



“ WE ALSO AIM TO ESTABLISH CLOSER TIES
WITH THESE SMALL RADIO STATIONS ”

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Dear friends,

The promise of the future

In his standard book on eschatology “The Promise of the Future”, Dr. Cornelis Venema from Mid-America Reformed Seminary writes (p.126): *The preaching of the gospel is perhaps the single most important sign of the times. It is the evidence of the triumph of God’s gracious purposes in history, preparing the way for the coming again of the Lord of glory, much as John the Baptist did for his first coming.* In the current international turmoil in which we find ourselves, we should do well to remember this sobering though glorious reminder, particularly as other signs of the time may easily lead us to despair. In Matthew 24:12-14, Jesus warns his disciples that because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. It is striking that the very next statement of our Lord in this passage concerns the gospel of the kingdom that will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Are we keeping pace with the agenda set by the Lord, even though lawlessness is on the increase and the love of many growing cold? Are we adjusting our own agendas accordingly?

Helping African radio stations

Those of you who have been following the work of RFL for the last 10 or 15 years may remember that helping Christian radio stations in Mali (West Africa) has been a particular focus of our ministry. These have been flourishing over the last 25 years, despite an ongoing struggle against separatist Tuareg groups and the never-ending Jihad war in the North. Radio Tahanint in Timbuktu has specially needed our support through these years, as they came directly (and literally!) under fire when Jihadists attacked the city on more than one occasion. At one stage we financed the work replacing of an essential cable linking the transmitter to the main relay tower. On other occasions we provided other kinds of logistic support. Two years ago we made it possible for their director to attend a conference of Christian radio stations in Kenya.



Some Christians mark their tiny
traditional huts with a cross

Today, with the help of South African partner organizations such as FEBA Radio and Africa by Radio, Radio Tahanint finds itself at the heart of a growing network of small Christian radio stations (10 to 15, with a radius of about 60 kms each) operating in the larger vicinity of Timbuktu. In a predominantly Muslim environment they form a kind of Christian belt which it will be vital to support in future if they are to keep operating and reach out to the local populations with the Gospel. Needless to say, they are facing a host of challenges and great dangers. Drawing from our Mali fund we are about to allow for Radio Tahanint to purchase a sturdy motorcycle so they can travel from one place to another without risking mechanical failure in a very inhospitable environment (the Sahel region). In time we aim to establish closer ties with these small radio stations, which operate with one or two technicians at the most.

“ MISSION IS
TRANS-MISSION,
ALSO IN OUR
IMMEDIATE
ENVIRONMENT ”

The challenge of Christian education

A few days ago Foi et Vie Réformées held its annual general assembly, this year via visioconference. It is a joy to see that several Reformed-minded young French people have joined our organization, some of them very keen to receive solid theological training with a view to ministering to the French one day, wherever the Lord will open a door for them. The theme of the transmission of a distinctly Christian education is also at the core of our preoccupations, in view of a public school system that is rapidly disintegrating, not only morally and culturally, but also in terms of general standards. We are planning a day's colloquium on this subject, which is of course the mark of a covenantal understanding of our Christian responsibility. This event will DV take place in Paris later this year on 20 November, shortly before the big annual get together of Evangelical churches and organizations in Paris, where Foi et Vie Réformées is also present. All the lectures and discussions will be filmed and later posted on our website.

Mission is definitely trans-mission, not only across geographical boundaries, but also in our immediate environment. What we preach and proclaim we have to entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2). Thank you for your prayers and continued support to help us reach this God-given mandate!

Rev. Eric Kayayan

A small Christian radio station in Mali



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