



ANNUAL REPORT
2015-16



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A TRUE WATERY GRAVE

Early one Sabbath morning, we boarded a 4x4 vehicle to visit a church in the African jungle of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We would soon see the need for such a vehicle as we began to navigate the seemingly-impassable roads.

Adventist World Radio had provided scores of shortwave radios and solar-power players for several isolated communities. Most of these people are not literate, so they must *hear* the gospel. We were about to witness the results of this exciting project!

On our way, we dropped by a neighboring Pygmy village, where some Adventist believers live. Pygmies are little people, living in tiny huts. After a short visit, we encouraged all of the villagers to come to the meetings later that morning, and many did so.



Because the church was too small, we met under the shade of some nearby majestic eucalyptus trees. Without sufficient benches, many attendees simply sat on the bare ground as they listened to the gospel message. During the altar call, more than 80 new believers came forward to accept Jesus!

After agreeing to baptize some who were ready to make this decision, I learned that there was no baptistery in the church, nor a nearby river or pond. How were we going to solve this problem?

The pastor assured me they had a solution. With their bare hands, the members had dug a deep hole in the damp African soil, lined it with plastic, and ferried water from somewhere, bucket by bucket – enough to submerge the candidates!

The soil was wet and slippery from an earlier rain, and the water was a dense, muddy liquid. Sensing my reluctance, the pastor's wife leaned over and comforted me, saying, "My husband has baptized in worse situations, and the people don't have a problem with that."

One by one, all 22 candidates stepped in the pool. Several Pygmies were among them ... and many more will come in the future.

This is as close to a "watery grave" as anyone can get!

That Sabbath, we saw once again the power of radio. It has no walls, no borders, no limits. God's Word is powerful to save, even in the most remote corners of the globe!


Dowell Chow
President

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015-16

This report is packed with news of growth and increased strength in Adventist World Radio's thriving radio ministry. We recognize that such progress is only possible because of God's blessings and your prayers and support, and we thank you very much for your faithful partnership.

AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

In a territory that is more than 60 percent Muslim, church leaders believe radio can reach many souls for the kingdom. During five years of airing programs, the church circulated 2,500 Bible lessons, which resulted in 50 baptisms. Preachers and other radio speakers often went to the participating stations and recorded live programs. AWR is now providing the funding to keep this outreach going, as well as a new shortwave producer and technician for the major language of Mooré, which is spoken by more than 15 million people in the region.

CAMEROON & KENYA

Three hundred solar audio players will be loaded with programs in the Yemba and Ghomala languages, augmenting the work of the FM station in the capital city of Yaoundé. The Cameroon Union Mission has applied for a national license to cover the country through 10 to 12 repeater stations. In Kenya, solar players with Maasai programs are being jointly funded by AWR and Mara Vision Outreach, a supporting ministry.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

In this volatile country, people hang on for dear life to God's word. The FM station in Ruashi reaches into jungle areas, bringing

messages of hope with minimal equipment; AWR recently provided a complete upgrade for better broadcast quality.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Getting an FM radio license in a strongly Muslim territory would have been unheard of just a few years ago. But God is working miracles so everyone will have the opportunity to hear the gospel. In partnership with strong supporters in Brazil, AWR has supplied the transmitter and antenna for this new station.

IVORY COAST

After renovating their shortwave studio and installing new equipment supplied by AWR, the staff set up a small charming museum, documenting their long history in radio through antiquated equipment such as tape decks and reel-to-reel audio players. The Dyula language is widely spoken in the





neighboring country of Mali, so a second studio will be installed there, and training will be provided by the Dyula producer from the studio in Abijian.

MAURITIUS

Internet radio and podcasts are the church's version of total member involvement in this island nation. Many young members are excited to see immediate results from the podcasts they produce. This new outreach reaped its first converts when a family of four walked into a church and requested further studies and baptism.

