

Autumn 2020

Listening World

Inside this issue

A Ministry Tool for China

Disabled in Ukraine

Your Listening Guide

Prayer Matters



From the Chief Executive Officer,
Dr Russell Farnworth.



Every day TWR encounters barriers to spreading the good news that Jesus came to bring. Political, economic, ideological and even theological barriers are erected to keep out the simple message that Jesus reconciles people to God.

But then Jesus foresaw these barriers when he gave the Great Commission. That's why he said, "All power in heaven and in earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." Jesus appropriates that power to us today as we reach out to the nations! It is a fact: the world is becoming a more complex place.

- Countries are erecting barriers to the free flow of information through strict controls on the digital movement of ministry content. This is a constant challenge as we seek to reach people on smartphones and digital devices.
- Economic barriers are real in many countries. How people feel about their economic well-being affects their response to the message of Jesus. Ironically, when people are doing well economically, they may not be as open to the Gospel. The opposite is also true!
- Religious barriers are everywhere.

TWR moves over, around, under or straight through barriers to the hearts of people every day! Barriers are an opportunity if we move forward by faith. Mass media is a wonderful way to move around and over barriers, enabling us to see people experiencing hope as they meet Jesus.

Let's believe the promises of the Lord together as we see him transform lives.

Yours in Christ,



What God prepared in advance: A ministry tool for China

Despite new proposed government regulations in China, TWR's intensive seminary-level training programme for Chinese church leaders, Seminary Of The Air (SOTA), now has almost 2,000 active students! There are already 901 graduates from the SOTA programme, and this year we are looking forward to seeing over 1,000 more students graduate!

The Chinese government has proposed new internet regulations that will limit the distribution of religious resources online. If the government approves these regulations, which our ministry leaders anticipate they will, it will be illegal for any Christian content to be circulated online in China. While this news is devastating, we are thankful that before we knew of these proposed regulations, God led us to begin development of the SOTA USB! The USB is a memory stick containing all the SOTA content. It doesn't need internet, which allows students to study secretly without being online.

It can be connected to smartphones, computers and projectors and can be used by individuals or in groups. This small tool gives great flexibility and allows students to continue their seminary studies.

We also have technology that will make it easy to produce copies of the SOTA USB. The process of producing and distributing these USBs is inexpensive and effective for students' learning.

While these new regulations in China are disheartening, God is proving his faithfulness to us yet again by preparing us well for this roadblock. We praise God that the new government regulations will not affect the usefulness and distribution of SOTA content through China.

We are also excited to report that the SOTA centres in China, Canada and Germany have

TWR's bank account for the UK is:

CAF BANK Limited, PO Box 289,
West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA.
Sort code 40-52-40, A/c number 00006887.

Thank you for your ongoing support which makes it possible for us to continue reaching out and touching hearts with the Gospel.

Our commitment to you: read TWR-UK's Supporter Charter at www.twr.org.uk/charter.

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hosted hundreds of student meetings to help students grow in their learning and to help us get to know the students better. We have also been running ministry-focused camps like a preaching camp, a worship camp and missions camps. Additionally, this year we will be hosting two new camps: a Bible study camp and a children's ministry camp. We are very encouraged by how God is shaping and growing the ministry through these camps.

Stories like that of Brother ZH are not uncommon.

Brother ZH is a SOTA student who has spent the last two years ministering to Tibetan people. He and his wife have led many to Christ — even their five-year-old daughter invited kids to their home and now the couple hosts a Sunday school for all of them!

Brother ZH has found that Tibetans receive Gospel teaching well; however, it's hard for him to help them live out biblical principles in a culture where Christianity is not the norm. He says he is eager to grow in his discipleship skills. A short-term missionary introduced Brother ZH to SOTA, and he says it has helped him build a solid foundation for his faith.

"[SOTA] helped me apply the Bible without taking the Scripture out of context; many difficulties have also been solved as a result of this study. The greatest part is that they helped me prepare my sermons more systematically and more accurately. These two courses [New Testament Survey and Old Testament Survey] helped me so much in my preaching, my Bible study and my personal Bible reading."

Brother ZH says SOTA gives him a sense of belonging when missions work gets lonely. *"I also thank God that the SOTA staff actually came and visited me. Last year, I joined the SOTA mission*



camp; not only did I meet my teachers, but I also made friends with many other SOTA students ... I can't explain in words how much SOTA has helped me in my mission."

Brother ZH says he will introduce his missionary friends to SOTA in hopes that they too can learn and develop a solid biblical foundation and confirm their spiritual gifts while learning as students.

