

February 23, 2022 marked 75 years of media ministry since our first program aired on a Winnipeg radio station in 1947. A successful “\$75 for 75 Years” fundraising campaign led to the purchase of new equipment for the film studio, allowing for more creative options and higher production quality.



A highlight of our 75th anniversary year was producing *Back to Square One*, the feature length documentary that premiered in a Winnipeg theatre in October, with additional screenings in Manitoba and online. *Back to Square One* will appear in other provinces and at film festivals in 2023.

In January, *A Good Life* with host Gladys Rempel, our newest Low German video series, reached 100K views on YouTube. Throughout the year, Gladys also spoke, counselled, and interviewed guests for her program in places like the USA, Mexico, Belize, and Paraguay.

The Bible Today’s production schedule was abandoned when bombs began falling on Ukraine in February. We created a temporary fund to help our partners in Ukraine respond to humanitarian needs. As they were able, the studio produced media, such as social media posts and films about the church’s response during suffering. In Winnipeg, we are co-hosting a series of prayer vigils for peace in Ukraine.

We expected views of *Ella’s Backyard Vlog* (Russian) to drop sharply in Ukraine in response to the Russian offensive. But instead, views increased dramatically from many countries – especially Ukraine – as Russian-speaking families looked for hopeful programming for their children in the midst of war. Our Russian team also grew their audience through new YouTube features like Shorts, blogs, and surveys.

Ernesto and Marina Pinto, hosts of *Encuentro* and *Encuentro Familiar* (Spanish radio), were pleased to travel again and had many engagements to preach and teach. In spring, they filmed interviews for *180 Grados* in Argentina and Paraguay. 13 episodes of the video series were released in 2022.

The Dari team produced fewer live episodes of *Secret of Life* but increased partnership projects with other agencies. Executive Director Shoaib Ebadi spoke at Missionfest Manitoba about Afghanistan in crisis under Taliban rule. We provided voice-over services in Dari for 18 episodes of the *Alpha Film Series* and - with Pamir Ministries - produced a Dari course on trauma counselling for victims of violence in Afghanistan.

Season 1 of *School of Leadership* (Arabic), began airing in North Africa in October, with filming and post-production of Season 2 almost completed by year’s end.

Our new English children’s podcast, *Tales from Cottonwood Trails*, launched in October. Created by Winnipeg kids’ storyteller Jordan Evans, the audio cartoon is directed by Stu Hunnable, with recording technician Eli Melsness and sound designer Eric Boorman. Early response to the audio program has been enthusiastic.



“Cottonwood Trails is theatre for the imagination,” says Eric. “We draw kids in with a deep soundscape: great character voices, music, and sound effects. All so they can learn about Jesus.”

There were also transitions and endings in 2022. Garri Sergienko left *Ella’s Backyard* in July. Albina Nikitina took over leadership of the Russian project, ably assisted by Ana Lavrukina. Nicole Doerksen, Spanish projects assistant, retired and was replaced by Heriberto and Viola Ayala. And finally, in December, Eduard and Heidi Giesbrecht in Bolivia aired the last episode of *Ekj Ran* (Low German). God’s blessings for new opportunities for Garri, Nicole, Eduard and Heidi. And a warm welcome to Ana, Heriberto, and Viola.

Focusing on our history in 2022 underscored the legacy left to us by our founders. Faith in the Lord. Prayer in all circumstances. Creativity to reach audiences around the world. And the transformation that God brings about when people hear the Gospel. Stay tuned to see what God will do as we actively carry that legacy into the future.