

# mission:world

## NEWS



THE GOSPEL  
CHANGES EVERYTHING

WORLD MISSIONS DAY  
2.22.26



## BLESSED BEYOND THE DROUGHT

### Josephine's Story

Simondo Village, Zambia

When I first heard about the Bible studies happening in our area, I was curious. I had heard people whisper that the Makuwa—the white missionaries—were teaching about a God who forgives sins and gives eternal life. I had spent my whole life fearing spirits, offering sacrifices, and doing what our traditions demanded. But inside, I always felt empty and afraid. So one day, I decided to go.

The first time I heard about Jesus Christ, something inside me stirred. The missionaries spoke of a God who loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for our sins. They said we could know peace...not through charms or sacrifices, but through faith. That night, I could hardly sleep. I kept thinking about that love. A few days later, I accepted Christ as my Savior.

I started attending every Bible study and church service I could. It felt like I was finally alive. But soon, my joy brought anger into my home. My husband, Michael, is the headman of our village. He is respected and powerful—and deeply involved in the traditional ways. He works with the witch doctor to divine spirits and remove curses. When he learned that I had turned away from those practices, he was furious.

He called my faith “the white man’s religion” and forbade me to attend the Makuwa’s church. When I refused, he began to punish me. Some nights, he locked me outside our home, leaving me to sleep

under the stars with the sound of lions in the distance. Other times, he refused to let me eat. Still, I couldn’t turn back. I had found the truth, and I would rather suffer than return to the darkness I once knew.

As the planting season came, my husband prepared his seed to take to the witch doctor for blessings. He demanded I do the same. I told him quietly, “The only blessing I want is from the One True God.” He laughed and said I would regret it.

When he left, I gathered my small bag of seed and carried it to the church. I sat with Sharon, the missionary’s wife, and said, “I think I made a mistake. I told my husband that the One True God would bless my seed. Does He really do that?” She smiled and showed me verses from Deuteronomy 28, where God promises to bless those who obey Him. The church prayed for me—for my seed, my husband, and my faith to remain strong.

That year, a terrible drought came. The ground cracked, and the crops withered. The school’s field yielded only half its usual harvest. My husband’s field was almost completely lost. But my little plot flourished. Green and full. When people asked how it was possible, I told them, “The One True God blessed my field.”

Still, life at home was difficult. My husband’s anger grew, even as he saw what had happened. I kept praying that God would touch his heart. Then one Tuesday morning, during Bible study, I saw Michael walking toward us through the bush. My heart pounded. I feared what he might do. But he said nothing. He just sat down at the back and listened.

That day, the missionary spoke about Jesus and Nicodemus in John chapter 3, how a man must be born again. When the lesson ended, the missionary went to my husband and asked, “What can I do for you?” Tears filled Michael’s eyes. “I want what my wife has,” he said.

Right there, he prayed and gave his life to Jesus Christ. I cried as I watched the man who once cursed my faith now bow before my Savior.

Afterward, we walked the long road home. When we arrived, Michael gathered all his idols, charms, and divination tools and burned them. He called our children together and told them about Jesus. They accepted Him that same day. Then he brought his mother, and she too believed.

Now, nearly two years later, my husband is a changed man. He helps prepare for services, leads others in prayer, and shares the gospel boldly. Many in our village have believed because of his testimony, and one man has even accepted the call to become a pastor. Soon, a new church will be planted in Simondo...on the very land Michael is donating from his own farm.

When I look back, I remember the nights I slept outside and the days I went hungry. But I also remember God’s faithfulness. He never left me. He heard my prayers. He blessed my seed, softened my husband’s heart, and brought life to our village. Truly, the One True God answers prayers and transforms lives.





# GUIDED BY GRACE

Juan Carlos Rivera's Story  
Costa Rica



**W**e live in a very remote place, and for many years our lives felt marked by limitation. I, Juan Carlos, cannot walk and depend on a wheelchair. My wife Martha can walk, but because she is visually impaired, she cannot see the path ahead. Each day, we faced our challenges together: I would guide the way, and she would push my chair. It was our simple rhythm of survival.

One day, Brother Cristian Hernández arrived at our home. He didn't rush past us or treat our situation as something too difficult to enter into. Instead, he listened, prayed with us, and immediately shared our needs with his church. For the first time in a long time, we felt seen. Their help met our physical needs, but something even deeper began to change inside us.

