



Autumn 2025

# *Listening* **World**

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From the Chief Executive Officer,  
Dr Russell Farnworth.



*"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" - Romans 10 v 14*

It's worth taking a step back to consider the true breadth of the body of believers to which we belong in Christ. The Gospel has spread with divine power to some of the most unlikely places ever since Jesus commissioned his disciples to witness *"in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* (Acts 1 v 8)

In this edition of Listening World we pay tribute to the brave Hassaniya people of north-west Africa. This remote and largely untouched group risk everything if they put their faith in Christ. And yet through the use of both traditional radio and new media, often listened to covertly, TWR programmes continue to provide hope.

Moving from Mauritania to the Congolian rainforest, we also look at TWR's work with the extraordinary Bayaka people – a significant proportion of whom are now professing Christians.

On behalf of **TWR-UK** I want to express our sincere thanks for your ongoing support and prayer as more and more people hear the Gospel. Through your partnership, otherwise unreached people are becoming fellow believers through God's precious Word and salvation through our Lord Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

*Russell Farnworth.*

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

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# Reaching Hassaniya Speakers with the Gospel of Christ

Scattered across the sun-scorched expanses of countries like Mauritania, Mali, Algeria and parts of Senegal, the 6.1 million Hassaniya-speaking people form a culturally rich yet deeply marginalised community.

Descendants of Bedouin tribes who journeyed from the Arabian Peninsula centuries ago, their roots run deep in the shifting sands of the Sahara. The Hassaniya Arabic dialect they speak is a living tapestry of Arabic, Berber and sub-Saharan African linguistic threads – an echo of ancient trade routes, nomadic traditions and unbroken heritage.

Their identity is shaped by centuries of nomadic and pastoralist life, deep respect for nature, tribal social structures and a strong adherence to Islam – infused with Sufi mysticism and localised religious expressions. In the face of a harsh environment, these resilient people uphold values of hospitality, honour and communal solidarity.

Yet beyond the romanticised image of desert life lies a more sobering reality: one of economic hardship, political instability and spiritual isolation.

## An Unreached and Persecuted People

Mauritania, the heartland of Hassaniya culture, is officially an Islamic republic where proselytism is forbidden by law. Converting to Christianity is often met not only with legal prosecution but

also violent social exclusion. Families disown new believers. Spouses are forced to separate. Jobs are denied. In some cases, Christians are imprisoned or tortured — a heavy price to pay for faith in Christ.

Only 0.07% of Mauritians are evangelical Christians, according to **Joshua Project** data. **Open Doors** places Mauritania 23rd on its list of countries where it's most difficult to be a Christian.

Dr Abdoulaye Sangho from **TWR West and Central Africa** recently announced that two local contacts had been imprisoned for distributing Christian literature, including Bibles and Gospel recordings. Others have faced intimidation, surveillance and public denunciation. Even foreign missionaries have not been spared – some were expelled, others silenced and a few even martyred.

Still, in the shadows, Hassaniya believers exist – a precious few – navigating their faith with humility, courage and perseverance. Their testimonies, though rarely heard, radiate the light of Christ into spiritually dry lands. They are the hidden jewels of the Sahara – salt and light in a place thirsty for hope.

## TWR's Call to the Desert

Compelled by the spiritual vacuum and lack of Christian presence among the Hassaniya speakers, **TWR West Africa** launched an



initiative to bring the Gospel to this community through the power of radio.

Partnering with **TWR Netherlands**, our teams began producing and broadcasting programmes in Hassaniya Arabic, including *The Way of Righteousness* and Gospel-focused dramas and teachings such as *Hope in the Desert*, *Stories of the Prophets* and *The Messiah*. These were aired along the Mauritanian border and in surrounding countries where Hassaniya speakers live – especially Senegal and Mali.

In a region where church buildings are forbidden and public evangelism is dangerous, TWR used media players, memory cards and mobile distribution to reach across borders. Sangho says the team has now had the joy of seeing converts and baptisms.

To support the growing number of seekers and believers, training seminars were organised in Senegal, equipping Christian leaders and nurturing embryonic house fellowships. It has been dangerous, slow and at times discouraging work – but God has been present at every step.