SOUTH SUDAN

In this young country, torn by civil war, church members show an astounding commitment to radio. The last Sabbath of every month is designated as fundraising day for Salvation Radio, the number two station out of 30 in the capital city of Juba. Faithful members – ranging from those who give what they can, to others who are CEO's of banks and large companies – committed \$100,000 for a new building. Although the station currently operates out of a shipping container and broadcasts from a crooked tower, it is reaping tremendous results. The members are excited with the new 50-meter tower and equipment AWR is providing.

ZAMBIA

"You're now the best-equipped station in all of Zambia," said the government engineer who arrived to install Maranatha FM's new

transmitter and antenna system in Kabwe. Because of the quality of Maranatha's programs, two additional licenses were granted, reaching the cities of Choma and Kasama; the goal is to obtain seven more licenses to blanket the entire country.



AMERICAS

ARGENTINA

A brand-new station in the city of Salta, largely financed by AWR, was recently inaugurated, and several of the 80 stations in the country have also been upgraded with our assistance.

BOLIVIA

With five new licenses, bringing Bolivia's total number of stations to 37, almost all of the country will be reached by radio. AWR has funded nearly half of these stations.



CHILE

AWR has just funded 80 percent of an existing FM station located in Copiapó – the region that made global headlines when 33 miners were trapped in a copper mine.

CUBA

Despite the shortage of shortwave radios in the country, many people still own receivers from years ago. AWR supplies shortwave radios on a regular basis, which are carried by missionary groups to the church in Cuba for distribution. Assigned local leaders invite friends and neighbors to listen to the programs, and they are already welcoming new converts. All programs are recorded by native speakers and broadcast from Florida.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

AWR has invested a lot here over the years, and most recently we funded eight repeater stations, so that now Radio Amanecer covers more than 90 percent of the country.



ECUADOR

The transmitter that AWR provided for a new station in Quito will enhance its signal, reaching more than 75 percent of Ecuador. The church has applied for new licenses that will extend throughout the remaining parts of the country.

PARAGUAY

AWR has invested in a new FM station in Ciudad del Este, located on the campus of Paraguay Adventist Academy, and another station is under consideration. The church's main FM station is located in the capital city, La Asunción.



ASIA/PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

More than 100 FM stations and/or licenses were recently acquired by the Australian Union and Western Australian conferences. AWR is funding equipment and installation for this new enterprise and helping to establish four new stations, in Townsville, Wollongong, Newcastle, and Ayers Rock. We are also assisting with the creation of a new production studio near Melbourne, which will produce content for these local stations.

BHUTAN

After some delays, shortwave broadcasts and podcasts in the Dzongkha language will begin this fall. With a sizable Hindu minority, Bhutan is primarily Buddhist, and Christianity is viewed as alien. No Christian symbols can be displayed, and Christians face pressure from their families and neighbors.



MYANMAR

Radio is thriving in Myanmar, and listeners cherish the messages of hope they're hearing on their worn receivers. A new media center constructed at the Upper Myanmar Mission has enabled staff to move out of the tiny back room they were working in, and they are overjoyed with the new equipment provided by AWR. We have also purchased 1,000 radios and 900 solar players, for distribution in 50 villages along the Burmese/Thai border.

CHINA

For decades, programs for China were produced solely by studios in Hong Kong and Taiwan. More recently, AWR funded four additional recording studios, in partnership with the Chinese Union Mission. Now, a variety of programs in Mandarin, Cantonese, Min Nam, Uighur, and Tibetan are broadcast on shortwave for 10 hours a day and are also offered as podcasts. Our Mandarin podcasts alone are downloaded more than 11 million times a day. AWR has also sponsored 5,000 MP3 players for distribution in China.



INDIA

Just a few years ago, AWR aired the first Adventist programs on FM radio in the city of Hyderabad, in the Telegu language. That initiative has expanded to 22 cities and seven additional languages, reaching tens of millions of people, and we have received a request to add 20 more cities. In the northeastern province of Aizawl, we are continuing to fund airtime for programs on Radio Zoawi, with positive results.

