



Back to God
Ministries International



"GOD HAS BEEN MAKING IT GROW."

| Corinthians 3:6

RADIO LISTENER BAPTISM | ALAKNANDA RIVER, INDIA

2017
ANNUAL
REPORT



REV. KURT SELLES
Director

“FOR WE ARE CO-WORKERS IN GOD’S SERVICE...” -1 Corinthians 3:9

Dear faithful partners,

When speaking about keeping our minds sharp and our bodies healthy, people sometimes say, “If you don’t use it, you lose it.” This advice is good, not only for body and mind, but also for our spiritual lives.

Do you want to follow Jesus? If you do, then you (and I) need to work at it. Although we are saved by grace alone, we can’t just “let go and let God,” as another saying goes. We have to strive to grow every day, “working out our salvation with fear and trembling,” says Paul in Philippians 2:12.

Helping believers walk more closely with Jesus is at the core of the Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI) mission. We want our audience, wherever they are, in whatever language they use, to see God’s story in their lives. Using a variety of media, we reach through barriers and speak to hearts that want to know more about loving and serving Jesus. I hope this annual report gives you a glimpse of how God is using BTGMI to bring people to Jesus and help them grow spiritually.

KURT VISITING FRENCH MINISTRY LEADER, REV. MARC NABIE, AND OTHER PROGRAM PRODUCERS. Burkina Faso | January 2017



We invite you to contact BTGMI to find out what discipleship resources we have to help you grow spiritually. We thank you for your partnership in making these resources available in North America and around the world. Together, we have the privilege of growing in faith and helping others grow in relationship with Jesus.

Your partner in spiritual growth,



“...God is using this ministry to expand His Kingdom in Russia, Ukraine, and elsewhere.”

-REV. SERGEI SOSEDKIN

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT
RUSSIAN

BTGMI RUSSIAN MINISTRY:

- **BEGAN IN 1980**
- Broadcasts **13 AUDIO PROGRAMS** to **9 COUNTRIES**
- **12,000 PEOPLE** responded to the Gospel call at youth rallies hosted in Ukraine
- Employs **6 STAFF**
- Has ministry centers in **MOSCOW** and **ST. PETERSBURG**
- Is directed by Russian ministry leader, **REV. SERGEI SOSEDKIN**, who has been with BTGMI since **2002**



VADIM is a young Russian journalist living in Yekaterinburg, Russia. He spends his free time in the company of friends, some of whom are Christians. Two years ago these Christian friends invited him to attend a ministry conference hosted by the Back to God Ministries Russian outreach.

Because local churches do most of the follow-up, our ministry staff doesn’t often hear how dramatically lives are touched through evangelistic events. But, the Holy Spirit was working in Vadim’s heart that day.

“Every conference we host has an evangelistic component,” explains Rev. Sergei Sosedkin, Russian ministry leader for BTGMI. “That is our requirement.” So it’s no surprise that God used this particular event to prompt Vadim to explore and learn more about the Christian faith.

It wasn’t until a more recent gathering held at a local church this past spring that Vadim found a BTGMI staff member and shared how the previous event shaped his life.

“This time,” recalls Sergei, “Vadim approached our staff to thank us for bringing the Gospel into his life. He told us that since he responded to God’s call two years ago, he and his wife joined a local evangelical church.”

Now Vadim is actively involved with the missionary and diaconal activities of his congregation.

“Vadim’s story encouraged me personally,” shares Sosedkin. “Even though in many cases we don’t hear from people who found salvation through our work, we can be assured that our sovereign God is using this ministry to expand His Kingdom in Russia, Ukraine, and elsewhere.” 🙏

“THE ONE WHO PLANTS AND THE ONE WHO WATERS HAVE ONE PURPOSE...” 1 Corinthians 3:8

ARABIC

GROWTH IN 2017

- Met with potential ministry partners in the Middle East.
- Continued conversations with Words of Hope for future direction of ministry in the Middle East.

SEEDS TO PLANT

- Relaunch Arabic ministry to Muslims through media outreach with new partners.



CHINESE

GROWTH IN 2017

- Distributed 20,000 Gospel booklets to young believers and seekers.
- Expanded digital outreach through apps, social media, web, and email.
- Hosted or participated in eleven evangelical or new media ministry conferences.

