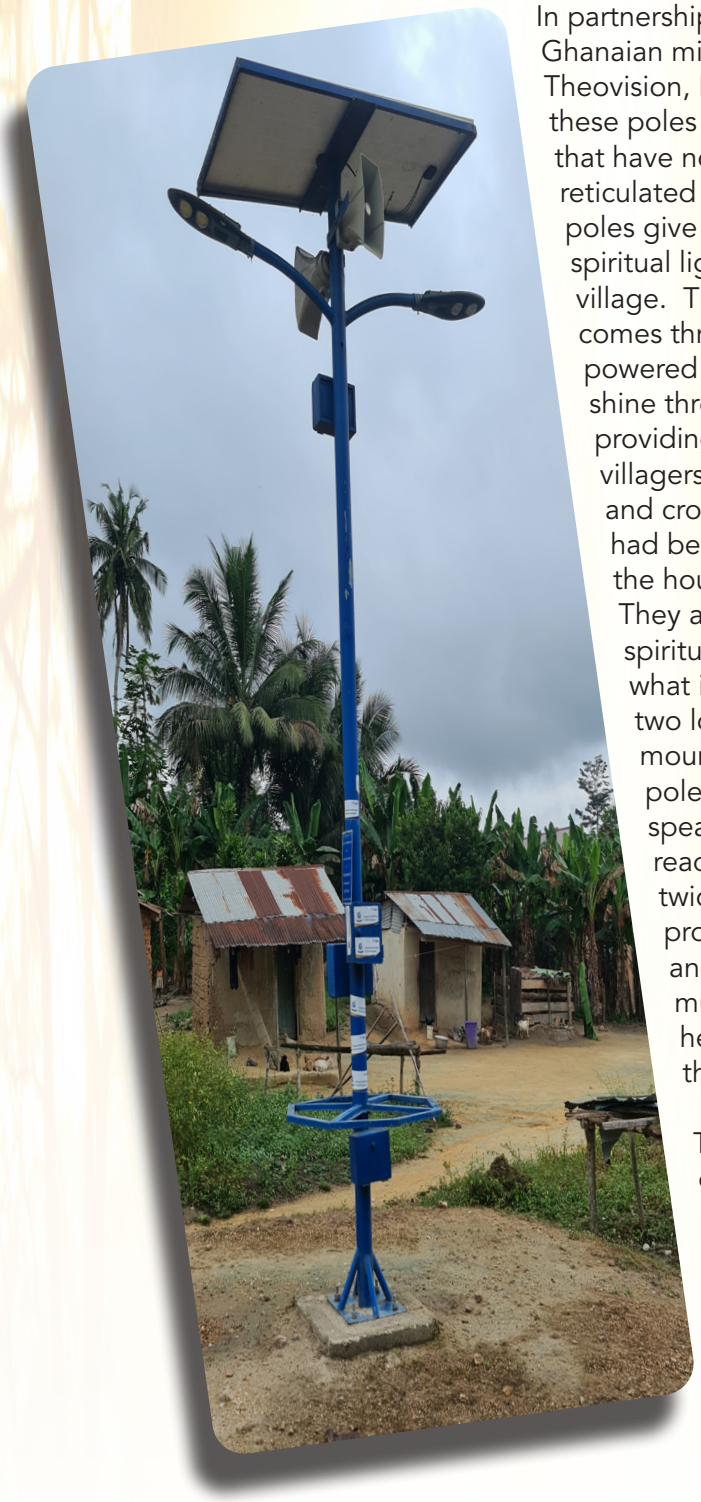
One highlight was Janice's session on Christian ethics: how should believers behave on the radio and represent advertised products? The Bible guides this, of course! Small groups discussed practical applications and case studies from recent global events.

In the first Zoom meeting with students after they had returned to their homes, some shared they had already aired commercials. One created a lovely intro for a devotional programme! Pray for these 16 stations and their announcers to grow their ministries in sustainability and effective outreach.

MISSION POLES

Imagine having an Evangelist, Discipleship Pastor, Youth Pastor, and Women's Pastor available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and all for the low price of NZ$1.60 per day. Now that's a deal.

The RBNZ developed Mission Poles do just that. Designed to last a minimum of 15 years, these amazing poles bring Bible reading, evangelism, and discipleship materials to rural villages in Ghana.



In partnership with a Ghanaian ministry called Theovision, RBNZ installs these poles in villages that have no access to reticulated power. The poles give physical and spiritual light to the village. The physical light comes through solar-powered street lights that shine through the night, providing security for the villagers, their animals, and crops (some crops had been stolen during the hours of darkness). They also bring spiritual light through what is broadcast via two loudspeakers mounted on the pole. These speakers play Bible readings at least twice a day, specific programs for youth and women, and music, all in the heart language of the villagers.