Brother Cristian began discipling each of us, teaching us the Scriptures and helping us understand God's love. Through this journey, we realized that God had a purpose for our lives—not despite our limitations, but even within them. We began waking each morning with gratitude instead of despair.

Today our health has improved, our home feels more stable, and something we once only dreamed of has become real: a Bible study now meets in our living room. We have surrendered our lives to Jesus, completed discipleship, and recently became members of the church.

We are still growing, still learning, and still being transformed. But now we face each day not only with each other's help, but with the strength and hope that come from God. And we rejoice knowing that, through His people, the gospel truly changes everything.

# WHEN LIGHT KNOCKED ON MY DOOR

A story from Joshua and Meagan Phiri's ministry  
Zambia

**T**hey used to come to me with fear in their eyes.

They called me *N'kayi*—the one who speaks with spirits. I held the charms, the chants, the power. Or so it seemed. Mothers brought sick children to my doorstep. Men asked me to curse their enemies. I wore fear like a crown. But no one ever asked how I slept at night.

They didn't see the shadows that crept in when the fire died out. They didn't hear the whispers that tormented me when I was alone. They didn't feel the weight—the constant burden of pleasing spirits who were never truly satisfied.

Then one day, they came. Not with offerings. Not with fear. But with something I had forgotten: kindness.

They asked to hold a meeting in my home. They called it "Bible study." I should have said no. But something in their eyes... something different. So I let them in.

The words they read sounded strange. Like wind rustling leaves I'd never noticed before. They spoke of a God who knew my name. A Son who carried my shame. A Spirit who brought peace, not terror. At first, I watched in silence. I clutched my charms under my robe. But week after week, their words cut deep. I cried one night after they left. Not because I was afraid—but because, for the first time in my life, I *hoped*.

One morning, the words slipped from my lips before I could stop them: "*I want to follow Jesus.*" I felt something shift inside. Something uncoiled. But not everything broke. Because the charms are still hidden. The bones. The oils. The carved stones. They're not gone. Just out of sight. I can't seem to destroy them. I'm terrified of what will happen if I do. I told them, "The spirits will kill me." And I believe it. That fear is real. It is the prison I've lived in for years. Not stone or iron—but terror disguised as tradition. And yet... there's a new voice now. Quieter, gentler, but strong.

It says, "*You are mine. Do not be afraid.*"

I want to believe it. I want to be free.

If you read this, will you pray for me? Not just for courage, but for deliverance? That the lie of fear would crumble, and the village that once feared my name would one day hear *His* through me?

Jesus has entered my house.

Now the battle begins.



# mission:world

## NEWS

## MEETING GOD ON THE FRONT LINES OF WAR

A Ukrainian soldier's story of transformation  
Ukraine

I had been at my position for ninety-two days. Ninety-two days of holding the line, waiting, and wondering if any of us would make it out alive. I'm an infantryman from the Donetsk direction. Our unit was defending a school building shaped like the Ukrainian letter "П." It was supposed to be a strong position—but soon we were completely surrounded.

Food came once a day by drone. That was all. There was a well in the schoolyard, so we could still get water, and before the city's logistics broke down, we had managed to store a good supply of weapons and ammunition. For a while, it felt like that would be enough. But as the days dragged on, one by one, my brothers fell. When it was finally over, only three of us made it out alive.

Before the war, I didn't believe in God. I used to think faith was for the weak, for people who needed something to hold onto. But there, surrounded and starving, I started to pray—first out of desperation, then out of something deeper. I didn't even know if anyone was listening, but I couldn't stop crying out to heaven.

One time, for three days straight, the drones couldn't reach us because of the visibility. No food, no medicine. Many of the men were sick. On the third day, I couldn't take it anymore. I looked up at the gray sky and said, "God, if You really exist, please, close the sky so our drone can come safely."

That day, a thick fog rolled in...so dense you could barely see ten meters ahead. And through that fog, the drone came. It brought everything we needed.



I can't explain it. All I know is that it was impossible, and yet it happened. God literally closed the enemy's eyes.

When I finally made it back and met the chaplains, I told them this story. I told them how I came to the front as an atheist, but somewhere in those ninety-two days, I met God. Not in a church, not through a sermon, but in the middle of fear, hunger, and fog.

Now I know He was with me all along.

