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**Weaving a Team  
in Krakow From  
War-Torn Threads**

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Mission to the World



# Weaving a Team in Krakow From War-Torn Threads

## THREAD #1

Yuri and Olya Boiko headed for Italy in March 2022.



Olya and Yuri Boiko in Krakow

The Russian invasion had quickly threatened their home of Kharkiv, Ukraine, where Yuri Boiko was a ruling elder, so the contingency plan they never wanted was suddenly forced into effect. Yuri was allowed to accompany his family as the father of four kids. They and a few other people

headed to the promise of shelter and help in Milan.

Both cars broke down in Krakow, Poland.

While they waited turbulent days for the improbability of spare car parts and an available mechanic, they started looking around. There were thousands of Ukrainians in the city. A Presbyterian church plant—Christ the Savior, started by one of Yuri’s seminary classmates—was doing relief work. The Boikos jumped in to help the growing community of Krakow urbanites, internationals, and Ukrainian refugees looking for the comfort of worship in their own language.

They knew that thousands would stay and put down roots in Krakow and would need to join a Polish church and integrate into Polish society.

News filtered back to the Boikos that there might be problems for refugees in Milan, but by then it didn’t matter. They felt called to Christ the Savior’s growing ministry in this spiritually-hungry, intellectual center of Poland. “We had a certain plan in case of invasion, but the Lord changed our plans and led us in His ways,” Yuri said.

The Boikos are one of three families to join MTW’s new team in Krakow this year, a team woven together from threads torn out by the war.

MTW International Director for Europe, David Stoddard, says he is watching, amazed, as God opens doors in this new church-planting field. “There is no way we would have planned it like this.”

In 2019, as MTW leaders met to draft 10-year goals, they felt called to “pray God-sized prayers.”

“We put all our dreams on the table and asked God for all of it,” he said. “We asked that churches in the U.S. would send more missionaries. We asked for more churches planted, more

pastors, and more teachers. We asked God to open doors in new countries and new cities.

“Two months later, we were hit with a global pandemic and then the Russian invasion.

“If anything happened it would come from the Lord’s strength, not human strength. I’m thankful for how the Lord has worked through an atrocious situation to open doors of opportunity. It is His creativity making things happen.”

Krakow has a rich history traceable through its 13th-century Cloth Hall, crumbling Soviet-era apartments and factories, and gleaming new steel and glass offices. And it has deep war wounds from invasions by Mongols, Swedes, Austrian, French, Germans, and most recently the Soviet Union. But for the past 18 months, Krakow has been a hub of a different kind. It is

conduit for relief work through Christ the Savior Presbyterian Church and its local church planter, Sasko Nezamutdinov.



Joel Spence (left) with some of the convoy drivers

## THREAD #2

Even with increased talk of war, in early 2022 Joel Spence was

still planning to serve in Russia. Then he got a call at home in Texas: Can you be in Krakow in two days? And for the rest of that year, Joel served as the convoy commander and logistics operations manager for the Krakow crisis team—a team that evacuated Ukrainian church members, provided them with long-term housing, and distributed humanitarian aid to Ukrainians both in Krakow and western Ukraine.

Time on the road was time away from church, and he began to ache for corporate worship and preaching. So he asked to start an English language Bible study in Krakow. Soon the people in his group asked him to stay.

One Sunday after he served communion, a man from the church approached him. “Brother, you speak the truth. You speak the gospel. You need to stay here. This is where God wants you.”

“And my first reaction was, I think he’s right. So I went off by myself to listen for an internal call to stay in Poland.”



Sasko Nezamutdinov (left) conducts a baptism with Mikael Romer.

## THREAD #3

Mikael and Zuzanna Romer had initially planned to join MTW’s team in Lviv, Ukraine, where they would learn from an older team for a few years. The couple, who met in the U.S. and shared a passion for church planting in Europe, planned to eventually move to Poland. But certainly not right away.

Zuzanna, the only Polish native on the new team, said that growing up, she didn’t have a solid gospel church to go to. “I wasn’t bitter or disappointed ... It was something I never expected.” But there was a lack of Bible knowledge in her early church experience. “Faith was a list of rules that we needed to live by.”

But the Lviv team relocated to Krakow and when the Romers joined them, their vision expanded.