Pray for Brother ZH and other church leaders like him in areas hostile to Christianity; pray that they will experience spiritual growth and maturity as they live out the call of God on their lives. Pray also for our Chinese ministry team as they continue to discern the Lord's leading for the ministry today and into the future. And praise God for his faithfulness in providing the tools to equip his people to do his work!



Listening Guide

Broadcasting in the UK: Nationally on Sky Guide 0138, Freesat 790 and Freeview 733

Sunday on TWR

TWR BIBLE Midnight to 6am

00.00 Max McLean reads the Bible - pure and simple!



TWR INSPIRE 6am to 12noon

Holly Cook hosts inspirational Bible teaching to edify you in your faith and prepare you for the week ahead.

6.00 Treasured Truth Weekend
6.25 The Verdict
6.50 Search for Truth
7.05 TWR Gold
7.30 IFL Weekend with Chuck Swindoll
8.00 The Inside Story
8.30 Moody Presents
9.00 All Souls Langham Place
9.30 Renewing You Mind with R. C. Sproul
9.56 The Sermon
10.10 Every Last Word
10.35 Let My People Think with Ravi Zacharias
11.00 Steve Brown Etc.

TWR LIFE 12noon to 6pm

Join Dave Piper for programmes with encouragement and challenge for the whole family!

12.00 Building Relationships
1.00 Viewpoint with Jim Lyon
1.30 Commission
1.45 A Visit with Mrs G
2.00 Paws and Tales
2.30 Treasure Chest
2.35 Adventures in Odyssey
3.00 HomeWord Weekend
4.00 Truth for Life Weekend
4.25 In Touch Weekend with Charles Stanley
4.50 Truth for Today
5.20 First Person
5.45 Stories of Great Christians

TWR FOCUS 6pm to Midnight

James Maidment-Fullard guides you through programmes that help you gain a Christian understanding of the world around you - including news and current affairs from our Manchester studios.

6.00 Word Alive from GNBA
6.28 Christianity Works with Berni Dymet
6.55 TWR Wavelength
7.00 NewsDesk Briefing
7.30 The Capernwray Programme
8.00 NewsDesk
10.00 The Supplement
11.00 The Political Exchange
11.30 NewsDesk Lite
11.45 The Olive Tree

Monday to Friday on TWR

TWR BIBLE
Midnight to 6am

00.00 Max McLean reads the Bible -
pure and simple!



TWR TALK
6am to 12noon

Join Holly Cook and start your day with inspirational programmes to encourage you in serving God wherever he has placed you.

- 6.00 Telling the Truth with the Briscoes
- 6.30 Insight for Living with Chuck Swindoll
- 7.00 Focal Point with Mike Fabarez
- 7.25 A Different Perspective with Berni Dymet
- 7.35 In Touch with Charles Stanley
- 8.00 Renewing Your Mind with R. C. Sproul
- 8.30 Unlocking the Bible with Colin Smith
- 9.00 Know the Truth with Philip De Courcy
- 9.30 Turning Point with David Jeremiah
- 10.00 Today's News Review from our Manchester Studios
- 10.15 Thru the Bible with Dr. J. Vernon McGee
- 10.45 The Verdict with Pastor John Munro
- 11.10 Truth for Life with Alistair Begg
- 11.35 Back to the Bible with David Platt



TWR WORD
12noon to 6pm

James Maidment-Fullard hosts a selection of programmes committed to applying the eternal truths of Scripture to your everyday life.

- 12.00 News from our Manchester Studios
- 12.30 Insight for Living with Chuck Swindoll
- 1.00 Focal Point with Mike Fabarez
- 1.25 A Different Perspective with Berni Dymet
- 1.35 In Touch with Charles Stanley
- 2.00 Renewing Your Mind with R. C. Sproul
- 2.30 Unlocking the Bible with Colin Smith
- 3.00 Know the Truth with Philip De Courcy
- 3.30 Turning Point with David Jeremiah
- 4.00 Discover the Word hosted by Mart De Haan
- 4.15 Thru the Bible with Dr. J. Vernon McGee
- 4.45 The Verdict with Pastor John Munro
- 5.10 Truth for Life with Alistair Begg
- 5.35 Back to the Bible with David Platt



TWR CHOICE
6pm to Midnight

Dave Piper presents TWR favourites to help you in your daily walk with God.

- 6.00 Telling the Truth with the Briscoes
- 6.30 Insight for Living with Chuck Swindoll
- 7.00 Focal Point with Mike Fabarez
- 7.25 A Different Perspective with Berni Dymet
- 7.35 In Touch with Charles Stanley
- 8.00 Renewing Your Mind with R. C. Sproul
- 8.30 Unlocking the Bible with Colin Smith
- 9.00 Know the Truth with Philip De Courcy
- 9.30 Turning Point with David Jeremiah
- 10.00 The Front Page from our Manchester Studios
- 10.15 Thru the Bible with Dr. J. Vernon McGee
- 10.45 The Verdict with Pastor John Munro
- 11.10 Truth for Life with Alistair Begg
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TWR LIFE

12noon to 6pm

Join Dave Piper for programmes with encouragement and challenge for the whole family!

