Upgrades turn up the volume on Adventist radio ministry
Adventist World Radio’s Guam station now equipped for greater reach in Asia

For Taiwan’s people, Adventist seeks a better life
Taiwan Adventist Foundation impacts small farmers, underserved students and needy communities

Upgrades turn up the volume on Adventist radio ministry

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Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
ANN staff, with reporting by Shelley Nolan Freesland

A multi-million dollar upgrade dedicated last week at Adventist World Radio’s flagship studio in Guam will broaden the scope of the radio ministry’s outreach across Asia, administrators say.

The $2.9 million upgrade features a new radio tower and a high-frequency curtain antenna designed for even greater long-distance transmission.
The antenna allows Adventist World Radio to transmit simultaneous broadcasts, reaching listeners in multiple countries during their respective peak listening times. It also gives the radio ministry arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church options to shift scheduling.

"God wants us to ask for miracles. He wants us to ask for something extraordinary. As we stand here today underneath all of this infrastructure, we can truly say that this is an answer to prayer," Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson said at the dedication ceremony.

The first phase of the update, which was completed last year, included the relocation of one of the existing towers to accommodate the new antenna. The second phase involved pouring 820 pounds of concrete to ground the new 229-foot radio tower.

AWR officials called the update “crucial,” allowing listeners in key countries such as China and North Korea to receive better-quality signals and tune in to prime time broadcasts simultaneously. Previously, the studio was only able to broadcast during prime time in one country or time zone at a time.

The governor of Guam, Eddie Bazza Calvo, spoke at the ceremony and recognized the significance of the Adventist Church’s radio ministry. “What greater mission can any human being or any enterprise have than to spread the good news?” he said.

The dedication ceremony was held directly on the antenna field at the base of the newest tower, giving attendees a first-hand look at the results of the two-year project. Typically, such a project would take five years to complete, AWR officials said.

Brook Powers, chief engineer for AWR Guam, said he “saw the hand of God leading in this project,” which he said hinged on a small team of workers, “an incredible amount of equipment and a whole lot of blessings from God.”

AWR President Dowell Chow expressed appreciation for the construction team and the “many generous donors” who contributed to the project. “We thank them many times over for the passion
and commitment they continue to show for AWR's ministry and for carrying the voice of hope to the hardest-to-reach people of the world," he said.

The studio in Guam currently offers programs on health, family and spiritual life in 34 languages across Asia, reaching a potential audience of 3.5 billion in countries such as China, North Korea, Myanmar and Vietnam, where traditional outreach is difficult. The studio has operated for 26 years.

Worldwide, AWR broadcasts programs in nearly 100 languages through shortwave and AM/FM radio, on demand and through podcasts.

For Taiwan's people, Adventist seeks a better life

Sep 09, 2013
Jeju Island, Korea
Mark A. Kellner, Adventist Review

Although Taiwan is viewed by many as a hub of global prosperity--the island is home to global powers ASUS, Acer and Eva Air, among others--there are pockets of poverty, suffering and disadvantage waiting for the touch of compassion a Christian hand can bring.

Jane Lin happens to possess just those hands.

Lin is executive officer of the Taiwan Adventist Foundation, a registered charity operating on the island and reaching its most-underserved peoples, including indigenous farmers who are often exploited by larger agricultural firms buying their produce; students in elementary schools of fewer than 28 pupils, and Taiwan's poor, whose homes are sometimes in great disrepair.

“Our vision is to motivate and empower people in Taiwan society to live a healthier life," Lin said, reciting the group’s credo. This is done through sponsoring projects aimed at helping those in need.

“God has blessed us very much,” Lin said, recalling her first year at the foundation.

For the farmers, it means helping them reach consumers directly at outdoor markets, and encouraging them to grow organic produce. This
“creates another market” for the farmers, who she says are often “exploited” when selling to the larger corporations, she said.

“If the farmers get better pay” for their crops, she said, “it means a better standard of living.” She said the group is also helping the farmers to post pictures of their crops on Pinterest, the Internet-based social network, to help create demand for those goods.

Although Taiwan’s educational system is highly regarded, some students there--as in other parts of the world, including the United States--have fewer resources than their counterparts in larger schools. To help these students, Taiwan Adventist Foundation supplies a “Happy Craft Kit” of various pieces of colored wool. These are then made into small coasters, giving the students a different kind of craft, and a sense of having made something with their own hands.

“If the children like to use their hands to make something,” Lin explained, “they will use their hands to take care of others later in life.”

And for those in poor living conditions, the Taiwan Adventist Foundation uses volunteer labor to help clean, repair and even rebuild dwellings where needed.

“No one helps them, and no one cares,” Lin said of these poor people. Other charities are beginning to call on the Taiwan Adventist Foundation, asking them to help families in need.

Sometimes, Lin said, all that’s necessary is a simple housecleaning and instruction in running a household, something that may have been neglected. “The target is to help peoples’ homes have basic functions, safe and clean,” she said.

Much of the funding for the Taiwan Adventist Foundation comes from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. The group’s board is chaired by Stanley Wai Chun Ng, assistant to the Northern Asia-Pacific Division president for China affairs. But the group accepts outside funds and hopes to become self-sufficient, Lin said, noting they hope to have a facility to accept credit card donations soon. More information on the group can be found online at www.twaf.org.tw.

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