Seeing the large Ukrainian population in the city, they saw this as a ripe moment in time to introduce people to a deeper picture of faith. >>

**Even with increased talk of war, in early 2022 Joel Spence was still planning to serve in Russia. Then he got a call at home in Texas: Can you be in Krakow in two days?**



# Krakow wasn't one of the 100 cities in Europe that MTW had in mind ... The war thrust it into the limelight. But it's normal for missionaries to end up doing something other than what they planned.

>> “As one who has been mentored and counseled so well, I would love to share that with others in my country,” Zuzanna said. “Polish people take time to trust others. They need to be able to spend time together other than Sundays. They need hospitality. When you show them hospitality, it opens the door for showing their hearts and struggles.”



Zuzanna continued, “At some point, both of us felt convinced to stay here. We prayed through it and felt 100% sure.”

Mikael compares Krakow today to how his native Finland felt 30 years ago. The younger generation is adopting a far more secular view of life, whereas the older

generation doesn't want anything that could lead away from traditional Polish life or toward fanaticism where you “are taking Jesus too seriously.”

When Mikael was a teenager, he wanted to be the St. Paul of the Baltic, or at least somewhere with a lot of snow.

When he talks with people about faith, he highlights the importance of Scripture and of knowing Christ. People don't know that they can go to the Bible for real answers.

The three threads of this new team are now woven into Christ the Savior Presbyterian Church. Founding pastor Sasko Nezamutdinov is well-placed to minister to a Polish-Ukrainian international congregation in Krakow. He grew up in Lviv—which was part of Poland until 1991—during Soviet rule. He also gently points out that people in Ukraine have been at or threatened by war with Russia since 2014. The military and political upheaval is sadly common.

But he doesn't think Poland has ever had a moment like this. “It is now polarized and society is splitting.”

## AN UNRAVELING RELIGION

Historically, Poland is a very Catholic country. The Catholic church was seen as the institution that held the country's culture, language, and values. It was the symbol of free Poland when the country didn't have its own government, and it stood up to Communism.

“But this generation today doesn't remember the Catholic church as the hero,” Sasko said. “They were raised on Netflix and news of church scandals; they view the Catholic church as an evil monster. They are interested in other views on religion, or they are throwing off religion in general.”

He added, “A lot of visitors to the church come just curious to see who we are.”

Sasko started Christ the Savior in 2015 in partnership with Redeemer City to City and other European organizations. It started with just 15 people and doubled during the pandemic. It doubled again during the initial weeks of the invasion, and the congregation reflects the international flair of the city. There are more than a dozen nationalities in the 50 members.

Sasko started a literature project to get theological resources in Polish into people's hands. The most popular? Calvin's Institutes.

As it turns out, Sasko had been praying for a deeper relationship with MTW, David said.

After the 2022 invasion, He suddenly found himself in the center of MTW volunteers, teams, and humanitarian aid crates.

Since then, the church has been a shelter and stop-over point for thousands of people. It has served food, distributed clothing, set up shelters, arranged transportation, and run kids' Bible programs. Yuri runs the teen ministry, Vibe, for Ukrainian youth who are still in the city.

## A FLEXIBLE WEAVE

Krakow wasn't one of the 100 cities in Europe that MTW had in mind, David said. The war thrust it into the limelight. But it's normal for missionaries to end up doing something other than what they planned.



Joel Spence (left) with the English Bible study group he started.

We have to be Semper Gumby, David joked, but more seriously put, have resilience and flexibility to go where the Lord leads. “Our missionaries in Ukraine, Russia, Czech Republic, and throughout the region have shown that.”

He and the regional leadership decided to transform short-term relief into long-term service.

The team displays the mastery of the Weaver—a new design made from threads that were painfully pulled from other places. He redirected a family en route to Italy, a man headed to Russia, and a couple initially headed to Ukraine, to serve Him in Poland instead. None had immediately planned to serve in Krakow at this point in time, but now they are at work supporting a church planter who did. Together they serve the Maker who continues to show that He is weaving His kingdom even through the tribulations of a war-torn world. [n](#)

# "GO WHERE THE BATTLE IS RAGING"

## MTW Missionaries Share Stories of Spiritual Warfare

**MTW missionary Eowyn Stoddard had only been asleep a few minutes when she was jostled awake by something shaking the bed. She turned to see her husband, David, thrashing against something they couldn't see.**

Something unnatural was going on and it wasn't the first time this had happened. On several occasions, David said that he felt an evil spirit either strangling his neck or placing an enormous weight on his chest. "Either way, the effects at the time felt life threatening," said David, who serves as MTW's international director for Europe.

