

Growing in time of crisis

EDITORIAL

We are confronted with emergency situations. In God's hand these times are opportunities for personal growth.

It is certainly easier to trust the Lord when we feel secure and in charge of our life. A crisis can destroy this apparent security.

A crisis is also an invitation to draw near to the Lord, and also to look at ourselves in a realistic way. A crisis is, in the hands of the Lord, a tool to wake us up from a comfortable religious routine, to reveal and modify our thought patterns, to help us focus on our daily priorities. Instead of trying to blame others for their behavior during the crisis we are going through, let us look at ourselves in the presence of God. Maybe we should mend our ways? Could it be possible that we have "impure lips"? In Isaiah 6.6-7, we are told: *"And one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold this has touched your lips, your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."* That was no doubts a symbolic scene. The altar probably represents the work of Christ, since forgiveness and purification are combined with the sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus-Christ. *"Christ... offered himself once to take away the sins of several"* (Heb 9.28). Isaiah is now in presence of the Lord, purified and at-



One of the seraphim flew to me... Isaiah 6.6-7

tentive, He is now ready to listen. *"And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"* (6.8). When our spirit is occupied with our own ideas, opinions and solutions, it is difficult to listen to the Lord: his voice is stifled in the midst of our inward chaos. If we want to take advantage of this crisis, if we want to grow while going through it, we must hand over all our initiatives to the Lord and try to listen to his voice. When we say to the Lord: "I am yours, use me", we must be open to his answer, in spite of our preferences.

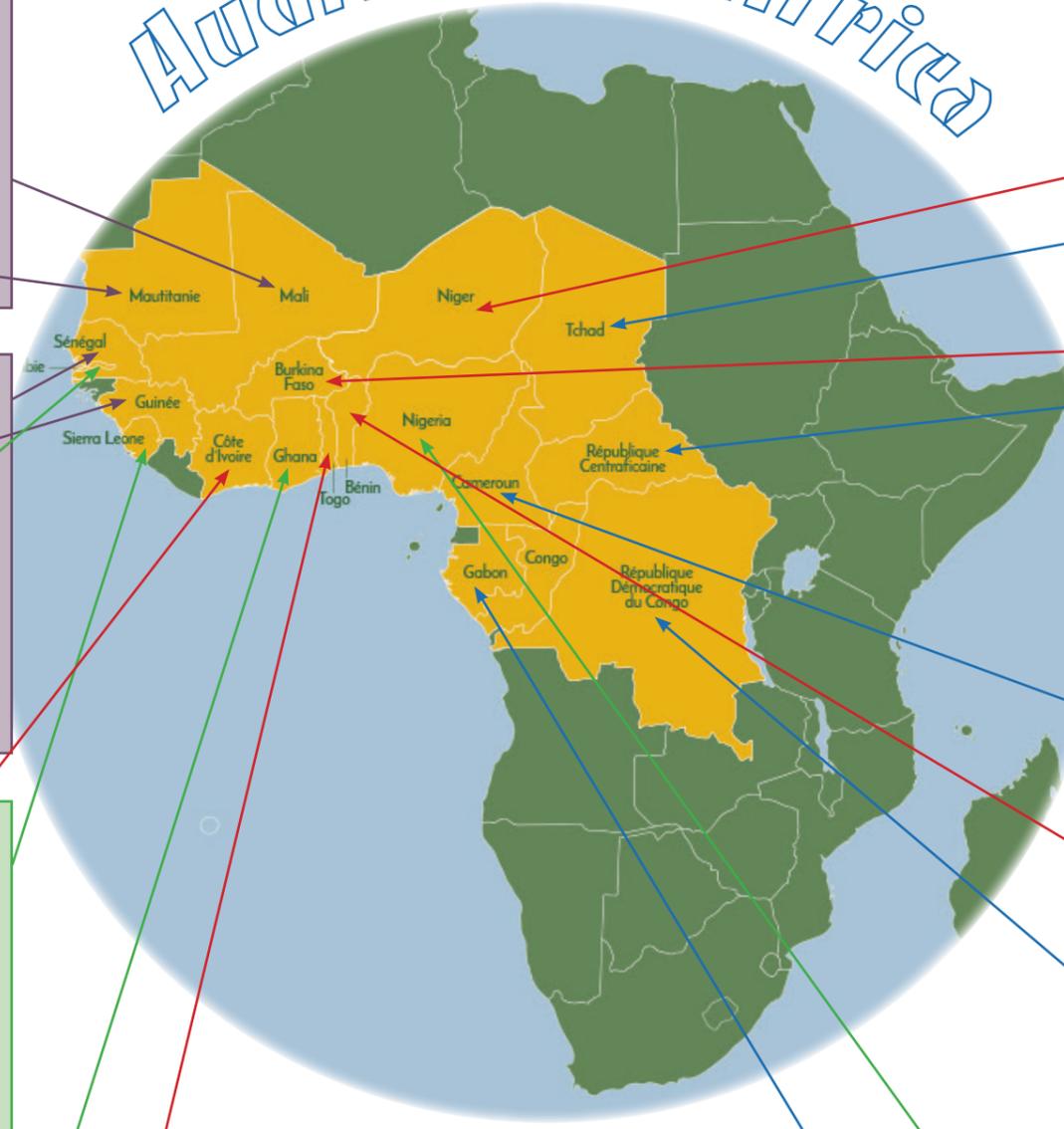
The Lord can open a door to show us a new direction, a new service, a new call. We must also ask; "Until when, Oh Lord?" It is up to him to choose the beginning and the end. A crisis can suggest a change, but let us not begin, or terminate or change anything without the assurance that the

