

# Words of HOPE

UPDATE

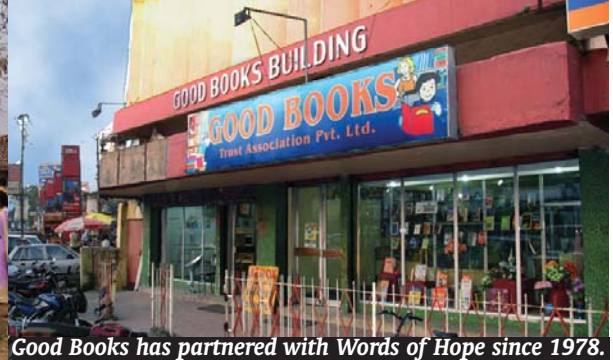
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Rev. Bob Heerspink leads Back to God Ministries International.



Responsive listeners become active in local churches.



Good Books has partnered with Words of Hope since 1978.

## India Partnership Expands

When a Hindu Brahman and his wife stood up at a church meeting to publicly declare themselves to be followers of Jesus, it caused a ripple effect that brought many in their north Indian village to Christ. The upper class couple had been listening to Words of Hope's Hindi radio broadcasts for several months and testified, "We thought we were following the right way, but your program touched our hearts and changed our perspective."

Through the follow-up ministry of Words of Hope's indigenous partner Good Books Educational Trust (GBET), they came to believe, were baptized and discipled. This couple from India's upper class now worships in their village, sitting side by side with 250 people from all social levels, including those

from lower castes.

By God's grace, we hope to hear many more similar testimonies as a result of expanded Hindi language programming in the future. Back to God Ministries

International (BTGMI) has recently joined



Hindi broadcaster Stephen Paul is Words of Hope's South Asia Director & Good Books' Managing Trustee.

Words of Hope and GBET in this fruitful ministry partnership.

In June, the 2009 General Synod of the

Christian Reformed Church in North America officially approved expansion of BTGMI's outreach into India. Hindi thus becomes BTGMI's tenth broadcast language. "There is a deep need for the holistic ministry of the Gospel of Shalom to those who speak the Hindi language,"

observes the Rev. Bob Heerspink, BTGMI's Executive Director. "We are excited about being able to provide that through this partnership with Good Books and Words of Hope. Rapid changes in media present the potential of additional ministry streams in India—Internet, CD distribution, cell phone texting. There is a need for programs reaching children and youth as well as programs that teach Scripture from a Reformed perspective."

Good Books ministry began in the 1960's with the establishment of Christian bookstores. Through its partnership with Words of Hope, GBET broadened its outreach in 1978 to provide Christian radio programming and publications. Stephen Paul, Words of Hope's Hindi broadcaster, now also serves as Words of Hope's South Asia Director. He also leads GBET.

Outreach in India is challenging. Hindu nationalism threatens Christian life and witness throughout India. As the global economic downturn presents financial challenges, the recent expansion of this broadcasting partner-

*(Continued on back)*



BTGMI's Bob Heerspink (left) and Words of Hope's David Bast (right) discuss strategy with an Indian church leader.

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR:

- A Special Thank You from David Bast



## Words of HOPE to South Asia

### Language

**Bhojpuri**

**Dogri**

**Dzongkha**

**Garhwali**

**Hindi**

**Kashmiri**

**Nepali**

**Tibetan**

### Where

India (Bihar, U.P.)

India (Jammu & Kashmir)

Bhutan

India (Uttarakhand)

India (All)

Kashmir (India & Pakistan)

Nepal

Tibet & India

### India Partnership (continued)

ship comes at a crucial time. India is the third major field where Words of Hope and BTGMI are partnering. Other projects include nightly broadcasts to the Middle East in Arabic (with the Middle East Reformed Fellowship) and Spotlight (an innovative English-as-a-second language broadcast in partnership with U.K.-based FEBA Radio).

The pooling of resources and expertise through these partnerships is facilitating ministry expansion and operational effectiveness.



Electronic media are widely used in India.

If you would like to receive the Words of HOPE UPDATE regularly and are not already on our mailing list, or to make a contribution, please contact Words of Hope at:

700 Ball Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
or call: 1(800)459-6181  
or online at: [www.woh.org](http://www.woh.org)

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## Thank you!

By David Bast

Last month I wrote a special appeal letter asking our supporters for their help in meeting our expenses for the fiscal year which ended on June 30. The response to that letter was very encouraging, both with respect to the number of gifts that came in and their total amount. While it appears that our income for last year may fall slightly short of ministry expenses, when the carry-over of gifts received during the first few days of July is taken into account, we are in as good or better financial condition today as we were a year ago at this date. That is a cause for rejoicing.

We say with the psalmist, "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes." As an example, the other day we received a gift of \$94,000 from the estate of a person none of us knew, or had ever heard of. You might think this is the Lord's way of refilling the widow's pitcher of oil, and you would be right; though to me, it seems more like a 55 gallon drum!

To all who continue to give so that Words of Hope can keep sharing the gospel with the whole world, we offer our heartfelt thanks. And we pledge to do all we can to help build the church worldwide, to the glory of Jesus' name.