LAOS

The small church community here is overwhelmingly composed of young people, who are eager to share the message of salvation. Laos is a fairly large country, and the church can use our support. AWR is helping to establish a shortwave production studio at the mission office.

NEPAL

Besides our daily shortwave broadcast, 26 local FM stations across the country are airing AWR's programs. At a recent listener conference near Chitwan, several people were solemnly baptized in a small river. AWR is also funding the production



and purchase of solar players with special programs in the Nepali language.

PAKISTAN

A new studio is under development in Karachi, where programs in the Sindhi and Pashto languages will be recorded for shortwave. Pakistan is home to the second-largest Muslim population in the world. Christians are considered second-class citizens and face severe persecution, but believers remain strong in their desire to share the gospel.

PHILIPPINES

AWR has funded four new FM stations, some of which are located in communities with sizable Muslim populations. Hopes are high that radio will reach many homes and hearts with the gospel. New solar audio players were recently acquired for distribution in the North Luzon territories.

EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST

FRANCE

As media technologies continue to evolve, AWR is experimenting with new ways to effectively capture listeners' interest. The concept of "radio 2.0," which involves enhancing FM audio broadcasts with webcams that bring listeners closer to the presenters and facilitate audience participation, has been implemented as a pilot project in Saint-Malo. To live-stream the action, a 360° camera has been added to make the interaction even more immersive. AWR is also supporting the production of French programs for shortwave and podcasting, in partnership with the Franco-Belge Union, and has provided equipment to upgrade that studio.

MOLDOVA

Radio has proven to be successful here, so in response to a request from the Moldova Union, AWR provided significant funding for the union to purchase a network of four FM stations in Chisinau, Balti, Floresti, and Glodeni.

RUSSIA

Programs had been airing for several years on the national network, Radio Russia, but recently that contract was abruptly cancelled, so the search is on for new outlets. With AWR's assistance, our colleagues in Russia are pursuing a license to operate an FM station in Zaoksky; that application is still pending. In the meantime, God has led the way to new AM/FM stations that are willing to air our programs in Moscow.

SPAIN & NORTH AFRICA

The Spanish Union had been admirably supporting six FM stations that serve North Africa in several languages, although they were no longer part of the same division after the region was reorganized. However, due to financial constraints at the union, AWR has assumed full funding for this operation, in order to reach this high-priority area. We are also financing the Discover Bible course in the Tachelhit language, which is widely spoken in the territory.



UKRAINE

In the heat of political turmoil, God is busy opening doors. AWR helped upgrade the central studio and also funded five new radio production studios around the country. With AWR's assistance, the union bid on several FM radio licenses in small- and medium-sized cities and, remarkably, was granted 12 licenses. We have also committed to support the operation of these new stations with substantial financing.

"I ONLY WANT TO WITNESS"



"FM is the Facebook for rural folk," says Catherine Nyameino, communication director of the East Kenya Union Conference. "If it's not on, they're not alive."

A few short hours after driving away from the hustle and bustle of Nairobi and into Kitui County, one can see why. The paved highway gives way to jarring dirt tracks. Crude roadside tables display small piles of forlorn produce. Yellow plastic jerry cans – used for hauling precious water – are everywhere, carried by donkeys, emaciated cows, youngsters pushing loaded bicycles, and many, many women ... some of whom carefully balance the heavy containers on their heads.

Here, people's entire lives are spent within a very small radius.

They will likely never have electricity, TV, or the Internet, so radio is a lifeline. It delivers news from near and far, provides entertainment, creates community ... and is the sole source of the gospel for hundreds of thousands of listeners.

AWR affiliate Wikwatyo FM 105.3, based in the small city of Kitui, is blanketing central Kenya with the vital message of God's saving love. Listeners here take their radio seriously: they listen intently, often make notes on the programs, and frequently call the station to question doctrinal points. They also take their religion very seriously, and are committed to sharing their newfound beliefs.

