“God is in heaven and you are His angels,” a patient recently told ASM’s Mozambique Compassionate Care Team. As hospitals in the region prepare for the spread of COVID-19, unfortunately, some basic health care needs are not met. Fernando, a young teacher, called the Compassionate Care Team in desperation to see if they could help care for a complicated wound on his left leg. This wound caused Fernando great pain and left him immobile. He feared his leg would need to be amputated.

Because of your generosity to the 2019 Mozambique Container Project, our Compassionate Care Team is able to regularly clean and dress Fernando’s wound. Wound care supplies, blankets, hats, and other humanitarian supplies have allowed us to bless many of our patients. We are now watching, with privilege, God bring great physical healing for Fernando. On the second visit, our team brought Fernando an audio Bible. With great appreciation, Fernando thanked the team, through tears, for all they have blessed him with—including a blanket to fight the chilly winter months. With deep gratitude Fernando said, “I don’t know how to thank God enough for all you are doing for me.”

In places like Mozambique, people are weighed down by basic needs. Addressing these needs will often open doors for us to share the Word of God. We believe this holistic approach demonstrates a very real, deep love of Jesus for all those who are suffering. Please pray for continued healing for Fernando and that this type of holistic care will be multiplied around the world, especially now in the midst of a global health pandemic.
YOUR GIFT MADE A DIFFERENCE
Thanks to your generosity, these and many more people are now listening to audio Bibles!

HAITI: These young Haitian mothers gratefully received God’s Word through ministry partner Many Hands for Haiti (MH4H). MH4H recently distributed a shipment of Haitian-Creole audio Bibles to new mothers in their “First Thousand Days” nutritional program.

MEXICO: This coffee-harvester in Mexico enjoyed listening to her audio Bible every day until she decided her son needed it more than she did. After giving it away, she told us, “Every time I would reach to turn it on (and not find it there), it was a reminder to pray for my son.” She was over-joyed to receive another audio Bible for herself—one updated with the book of Psalms, recently recorded by our team in Mexico.

UGANDA: Joseph, from Uganda, says his spiritual life has been transformed as he has listened to an audio Bible. Joseph says the audio Bible, placed by ministry partner Tom McElfresh, also helps his efforts to share Jesus Christ with others.

MYANMAR (BURMA): This older man just placed his trust in Jesus and is now able to hear God’s Word in his heart language, thanks to ASM distribution partner Kittikoon serving with the Free Burma Rangers. They boldly bring the hope of the Gospel of Jesus to people in difficult places. Praise God for hearts made new as people hear His Word!

MEXICO: Right now people cannot attend church in Mexico, so this small group (including a parrot!) is listening to Scripture in their own language, Nahuatl of Tatahuicapan. Our team placed this Proclaimer audio Bible, generously provided by ministry partner Faith Comes By Hearing.

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2020 ... the year we were all going to keep our New Year’s resolutions. The year we were going to lose weight, spend less money, be kinder, read the Bible more, live more simply, be more generous, take up a new hobby, and live our lives with less stress. Simple, right?

I don’t know about you, but some resolutions are distant memories because the year hasn’t turned out quite like expected. There are likely very few people who can say 2020 has turned out the way they planned.

Racism, violence, global tension, and the coronavirus have brought us to our knees more often these days. One grim headline about the long-term effects of the virus said this, “We don’t know what the world will be like after this ends.”

The author analyzed economics, health care, travel, and other things that are changing because of COVID-19. However, what struck me most about the statement was this ...

As believers who have put our trust in Jesus, you and I DO know what the world will be like after this ends:

• You and I will live in a world where God STILL keeps His promises.
• You and I will live in a world of people who STILL need Jesus.
• You and I will live in a world with STILL more opportunities to share the hope, peace, and joy found in Jesus.
• You and I will live in a world where people are STILL waiting to hear God’s Word in their own heart language.

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ASN’T TURNED OUT LIKE WE EXPECTED

That doesn’t mean, however, that persistent racism, violence, and the virus aren’t impacting people, maybe even you. Like perhaps you, our team has lost loved ones to COVID-19, friends or family members have lost jobs, or been impacted in other significant ways by recent events. You and I grieve for these losses, but together we also find courage to persevere in our faith because we, "... hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23, NIV).

Hallelujah—God is faithful—and the mission He has called you and I to has not changed—helping connect people to God's Word in their own heart language! In fact, that mission is even more vital as people search for answers found only in God’s Word.

Along with you, ASM has made changes because of COVID-19. ASM’s global support team worked from home for more than two months, using digital communications solutions. Our Mozambique Compassion Care Team continues to take extra safety precautions with their patient's health. Audio Bible recording and distribution in Mexico and Mozambique have been postponed until travel bans are lifted. We’re also praying together more and studying God's Word more as an ASM global family. You're invited to participate in our Thursday “family” times. Please email me for details.

We’ve also responded to the influx of people working from home by launching a social media project called Home In His Word (www.HomeinHisWord.org). People everywhere, and from all languages, are finding hope, peace and rest—indeed “making their home”—in God's Word.

Your generosity has helped lift up the crucial importance of God’s Word—in new ways and to new audiences. Thank you.

To even more wisely steward your gifts to ASM, I praise the Lord that the team has diligently cut expenses by over 60%, as we’ve responded to a 40% dip in donations since March. Unfortunately, that funding dip also means we’ve put on hold audio Bible recording and distribution projects in three new Asian regions and one new African region.

Would you pray for ASM and consider a gift today to restart these projects to give God’s Word to those who need audio Bibles the most? You can donate securely online at www.audioscripture.org/give, or mail the enclosed response slip. Your support brings the gift of God’s Word.

This year may not be what we expected, yet we serve a God who was not surprised by all that has happened, and He remains in control.

Deus spes nostra—God is our Hope!

Naomi A. Frizzell
Executive Director
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