Until 1752, March 25 was celebrated as the first day of the new year in England, coinciding with the arrival of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This was in line with many ancient civilizations that saw the spring equinox as the beginning of things. It wasn’t until Protestant England adopted the Gregorian calendar put forward by the Roman Pope Gregory in 1582 that January (named after the two-faced Roman god Janus, always depicted as looking forward and backward at the same time) moved to the fore. The Gregorian calendar was a scientific improvement over the old Julian calendar (flawed since it became the norm during the days of Julius Caesar); Pope Gregory is the guy who definitively set January 1 as New Year’s Day. Before 1752, the Brits called January 1 Circumcision Day, because it marked the day of our Lord’s circumcision eight days after his birth. (Count eight days from his birthday, still celebrated on December 25, and, voila, you get January 1; see Luke 2:21.)

Circumcision Day? Ouch. By whatever name we call it, though, January 1 marks a day of new beginnings, new chapters, new opportunities, and a fresh start. ViewPoint will begin the new year with a series of programs designed to help you seize the moment, make smart choices, and set your feet right, walking forward. Calendars are human inventions, of course; the Lord set time in motion and fixed the movement of the planets by which we measure time long before we drew up charts with numbers tracking days. But, the recognition of passing time and the dawn of a new trip around the sun (a year is defined by the time it takes the earth to circle the sun: 365 days) is always a good time to stop, reflect, take stock, and make course corrections in our personal journeys (also called New Year’s resolutions).

We’ll begin the year with scriptures defining Christ’s first new year in this world after his birth in Bethlehem, way back when—and what we can learn for the here and now. His journey will inform ours; there are some New Year’s resolutions you will discover walking in his first footsteps.

ViewPoint co-hosts Obadiah Smith, Jennifer Wilson, and Kimberly Majeski will be in the studio with me as the weeks unfold, together with some surprising and inspiring guests. We hope you’ll be alongside too. As you face the new year, face it with us. Good friends. With good ideas. For good days coming up. Stay tuned. And see your world from Heaven’s view.

New Design!

We’re experimenting a little bit with the ways we communicate, and this is one way we’re changing this year. Welcome to the new People to People! It’s a little longer and will be sent quarterly instead of bimonthly. This special issue is full color because we’re hoping you catch some of our enthusiasm for the ministry through some of the photos featured. We want to make sure that you have an exceptionally large knowledge of how you’re changing lives around the world; we hope this change will continue to make that possible. Thanks for being a part of CBH! Enjoy!

—CBH Staff
CBH-Odia Switches from Shortwave to AM

Remember vividly one hot evening in early 2007 getting into an auto-rickshaw and heading out into the city of Cuttack with Asim Das, our CBH India coordinator at the time. We were headed downtown to a local electronics store to buy radios for the local pastors. The next day, more than twenty pastors would be coming to town to meet with CBH coordinator John Walters and me so that we could present each pastor a radio. The goal! Each pastor would invite local villagers to come listen to our CB radio broadcast and then have discussion about the content of the radio program. These groups, called radio clubs, would serve as a way to reach out to the community with the hope of Jesus Christ. From these radio groups, individuals who showed interest in learning more about what it means to be a Christian would then be invited to a Seekers’ Conference, where they would have more in-depth training.

As the radio clubs were launched, one challenge became apparent: our radio signal was weak in some areas of the Indian state of Odisha*, making it difficult to receive our radio program on a regular basis, and in some areas, there was no signal at all. So we began looking into other options. The challenge has been both logistical and financial. In India, it is not legal to broadcast the Christian message from within the borders of the country. Therefore, we are limited to the small number of radio towers outside the country that broadcast into India. Since the beginning of our radio broadcasting ministry in India, we have broadcast via shortwave radio into the country, partnering with Trans World Radio (TWR) for this service. We have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with them, and as we began seeking solutions to this challenge, our team in India began conversations with TWR. The solution that bubbled to the surface was to switch from shortwave to medium wave radio (AM), but with this switch came other challenges—an increase in monthly airtime costs, time slot availability, and which tower would best suit our needs.

We felt God leading us to move forward to make our broadcast as effective as possible, but we wanted to make sure that we were being the best stewards possible and providing the best solution possible. John Walters visited India in November 2011 to meet with our team and discuss how to move forward. Armed with information from TWR, unanimous agreement of our combined India and U.S. teams, and a firm belief that God was calling us to move forward, we made the decision to switch from shortwave to AM. This involves using a tower located in Sri Lanka, an increase in airtime fees that equates to nearly $5,000 per year, and moving our time slot by fifteen minutes. We are moving forward in faith knowing that God will provide the resources and that God will also provide the harvest.