The poles are designed to be updated via the internet and this is done from here in NZ at our technical development centre in Tauranga. Theovision provides us with the programmes.

These poles also have a civil defence component too. Through the technology we have developed, our partner in Ghana can use the internet to make a live (or recorded) announcement via the speakers in case of an extreme weather event or civil unrest.

If the villagers have phones that are capable, they can also download information on pump repair, community development, agriculture best practices, and discipleship material.

When we install a pole in a village it is met with unfettered excitement and appreciation. In fact, they have asked that we also programme it so that at 6.00 am, 12 midday and 6.00 pm, each day it says the time.

Since 1931, Reach Beyond (formerly HCJB) has been at the technological forefront of delivering the gospel to remote unreached people groups around the world. These poles are just the latest method through which this is being accomplished. Yet none of this can happen without the prayer and financial support of our partners.

If you, your life group, or your church are interested in finding out how you can support these poles, please let us know.

SuperBible

In today's fast-paced digital age, leveraging technology to spread the gospel's message has never been more vital. Our Bible Comics serve as an innovative and impactful tool, enabling us to share the rich narratives of the Bible with thousands, if not millions, of people worldwide. Through captivating, high-quality graphics, these comics are designed to engage the younger generation, drawing them into the stories of faith and inspiration in a format that resonates with their culture.

We have developed two powerful apps: the SuperBible and Heroes of History. These apps have collectively achieved over 49,000 downloads, a remarkable milestone that only begins to illustrate their reach. The beauty of these digital resources lies in being easily shareable, extending our outreach as users spread the message to others. Each download sparks a potential ripple effect.



Moreover, our Bible Comics have been translated into over 70 languages, including unique adaptations such as Russian Sign Language, ensuring accessibility for a wide array of audiences. Bob and a team are continuously working to add new languages, breaking down language barriers, and empower individuals to engage with the Word of God in their heart language. This inclusivity allows us to reach those living under various political constraints and societal challenges, providing them with a lifeline to hear the message of hope and redemption.

One of the most exciting aspects of our initiative is the physical version of the comics, which we have successfully printed and distributed to various institutions such as New Zealand prisons, schools, outreach programs, and churches. These physical copies serve as tangible reminders of God's love and truth, creating opportunities for meaningful conversations and spiritual growth. Organizations like Open Air Campaigners have incorporated these comics into their outreach events, sharing testimonies of lives changed and faith renewed as a result of this engaging format. Our very own Margaret Thatcher has played a significant role in using the SuperBible comic to share the gospel with many of the people she meets. A recent example was when Margaret gave the Heroes of History comic to a foster mother of four children, as a way of introducing the plan of salvation to the children.

The transformative power of the Word of God is undeniable. It has the capacity to change lives, heal families, and uplift entire communities. In a world filled with trials, conflicts, and in many cases, despair; the gospel offers a source of peace, healing, and most importantly, salvation. As we continue to harness technology to spread this message, we remain committed to reaching those who are seeking hope and truth in their lives. Our goal is not just to distribute content, but to cultivate a deeper understanding of faith that can bring about genuine transformation and lasting change.

Together, let us continue this vital work, embracing new technologies and innovative methods to share the gospel with the world. The journey has just begun, and the possibilities are limitless.

WHATSAPP Podcasts

HARNESSING WHATSAPP'S WIDE COVERAGE TO ENGAGE WITH THE LEAST REACHED IN INDIA

FROM THE DESK OF REACH BEYOND'S AUSTRALIAN OFFICE

In India, there is no end of gods and goddesses. Jesus is often relegated to the mantlepiece alongside figurines representing other deities. However, we frequently witness how Jesus can sweep aside these confused beliefs and confront people with the truth.

Prior to initiating our WhatsApp podcast project, we had a long-standing partnership with Christianity Works, led by Berni Dymet. For years, Berni had been producing a devotional called 'Fresh', which we saw as a way to complement our shortwave programs. These programs, produced by Pastor Sam and his team in Tamil and Kannada, were broadcast across India from our shortwave facility in Kununurra, far northern Western Australia.

We started printing 'Fresh' for distribution through our existing networks, but the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 forced us to shift to an electronic version. Under Pastor Sam's guidance, our WhatsApp project began and grew rapidly—far beyond our expectations. What we thought would start with two groups of 200 quickly expanded to over 70,000 people, receiving the devotional in five languages, either in text or audio. It was a powerful reminder of letting God lead.