This is just one example of the way the enemy assaulted and intimidated the MTW missionaries serving in Berlin. Whether it was a personal attack or dealing with the pervasive darkness in the city, each missionary experienced different forms of spiritual oppression.

Yet against a bleak spiritual backdrop, God equipped them to help push back the forces of darkness. Through a robust ministry of prayer, the Holy Spirit protected the team from Satan's schemes and enabled them to advance the Church around the city.

### STEPPING INTO THE BATTLE

"Don't forget what Martin Luther said: 'Go where the battle is raging.'"

So said Eowyn's father, former MTW missionary and seminary professor Peter Jones, encouraging her and David to serve in Berlin after they both graduated from Westminster Seminary California. The Stoddards knew that every Christian, no matter where they are, is engaged in a spiritual war. But they were unprepared for the all-out brawl that awaited them in Berlin.

When they arrived in East Berlin in 2001, the city met them with a feeling of dejection. The legacy of World War II clung to the city like a persistent stain. East Berlin had just emerged from the oppressive thumb of the Soviet Union. The communist government had successfully stifled all public displays of worship and the few believers in the city had been forced to meet underground. Atheism was the primary belief system, and Satan-worship was a prevalent practice. All of this contributed to a climate of spiritual darkness that Berlin team member Pamyla Burrack said "hung over the city like a wet blanket."

If Satan's goal is to blind people to God's kingdom of light, it seemed he had Berlin exactly where he wanted it. It made

sense that he would put extra effort in preventing Christian missionaries from spreading the message of the gospel.

According to Pamyla, an inexplicable sickness was one of the enemy's main tactics to keep the missionaries from focusing on ministry. Just after the Stoddards arrived in Berlin, David got sicker than he had ever been in his life and had to be quarantined. The devil unleashed a violent assault on Pamyla when she went into a coma due to a life-threatening infection in her right lung.

The doctors were able to treat Pamyla's infection while she was in a coma but they never found the cause. She wants to keep the details of what she experienced during the coma private, but Pamyla has no doubt that it was a Satanic assault that forever changed—and strengthened—her faith, and her belief in



David and Eowyn Stoddard in Berlin

the power of prayer. Though no one experienced an illness as intense as Pamyla's, every family on MTW's Berlin team came down with a sickness the doctors had trouble diagnosing.

"Obviously there might be a naturalistic explanation for [the sicknesses]" said Eowyn. "But what we noticed is that when weird things start piling up you start to think that maybe something is off here."

And weird things started piling up.

The Stoddards had liters of urine poured into their baby stroller and blood splattered across their apartment door. Another missionary family's daughter was randomly hit by a bus. >>

**“You’re just overwhelmed. You’re dealing with personal attack and just feeling helpless. Then when you looked at the church you saw so little happening. ... to realize that there is absolutely nothing that is going to happen here—and especially nothing that is going to happen here through us—unless the Holy Spirit does something very powerful.”**

>> (She thankfully walked away unscathed.) Their cars would break down for no apparent reason. Everyone struggled with poor sleep and the enemy used vivid nightmares as another form of attack on the Stoddards’ 2-year old son.

“For many months he’d wake up screaming bloody murder, and we could not easily settle him back down,” Eowyn wrote in a 2013 article for The Gospel Coalition. Eventually, he was able to describe his dream. He said that a woman with red eyes and black hair dressed in a bra and black pants would offer him a basket of rotten fruit and force him to eat.

While dealing with these personal attacks, MTW missionaries also had to navigate the darkness that permeated Berlin. For instance, it was common for the team to find unraveled cassette tapes around the city. Satanists would record curses on the cassettes, unravel the tape, and attach it to the places they wanted to curse.

Visiting Christians also perceived the darkness. MTW’s missionaries often took visitors on prayer walks around the city. There were several times when participants were unable to approach certain places—a bridge where Jews were funneled to concentration camps, a children’s playground covered in demonic symbols—before they knew about their significance.