In the market town of Kengo, Francis Mutunga Mbiti is one such listener. He says, "I heard the word of God through Wikwatyo FM.

That word touched me, and I saw something that was lacking in my life. That missing point was the Sabbath, the true day of worship, the Sabbath of the Lord. I took my time to learn and pray about what I heard. Finally, I decided to follow the Sabbath as it is in the Bible.”

Francis’ wife, Angeline, was a bit slower to commit to the new beliefs. “At first I was not very interested,” she says, “but later we started reading the Bible together, and I listened to what my husband was hearing on the radio. That way I became convinced about the true Sabbath. From that time, we began resting on the seventh day, so that we could show others the way.”

Francis felt an obligation to share what he had learned, so he began talking to his neighbors. But he was constantly thinking, “If I tell them and they believe the truth, where shall I take them? Who will take care of us?” There was no Adventist church for miles around, and Francis and Angeline had been worshipping with their four children under a tree.

They decided, “God has blessed us with a lot of things, so we want to build a house of God.” They began setting aside a portion of their modest income, until they had saved enough to buy several iron sheets for a roof. Some elders who had heard the gospel message and were interested in it provided sticks and helped build a small structure out of mud bricks.



The next thing they needed was a preacher. Francis recalls, “I said, ‘If there will be no pastor to come over and preach to us, I will take the chance and do the preaching.’ So now I am the one preaching. Through God’s grace, I can testify that many people have joined us.”

Barely a year after Francis and Angeline began worshipping under a tree, 10 people were baptized.

Angeline says, “I want to thank God, because this structure has helped many people who listen to the word of God to come in and worship with us. We are very happy for what God has done through us.”

“That is how it works in this part of the country,” Nyameino says. “What pastor is going to want to bring his family out here to live in such a hard place? How can people out here get Sabbath school quarterlies or other material? Only a few people are literate, so they read and try to share with others.”

Francis says simply, “I only want to witness what I have heard.”



2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

SUBJECT TO AUDIT

DIVISION
OFFERINGS
21.9%

GENERAL
CONFERENCE/
DIVISION
APPROPRIATIONS
21.9%

RELEASED
RESTRICTED GIFTS
15%

INCOME

RENT 0.7%

WILLS AND
ESTATE GIFTS
5.2%

DIRECT
GIFTS
35.5%

ADMINISTRATION
19%

ADVANCEMENT,
COMMUNICATION,
DEVELOPMENT, PLANNED
GIVING, AND WEB
9%

BROADCASTING
AND
ENGINEERING
11%

SELF-GENERATED
AIRTIME
16%

SPECIAL PROJECTS
AND MISCELLANEOUS
11%

PURCHASED
AIRTIME
27%

FUND-RAISING
7%

EXPENSE

GLOBAL GIVING

WILLS &
ESTATE GIFTS
\$586,825

UNRESTRICTED
GIFTS
\$4,004,547

RELEASED
RESTRICTED GIFTS
\$1,688,503

ANNUAL CHURCH
OFFERING
\$2,471,051

**TOTAL
GIVING
\$8,750,925**

DEFINITION OF TERMS

INCOME

Direct gifts are received directly from AWR donors by cash, check, and credit card.

Division offerings are donations received from local churches in each division and a percentage of world mission offerings.

Wills and estate gifts such as wills, trusts, annuities, and properties are also received for the work of AWR.

General Conference/Division appropriations are used to fund the operating expenses of the AWR offices around the world so that the funds received from donors can be used primarily for the broadcast ministry of AWR.

Released restricted gifts is income and donations designated for a specific purpose and then released when there is a specific project which qualifies.

Rent is income from rental property owned by AWR.

Purchased airtime is the amount of funds allocated to purchase time on leased transmitters, and also broadband and satellite expenses related to linking our offices to those transmitter sites.