## The Power and Peril of the Gospel

In areas dominated by conservative Islamic interpretations, the very act of listening to a Christian message can be risky. Believers often hide their radios, consume content at night and avoid detection. Yet they listen. And they share. Because the message of Christ cuts through fear, offering a relationship that no court, no family, no government can take away.

TWR's programming – biblical teachings, testimonies, culturally adapted discussions and music – continues to be a lifeline of spiritual encouragement. And with increasing digital connectivity among the younger generation, new opportunities are arising through mobile apps, WhatsApp messaging and social media outreach.

The Hassaniya speakers may dwell on the remote edges of the map, but they are not

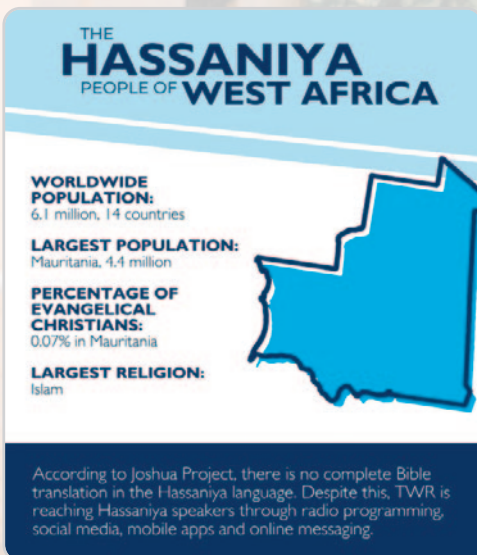
forgotten in God's plan. Every soul matters. Every voice deserves to hear the hope of the Gospel in his or her heart language.

TWR's ministry to the Hassaniya people is a living testimony that the Great Commission does not stop where laws become hostile or deserts stretch wide. It moves forward with faith, creativity and deep love for people created in God's image.

Our prayer is that we will press on with boldness and humility, knowing that even in the most arid spiritual climates, God causes living water to spring forth.

There have been a number of wonderful responses to this ministry, including this phone call from a Hassaniya-language listener in Mauritania:

*"I have been a faithful student of The Prophets for months, and to tell the truth, I really find this programme very interesting. I understand a lot of things about God on the salvation of man himself, the difference between religion and the way that leads to God. I am a Muslim by faith, but in reality, I was only following others, and now that I have understood, I am currently taking courses with a missionary from the Lutheran Mission. Pray for me."*



# Listening Guide

Broadcasting in the UK: Freeview 277, Freely 566 or by using the Radioplayer App on Sky, Amazon Fire Stick, smartphone or tablet

## Sunday on TWR

### TWR**BIBLE**

Midnight to 6am

00.00 Max McLean reads the Bible - pure and simple!



### TWR**INSPIRE**

6am to 12noon

*Join Amy Oakley for inspirational Bible teaching to edify you in your faith and prepare you for the week ahead.*

6.00 Know The Truth Weekend  
6.25 The Verdict  
6.50 Search for Truth  
7.05 Today with J. John  
7.30 IFL Weekend with Chuck Swindoll  
8.00 The Bible Explored with Rico Tice  
8.30 Moody Presents  
9.00 All Souls Langham Place  
9.30 Renewing Your Mind with R. C. Sproul  
9.56 The Sermon  
10.10 Every Last Word  
10.35 Living a Legacy  
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 The Bible Study Hour  
12.26 Building Relationships  
1.15 HomeWord Weekend  
2.03 Team Jesus  
2.10 Treasure Box  
2.25 Commission  
2.40 Paws & Tales  
3.10 Lives of Faith  
3.40 First Person  
4.05 Truth for Life Weekend  
4.30 Christian Heritage London  
5.00 Bold Steps  
5.30 Truth for Today

### 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 Men and God  
7.30 The Capernwray Programme  
8.00 NewsDesk  
10.00 The Supplement  
11.00 The Political Exchange  
11.30 NewsDesk Lite  
11.45 Every Man Global