### WIELDING THE POWER OF PRAYER

How did the missionaries deal with so much darkness? As Eowyn said there is no “Demon 101” seminary class.

Led by the team leaders, Ken and Tammie Matlack, the team combated the spiritual opposition with prayer. And they prayed like they never prayed before.



Tammie Matlack leads a time of prayer during a Berlin vision trip.

When the Stoddards’ son was experiencing nightmares, team members came over and prayed that he would sleep peacefully and God would not allow any evil to enter his bedroom. They consistently prayed over Berlin’s darkest locations on their prayer walks. Everyone—missionaries, national pastors,

church members—came and prayed for Pamyla while she was in a coma. Whenever someone sensed an evil presence near them, they refused to be intimidated. They just prayed.

And God answered their prayers.

The Stoddards son’s nightmares became less frightening and eventually stopped. Pamyla survived her infection and the spiritual attack. And they refused to give in. If a child on the team fell sick before the evangelistic meetings the Stoddards held in their home (and someone always did), they didn’t cancel.

According to David, witnessing answered prayer during personal encounters with darkness emboldened the team to pray for the spiritual oppression that weighed down the entire city.

“You’re just overwhelmed. You’re dealing with personal attack and just feeling helpless. Then when you looked at the church you saw so little happening. ... to realize that there is absolutely nothing that is going to happen here—and especially nothing that is going to happen here through us—unless the Holy Spirit does something very powerful.”

Just like God used their prayers to protect them in particular instances of spiritual warfare, He also used their prayers to push back the forces of darkness that gripped Berlin. And He answered their prayer for the spirit of the city in concrete ways—the closing of an occult shop after years of prayer, for example. But mainly they saw prayers answered through the growth of the Church.

After years of trying to plant a church in the northern part of Berlin, the team established one in the old quarters of the East German communist government. The church plant met in a former neo-Nazi bar that had been empty for seven years.

“Everyone knew what it was and knew why it had been empty. And then to see a church being planted in that space to me reminds me that is what God is about—pushing darkness back. And He often does it with redemptive humor,” said David.

God also used the 2016–2017 European refugee crisis to breathe new life into Berlin and increase the Church’s influence. First,



The church actively reached out to minister to refugees

the government supported the Church’s relief efforts giving it a public platform it never had before.

Second, the refugee crisis helped another MTW church plant flourish. Iranian and Afghani Christians flooded to this multi-cultural church plant saying God had led them to the church through a dream. The Christian refugees were eager to engage in the life of the church and outreach to the city.

These are just two examples of the church ministry MTW’s Berlin team was involved in. Over the course of 30 years, they helped plant five churches, start a refugee ministry, and establish a campus of Martin Bucer seminary.

### LEAVING A LEGACY OF HOPE

The battle is still raging in Berlin and like any battle, there are casualties. Not all the church plants are healthy. It is still considered the atheistic capital of Europe. It has not shaken all the elements of spiritual darkness. And earlier this year, God made it clear that it was time to wrap up MTW missionaries’ ministry in the city.

But they leave knowing God did not and will not waste their time. From 1993 to 2023, they were faithful to pray against the evil forces present in their own lives and throughout the city. They can point to specific ways God used their prayers to snuff out the darkness and advance the Church. While there is no way to measure the correlation between their work and the greater kingdom impact, they can confidently say that it is a more spiritually hopeful place today than it was when they arrived. [11](#)

# Leaving My Life of

# “Anything Goes”

**I THOUGHT GOOD WAS GOOD ENOUGH**



Julie Choi (third from left) with Harbour City Church members preparing food for an ordination dinner

What does it mean to be a Christian? I thought I knew, but I didn't. At least not until God called me out of the darkness and into the light when I heard the gospel preached at Student Outreach to the World, a campus ministry started by MTW missionary Jim Jung.



The SOW group at camp in 2011

I was born and raised in Sydney, Australia. If you travel around Sydney, there's a good chance you'll see beautiful, historic church buildings, some dating back hundreds of years. On the census, many will identify as Christian, but very few attend church. One Australian scholar describes Australia as a "post-post Christian pagan" society. It's post-Christian, but to the point that it's post-post Christian. The Christian past that used to be evident in Australian culture is so far removed that people are now operating without a clear cultural tradition. Anything goes.