Broadcasting and engineering is the technical staff and expenses related to the broadcasting and engineering function at each site.

The **special project** appropriations, which AWR and donors give for the start-up of new studios where new languages are produced, are used for equipment, training, and sharing in the production costs.

Administration and general expenses consist of the administrative, secretarial, and accounting functions at each site, including headquarters. These expenses are the costs of operating an office, such as insurance and utilities.

Advancement, communication, development, planned giving, and web are the functions, coordinated at headquarters, where reports of the work of AWR, materials for AWR promotion, communication with donors, and the cultivation of potential donors are carried out.

Fund-raising includes items such as printing, production, and postage for direct-mail and television appeals, software for managing donor information, and salary expense of those involved in fund-raising activities.

EXPENSE

Self-generated airtime is the operations and engineering operating costs at the AWR-owned station on Guam.

HOW GIFTS TO AWR ARE USED

Funds received from donors are used primarily for equipping studios, training staff, and preparing and broadcasting programs. While major funding comes from donors in the United States of America, AWR also receives significant contributions from: the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (through the General Conference/Canadian Joint Ministries Organization), donors in other countries, the Seventh-day Adventist Church's world divisions (through the AWR annual offering), and AWR's endowments and investments. General administrative expenses are covered primarily by appropriations provided by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. We thank our donors many times over for the passion and commitment they continue to show for AWR's ministry.



BROADCAST PARTNERS

AFRICA

SHORTWAVE AFFILIATE STUDIOS	
Maroua, Cameroon	Fulfulde
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Afar, Amharic, Oromifa, Tigrinya
Accra, Ghana	English
Abidjan, Ivory Coast	Dyula, French
Nairobi, Kenya	English, Somali
Antananarivo, Madagascar	Malagasy
Elisha Remo, Nigeria	Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba
Dakar, Senegal	Wolof
Morogoro, Tanzania	Maasai, Swahili
LOCAL STATIONS	
Bujumbura, Burundi ¹	Rundi
Yaoundé, Cameroon ¹	Beti, French, Fulfulde
Congo, 8 stations ^{1,2}	French, Swahili
Libreville, Gabon ¹	French
Ghana, 2 stations ¹	English, Ewe, Ga, Hausa, Twi
Kenya, 4 stations ¹	Dholuo, Ekegusii, English, Kikamba, Maasai, Swahili
Monrovia, Liberia ¹	Bassa, English

	¹ Church-owned radio stations
	² Lay-owned radio stations
Blantyre, Malawi ¹	Chichewa
Elisha Remo, Nigeria ¹	English, Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba
Kigali, Rwanda ¹	Kinyarwanda
Juba, South Sudan ¹	Juba Arabic
Tanzania, 9 stations ¹	Swahili
Uganda, 3 stations ¹	Ateso, English, Luganda, Lugosa, Lukonzo, Luo, Luyira, Runyakitara, Rubwisi, Swahili
Kabwe, Zambia ¹	Bemba, English, Lenje, Tonga

AMERICAS

United States	Spanish shortwave for Caribbean
LOCAL STATIONS	
Argentina, 80 stations ¹	Spanish
Belize, 8 stations ^{1,2}	English, Spanish
Bolivia, 37 stations ¹	Spanish
Brazil, 18 stations ¹	Portuguese
Chile, 31 stations ¹	Spanish
Costa Rica ¹	Spanish
Dominican Republic, 21 stations ¹	Spanish

Ecuador , 3 stations ¹	Spanish
El Salvador , 2 stations ¹	Spanish
French Guiana ¹	French, Mandarin, Lao
Guatemala , 4 stations ¹	Spanish
Haiti , 4 stations ¹	French, Haitian Creole
Honduras , 3 stations ¹	Spanish
Nicaragua , 12 stations ^{1,2}	Miskito, Spanish
Panama , 5 stations ¹	Spanish
Paraguay , 2 stations ¹	Spanish
Peru , 20 stations ¹	Spanish
Puerto Rico , 2 stations ¹	Spanish
Uruguay , 2 stations ¹	Spanish
Venezuela , 40 stations ^{1,2}	Spanish