SEEDS TO PLANT

- Expand our impact and leadership opportunities in new media to increase partnerships among the Chinese-speaking Christian community.



ENGLISH

GROWTH IN 2017

- Created *Kids Corner* mobile app.
- Increased online and digital traffic through e-book strategy and other initiatives.
- Maintained *Church Juice* outreach while searching for a new leader.



SEEDS TO PLANT

- Develop the prayer ministry outreach team to respond to the growing audience who contacts us for prayer.

FRENCH

GROWTH IN 2017

- Launched French broadcast ministry with partners in Niger.
- Expanded broadcast and volunteer follow-up teams into four new regions in Burkina Faso.
- Increased the number of participants and graduates in the Bible study courses.

SEEDS TO PLANT

- Develop a third series of broadcasts and Bible studies, this one on the theme of family.



HINDI

GROWTH IN 2017

- Hosted seven leadership training conferences plus gatherings for seekers and new believers throughout northern India.
- Expanded outreach in Bhutan and other regions resistant to Christianity.
- Distributed devotional materials and discipleship resources to seekers, new believers, pastors, and other Christian workers.

SEEDS TO PLANT

- Expand outreach in Hindi speaking regions of northern India.



INDONESIAN

GROWTH IN 2017

- Increased web traffic by 50% through additions and improvements made on the ministry website.
- Experienced growth in discipleship material distribution.
- Celebrated the baptism of numerous new believers who came to faith through the outreach of listener communities.



SEEDS TO PLANT

- Launch a new children's TV program to provide spiritual guidance for children and their families.

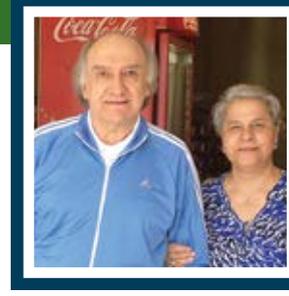
PORTUGUESE RUSSIAN

GROWTH IN 2017

- Celebrated 35 years of producing and distributing *Cada Dia* devotionals for more than 440,000 readers.
- Continued to expand the number of social media followers on twelve ministry sites.
- Challenge from last year: Produce podcasts to equip our leadership audience with biblical concepts and messages true to the Christian faith.

SEEDS TO PLANT

- Develop mobile apps for several of our programs to expand outreach.



JAPANESE

GROWTH IN 2017

- Produced a new video series, *The Church in My Town*, for distribution on social media and local church websites.
- Hosted five listener events for nearly 300 isolated believers and seekers.
- Concluded a year of special broadcasting to Kumamoto following the April 2016 earthquake; saw new believers come to faith through this outreach.



SEEDS TO PLANT

- Continue to produce monthly video programs to help connect seekers with local churches.

SPANISH

GROWTH IN 2017

- Promoted the *Cada Dia* app and email distribution, increasing the number of followers to 5,047.
- Completed 100 new episodes of the children's audio program, *Las Aventuras de Elisardo*, now broadcast on 120 stations in 15 countries.

- Partnered with Radio Moody to produce a new online audio program for families.

SEEDS TO PLANT

- Launch a new web and TV video program to address the needs of families in Latin America.



GROWTH IN 2017

- Increased our web presence through three blogs, online videos, social network communities and online radio.
- Partnered with local growing churches in several evangelistic youth rallies.
- Facilitated the distribution of follow-up resources for seekers who responded to our radio outreach and youth rallies.

SEEDS TO PLANT

- Continue working with local churches to sponsor youth rallies, connect seekers to a local church, and distribute Christian resources.
- Overcome challenges to register and incorporate our ministry in Russia.





“The Lord has used *Family Fire* to confirm what He has been speaking to me.” -NICOLE

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT ENGLISH

BTGMI ENGLISH MINISTRY:

- **BEGAN IN 1939** with the radio program *THE BACK TO GOD HOUR*
- Produces **6 PROGRAMS** offering diverse media experiences on a range of topics to help you grow spiritually
- Reaches more than **250,000 EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS**
- Employs **14 PAID STAFF** and more than **3,000 VOLUNTEERS**
- Is led by ReFrame Media director, **REV. STEVEN KOSTER**, who has been with BTGMI since **2006**



NICOLE and her husband married four years ago and share a blended family. Tragically, six months into their marriage, Nicole’s daughter took her own life.