Every day CBH sows seeds of hope in Jesus Christ around the world knowing that we will never see the full harvest that will take place for the kingdom’s sake, but understanding that if we do our part, God will bring a harvest beyond our comprehension.

We are excited about this new opportunity to better equip our CBH team in India. Merle Mangum, account representative for Trans World Radio, stated, “I believe this change will bring about a significant increase in the effectiveness of your Odia broadcast.” We also believe this switch will allow our radio clubs to be much more effective while reaching beyond the radio clubs to villagers throughout the state of Odisha and beyond. Please join with us as we celebrate this exciting new adventure. We would like to invite you to partner with us in prayer as we make this switch, effective February 11, 2012. We would also like to invite you to pray not just about the effectiveness of your Odia broadcast. We are excited about this new opportunity to better equip our CBH team in India. Merle Mangum, account representative for Trans World Radio, stated, “I believe this change will bring about a significant increase in the effectiveness of your Odia broadcast.”

*See the Editor’s Note on page 7.
CBH-Spanish Ministry Update

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”

(Rom 10:14 niv1984)

Friends, What an awesome opportunity Hermandad Cristiana has to proclaim the great news of Christ’s love, not only in the United States, but around the world. The life-changing message is preached plainly and faithfully every week, and the correspondence received assures us that the radio ministry continues to be a fantastic vehicle through which the Lord speaks to so many. The uplifting message reaches into prison cells and into the homes of people from all walks of life.

We are reminded in the book of Romans that it is important that those Christians grow deep roots and continue to multiply. The money you donate will cover all logistical costs for the conference.

CBH-Swahili airtime costs in East Africa - $5,000

Our Swahili broadcast based in Kima, Kenya, reaches people sprinkled throughout all of East Africa. This gift would underwrite an entire year of airtime on Trans World Radio shortwave for the year of 2012.

Switching from Shortwave to AM in India—$5,000

As technology develops on the sub-continent of India, our Odisha pastors, missionaries, and listeners are clamoring for greater clarity and a more focused broadcasting of our Odia program. This will involve a broadcasting switch from shortwave to AM radio in the Odia-speaking area of eastern India. While adding to the investment required, it will also open up our potential listenership in significant ways—a fruitful kingdom investment!

Next month, watch for updates about a new ministry venture in Haiti!

CBH-Special Projects

Wondering how you can get a little more involved with CBH in tangible ways? Here are a few extra-budgetary costs you can help out with this year. Give us a call if you’d like to help out with these ministry areas.

India Tribal Area Seekers’ Conference—$1,200

This conference allows selected listeners and CBH staff members to sit down and really talk about Jesus and is a new venture into the tribal people areas of Odisha, India. The percentage of attendees who make a commitment for Christ at these conferences is remarkable. The discipleship that occurs makes sure that those Christians grow deep roots and continue to multiply. The money you donate will cover all logistical costs for the conference.

CBH-Hindi and Odia staff in India

For many years, Asim Das has been a key leader in India, facilitating and creating radio programs for CBH. Over the past several months, Asim has felt called by God to step out of this role and pass the baton to two dedicated Christian men with long-term involvement in the CBH ministry in India. Though we’ll miss Asim’s direct contact, he will remain involved peripherally in the programs. We’re very excited to welcome these two new members to our CBH team in India.

Switching from Shortwave to AM in India

As the broadcast goes out, area pastors gather around their radios, holding rural Bible Radio Clubs, listening to the broadcasts with the people of their villages. These programs then become the basis for training and guiding seekers in the way of Jesus. Others write in to the program for answers to their questions and over time develop relationships that lead to their invitation to be part of one of our Seekers’ Conferences, where many come to know Jesus personally.

Dozens of people are involved in the creation of scripts, the hosting of radio clubs, the recording and editing of broadcasts, and the follow-up discipleship for those touched by Satya Jyoti!

Ranjit Ranjan

R. R. is an accomplished high school science teacher and principal in the state of Cuttack who is now retired. He received an award several times recognizing his teaching ability as the best in his state. He came to know the Lord in college and since then has been involved in student and children’s ministries at his church for many years. His remarkable ability to teach younger people gives R. R. a platform from which to share the story of Christ with nonbelieving seekers, which is why he is heading up CBH Seekers’ Conferences.

“Every year we conduct the Seekers’ Conference, inviting the seekers to attend the pastors’ conferences and leadership seminars. I have a target to prepare at least three hundred lay leaders by 2013. We also send them to attend the pastors’ conferences and short-term Bible training programs. Please pray that I will always be obedient to his guidance and be strengthened to shoulder such a great responsibility.” —R.R.

Binoy Dey

Binoy ministers as the producer of Satya Jyoti, our CBH broadcasts in India, and has helped produce the best quality and informative radio programs, which reach parts of North America, South and Central America, and Spain.