## TWR BIBLE

Midnight to 6am

00.00 Max McLean reads the Bible -  
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## TWR TALK

6am to 12noon

*Join Amy Oakley to start your day with inspirational  
programmes to encourage you in serving God  
wherever he has placed you.*

- 6.00 Bold Steps with Mark Jobe
- 6.30 Focal Point with Mike Fabarez
- 6.55 Insight for Living with Chuck Swindoll
- 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 The Alternative
- 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 Dr. John Neufeld





**Broadcasting in the UK:**

on Freeview channel 277 and Freely channel 566

online at [twr.org.uk](http://twr.org.uk)

Use the Radioplayer App on Amazon Fire Stick, Sky Q, Sky Glass, Sky Stream, your smartphone or tablet

Use the TWR-UK app on your smartphone or tablet

Friday on TWR

## 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 Focal Point with Mike Fabarez
- 12.55 Insight for Living with Chuck Swindoll
- 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 The Alternative
- 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 Dr. John Neufeld



## TWR **CHOICE**

6pm to Midnight

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

- 6.00 Bold Steps with Mark Jobe
- 6.30 Focal Point with Mike Fabarez
- 6.55 Insight for Living with Chuck Swindoll
- 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 The Alternative
- 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
- 11.35 Back to the Bible with Dr. John Neufeld



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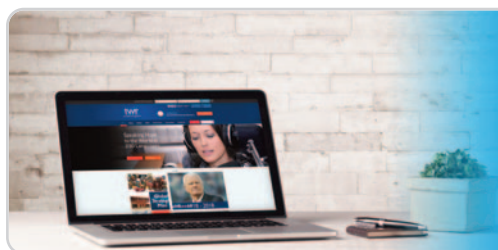
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**For weekly updates on the TWR-UK schedule as well as news from TWR around the world, subscribe to our e-bulletin.**

*Simply input your details on our website or email to [twr@twr.org.uk](mailto:twr@twr.org.uk) with your details.*



# In Your Listening Guide

## The Bible Explored with Rico Tice

*The Bible Explored* features weekly sermons and discussions with evangelist and Bible teacher Rico Tice. The founder of **Christianity Explored Ministries** addresses some of the big questions about life, faith and the claims of Jesus – with a particular focus on Mark's Gospel. The programme aims to help people understand the core message of Christ and what it means to follow Him.

**Tune in on Saturday 8pm and Sunday 8am  
or listen at [www.twr.org.uk/ondemand](http://www.twr.org.uk/ondemand)**



## Lives of Faith

*Lives of Faith* looks at the lives of a number of remarkable believers. This new series delves into the life of **LEGO** founder Ole Kirk Christiansen, a devout member of Denmark's **Inner Mission** movement who prayed daily with his workers. It also explores the life of John Bunyan, author of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, who wrote the famous Christian allegory from prison, having been jailed for preaching outside the Church of England.

**Tune in on Saturday 3.10pm and Sunday 3.10pm  
or listen at [www.twr.org.uk/ondemand](http://www.twr.org.uk/ondemand)**



## Men and God

*Men and God* asks what can be done to share the good news of Jesus with this seemingly under-reached half of the population. **Christian Vision for Men** estimates that it takes an average of five years, and having heard the Gospel 30 times, for a man to give his life to Christ. We explore effective outreach methods and hear how God is moving among men in 2025.

**Tune in on Saturday 7am and Sunday 7pm  
or listen at [www.twr.org.uk/ondemand](http://www.twr.org.uk/ondemand)**





# The New Song of the Bayaka

Deep in the tropical rainforest of southwestern Central African Republic, a small group of hunter-gatherers is discovering the word of God through media.

A team led by Pastor Clarence Mbakossi, TWR's partner in the country, recently distributed 150 radio players and 150 SD cards to four villages in a remote region bordering the Republic of Congo.

The Bayaka are known for their small stature, their adaptation to the tropical forest and their complex polyphonic singing – meaning a blending of more than one melody at once.