Lord speaks to us and that we act (move) according to his will.

God uses times of inward turmoil to encourage us, to draw close to him, to purify us, to speak to our heart. Let us take advantage of the crisis we are going through to grow. The Lord is still sitting on his throne, high and lifted up. He remains sovereign. He controls the Universe as well as our lives. Let us choose to draw close to him, let us choose to purify ourselves, let us choose to listen to his voice, let us choose to grow thanks to this crisis. And soon, we will be able to witness with many others: *"You will keep in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever for the Lord God is an everlasting rock"* (Is. 26.3-4).

Philippe Nunn

Audio Vie in Africa



Mauritania
Population: 4.5 millions
Religions
 christians 1%
 muslims 99%
22 languages and dialects
4 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 Gospel outreach
Prayer points: for the freedom to preach the Gospel

Mali
Population: 19 millions
Religions
 christians 3%
 muslims 90%
 animiste 7%
133 languages and dialects
27 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 New recordist training
Prayer points
 Danger of islamist attacks

Niger
Population: 20 millions
Religion
 muslims 99%
38 languages and dialects
19 recorded languages
Prayer points
 Need of a new team

Tchad
Population: 11 millions
Religions
 christians 25%
 muslims 55%
277 languages and dialects
98 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 New recordings
Prayer points
 Social and political instability

Guinea
Population: 12 millions
Religions
 christians 11%
 muslims 85%
68 languages and dialects
32 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 Gospel outreach
Prayer points
 Need of more collaborators

Senegal
Population: 16 millions
Religions
 christians 5%
 muslims 94%
105 languages and dialects
33 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 Gospel outreach
Prayer points
 Need of more collaborators

Burkina Faso
Population: 21 millions
Religions
 christians 23%
 muslims 60%
 animists 15%
166 languages and dialects
84 recorded languages
Projects in progress: gospel outreach amongst the YANA people
Prayer points: persecution of christians and terrorism

Centrafrique
Population: 5 millions
Religions
 christians 80%
 muslims 10%
 animists 10%
162 languages and dialects
28 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 New recordings
Prayer points
 Permanent civil war

Gambia
Population: 2 millions
Religions
 christians 4.5%
 muslims 91.5%
 animists 4%
6 languages and dialects
6 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 Gospel outreach in Gambia and Guinea Bissau
Prayer points: revival of our team motivation

Sierra Leone
Population: 8 millions
Religions
 christians 15%
 muslims 80%
 animists 4%
16 languages and dialects
16 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 Recordings in Wara Wara
Prayer points
 Need of partnership with local churches

Bénin
Population: 11 millions
Religions
 christians 35%
 muslims 28%
 animists 25%
74 languages and dialects
67 recorded languages
Projects in progress: gospel outreach amongst the Makolé, Zakpo and Lissazounmé people
Prayer points: that these people may accept the Good News

Cameroun
Population: 25 millions
Religions
 christians 69%
 muslims 21%
 animists 6%
534 languages and dialects
252 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 14 new recordings
Prayer points
 unstable political situation

Ivory Coast
Population: 26 millions
Religions
 christians 34%
 muslims 43%
 animists 4%
218 languages and dialects
71 recorded languages
Projects in progress: gospel outreach amongst the Gourmantché, Sénoufos, Malinké and Tangréla people
Prayer points
 for social and political peace