And this is the type of Christianity I grew up with. Anything goes. What did it mean for me to be Christian? I didn't know.

But I thought I did. I ticked the box of Christianity. I went to church. I tried to be good. I did "Christian" things.

I lived life without grace. When I became a university student and got my first taste of adult freedoms, I started going out more and seeking the things of the world. But I was still a good Christian, right? I wasn't a terrible person. Surely, my good outweighed the bad. This is what it meant for me to be Christian. Anything goes, but I tried my best to be good.

That's when I was invited to Student Outreach to the World, a university ministry begun by MTW missionaries. My cousin invited me to the regular weekly meetings, so I went here and there but then stopped going. I was already Christian, wasn't I? I didn't need this, too.

And then he invited me to SOW Camp, which is when all the campuses have a retreat together during the summer holiday. I reluctantly gave it a shot and that changed everything.

## **FINDING TRUE FAITH AND A CALLING TO SERVE**

At SOW Camp, I heard the true gospel preached and the Spirit gave me life. I was confronted by my sin, confronted by the gospel, confronted by amazing grace that would send Jesus to the cross for my sake.

I was saved by grace and brought into union with Christ. I knew now what it meant to be part of God's people, to be fully known and loved by the Creator. I knew that I was a Christian. >>

**The Christian past that used to be evident in Australian culture is so far removed that people are now operating without a clear cultural tradition. Anything goes.**



David and Julie Choi

**Never did I think I'd be on the verge of dating a foreigner but especially not a missionary. I had specifically told God that I did not want to marry anyone in ministry or missions. That wasn't the life for me. But God had been working in me in ways I didn't realize.**

>> This was the start of my journey as a disciple. God convicted me to serve the ministry that He had used to save me. I became a regular and then one of the student leaders. I would later invite my younger sisters and friends to SOW. It only seemed natural to share about the place where God met me with others.

Never did I think I'd be on the verge of dating a foreigner but especially not a missionary. I had specifically told God that I did not want to marry anyone in ministry or missions. That wasn't the life for me. But God had been working in me in ways I didn't realize.

We got married right at the start of the COVID lockdowns in March 2020 in a joyous but humble living room wedding in my parents' home. I never thought I'd get married without shoes on, with peanut butter and vegemite on a counter behind me, and the family dog in attendance. But God knew.

But what did it mean for me to be a missionary in my home country? I wasn't sure. Sometimes I'm still not sure.

This is something I'm still exploring and learning, but what I'm finding is that missionary life, aside from the cross-cultural barriers my husband deals with, is not all that different from what God calls all Christians to. He calls us to Himself, but He also calls us to serve Him and one another, to advance the kingdom, to proclaim the gospel, to grow the Church. I am thankful that this is a task for all believers. As God's people, this is what we're called to do.

And I'm even more thankful that Jesus promised, before commanding us to go and make disciples, that all authority in heaven and on earth is His, and that He gave us the reassurance that He is with us always to the end of the age.

So, what does it mean to be a Christian? I think part of it is to be obedient to the gospel mandate that Jesus gave us. And I am forever grateful that others before me were obedient and brought the gospel to my campus and my country. And I am humbled that it is now our privilege to continue to support ministries like SOW and the work that God is doing down under. 🇺🇸



David and Julie present their ministry at their home church New Life Presbyterian in Orange County, California.

But as I continued to grow in my faith, it became clearer that "anything goes" teaching by a church meant that it did not have a right and proper stance toward the holy, inspired, inerrant Word of God. The campus ministry was vital in reaching out to students like me, and going to where I was lost, but I'm thankful that SOW did not ever claim to be the church and instead stressed the importance of the church. As my time as a student finished, it became clear that I needed to continue my faith journey at a new church where the true gospel was preached.

After graduating, I became a social worker. SOW was behind me now. It had served its temporary purpose in reaching university students like me. But little did I know what God had planned.

### **CALLED TO MINISTRY AND MARRIAGE**

My cousin who invited me to SOW all those years ago would become a pastor and continue to serve the ministry for many years alongside MTW missionary Jim Jung. And years after my time as a student, another MTW missionary arrived in Sydney. That's when my cousin introduced me to David Choi.

