

## Challenges in Afghanistan

Audio Blog by Gregg Harris, President – FEBC

May 2009

It seems that Afghanistan is getting much more attention in the news these days, primarily due to the American war effort and the resurgence of the Taliban. But there is another story going on in that country, and that is the spiritual warfare of a nation where there is deep opposition to the Gospel.

While it has been years since their dramatic kidnapping and release, Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry remain part of the modern history of missionary work in a country opposed to the Gospel. In August 2001, Heather and Dayna were working in the country with a Christian Aid group when they were taken hostage by the Taliban. Just weeks later, the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks occurred, and many felt that they would never survive their captivity. By God's grace, they were released on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Eight years after these stirring events, questions still remain for those who are serious about bringing the Gospel to Afghanistan. Heather and Dayna were interviewed by Christianity Today upon their release and some of the answers to their questions reveal important insights into how we can best reach this needy country. Here are some excerpts from the interview:

**Question:** Did you have to break Taliban law or did you get around it to share the gospel in some way?

**Answer:** "We were going to be careful and not be stupid. Plus, we didn't want to put other people in danger unnecessarily unless they knew the risks as well...some of the time; it was being connected to people. I got to go visit one woman who worked for us, and on her own she had found a Christian radio program and had already become a believer."

**Question:** The country is different, and you're international celebrities now. Will you be able to return in obscurity and blend in?

**Answer:** In the more remote areas of Afghanistan, they don't have TVs. They have radio, but they haven't seen our faces.

**Question:** What was your mission or objective when you got into the country? What were you willing to do things evangelistically?

**Answer:** We responded to whatever people's needs were. If they were sick and needed God to touch them, or if they had a financial need, we prayed for them. If they were asking questions about Jesus, we'd respond by giving them a radio or showing the Jesus film. There really wasn't a systematic plan.

Well, these brief excerpts illuminate one of the most powerful tools God has given his church to reach into one of the most closed countries on earth. Let me give you a hint: you're listening to it right now. That's right. These young women testified to the power of radio in reaching into what Heather Mercer called "the hardest place on earth." While they and the people they ministered to were in danger for the lives if they were caught talking about Jesus they understood the ready availability of radio and its power to communicate the Gospel. In fact, one of their contacts had already found a relationship with Jesus by listening to Christian radio programs beamed into the country from an outside source.

So, as you pray for countries like Afghanistan and other nations closed to traditional missionary activity, remember to thank God for giving us a great tool for penetrating the toughest barriers that man can set up...international missionary radio.

Gregg Harris, President

Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC)

For more audio blogs by Gregg Harris, go to [www.febc.org](http://www.febc.org)