12.00 HomeWord Weekend
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 9.30 Renewing Your Mind Weekend
 9.56 The Sermon
 10.10 Every Last Word
 10.35 Let My People Think
 11.00 Steve Brown Etc

For weekly updates on the TWR-UK schedule as well as news from TWR around the world, subscribe to our e-bulletin.

Simply input your details on our website or email to twr@twr.org.uk with your details.



TWR360 plays to its strength

You don't operate a ministry website that draws millions of users without developing a pretty good insight into where its main strength lies.

TWR360, a web portal and mobile app providing Christian audio, video and text content in 54 languages, raced past the 1 million-session mark at the end of last year, when 3 million unique users visited twr360.org, a digital ministry of TWR.

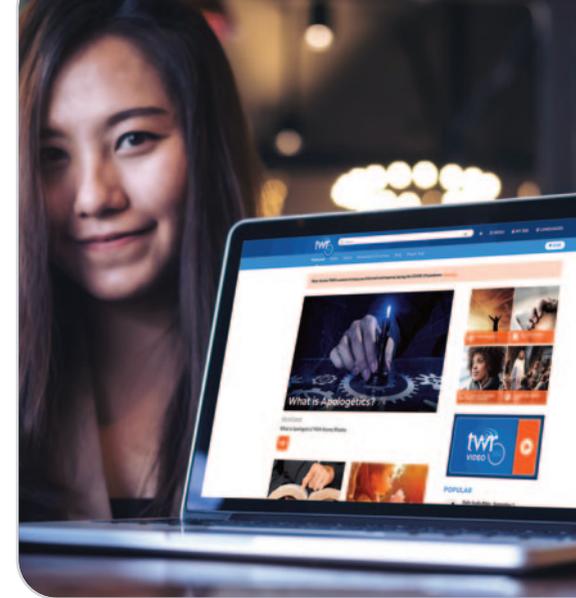
David Creech, TWR360 marketing and operations manager in Cary, North Carolina, points out that the success of any such outreach involves more than cutting-edge technology and a few expert marketing techniques. "God brings those users," he says. "God moves hearts. It's not TWR360 doing it."

But as Creech, his team and TWR360 originator Ralf Stores explore how to make the site and app the most effective ministry tools possible, the Lord has led them to concentrate on a key strength – reaching the whole world beyond just the United States where they are based.

Although U.S. use keeps growing (ranking among the top three or four countries), a primary goal of TWR360 is to assist its 200-plus content-contributing partners in fulfilling their own missions to reach the world.

A great example is partner Daily Audio Bible, which was reaching large audiences in the U.S. and some other English-speaking countries but making fewer inroads with its translated content. Creech urged DAB's representative to put its Arabic content on twr360.org, and the programmes were then promoted through international channels.

"After six months, I showed him the numbers, and then I gave him a one-year total," Creech says. "He was blown away and said, 'This is



fantastic. Why don't we put all our languages on TWR360? Because we see the strength of TWR360 is in language distribution."

Results like that bring increased buy-in from ministry partners as they recognise the value of TWR360's global-distribution expertise. And their Bible-based content is having an impact, surprisingly so within several countries known for being inhospitable to the Gospel.

Half the countries that rank highest for use of the TWR360 app also rank high on the Open Doors World Watch List of countries where Christians face the most persecution.

Presumably, Creech says, believers and seekers "fly under the radar" by accessing the biblical content via a smartphone app.

One user wrote to the TWR360 team, "I have many questions to ask about religion. ... I was born into a Muslim family, but I believe Jesus is the only way to salvation."

Serving this user and as many others like him as possible is the motivation for TWR360's new goal: having 100 languages available on the site within the year.

Discipling the Disabled in Ukraine



It's a common response among TWR Ukraine listeners who are disabled: "If I had stayed healthy and complete, I probably would not have met Jesus. But becoming a handicapped person has brought me to faith."

These responses are indeed testimonies that God brings new life to broken bodies. The ongoing conflict that erupted in 2014 between Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists has resulted in over 10,000 lives lost and 1.6 million people internally displaced, with millions more left waiting in neighbouring countries. Though the Ukrainian war has mostly faded from world media coverage, the jarring effects are still acutely felt, especially in the lives of the disabled, which include 2.6 million, or 6 percent, of Ukraine's population, including many who lost limbs in the conflict.