Here are a couple of the many testimonies we have received:

'I was rejected by my friends and my relatives. I work as a painter. While I was painting in a house one day, they introduced this Marathi program to me. I am so glad that these words are comforting me...Praise God for all that He does in our lives. This is the first time ever I am asking for prayer, and I believe in Jesus. I was suffering financially. At that time, I asked God to help me to get a particular project. Prayer helped me to get that project. My faith increased in God. The word of God I am listening helped me to know God. Thank you, Jesus!' - Marathi WhatsApp listener from India

'We run a small business in Ladakh and lost our business due to COVID, but now re-establishing our new business. I don't attend church but receive the word of God through WhatsApp regularly forwarded to me by my friends. There is a reason I also forward these messages on to my friends--A man who was sick and pushed away from his own family members was dejected and lost interest to live. The word I forwarded to him changed his life and he found hope through God. He then helped my business when I had lost hope. I never thought forwarding message to someone will help me one day!' - A WhatsApp listener from India



Volunteering in Thailand



Herman and Elaine Borger

A couple from Wakefield, Nelson, gave their time assisting Trevor (Radio Engineer), in Thailand. Here's their story

HERMAN: We arrived on Thursday 9th May 2024, and Trevor took us to his apartment, our base while in Bangkok. We spent Friday in the workshop, where I got stuck into replacing components on voltage regulator PC boards. We spent Saturday seeing some of Thailand's history and the Grand Palace.

On Sunday we worshipped with the Bang Na Christian Church. We attended their English worship service then had a shared lunch and we were made to feel welcome. On Monday, we went back to the workshop, where we tested the voltage regulator boards that I had modified and attempted to fix 2 out of 14 that did not pass the tests.

From Tuesday to Thursday, we spent our time visiting radio stations. On Tuesday morning we flew to Hat Yai to visit a station. On Wednesday we drove to Trang, visited another station, and then drove on to Krabi, where we stayed the night and visited a station on Thursday afternoon. On Thursday morning we did a little sightseeing.

At the stations we visited, we checked the earthing of the towers and had a good look at the setup and the state of the transmitters. I was impressed with Trevor's handling of things as Jack (the Thai contact person) was not well enough to travel with us. Trevor was able to make himself understood as we communicated with the station personnel. Well done!

ELAINE: I was glad to have plenty to do in the workshop in Bangkok. I assembled some shelving, which I was then able to use to extend the existing shelving unit. As Trevor was sorting through the many boxes and crates of assorted equipment, I packed things into plastic crates, labeled them, and shelved them. When I realised that regular mopping wouldn't remove the grime from the floor, I resorted to scrubbing it on my hands and knees. It was very satisfying to see the results. It was a joy to visit the three radio stations in the south of the country. I enjoyed not only seeing their locations and equipment but also learning how each station operates. I also appreciated hearing the stories from the pastors—how the stations began and the impact they have had in reaching the community with the gospel message.

I was very impressed with Trevor's familiarity with Thailand, its culture, and the language he has learned so far, as well as his personal and humble manner in communicating with everyone we met. We pray that God will continue to use him in the work of the gospel and in his service with Reach Beyond.

> "IT WAS A PRIVILEGE FOR BOTH OF US TO VOLUNTEER IN THAILAND."

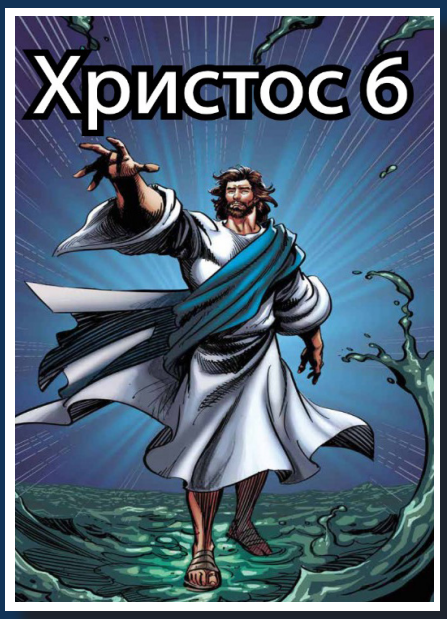
Your opportunity is waiting for you. Contact Russell now.

REACH BEYOND NEW ZEALAND

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES

49,000 HEROES OF HISTORY & SUPERBIBLE APPS DOWNLOADED

30,000 SUPERBIBLE COMICS GIVEN AWAY TO PRISIONS, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES & OUTREACHES



3 MISSION POLES IN GHANA

5 RADIO ANNOUNCER TRAINING WORKSHOPS IN INDONESIA & THAILAND

70 LANGUAGE TRANSLATIONS OF THE SUPERBIBLE & HEROES OF HISTORY APPS

3 MISSION TRIPS TO GHANA & THAILAND

Reach Beyond globally is engaged with people in **141** countries, and **251** unreached people groups





READ MORE ABOUT US
reachbeyond.nz

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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