*“In a single song, a multitude of voices weave an extremely dense musical texture,”* said Louis Sarno, an American ethnomusicologist so fascinated by the songs that he moved in among the Bayaka in 1985. *“When the music is beautiful, it sometimes moves me to tears.”*

The hope of many is that the Bayaka will sing their beautiful songs to Jesus.

The mission demographics experts at **Joshua Project** estimate there are 24,000 Bayaka people in all, and about 40% are evangelical Christians. The largest group, however, is still described as “ethnic religions”.

**Joshua Project** explains that although the

community cites a strong Christian foundation, they also have a pantheistic view of the world, and many feel the forest itself is their god.

However, the radio players received by the Bayaka are loaded with sound Christian teaching in their own Yaka language: the audio version of the *JESUS* movie, a telling of the story of the birth of Christ, and the entire Gospel of Luke. And crucially, for a culture that so greatly values music and dance, it includes hymns in their own language recorded in a way that fits their musical culture.

This is not the first time TWR has reached out to the distinctive groups of the region. In 2021 teams focused on northern Gabon, where today there is an established church. A year later the work spread to the Baka people of Cameroon. And in 2023 and 2024 communities in the war-torn Kivu region of eastern DR Congo were also reached.

Another distribution is in the planning stage for next year to speakers of the Nzebi language, in southern Gabon.

One worker, Obed Legoupou, is ecstatic that after previous missions in the area TWR's work among the Bayaka is bringing them the Gospel *“in a language they understand.”*

# Prayer Matters

## Speaking Hope

From October to December we invite you to join us in praying for **TWR's** ministry in different languages around the world and (at the weekends) in the UK.

### PRAYER DIARY

#### MONDAYS

Pray for the Hassaniya people of north-west Africa – that more and more of them would have the courage to come to the Lord, share his message in any way they can, stand firm in adversity, and experience his *“peace that surpasses understanding”* in spite of persecution.

#### TUESDAYS

Pray for joyful acceptance of TWR programmes among unreached groups in Mauritania, Senegal and Mali – including *The Way of Righteousness*, *Hope in the Desert*, *Stories of the Prophets* and *The Messiah*.

#### WEDNESDAYS

Pray for the Bayaka people as they continue to hear the Gospel in their own tongue via radio players and SD cards distributed by TWR. Pray they will understand their need of the Saviour in spite of a pantheistic view among much of the community.

#### THURSDAYS

Pray for our **TWR-UK** listeners, especially those who aren't believers, and that many will be blessed as new programmes are aired. Thank God for new listeners and pray that people continue to find TWR on new platforms.

#### FRIDAYS

Continue to pray for all those who connect with us through **TWR360**. Pray they are encouraged as they listen to Bible teaching in their own heart languages.

#### WEEKENDS

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

Thank God for the UK production team; pray for their wisdom as they make decisions about daily news bulletins and the Christian response they promote on air about the day's events.

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

**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.

# How can I listen to TWR-UK?

## LISTENING on your TV

If you have a **Freeview TV**, and it is connected to the internet, use **Channel 277 - UK RADIO PORTAL**. The page may take some time to load, but when it has, you'll see a selection of radio channels listed. Just look out for TWR-UK - click on that and it will play shortly.

If you have a **Freely** enabled TV, it's the same but on **Channel 566**.

**UK Radio Portal** is also available on **Amazon Fire TV Sticks**.

On **Sky Q**, **Sky Glass** or **Sky Stream**, use the **Radioplayer App** and select TWR-UK.

## LISTENING on a Smartphone or Tablet

Download the **TWR-UK app** from the app store - and then just click the play button.

You can also find us listed on the **TuneIn** or **Radioplayer** app.

## LISTENING on Smart Speakers

Just ask your smart speaker to **"Ask TuneIn to Play TransWorld Radio"** or **"Ask Radio Player to Play TransWorld Radio"**.

## LISTENING on your Laptop or PC

On **our website** - Just click the 'Listen' button at the top of our website **www.twr.org.uk**

On **Facebook**- visit our official Facebook page – TransWorldRadioUK - and listen live from there!

On **YouTube** - youtube.com/@TWRUK – click on the live stream.

## LISTENING on an Internet Radio

Find TWR-UK by its name.