As David told me more about Mission to the World and his calling as a missionary, that's when I first found out that it was thanks to foreign missionaries coming from America that SOW started. It was because of missions into Sydney that I came to faith. As I spent more time with David, as we got to know each other and as I learned more about missions in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands, I wondered about that wish I had not to marry a missionary. This time I wasn't being confronted by the gospel, but by the calling of marriage and missions.

# Multiply.

## Global Missions Conference

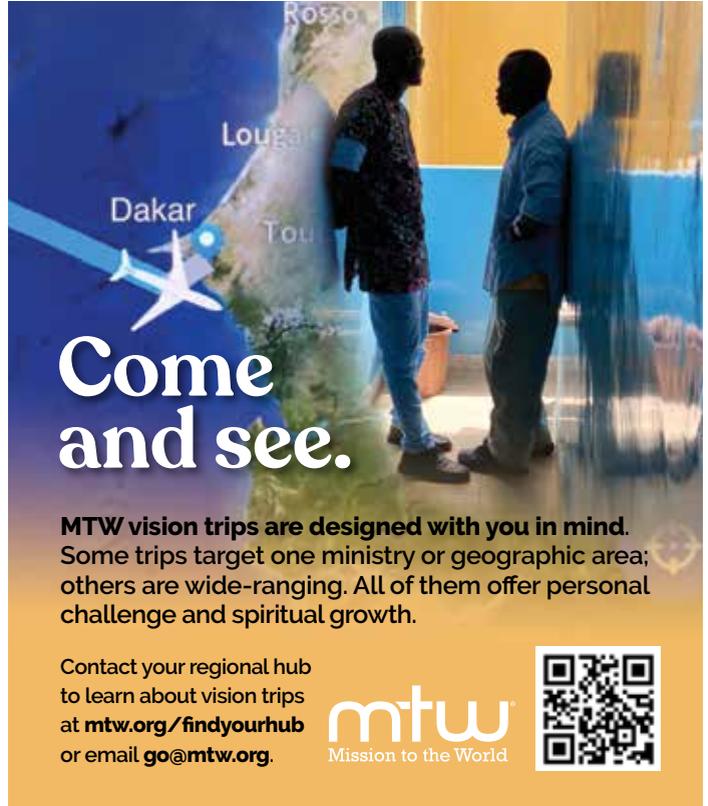
Coming to Atlanta, Georgia, November 1-3, 2024, Hyatt Regency  
Details coming: [mtw.org/gmc](https://mtw.org/gmc)




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# DISCOVERING A HIDDEN CHURCH

## A 1960s RADIO MINISTRY BECOMES THE CATALYST FOR A 200-CHURCH DENOMINATION

BY: CHELSEA ROLLMAN

If you were to travel back in time to 1960s southern Peru, you would step into a world untouched by the modernization that was happening in the rest of the globe. You would find yourself far away from any bustling metropolis with their highways, buildings, and technology.

Instead, you would be surrounded by varying terrain—from the towering peaks of the Andes mountains to the lush vegetation of the rainforest. If you explored a little more, you might come across the tiny villages nestled in the region's mountain valleys, canyons, and jungle. Here the Quechua people resided in small settlements, far from the reach of modern civilization.

This is where MTW Cusco missionary Keith Powlison grew up. His family served as missionaries in southern Peru with MTW's predecessor, World Presbyterian Missions, during the 1960s and 70s to work with the Quechua people—an unreached people group that most of the world didn't know existed at the time.

**Many of the Quechua settlements did not even have a road leading to the village. The villages that did were perilous to access. ... The easiest and most efficient way to reach the Quechua people with the gospel was through the radio.**

During his childhood Keith watched his parents and WPM missionaries deliver the gospel to the remote Quechua villages. But it would be years before he discovered the full impact of his parents' work.

### AMPLIFYING WISDOM THROUGH RADIO

In 1967, Keith's family moved to Huanta, Peru, to help WPM missionaries and some local Quechua pastors develop a radio ministry called Radio Amauta ("amauta" means "wise one" in Quechua). Keith was 12. He remembers their little town only had electricity for a few hours in the evening. It was just powerful enough to dimly light their house. There was no internet, no cell phones, no computers, and no email. Many

of the Quechua settlements did not even have a road leading to the village. The villages that did were perilous to access. The WPM missionaries and Quechua pastors figured the easiest and most efficient way to reach the Quechua people with the gospel was through the radio.