Ghana
Population: 29 millions
Religions
 christians 71%
 muslims 17%
 animists 5%
160 languages and dialects
89 recorded languages
Projects in progress: gospel outreach amongst the Gbugblas people
Prayer points
 The healing of our leader's wife Michel Ikavi

Togo
Population: 9 millions
Religions
 christians 35%
 muslims 20%
 animists 45%
63 languages and dialects
56 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 Recordings in muslims areas
Prayer points
 Protection of our collaborators

Gabon
Population: 1.5 millions
Religions
 christians 76%
 muslims 11%
46 languages and dialects
252 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 Recordings in pygmies and baka languages
Prayer points
 Need of a new team

Nigéria
Population: 200 millions
Religions
 christians 55%
 muslims 40%
 animists 5%
1000 languages and dialects
550 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 Next recordings
Prayer points
 Persecution of christians

Congo
Population: 89 millions
Religions
 christians 91.7%
 ethnic religions
229 languages and dialects
117 recorded languages
Projects in progress
 New recordings
Prayer points
 For our collaborator in Katanga

■ AVS – Central Africa ■ AVS – West Africa
■ AVS – Extreme West Africa ■ AVS – English speaking Africa

HISTORY OF GRN SWITZERLAND

In 1956, the *Mission du Disque* (Record Mission) was created by Joy Riederhof. In 1960, Daniel Grossenbacher became the first missionary of *GRN Switzerland*. As a sound technician, he recorded several messages in 380 languages in the space of six years, in all the countries of Western Africa.

Then Jean-Marc and H el ene Leuthold discovered the ministry of the *Mission du Disque* (Record Mission). They copied close to 6000 cassettes every year for Germany. They both received the conviction from the Lord that the work must continue. In 1989, with the help of Elisabeth de Benoit, they took over.

In his goodness, God allowed for setting up of a new committee in February of 1989 with Jean-Marc Leuthold as president. Along with his wife, H el ene, Jean-Marc cared for the production of cassettes that had been ordered, the daily correspondence, the accounts, etc. It was also in 1989 that the *Mission du Disque* (Record Mission) became *Audio Gospel* (GRN).

In 1994, Blaise Wampfler (Le Locle) joined the committee and took on the responsibility of GRN Guinea.

Jean-Marc and Blaise made their first trip to Africa, to Burkina-Faso. In 1997, they visited Togo, in 1998 Guinea, in 2001 Cameroon and in 2004 Senegal. In all those countries,



GRN Committee in 2010

sites were opened and Togo became a major hub. Our brother Daniel Grossenbacher, in Niger managed several people motivated for evangelization by means of cassette. GRN took over, little by little, the responsibility for the francophone countries of Africa.

In 2001, Pierre and Nicole Andr e joined the committee and Pierre became the president. Pierre made then contacted Alain Normand who, from 2002 to 2005, assisted him in the leadership and furthered a strong development of GRN in several francophone African countries. After Alain Normand's departure in 2005, Pierre continued to head alone *Audio Gospel*, now called *Audio Vie*. This overall responsibility included being in charge of GRN for all francophone countries.

In 2006, Daniel and Sylviane Oddon joined the committee and took over the follow-up work of *GRN Cameroon* thus contributing to the development of the ministry in francophone Africa. Laure-Isabelle Goy joined the mission sometime later and assisted H el ene with the recordings and orders of CDs and SC cards.

It was in 2009 that Pierre and Michou Blond joined GRN Switzerland.

In 2016, Philippe Tapernoux took over the leadership of *GRN*. He was later appointed a member of the international board of the *GRN mission*. Very active and involved in organizing and boosting the activities of our many workers in 18 francophone African nations and more recently, in anglophone countries, he loves to travel to encourage the work done in those countries.

THANK YOU

The Global Recordings Network – of which *Audio Vie* is a part – has been creating, recording and distributing Bible messages in more than 6'500 languages and dialects since 1939!

Jesus himself spoke to crowds by means of stories, parables and images.... Our mission carries on this teaching method, to speak

to people who have not yet been reached by the Gospel by using local translators to record messages in their mother tongue. The language of the heart!

In this present edition, our purpose has been to show the importance of the work of *Audio Vie* that takes place on the African continent. Our fellow workers purse their task relentlessly, often under uncertain security conditions. How can we

accept that almost a billion of the world population, who don't know how to read, is deprived of the Gospel?

Thank you for your gifts, your prayers and the faithfulness with which you participate in this beautiful mission!

On behalf of the committee of GRN Switzerland.

Philippe Tapernoux

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