

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 a successful fundraising initiative to help translate the New Testament into the Ugandan tribal language of Kuku for the first time, an assessment trip to Indonesia to learn more about the need for tribal language ministry there, and celebrating the impact of Christian after-school programs in India.

The Kuku tribe, divided by colonial boundaries between South Sudan and Uganda, has long faced marginalization and violence. Due to their status as foreigners, members of the Kuku tribe have had their houses burned and have been denied education in both countries where they live. Sixteen years ago, Words of Hope initiated radio broadcasts in the Kuku language. These broadcasts helped to provide a sense of cultural pride for this marginalized community. Now, in this past year, Words of Hope entered into a partnership with Word for the World to undertake the monumental task of translating the New Testament into the Kuku language for the first time ever.

All necessary funding was raised last year, and the ambitious project is now underway, led by Words of Hope program producers who have already been translating the Bible for radio programs for years. The translation process involves multiple steps, including exegesis, proofreading by additional Kuku speakers, and back translation to English for thorough checks. Our prayer is that having the Word of God in their heart language will instill confidence in the Kuku people's identity in Christ, countering the societal mistreatment they have endured. The Kuku are created in the image of God, belong to God's family, and are united through Christ's sacrifice. Thanks be to God that soon every Kuku individual will have access to the New Testament.

Staff members from the United States recently had the opportunity to travel to Indonesia alongside members of ReFrame Ministry's staff to complete a ministry assessment for our joint work in that country. It was an inspiring time to see how the team in Indonesia is partnering with local churches to build up community groups and disciple the people in their faith.

In particular, Words of Hope supports the work in Indonesia of translating radio and YouTube programming into many small tribal languages. In remote parts of the island country, pastors are so few and resources so scarce, that one pastor is responsible for leading as many as three congregations. Pastors travel from church to church on a given Sunday and must rely on lay leaders in the congregations to run services when they are not there. The Words of Hope small language programming is being used by these pastors to disciple and train leaders in their congregations when they must be absent from them. The program content aims to teach basic apologetics in a location where Christian faith is routinely mocked by the media.

Unique ministry opportunities exist in India as well. In response to the pressing issue of under-schooled and non-enrolled children in India, Words of Hope has now established over 30 after-school tutoring centers across the country. These centers play a vital role in inviting children who are not attending school or who are struggling academically to free tutoring classes. Caste barriers are broken down as children from all backgrounds are seated together. Remarkably, several families, touched by the positive impact of the tutoring services, have now embraced faith in Christ and regularly attend church.

Some of the tutoring centers have also initiated nutrition programs to address the health concerns of malnourished students from impoverished slums, providing wholesome foods like fruit and eggs three times a week. Words of Hope donors are making a profound difference in the lives of these children, offering them hope, education, and a path toward a brighter future.

Words of Hope is deeply grateful for the support of RCA churches that continues to sustain this outreach ministry. 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.