

# FBH International

FBHinternational.com HopeStreamRadio.com



November 2016

## 65 Years Old (and no plans to retire)!

FBH International has now been proclaiming the gospel and making disciples for 65 years without interruption. We made note of this at our recent conference and were blessed to have Arnot McIntee with us for the occasion. Arnot directed the ministry for 40 years and is the last member of the original board of directors.

Arnot said: “It’s hard to believe that I first became acquainted with the Family Bible Hour at the opening board meeting 61 years ago. I thank God for dear godly men who had a passion for souls and a desire to make the message of Christ known. Through the years, He gave me the support of many believers who served on the board, and Hilda Parkinson who was our first secretary.”

Arnot went on to hold up a stopwatch, then continued. “You are going to see much modern radio technology this afternoon and I thought I would like to show you what I was given when I took my place behind the microphone on program 230. This was the full extent of my equipment - they gave me a stopwatch - and that was it.”

At that time, programs were recorded in a commercial studio. Within a few years, FBH equipped a studio of its own, set up first in Arnot’s basement and, later, moved to a commercial site. In 1993, Ron Hughes began working with Arnot, eventually assuming leadership, just as the digital revolution began. Soon thereafter, the ministry began to shift its emphasis from radio to internet. Now, more is happening online than on the airwaves, with traditional radio a force only in Ukraine and Latin America.

Our special guests at the conference were Victor Akhterov - director of Far East Broadcasting’s Russian Ministries department and Eugene Goltsov - Program Coordinator for FEB Ukraine. Through music, videos, and live participation, they opened our eyes to the new reality in the countries where they work.



Victor told powerful stories of how God has worked through media over the years. Oleg Shevdun has only about 20% of his vision, was abandoned by his alcoholic father when he was just six, and became a believer through Christian radio in his early 20s. He searched out his father in St. Petersburg and excitedly shared the gospel with him. His dad responded, “I don’t need this gospel and,

actually, I don’t need you in my life.” Rejected and disappointed, Oleg returned to Moscow.

Ten years passed and Oleg was invited to speak about “The Love of the Heavenly Father” on the radio. He chose to illustrate his talk with stories about his own dad during happier days while he was still with the family.

Later that night, he received a call from his father, whose second wife was dying. She had asked him to find something on the radio to calm her down. He was unfamiliar with specific stations and stumbled upon the very program done by his son. Over the phone that night, Oleg again explained the gospel to his dad who, this time, turned to Christ. Six weeks later he went to be with the Lord.

Oleg is now a regular broadcaster in Russia. He serves as an example of the kind of people God is using throughout Russia and Ukraine as people listen to their media sources.

---

## UKRAINE

## RUSSIA

The highlight of the conference was, without doubt, the first-hand accounts of our guests, Victor and Eugene. Here's one story Victor told:



*Victor with Natalia*

In 2014, we lost four radio volunteers in Eastern Ukraine. One of them, whose name was Victor also, was probably our most joyful volunteer. He would come in regularly and talk about his week and what he had been doing and people just responded to him. He would get lots of calls and many people came to know Christ through his programs.

Early in the insurrection, Victor was picked up with three of his colleagues and taken to a firehall where the men were blindfolded and put in a waist-high equipment cage, then beaten. Unbelieving eye-witnesses report that the men sang Christian songs as they were beaten to death.

I interviewed Natalia, Victor's widow. She says that after her tragic loss, she felt surrounded by the love of the body of Christ. "I felt what it means when the Bible says, 'When one member suffers, the whole body suffers.'"

Today, Natalia has opened her house to refugees as thousands of people flee from the war. She has several things to give them — FBH has supplied Bibles, FEBC provides radios for them, and Natalia, herself, offers food and shares what she knows about God out of her own painful experience. Her home is now called the "House of Hope" because of the encouragement people receive there. Many of her visitors cannot believe that she lost her husband yet has so much love as she shares the Gospel.



*Eugene*

Eugene's story of how he became a believer after being invited to church by a few young people playing guitars in a park is too long to tell here, but it inspired us to hear how he became a believer after hearing the Gospel, just once. After several years of growing in faith and grace, he now has a growing ministry on and off the air to Ukrainian servicemen

who are dealing with separation from their families and the trauma of war. He works with other young broadcasters creating programs that speak to the unique challenges of a country in the midst of armed conflict and political uncertainty.

