

Natural Disasters

Audio Blog by Gregg Harris, President – FEBC
September 2008

As a listener to Moody Broadcasting, you understand the deep and positive influence radio can have in an individual's life. Radio is like a good friend, who comes to you every day to encourage you, bring you hope and ultimately draw you closer to Jesus Christ.

Imagine then, losing everything in a natural disaster, and having someone broadcast special programs just for you! In situations where a tsunami, a flood, or an earthquake, have brought devastation, Christian broadcasters are bringing encouragement and hope to thousands. Let me share with you some examples:

* When the December 2004 tsunami struck Indonesia, India, and Thailand, Christian broadcasters not only produced special programs, but also distributed 10,000 wind-up radios that don't require batteries.

* The July 2008 earthquake in Sichuan, China that killed more than 70,000 people and left 5 million homeless represented another opportunity for Christian broadcasters to touch thousands. In that incident 13,000 wind-up radios were distributed to victims of the earthquake and special radio programs are now being broadcast to help them cope with the shattering effect of this tragedy.

And now, most recently, a flood has struck the northern state of Bihar in India. On August 18, a dam near the India/Nepal border broke and unleashed a massive flood that wiped out thousands of villages in its path. The prime minister of India has called this a "national calamity". An estimated 3 million people have been displaced.

And, while the governmental and private relief agencies are scrambling to supply much needed aid, the Christian Broadcasting community is playing a key role. With the permission of the Indian government, Far East Broadcasting Company, and our sister organization Feba Radio have dispatched a specially trained disaster response team to the area. These experts will work with local Christians to produce radio programs that are custom designed to meet the needs of those affected by the disaster.

Reflecting on this calamitous situation and others like it, I am reminded of the powerful words of Psalm 46 (NIV), "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

God has given his Church the tools to proclaim this great news to the nations. Christian radio is a powerful weapon in the face of hopelessness and despair. It allows us as Christians to have a voice in the midst of chaos and suffering—to remind the nations of the world to "be still and know that He is God."

So the next time you hear of a natural disaster somewhere in the world, pray that the victims who have lost everything will be spared—so that they may find the only One who can meet their every need—Jesus Christ. Pray too that God will bring his loving voice to thousands through the efforts of Christian broadcasters around the world who are there to bring the Gospel of hope and peace in the midst of the storm.

Gregg Harris, President
Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC)
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