

World By Radio

Audio Blog by Gregg Harris, President - FEBC
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As president of an international radio ministry, I'm often drawn to statements Jesus makes about world evangelization. In Matthew 24, we find our Lord speaking to his disciples and he makes this very important statement: "The good news about the kingdom will be preached through all the world for a witness to all people and then the end will come". Now, while that statement couldn't be any more straightforward accomplishing the task of preaching to the whole world is quite another matter.

Have you ever considered what it means to preach the good news to every tribe, tongue and nation? Well to begin with, there are over 6 billion people living on our planet today. To share Christ with the whole world means reaching over 200 countries, and within those 200 countries, there are thousands of languages and dialects spoken.

Well while the task may seem daunting, our sovereign God has placed some powerful tools in our hands to accomplish this global task. And one of the ways he has been orchestrating this is through the medium you are being reached with right now - Radio! You see, just as the Moody Broadcasting Network has been called by God to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole of America, so other ministries have been raised up by God to use radio to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

In 1985, the leaders of Trans World Radio, HCJB Global and Far East Broadcasting Company got together to talk seriously about how to reach the entire world using radio. The result of that historic meeting was the formation of a cooperative global movement known as the World by Radio. The goal was simple but powerful, work together to make it possible for every man, woman, and child to turn on a radio and hear the gospel in a language they understand. But how could they do this with so many thousands of languages spoken around the world? Well, research yielded an exciting discovery: there are only a few hundred languages that are understood by almost everyone on earth—these are known as mega-languages because they are spoken by more than 1 million people.

Well today, not only has World By Radio accomplished its original goal of broadcasts in more than 270 of the world's mega-languages, it has also added dozens of radio ministries to its membership around the world. While this is very encouraging, much more needs to be done. Just recently I returned from a meeting in London where the World By Radio leaders were discussing an exciting new undertaking: to use media to reach population centers where more than 1 million people live. Currently, there are more than 500 such metropolitan areas around the world!

God's task for his followers is clear: we are to go and make disciples of all nations, And while it would be ideal to send millions of missionaries to all corners of the earth, political restrictions, geographical boundaries, and a shortage of missionaries makes that difficult, if not impossible. Through radio we continue to strengthen and support the work of faithful missionaries around the world, and we continue to go where they can't go by sending radio signals to every tribe tongue and nation... as God enables us.

So the next time you read a Bible passage where our Lord reveals his heart to reach everyone on earth with the Gospel, thank God for the many ways He is fulfilling this command. Thank him for the missionaries you know, thank him for the thousands of national evangelists preaching the gospel around the world, and thank him for raising up a group of ministries who are working together to use radio to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

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