Victor also told us about Vera:

I was in St Petersburg preaching in an evangelical church of about 1000 people. After the service a lady came up to me and said her name was Vera. She had written to me about her suicide attempt. I was embarrassed that I didn't remember it, but we get so many of those testimonies I lose track. I asked her to share her story with me again.

She told how she and her husband got married and loved each other. They had two little girls but something changed. They would fight every night. They never seemed to be able to resolve their issues so that they could live a normal life. The constant conflict made living together a challenge. One night her husband came home and said, "It is impossible for me to live with you, Vera. I cannot do this anymore. We have to divorce."

Vera explained how something dark came over her as she heard the word "divorce." She ran into the kitchen, barricaded the door and picked up a knife to take her own life. She said, "In a moment of sanity, I thought about my kids who were just on the other side of the wall and I did not want them to hear what was about to happen." She turned on the radio to find music to mask the sounds, and heard the words "You have hope in Jesus Christ." Slowly, almost unconsciously, she put the knife down.



*Vera with her young daughters*

She was sharing this with me as people were going by and kids were running around. Her daughter ran up and said, "Mommy, lets go. Daddy is waiting downstairs." I was standing there shaking her hand and she said, "Brother Victor, thank you. Not only for the fact my life was saved but, especially, for the fact that all four of us are here in this church. We are not just living now; we are living forever."

I will never forget that hand shake - a hand shake that belongs to all of us who are working together to lift up the name of Jesus before the people who are listening to our radio programs.

---

## THE ARAB WORLD

Ron told this story from the Arab World: Mustapha, an Egyptian working in Dubai, had a dream that prompted him to go online to learn about Jesus. On the Maarifa website, he met Adel who explained the gospel, led him to Christ, and began discipling him twice a week.

Sadly, one of Mustapha’s co-workers betrayed him. The religious police arrested him and put him into prison where he suffered a great deal. There, he got an infection in his foot and was refused treatment until it was so bad that the jail doctor told him it would have to be amputated.

Mustapha, afraid and discouraged, prayed along these lines: "Jesus, my life was OK until I started following you. Now I have this big problem. I might lose my foot. I might die. Would you do a big miracle for me?"

At the hospital, he was prepared for surgery and sedated, but just as the surgeon was ready to start, Mustapha's vital signs crashed. Fearing he would die, the doctors stabilized him and sent him back to jail.

The next day, the warden sent him to another hospital because a UN Human Rights Commission was conducting inspections of prisons in the country. Shortly after his arrival there, a German doctor examined him, and began an experimental treatment. Within a week, it was clear his foot was saved. When he was fully recovered, Mustapha was deported back to Egypt.

There, his father gathered his sons together and told them of a business deal he had heard about. He asked the boys to give him power of attorney over all their assets so he could make a large investment on behalf of the family and make a lot of money for them. They all agreed.

After the paperwork was processed, Mustapha’s father told him they had heard he had become a Christian and that he was no longer welcome in the family. Destitute and homeless, Mustapha realized he had been robbed by his own father and turned to his online mentor, Adel, who told him to go to a particular church and tell them his story. He did and was warmly received as a brother in Christ. They found him a family to live with and a job with a Christian business owner.

Mustapha rejoices over the way God has worked in his life. For him internet ministry has made all the difference!



## LATIN AMERICA

Nathan Diaz, our Spanish-language producer, works in Mexico City. He sent his conference report to us on video. Here are some highlights :

In February 2007, Nathan began airing our Spanish program in Mexico City. Almost 10 years and 500 programs bear witness to God's faithfulness. But, as well as looking back, we also look ahead at what our partnership will accomplish in the years to come.



During the last year, seven stations began airing the program. Since we have a large archive of programs, some of these are running the program more than once a week.

Nathan brings in a variety of guests with expertise in different areas to enrich the program with their wisdom and experience. Most of last year was devoted to series on “The Sermon on the Mount” (which Nathan also did in English for HopeStreamRadio), “The Ten Commandments” and “Texts out of Context.” These latter programs are especially important given the rise of false doctrine based on the piecing together of texts that are not directly related.