ASIA/PACIFIC

SHORTWAVE AFFILIATE STUDIOS

Dhaka, Bangladesh	Bangla
Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Khmer
Hong Kong	Cantonese, Mandarin, Min Nan, Uighur
India (for Bhutan)	Dzongkha
Aizawl, India	Assamese, Meitei, Mizo
Pune, India	English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu
Bandung, Indonesia	Sundanese
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesian
Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Javanese
Seoul, Korea	Korean
Sarawak, Malaysia	Malay
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	Mongolian
Pyin Oo Lwin, Myanmar	Chin, Kachin, Shan
Yangon, Myanmar	Burmese, Karen, Mon, Po Karen
Kathmandu, Nepal	Nepali, Tibetan
Pakistan	Punjabi, Sindhi, Urdu
Manila, Philippines	Ilocano, Tagalog
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sinhalese
Muak Lek, Thailand	Hmong, Isan, Lao, Thai
California, USA	Khmer, Vietnamese
Vietnam	Vietnamese

LOCAL STATIONS

Andaman Islands	Hindi
Australia , 100+ stations ¹	English
Cook Islands ¹	English, Hindi

Fiji ¹	English, Fijian, Hindi
India , 22 stations	English, Hindi, Kok Borok, Malayalam, Meitei, Mizo, Tamil, Telugu
India-administered Kashmir	Hindi
Indonesia , 3 stations ¹	Indonesian, Mandarin
Maldives	Telugu
Nepal , 26 stations	Nepali
Papua New Guinea ¹	Pidgin English
Philippines , 10 stations ¹	Tagalog
Samoa ²	English, Samoan
Solomon Islands ¹	English
Tahiti ¹	French, Tahitian
Thailand , 7 stations ¹	Lao, Thai

EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST

SHORTWAVE AFFILIATE STUDIOS

Plovdiv, Bulgaria	Bulgarian
Paris, France	French
Florence, Italy	Italian
Beirut, Lebanon	Arabic, Farsi, Kabyle, Tachelit
Tula, Russia	Russian
Turkey	Turkish
Kiev, Ukraine	Ukrainian

LOCAL STATIONS

Yerevan, Armenia	Armenian
Moldova , 5 stations ¹	Romanian
Sintra, Portugal ¹	Portuguese
Russia , AM/FM/ national network	Russian
Spain , 28 stations ¹	Arabic, Darija, English, Hassan- iya, Kabyle, Spanish, Tachelit
Göteborg, Sweden	Swedish
Ukraine , 9 local stations ¹ , national network	Ukrainian

PODCAST-ONLY BROADCASTS

Austria & Germany	German
Georgia	Georgian
Japan	Japanese
Mauritius	Mauritian Creole
Poland	Polish
USA	Navajo

LISTENER TESTIMONIES



In this Lunar New Year, I am glad to have the Voice of Hope to listen to. The first time I listened to the program, I found it made me comfortable. Longer, I found it is meaningful. Now I am a frequent listener. No matter what happens, I will take time to listen to the program.

The most interesting part in the program is the "Bible." I understand there is truth in the Bible. I have not read it, did not know there is a Bible, and even did not know what the Bible was before. But now I am the person who likes the Bible very much.

– Listener in Sichuan province, China

I'm glad to have the radio program to listen to. The program is not only preaching the gospel, but also guiding people to help them leave the darkness in the world.

The way the program speakers speak is like refreshment, which makes listeners feel like sitting in the breeze. It removes the tiredness and provides confidence and energy to work another day.

Thank you for all of you preparing such good programs for us. Your talents must come from Heaven. The program is the light in the darkness and leads people who get lost.

– Listener in Jiangsu province, China

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