Over 24,000 people have been wounded in the Ukrainian conflict to date. One of the greatest barriers disabled people face is mobility, especially when living on the upper floors of high-rise apartment buildings that do not have elevators.

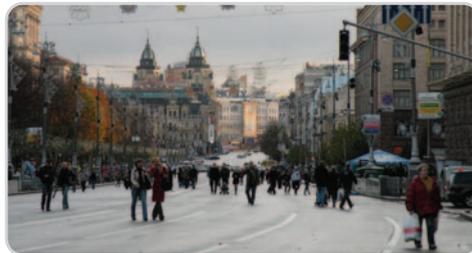
Though the issues of disability rights and inclusion are beginning to gain social awareness, decades of Soviet brutalist architecture still stand, a painful reflection of the former ideology, which ascribed an individual's value to his or her contribution to the state and literally kept the disabled off the streets and cloistered in sanatoriums. Perhaps the worst part of a

disabled person's lack of mobility, however, is the social isolation and depression they face.

To wounded soldiers and other disabled Ukrainians, the violence continues to haunt their bodies long after they've left the front lines, perhaps in tingling sensations of burned flesh and in phantom pains of limbs that no longer exist. Yet the greatest disability is not physical, but spiritual; and the greatest need is not health, but a hope in Christ.

That is why TWR Ukraine's programme *You Are Mine!* is an important encouragement to disabled and homebound Ukrainians. Featuring faith-filled testimonies from Ukrainians with disabilities, listeners can hear stories from more than 160 interviews in over 200 programmes created in the last 11 years.

"I listen to you every day and rejoice about the fact that you visit me – a lonely person," writes one listener confined to his apartment. "You fill my house with joy, comfort and encouragement. I am an invalid, yet I praise God that I can rejoice in him."



Because you cared...

Silk Road Transmitter is on the Air

In early June last year, TWR reached another major milestone in our broadcast history with your help: The Silk Road Transmitter went on the air in Central Asia. The stronger Silk Road signal covers large portions of six countries, among them Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The languages broadcast over the transmitter are spoken by people groups mostly classified as unreached



by the Gospel. Thank you for helping supply the new transmitter with a year of programmes in several languages for Central Asia!

Hope for the Middle East

Because of your partnership in TWR's programmes for the Middle East and North Africa, Christians at risk of persecution can hear God's Word through the privacy of



radio and the internet. A listener in Libya wrote: "Following Jesus would not have been so clear and understood if not for Talmatha [a discipleship programme]. I'm 26 years old from Tunisia and found Jesus through your broadcast. Thank you

for helping me move from the darkness to the light of the Saviour!" Thank you for helping toward another year of programmes like these is introducing seekers to the Saviour - we are grateful!!!

Guam Generator Project Complete

We praise God that our radio station, KTWR, on the island of Guam is now sustained by an all-new generator! Strong Pacific typhoons that frequently cross the island can knock out the electricity and damage our antennas. Having a reliable generator keeps our transmitters on the air, and while our old generator held on for 25 years, it could only operate at half power. The new generator you generously helped to fund will give us full power, room for expansion and available replacement parts when needed. Thank you to our donors who gave to make it happen!



Prayer Matters

Overcoming Barriers

From October to December we invite you to join us in praying for TWR's ministry in China and (at the weekends) in the UK. You can read more about TWR's Seminary Of The Air (SOTA) on pages 3 and 4 of *Listening World*.

PRAYER DIARY

MONDAYS

Praise God for his faithfulness in providing the Chinese SOTA tools to equip his people to do his work!

TUESDAYS

Pray for Chinese church leaders and SOTA students in the midst of government hostility to Christianity; pray that they will experience spiritual growth and maturity as they live out the call of God on their lives.

WEDNESDAYS

Pray for our Chinese ministry team as they continue to discern the Lord's leading for the ministry into the future.

THURSDAYS

Please pray for listeners throughout China, that the Lord will continue to open hearts to the Gospel in this vast country.

FRIDAYS

Pray for the security of staff who work in regions where it is risky to be a Christian.

WEEKENDS

Please pray for TWR's ongoing work in the UK.

Please pray for TWR-UK chief executive Russell Farnworth as he leads the work in the UK. Pray for God's enabling and wisdom in his daily tasks and decisions, and as he develops the ministry for the future.

Pray for the Council of TWR-UK, under the chairmanship of Trish Wells. Ask the Lord to guide them and lead them into His will for the future of our ministry in the UK.

Prayer is the backbone of TWR – and we are so grateful that **you** stand alongside us in intercession! God delights to change people's lives and we are amazed and humbled that He allows TWR to be a part of it all.