



## ONE LOVE FM HEARD IN ZAMBIA PRISON ON SONSET RADIOS

### WHATSAPP IN DALLAS

"You have such good friends"

Even as last month's letter was sent out, Elias made his way to the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) Convention in Dallas so he might share the vision for Christian radio programming on his Orient Radio Network in Bethlehem. So, I thought he might like to meet a few attending ministry partners that has been our privilege to work alongside over so many years.

It started with Kelly, founder of **Blessings for Obedience** who we partnered with, to build stations in Rwanda, Haiti, Uganda and South Sudan. More recently Kelly raised help to send us a badly needed transmitter for our re-emerging Youth FM station in Eastern Uganda's Soroti District where so many former LRA abductees now live and need Good News!

And then Elias sent us more photos of his meeting with our good friends from **Sonset Solutions** (engineering arm of what was HCJB) who are long standing technicians of excellence that help us acquire broadcast equipment and service as we need. They also provide solar powered radios for refugees and came to distribute them with us-a true highlight for both teams! Theirs is a vital ministry for Christian broadcasting; Elias just *had* to meet them. And they brought others who they respect and appreciate, further expanding Elias' broadcast family.

I was preparing him to meet with more great servants from **Galcom** (who build so many solar radios for various stations like ours) when Elias took a call the Bethlehem station was off the air after an unexpected rain actually penetrated the big transmission cable, that sends the radio signal from the transmitter to the antenna and then out to Bethlehem and Jerusalem. That unexpected \$700 repair cost (please pray about helping Elias with this) damped enthusiasm a little when Elias was working so hard to raise support, but as in all ministry, we cannot allow ourselves to waste time on worry. We stay focused as we wait on the Lord.

For the moment, my good friend and embattled radio leader really needed to know he was not alone; I happily shared my good friends with him. I knew they would encourage him and they did-just by being who they are. In future we will find a way to do more with and for Elias at his ministry point there in Bethlehem.

### WHATSAPP IN ZAMBIA

Unfortunately, there are many challenges for Christian radio in Zambia these days. After the mighty Zambezi River nearly dried up over the last two years, power availability was reduced to only three hours each day; certainly not adequate for a ministry of minutes like radio! We scrambled to keep the station on the air, adding a generator and more batteries. But it was just not enough to keep a radio station operating without interruption. Within months the batteries and generator were on their last legs.

We sent in technicians for more assessment...and then another call came, with the news the entire city was without power because flooding pushed into homes, hospitals and offices, creating potential for a major disaster. I could only image what could happen if rising water came into contact with live power. Suddenly Lusaka was in the dark for the time being.

A good friend sent us enough for more lithium solar batteries that will keep the studio operating during night hours, so the 5-station network continues vital outreach. But the small inverter (creates electricity from solar power) is just too small for all needs including production, administration etc. Technicians tell us we must double our power capacity and to do that, our partner One Love FM needs \$1,500 for a second installed inverter and more solar panels. Please pray about this need also.

### REFUGEE RADIO REACHING SOUTH SUDAN (MOUNTAINS IN DISTANCE)



## WHATSAPP IN UGANDA

Since we moved to international communication with WhatsApp, I get a lot more calls these days. This week, Pastor Godfrey sent the message that he has new neighbors at the church we built in Wanjevo Village. That sounded like good news. But the next line shared a little more...it's *another* witch doctor (the village already has several) but this one set up a shrine at the front of the church property.

And then in keeping with warfare, the neighbor's "special services" are held loudly during times when the Wanjevo True Light Church is holding its Sunday services. In fact, Pastor Godfrey said the new neighbor is so loud that service inside the church cannot be heard without a little extra audio support...translation...Pastor Godfrey has requested a freestanding speaker with microphone like the one we use at the Life Essentials Centre for our pastor equipping.

Godfrey's entire family monthly income is less than \$100, so his options are very limited, since the cost of such a rechargeable speaker with microphones is \$200. Please pray about this need for church support.

## WHATSAPP (still in) UGANDA

"Don, I found the trees". Paul's words from Ongutoi brought my focus around again. We have been so active in so many places, it's been a while since we mentioned Ongutoi. In spite of near 40 C temperatures and minimal rainfall, the oranges continue to grow. In the most recent harvest, a significant crop provided support for the health centre; that drew celebration for a moment.

But we always suspected curiosity might be a problem. Goats like to wander in and nibble on leaves/bark inadvertently damaging trees; children liked to run through and play among the thousands of trees (who wouldn't?) and even some passersby liked to drop in unannounced for a tasty orange or two. As trees grew, site protection would be a need and that moment arrived recently.

Over time, our original plan of fencing changed from living fence (hedge) into wire fencing, but goats soon found a way in (as did their "managers") so thoughts went back to live fencing—a practice common in rural Uganda. But our live fence must be different; it would have the usual leaves/flowers but underneath, it grows into the tree beside it (6" apart), sharing and weaving its strong thorns into a pattern so tight that even snakes take the long way around. We have found success with this at our pastor centre in Mukono.