### The Gospel Changes *Everything*

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible tells the story of God's powerful plan to redeem and renew. Through Jesus, we're not just improved—we're made new (2 Cor. 5:17). The gospel transforms hearts (Ezek. 36:26), restores relationships (Eph. 2:14–18), reshapes communities (Acts 2:42–47), and brings hope across borders and cultures (Rev. 7:9).

That's why we send missionaries. Because the gospel doesn't just inform—it transforms. It changes lives, families, and communities. It compels us to go, give, pray, and partner—so that every tribe and tongue may know the One who changes everything.

### Partner With Us

Join in the work of gospel transformation—by praying, giving, and going—so the good news of Jesus can reach the ends of the earth. Visit [bmaglobal.org/worldmissionsday](http://bmaglobal.org/worldmissionsday) to get involved.



# TAKING THE GOSPEL TO EVERY NATION

By Emily Brantley

Lifeworld

[lifeworld.org](http://lifeworld.org)

As 2025 comes to a close, our hearts overflow with gratitude—for God’s faithfulness and for you, our Lifeworld Partners. Your prayers, support, and generosity have carried the gospel into homes, villages, cities, and online communities across the world. From the islands of the Philippines to the villages of Africa, from the digital spaces of the Middle East to churches across Europe and the Americas, God’s Word has gone forth in power.

## A Year of Global Gospel Impact

In the Asia-Pacific, Regional Director Brother Pete Etabag led with faithfulness through a season of personal loss. Despite challenges, the Lifeworld Installers team installed three new low-powered FM stations and maintained several others—broadcasting the gospel 17 hours a day to communities without internet access. Brother Pete also trained more than 20 pastors in social media broadcasting and continues equipping leaders online so the message of Jesus can reach even the most remote villages.

In the Middle East, Brother Joe Costa reports significant growth in digital ministry. Lifeworld now manages six specialized social media pages designed for Muslims, seekers, atheists, and young adults exploring Christian apologetics. Weekly Bible studies, a growing book club, and The Feast Project—an outreach to LGBTQ youth—are drawing people into Scripture and meaningful conversations. A new website is also underway, offering free access to years of gospel teaching across the Arab world.

Across Africa, Brother Hayford Jackson and regional teams in Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Liberia, and Mali rejoice over new believers and strengthened churches. Lifeworld Cloud and community information centers continue to share the gospel where internet access remains limited. Through evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development, the gospel continues to take root and flourish.

In Europe, Brother Bogdan Bilav celebrates five new believers baptized in local Gypsy churches and the growing reach of Lifeworld Romania. Their Facebook page surpassed 10,000 followers, and a new weekly TikTok program—Encouragements, produced by team member Tamas Dana—is offering biblical inspiration to younger audiences.

In The Americas, Brother Rigoberto Jiménez reports that new Spanish-language programs—Whispers of the Bible, Breaking Point, and Pearls of Great Price—are blessing listeners with hope and truth. Looking toward 2026, the team plans to launch worship-focused and student-led content to help young believers grow in their faith.

Across every region, the story is the same: God is moving, lives are being changed, and the gospel is being proclaimed. Every baptism, broadcast, and digital interaction stands as a testament to His power and the faithfulness of partners like you.

## Looking Ahead: Lifeworld’s Vision for 2026

As Lifeworld steps into a new year, Executive Director Donny Parrish has outlined bold goals that will expand the ministry’s reach and deepen its global impact.

1. Growing to 185 Broadcast Languages  
Lifeworld plans to increase its broadcast languages from 175 to 185, bringing the gospel to even more people in their heart language.

2. Advancing FOLLOW Translations Worldwide  
FOLLOW, Lifeworld’s online discipleship platform, will expand as Arabic and Romanian translations are completed and implementation begins throughout the Philippines.

3. Building a New Missionary Training Facility in the Philippines  
A new training center and studio will equip pastors, missionaries, and leaders with tools for media ministry and traditional missions across Southeast Asia.

4. Releasing an English-Language Children’s Program  
Lifeworld will launch its first English children’s program—designed to help young kids understand and love God’s Word.

5. Expanding Giving Pathways for Churches and Global Listeners  
New funding opportunities will provide streamlined tools for BMA churches, simplified giving options for international listeners, and ways to support specific global projects.

## Moving Forward—Together

As we enter 2026, we do so with joy and confidence in God’s continued work. Thank you for standing with Lifeworld as we take the gospel to the nations—one broadcast, one message, and one heart at a time.

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” — Psalm 126:3