Operating out of a basement, the Radio Amauta team used a generator, a 250-watt transmitter, and a Lazy H antenna system to transmit Bible programs, sermons, and community



A Quechua woman walks through her village.

announcements in the Quechua language over shortwave radio. They delivered pre-tuned radios to people living in the Quechua villages throughout the region.

For the next decade, Radio Amauta continued to grow and develop. Keith's father, Hugh, worked tirelessly in a garage to engineer and build a more powerful transmitter for the radio ministry. Meanwhile, Keith spent his teenage years playing soccer and croquet with the other missionary kids and Quechua children—oblivious to the fact that this close-knit community of his childhood would come into play long into adulthood. >>



## DISCOVERING SHORTWAVE RADIO HAS A LONG REACH

>> In the early 1970s, Keith returned to the U.S. for college at Columbia International University (then known as Columbia Bible College), where he met his wife, Ruth. After graduating, getting married, and serving in two other Latin America countries, Keith returned with Ruth to Peru in 1998 to serve on an MTW team in Cusco, about 150 miles as the crow flies from where he grew up. Back in Huanta, Radio Amauta had full-time staff that continued to oversee the radio program from their ministry headquarters. Though Keith kept in touch with them, he and MTW's Cusco team focused on the region's other ministry needs such as church planting, leadership development, and medical missions.

By Keith's own admission, the MTW Cusco team is full of adventurers who love to go off-roading in four-wheel-drive trucks. The varied landscape of southern Peru provided the rough terrain needed to add a little fun to their busy ministry lives.



Keith loads medical supplies into his four-wheel-drive truck.

It didn't take long for the MTW Cusco team to turn their escapades into medical caravans for the Quechua people in the region. Access to healthcare was one of the main challenges for the people in southern Peru. This issue was amplified for people in the Quechua villages who lived in the remotest parts of the region. There were now roads leading to most of these villages, but they were still difficult to travel.

Keith and the team would take medical supplies to these places and set up small clinics. Sometimes the team would deliver food, blankets, and other supplies to help villagers in the mountains prepare for a harsh winter: Though it didn't happen often, a fierce snowstorm could put them on the brink of survival, killing all their animals and blocking all their roads.

The teams considered ministry in remote villages an adventurous challenge. "We would get these doctors—they called themselves the A-team—and we would go to the most crazy places," said Keith. "We would winch each other out of these horrible swampy bogs that were supposed to be roads."

Once Keith traveled to a place called "Chiripampa," which means "cold, flat place" in Quechua. Something was different about this village. He noticed everything was well-organized and that the people were polite and thankful for the help.

He learned there was a church in the Quechua village and many of the people were Christians. He was surprised that these people, who lived far removed from the rest of society, had not only heard the gospel, but also had planted a church.

Then they told him, "Well, we listen to Radio Amauta."

Keith was astonished. "You've got to be kidding! I'm actually the son of one of the people that helped start Radio Amauta," he exclaimed.

As the medical trips continued to various settlements, more villagers emerged as avid listeners and Radio Amauta's impact was much bigger than Keith had imagined. Eventually, he learned that the radio ministry was responsible for hundreds of conversions among these isolated Quechua people. These Christians formed churches, which had organized into a denomination of about 200 congregations scattered throughout the region.

And it all started decades earlier in a basement with a transmitter built in a garage.

## EQUIPPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP

As they got to know the current situation of these congregations, the MTW team learned that many of the Quechua pastors and elders were worried about the future of their church.



A Quechua village, high in the Andes



Keith with the present day Radio Amauta staff

The existing leaders were aging, and they were struggling to train the next generation of leaders. Other villages wanted to plant a church but needed direction. And accessing church planting and leadership development materials is an ongoing challenge because of these churches' locations.

Keith recognized the need to step back into the world of his childhood. Radio Amauta—which had faithfully continued broadcasting over the decades—was still an effective and reliable way to reach Quechua Christians with gospel-centered resources.