It was at this time, Nicole found *Family Fire*.

“I was so overwhelmed with grief. I was desperately looking for answers to these questions I had, and the Lord used *Family Fire* to minister to me. The articles and resources have really seen me through my darkest days,” shares Nicole.

The deep depression and hurt experienced by the loss of Nicole’s daughter has presented challenges in her marriage. Her husband chose to leave their home

and she continues to seek guidance in her relationship through prayer and *Family Fire*.

“[The *Family Fire* staff] has been so faithful to pray with me and hold me up during this most difficult faith walk,” Nicole says. “The Lord has used *Family Fire* to confirm what He has been speaking to me. When I start to forget, I get messages of hope and encouragement from *Family Fire*.” ☺



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For nearly 80 years God has been providing the resources needed for Back to God Ministries International to proclaim the Gospel and help build Christ’s Kingdom. God has done this through generations of faithful donors, like you, who have invested in this vital media ministry.

In this past fiscal year we have been excited to see our general gifts increase by nearly 15%. We still face financial challenges that have an impact on ministry, but we praise God for this growth in general gifts! Thank you for giving sacrificially so that people around the world can encounter the good news of Jesus Christ. We are so grateful for your partnership.

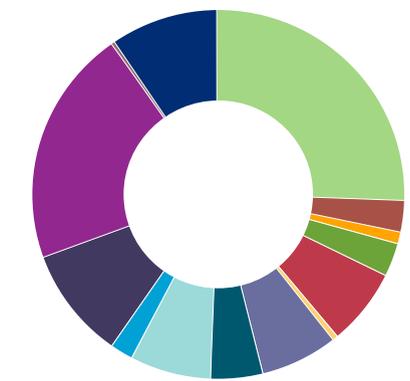
REVENUE

Ministry Shares	\$2,962,900	36.0%	
Above Ministry Shares			
General gifts	\$3,574,800	43.4%	
Estates/ appreciated assets	\$1,161,400	14.1%	
Other	\$529,700	6.4%	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$8,228,800		



EXPENSES

Program Expenses			
Arabic	\$500	0.0%	
Chinese	\$781,000	9.9%	
English	\$2,156,600	27.3%	
French	\$194,300	2.5%	
Hindi	\$117,200	1.5%	
Indonesian	\$198,600	2.5%	
Japanese	\$459,000	5.8%	
Korean	\$38,200	0.5%	
Portuguese	\$515,400	6.5%	
Russian	\$279,900	3.5%	
Spanish	\$682,400	8.6%	
Education	\$155,100	2.0%	
Management	\$931,100	11.8%	
Resource Development	\$1,391,800	17.6%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7,901,100		



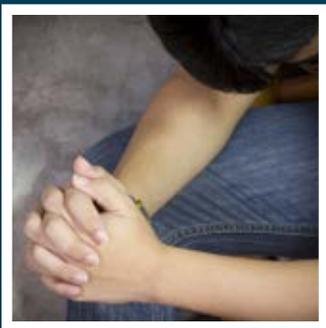
CONSIDER YOUR LEGACY

Do you want to have a greater and more lasting impact for God’s kingdom? You can by ensuring that your estate plan reflects what matters most to you.

Back to God Ministries International is blessed to have a special group of Legacy Partners who have committed to supporting God’s work through BTGMI with their legacy giving. We invite you to join this group and make communicating the good news of the Gospel part of your legacy.

Our partners at Barnabas Foundation (United States) and Christian Stewardship Services (Canada) have the expertise to help you craft an estate plan that protects your family and honors your values. BTGMI can help you arrange a no-cost consultation with one of these partners.

YOUR GIFTS ARE HELPING WILLIAM PLANT THE SEEDS OF FAITH



William is an inmate serving a life sentence. While incarcerated, he facilitates a faith and character program at the prison. He shares, "The *Today* devotional inspires me in God's Word each and every day. I share the day's devotion with the class of 120 men every morning, and most times the devotion ties in to the lesson we are learning for the day. Please keep sending me the devotionals so we can continue this blessing in our lives."



Back to God
Ministries International
backtgod.net

1700 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
616.942.9383

3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8
905.336.2920