We’re very excited to welcome these two new members to our CBH team in India.

Go Ahead. Ask Anything book,

Hymns and Stories from the Chapel CD

Go Ahead. Ask Anything book, by CBH ViewPoint host Jim Lyon available now. Mark the box on the response sheet to get your copy today.
Odisha, where our CBH studios are located, is situated along the Bay of Bengal coast and is a state that exemplifies the unique and commendable blend of ancient glory and modern initiative. The people of this state are very hospitable and they are always eager to welcome their guests by saying, “Namaskar,” with folded arms.

Our work is very much confined to the remote rural villages, presenting the gospel mainly to the non-Christians through radio programmes and personal evangelism. As in previous years, this year we had conducted a Seekers’ Conference from October 5 to 7, 2011, at the Shelter, near our studios. A total of seventy-five participants joined the conference, including pastors, evangelists, and counselors. Out of those, thirty-nine were adult seekers (thirty males and nine females). They came from fifteen areas covering thirteen churches. Though the present situation was not conducive,* the Lord enabled us to hold the conference without any disturbance from outside. It was a wonderful time of blessing and sharing. Most of them accepted Jesus as their personal savior and Lord, dedicating their life to serve him for the rest of their life. One among them, K. B., who is a leader of his village, said, “Here I have come to know the truth and accepted Jesus as my personal Savior and Lord.” He also requested prayer for his family as none of them yet knows the Lord.

This has only been possible because of your prayers and support. Thank you! God bless you richly in all things. The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few.

Pray for our work. We are praying for the radio ministry going on in different parts of the world. With love and regards

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* Editor’s Note: Violent persecution against Christians is very prevalent.

1. Downtown Cuttack, located in the Odisha state where our broadcast studios are located
2. Actors record the Odisha and Hindi recordings in the studio
3. The control room of the Hindi and Odisha studio
4. A market square in Puri, located in the Odisha state
5. A pastor poses with the radio he uses for a CBH Radio Club that he hosts in his village

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Testimonies

We’re always hearing testimonies from listeners across the globe! Here are a few testimonies from our Hindi and Odia broadcasts in India.

“Greetings in the most loving name of our Lord Jesus Christ! This is to inform you that we have formed radio clubs in different villages (fifteen villages) in our state where the ministries in progress with his blessings. We have provided radios to the pastors and evangelists, those who are working in villages and heading the radio clubs. The main intention of the club is to call all believers and nonbelievers to listen to the weekly radio programmes.”

—Miss B. C., Odisha State

“I listen to your Odia radio broadcasted programme regularly. This has brought a change in my life. Pray for me that I may get others to listen to the broadcast.”

—Mr. A. M., Odisha State

“I am a regular listener to your radio broadcast. Pray that I can get others to listen to this broadcast which is very essential for me.”

—Mr. A. P., Odisha State

“I have been sick since last three years. There are some problems which I cannot share openly or through letter. I would like to get in touch with you. I enjoy the radio programme immensely. I realize the change in my daily life after listening. Please pray for me.”

—Ms. N. S., Chhattisgarh State

“I am a regular listener of Hindi radio programme Satya Jyoti. I enjoy the programme because the message helps me to reconcile my life. Through message I am getting the love of Jesus.”

—Mr. S. K., Uttar Pradesh State

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Editor’s Note: In late 2011, the Indian government changed the name of the state of Orissa to Odisha and the name of the language Oriya to Odia.

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Travel with CBH...

…and seize a ministry opportunity like no other! Contact us with information on the back if you’d like to know more about future trip opportunities.
Indian Summer: The Rise and Fall of the British Empire

One reason CBH works with indigenous people around the world is because we believe that people know how to reach their own culture. That’s why people like Binoy and R. R. are such invaluable ministry partners—they understand how to reach their neighbors. At the same time, we at CBH believe it’s important to get to know other cultures and catch a glimpse of places around the world. If you’d like to get to know the history and understand the current culture of India, we recommend reading Indian Summer: The Rise and Fall of the British Empire.

Here’s an excerpt from the review in the Washington Post:

At the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947, the British Empire withdrew from India, inviting in all the exhilaration and turmoil of a newly free society. In this vivid, atmospheric popular history, Alex von Tunzelmann chronicles these times through the most prominent figures: Dickie Mountbatten, Britain’s dashing, inept last viceroy; Dickie’s savvy, glamorous wife, Edwina, who found the love of her life in Jawaharlal Nehru, India’s new prime minister; Muslim leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah; and Mohandas Gandhi. Tunzelman’s thrilling chronicle “removes the veil from the colorful personalities and events behind India’s independence and partition with Pakistan.”

This month, when you send in a gift of any amount, we’ll send you Indian Summer: The Rise and Fall of the British Empire.