

Report of Words of Hope

Words of Hope believes that all people in all places should have access to God's Word. With Words of Hope, people are connected daily to the truths of Scripture so that they can grow in faith and share it worldwide.

Words of Hope works to share the good news in all ways possible in order to provide access to Scripture in heart languages, remote locations, and a variety of media types. Where poverty, geography, or persecution hinder the spread of the gospel, Words of Hope partners with indigenous Christian leaders to equip them to more effectively minister in their own language and context, among their own people.

Words of Hope's regions of ministry include Albania, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Niger, North America, South Sudan, Turkey, and Uganda. Each ministry field requires its own unique media outreach approach. Depending on the variety of resources and challenges in a given region, an assortment of radio programs, text messages, social media, print materials, and satellite television are all used to proclaim the gospel.

Some notable highlights from Words of Hope's ministry in the past year include the development of a distance learning course in Farsi with Western Theological Seminary, the distribution of evangelistic SD cards in the country of Niger in partnership with Global Eye Mission, and the opportunity to minister to Afghan refugees sheltering in the country of Albania.

For many years, Christian audio programming has been available inside the country of Iran. More recently, our discipleship efforts there have expanded to include online worship services and in-person training conferences. Iranian converts are nurtured in their faith to the point where they can lead secret house churches inside Iran and disciple more new converts themselves.

Now, Words of Hope is working together with Western Theological Seminary to develop a more advanced distance learning course in the Farsi language that will better equip Iranian believers interested in ministry and evangelism. A theology course taught by Western's Dr. Han-luen Kantzer Komline will soon be available in Farsi alongside a translation of the book *Practicing Christian Doctrine* by Beth Felker Jones. We anticipate distance learning for Farsi speakers will begin in July 2022.

In the country of Niger, Words of Hope has begun copying radio programs onto micro SD cards for distribution to rural parts of the country that cannot be reached by a radio signal. The SD cards contain an amazing 250 audio programs—each 15 minutes long. The cards can be inserted into cell phones to play audio anywhere in the country, no matter how remote the location. The programs start by introducing the basics of the Christian faith and gradually go deeper as the programs continue.

This last year, Words of Hope partnered with an organization called Global Eye Mission (GEM), which was leading a medical mission trip to the country of Niger. The GEM team came to provide cataract surgeries for patients. Words of Hope's team in Niger got to participate in the post-surgery care and follow up by distributing SD cards to the patients and praying with them.

We are thankful that people are responding to the gospel message in Niger. Our producers have received calls from patients who were given the cards. They are even able to meet with

people or direct them to a pastor or church congregation nearby. One patient shared, “Last night, I spent all my time listening to the messages. I didn’t want to stop!”

An unexpected opportunity for ministry this past year presented itself to Words of Hope’s team in Albania. Last August, the Albanian government agreed to take in thousands of refugees from Afghanistan, locating many of them indefinitely inside a compound near Words of Hope’s offices.

“We were immediately involved,” says Words of Hope’s Albanian director. “We found out what it would take for us to have access to these people.” The Words of Hope team is interacting with the refugees, forming relationships, and engaging in spiritual conversations with them. We are also distributing care packages and shoes among the refugees and assisting them with sourcing authentic Afghan food during this difficult time of transition in their lives.

Words of Hope is deeply grateful for the support of RCA churches that continues to sustain this outreach ministry. In 2021, contributions from RCA congregations totaled \$423,878. We celebrate this generosity, knowing that these dollars are allowing people to be introduced to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Thank you for sharing hope worldwide as we work together to proclaim the good news in all ways possible.