"Story after story began to convince me that what was going on in 1967 was still strategic today because some of those places are still hard to get to," he said.

Keith approached the Radio Amauta staff with a plan to expand the ministry's capacity. First, he and the staff are working to broadcast more content, and Keith is using his network to get more pastors involved in Radio Amauta. Second, they are going to invite younger Quechua church members to start listening to training programs. They are specifically encouraging young men to prepare themselves to be the next generation of ruling and teaching elders.

"This last trip I actually had the opportunity to help train about 150 Quechua-speaking leaders for about two days. And it would be much easier for the radio to do it because I got sick and barely made it home," said Keith. Using the radio ministry to train leaders is far more efficient.

## AN ENDURING LEGACY REMAINS VITAL

Back in the 1970s, the WPM missionaries passed Radio Amauta's reins to national leadership. Since its start almost 60 years ago, Radio Amauta has developed beyond shortwave radio into a ministry with an FM radio station, a social media presence on several platforms, and a website that offers streaming services.

MTW Cusco and Radio Amauta's plans for leadership training are still coming together, and a special grant from MTW donors has kickstarted this new expansion of the radio ministry. But the legacy that Keith's father helped shape in 1967 remains vital today. Using a simple radio, missionaries built a bridge between the isolated Quechua people and the broader Church. Every day the gospel crosses that bridge into the hearts and lives of the Quechua people. [▶](#)

To help support Radio Amauta, visit [www.mtw.org/projects](http://www.mtw.org/projects) and search for "Peru Radio Amauta 94760."



# Go Deeper.



**Spend your summer exploring faith and missions.** MTW mentored internships are hosted in different cities around the world—from Brussels and Tokyo to Bogota and Madrid. Serve and learn alongside MTW missionaries as they minister. Learn more at [mtw.org/interns](https://mtw.org/interns)



## network

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**Our vision:** The gospel of the kingdom advancing throughout the world  
**Our mission:** Making disciples among all nations

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# photo feature



Marketing and Communications Director Amy Glass took this photo of MTW videographer Tom Mills as he interviewed summer intern Rorie Phillips in front of the Cinquantenaire Arcade in Brussels, Belgium. The Brussels internship and the videography are both examples of MTW's global ministry.

## How will you steward God's gifts?



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## FROM THE COORDINATOR

# Bless Us That We May Bless Others

At the beginning of Psalm 67, the psalmist stands before God and prays, “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.” The psalmist knows that he and his people have a long track record of unfaithfulness and rebellion toward God. He also knows that God is a God of mercy and grace and so he boldly asks God to bless him and his people.

But the psalmist is not simply asking for God’s blessing for their own enjoyment. He is asking for God’s blessing so that they can be a blessing to the nations. The psalmist desires to see what God wants to see—the nations reconciled to Him and blessed by the rule and reign of Jesus. And the psalmist knows that he and the nation of Israel—God’s chosen people—are the means God uses to extend His grace throughout creation.

The heart of this psalm is a prayer for God to make His name known, for all peoples to praise Him, and for the nations to be glad and sing for joy. This only happens when those of us who have been blessed and have experienced His grace make His way known on the earth.

God has blessed us richly and lavishly through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Psalm 67 seems to indicate that the reason God has blessed us is so that we can be a blessing to all the nations. *God uses us to bear witness to His saving power. We are the means God chooses to bring people who are lost, who are hurting, and who are sick to a place where they can find healing and recovery in God’s kingdom.* We are invited to invite others into a covenant relationship with God.

This is what we strive to do at MTW. Our donors, missionaries, staff, and national partners are working together to make God’s way known on the earth. Together we steward our blessings to advance the kingdom and extend God’s grace throughout creation by bringing the good news of the gospel to the nations.

Let us continue to ask how God might use us to advance His kingdom among the nations. Like the psalmist, let us boldly pray for God to bless us so that we might be a blessing to the nations. [n](#)

*Lloyd Kim*



Dr. Lloyd Kim



WEAVING FROM  
WAR-TORN  
THREADS



“GO WHERE  
THE BATTLE  
IS RAGING”



LEAVING  
MY LIFE OF  
“ANYTHING GOES”



DISCOVERING  
A HIDDEN  
CHURCH