After months of planning and preparing, Nathan launched an app for smart phones. That first month saw 120 downloads. Ever since then, the app has been downloaded between 60 and 80 times every month. At present, there have been 600 downloads of the app with an average of 500 programs listened to every month. These are loyal and constant listeners. Nathan remarked, “You don't download an app unless you are really interested in the content it has to offer.” He notifies users every time he uploads a new program so they can listen to it at their convenience.

Nathan is excited to keep moving forward as new challenges arise. He wants to produce fresh content that leads listeners to knowing and experiencing God through the teaching of His word. Nathan concluded his remarks by restating his commitment to seeking to fulfill both the evangelism and discipleship aspects of the great commission and expressing gratitude for our collaboration.

## KEEP INFORMED

You've already become aware of the power of stories. Our hearts are stirred as we hear how God is working steadily, and sometimes dramatically, in the lives of people FBH International reaches through radio and the internet.

Ron, and members of the board are willing to speak at a Sunday service, prayer meeting, or missions event to share accounts from our international partners regarding the effectiveness of the ministry in the Arab World, Russia, Ukraine, and Latin America. We're also glad to talk about HopeStreamRadio, our English-language service.

### Year-End Gifts

Please remember that year-end gifts must be postmarked in December. It is not enough to date the cheque before January 1, 2017. Please make cheques payable to FBH International.

## HELP IS ON THE WAY

FBH International is pleased to inform you about a new service in Canada that we believe will help our donors in their support of the ministry. We, along with some other Canadian assembly ministries, have formed Believers Stewardship Services Canada (BSS Canada) to assist believers invest in the Lord's work through strategic giving.

Our circumstances change throughout our lives. During some seasons we may feel we have little to offer because of existing commitments. The fact is that there are ways of supporting a ministry beyond merely mailing in a cheque. Crawford Paul, who serves on our board, is president of this new organization. He has been taking courses and getting training to prepare him to help our donors explore the variety of ways that already exist for extending our reach. We are grateful to have someone equipped with knowledge and blessed with time to help our donors maximize their support of FBH International. Crawford is available by phone at our office number. We want you to know that this is an assembly organization you can trust. Keep an eye open for its logo.



**Believers**  
STEWARDSHIP SERVICES  
CANADA

## HOPESTREAMRADIO

When we introduced the idea of an online radio station two years ago, we could never have guessed the challenges we'd have, all the people that would be involved, and how the Lord would provide.

Currently, we have 46 different programs with 11 new ones added this fall. Since we began, we've had over 5,000 unique listeners to the stream. On the website, listeners can access all of our programs. In the last year, more than 20,000 have made over 114,000 page visits.

Here are some responses (lightly edited for space):

▶ "I wish I could say thank you to each of your producers with one email. Dr. Sanchez studies on Deuteronomy are amazing. Tina Michelle is a favourite. I didn't even mention "Heartfelt" and "The Pensive Mr. Howlett." I always listen to these programs on the website when I miss their programs on the stream. Thank you to everyone who makes it happen."

▶ "I have just completed listening to the series "Water in the Desert" by Sherry Stahl. Thank you for the inspirational practical messages in this series and for the copy of Sherry's book. I have talked to some of the ladies in our assembly and we hope to offer this study in the near future. God bless."

▶ "HopeStreamRadio has been a huge blessing to me. Since I moved away from an area that had a lot of good Christian radio I have been looking for a station that I could listen to and be encouraged by. HSR has filled that void."

### FBH BOARD 2016

Bryan Cain  
Herb McClelland- co-chair  
Crawford Paul  
Dennis Purcell  
Viji Roberts  
Doug Stubbs - co-chair

#### TO CONTACT US

FBH International  
Box 24111  
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7P7  
Phone: 905-641-4406  
or 1-800-567-1218

[FBHinternational.com](http://FBHinternational.com)

[mail@fbhinternational.com](mailto:mail@fbhinternational.com)

[facebook.com/hopestreamradio](https://facebook.com/hopestreamradio)

#### MINISTRY STAFF

Ron Hughes  
President  
  
Deborah Piggott  
Ministry Support Coordinator

*Preaching the gospel...  
...making disciples.*