In Ongutoi, rainy seasons are very tight, so planting must be planned in anticipation of rains that can give seedlings their best chance at survival. Paul works every day in that orchard—those trees are his "babies" but he can only watch over them for so long—he knew he must have that living fence soon; so, this time, his WhatsApp message to me was more animated. This time he sent the usual need and vision but he also sent the budget and a few photos of him checking out live fence seedlings. As it happens, we have been saving for such an occasion and finally had the money for the 6,000 small trees and costs to transport/plant them. That next step in the Ongutoi dream is underway at this moment.

But we would like to add a little technology to Ongutoi Orchard. Our experience in Kkumbya where we grow (and protect) many thousands coffee trees has included enhanced security with a solar powered motion activated video camera that communicates by a mobile SIM card—it's like having a mobile phone with video capability that can stand alone in the orchard, communicating when there is movement.

We have found this to be a significant deterrent in Kkumbya. Just the thought of a video camera was enough to "get the word out" that any bad intentions would be captured and sent immediately. So, our coffee trees are growing quietly in Kkumbya...it just made sense that Ongutoi should enjoy the same protection.

At the moment we did find the budget for the live fence but we do not have the \$300 for a solar powered video camera and we need three. It's a large 10-acre orchard that requires several video soldiers. Please pray about this need for Ongutoi.

## WHATSAPP (never left) UGANDA

We have been very active with friends at Sonset Solutions and Galcom these days. Both ministries are focused on sending in solar powered radios to the Adjumani Refugee camp, especially since the recent large flow of Sudanese refugees from the Khartoum area. There are now three times the Sudanese refugees coming into the camp than South Sudanese.

I was struck by these circumstances. For 50 years, Sudan was embroiled in civil wars (beginning in 1955) that eventually cost millions of lives and many more millions displaced as the Islamist controlled north fought the Christian south part of Sudan. Finally, in 2010 the south broke away, establishing the New Republic of South Sudan.

However, only three years later, South Sudan's 61 tribal communities found themselves in conflict among themselves, spilling over into violence that initiated a flow of victims who eventually settled in Uganda's Adjumani refugee camp. That is where we came in (2013), setting up the Usalama FM refugee radio station to bring Biblical music and message to combatants trying to live in peace beside each other.

## SUDAN REFUGEES

Then in 2023, Sudan (north) civil war erupted again (one of 19 civil conflicts in its history) sending 3.5 million refugees into neighboring countries in search of safety. Many found themselves in Adjumani's Refugee camp, stretching diminishing UN resources even farther. It also stretched us to reach the ever-expanding camp borders so we might provide the Gospel to all refugees the Lord has sent our way.

***"...and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation..."***  
**Acts 17:26 NASB**

In a moment I realized the significance of these heaven-directed strategic events. As the Lord establishes borders according to His plans, He has re-arranged borders again (virtually), allowing us to send His Word among the southern communities of Christian South Sudan AND the northern communities of Islamist Sudan; SIMULTANEOUSLY. They now live beside each other in a huge refugee camp *within the sound of our signal*.

Our Usalama FM radio voice can reach well over 1+ million refugees (we were told the signal actually reaches 5 million) who have lived with hatred for over 50 years!

How strategic is that!



**1 – BLESSINGS FOR OBEDIENCE TRANSMITTER IN UGANDA RADIO STATION**

**2 – ELIAS WITH SONSET AND FRIENDS AT NRB**

**3 – ELIAS' ANTENNA UNDERGOING REPAIR IN BETHLEHEM**

**4 - LISTENER RECEIVES SONSET SOLAR RADIO IN KASAMA, ZAMBIA**

**5 – WANJEYO CHURCH NEEDS A POWERED SPEAKER**

**6 - PAUL CHECKING FENCE SEEDLINGS**



As a non-commercial refugee station Usalama FM income is very limited; when repairs are needed, we rely on donations. And this is such a time. We really need to find help to resurrect two older transmitters to serve as back up so Usalama never goes off the air; they need (\$3,000) in new parts. And, we need (\$750) to repair our big antenna that has been damaged by multiple lightning strikes and weather erosion. Please pray about these significant needs.

**WHATS APP (UP)?**

Many good things are happening in the kingdom. Join us with your prayers and help!

Don



**7 - LIVING FENCE – PRETTY & PICKY**

**9 – REFUGEE CHILDREN AND CAREGIVER HEAR USALAMA ON IMPAX SOLAR RADIOS**

**8 – ONGUTOI ORCHARD NEEDS FENCING AND SURVEILLANCE**

**10 – SOLAR POWERED VIDEO CAMERA WATCHING COFFEE TREES IN KKUMBYA**

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**MARCH 2025**

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