

# **WIKV Radio**

**Issues/Programs**

**1ST QUARTER/2024**

## **Quarterly Issues Program List**

**WIKV**

**First Quarter 2024 (1 January to 31 March)**

The following is a listing of some of the significant issues responded to WIKV, PLYMOUTH, IN, along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of 1 January to 31 March. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance. All times are Pacific.

1. EDUCATION
2. BUSINESS
3. FINANCES
4. HEALTHCARE
5. ADDICTION
6. VETERANS
7. FAITH
8. FOOD INSECURITY
9. ENTERTAINMENT

Issue	Program	Date	Time	Duration	Description of Program
Business	Closer Look	1/7/24	7:00pm	29min	Small-Business Mentors Offer Free Advice Through SCORE Your idea for a great small business needs a good plan. You need seed money and cashflow. If you already opened your shop, you may be stumped on how to grow. SCORE offers free, one-on-one advice for turning a profit. The personalized program is funded in part by the U.S. Small Business Administration and brings together “two of our nation’s greatest ideals -- entrepreneurship and volunteerism,” says CEO Bridget Weston. “What’s great about SCORE volunteers – they have been where the small business owner is -- they have seen the failures and learned how to overcome them.”
Education	Closer Look	1/14/24	7:00pm	30min	Old Schools Get Free Makeovers Through Heart of America “This country created the majority of its schools during the 1940s, 50s and 60s,” says Jill Hardy-Heath, President and CEO of Heart of America. Classrooms in disrepair impede learning. “If you walk into a school where you have peeling paint and ceiling tiles that are falling, and things have not been updated – think about how that would make you feel.” HOA is committed to raising the spirits of those students and teachers. Fresh paint is only the beginning. Hardy-Heath sends an expert design team to infuse each renovation with vibrant color and creative flair. “We transform spaces,” she smiles. “Think about Extreme Home Makeover, but School Edition.” The organization updates everything in aging schools from lighting to desks to pencil sharpeners -- and upgrades essential infrastructure like electrical boxes to provide crucial access to the Internet. Once the space is certified ready for the 21st century, modern digital learning tools are provided for students. “We have infused more than \$7.5 million in learning technologies, mostly computers and individual devices into schools and community centers.”
Domestic Violence	Local Closer Look	1/14/24	7:30pm	20min	Talked with Renea Saylor. Executive Director of the Beaman home, a ministry dedicated to bringing hope and healing to men and women affected by domestic violence. Saylor explains that the Beaman Home partners with local community organizations that help clients find the resources they need, both emotional and logistical. She also describes the process once someone reaches out to the organization for help and what classes and the counseling they will receive. Saylor also shares what she feels is gratifying about working at the Beaman home.

Addiction	Closer Look	1/21/24	7:00pm	13min	Gambling, Suicide Risk and Addiction Recovery Gambling addiction is a leading cause of suicide in the United States. The thrill of the bet buries vulnerable gamblers deep in debts matched only by their secret shame. But stats prove you can win recovery, as 2 outta 3 people who seek treatment are able to stop. Rafael Sierra talks with Derek Longmeier of Problem Gambling Network of Ohio and Keith Whyte of the National Council on Problem Gambling. Need to talk? Call the National Problem Gambling Helpline: (800) 522-4700.
Faith	Closer Look	1/21/24	7:13pm	17min	Faith Of Her Father - Baby Jessica's Dad The unlikely rescue of Baby Jessica from a well back in 1987 remains one of the world's most watched news stories of all time. There were "multiple miracles," says her father Chip McClure, "more than you can count...God's hand was evident." In the days and months after, the family received thousands of calls and truckloads of mail from all over the world, people in personal distress who were encouraged by the McClure's faith and the good news of Jessica's rescue.
Addiction	Closer Look	1/28/24	7:00pm	30min	Kids Fooled by Fentanyl, Rx Fakes Kids are getting pills that look like Xanax or Percocet online or in the locker room. Often laced with fentanyl, these deadly drugs can be 100x stronger than morphine. "It's terrifying," says Pat Aussem of the Partnership to End Addiction. Ed Ternan, co-founder of Song for Charlie lost his college-aged son to one pill and now helps other parents warn their children. "We still say 'just say no' but we spell it K. N. O. W. because many of these young victims are dying from taking a substance they didn't ask for."
Animal Therapy	KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	January 2024	4 per week, 16 total	60sec 3.49min Podcast	Mom, Daughter Share Loveable Llamas as Huggable Therapy Shannon Joy and her mother, Lori, utilize llamas and alpacas for huggable therapy experiences. Their farm, Mountain Peaks Therapy Llamas & Alpacas, is a faith-based nonprofit organization that connects people of all walks of life with their social animals. Most recently, Shannon was invited to take a pair of llamas to Portland International Airport (PDX) to help travelers alleviate stress, "You get to see the unexpected come over peoples' faces. They're not expecting to see a llama, let alone two, just walking down the hallway." Shannon and Lori's faith plays a large role in what they do. Shannon says, "For me, personally, my church always conveys to be like Jesus. It's my way of bringing unconditional love to those who need it most." The farm offers to travel but they also have on the farm visits too.

<p>Childhood Issues</p>	<p>KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast</p>	<p>January and February 2024</p>	<p>4 per week, 16 total</p>	<p>60sec Podcast 18.13min</p>	<p>Pastor, Dad, shares 10 Valuable Things He's Learned About Teenagers</p> <p>Although he's now lead pastor at Bible Baptist Church in the Greenville, South Carolina, area, Stephen Cox is also a former youth pastor. And concern about young people remains very much top of mind. "My heart is still with teenagers," and he continues to share his wisdom and faith at youth events in many states. Pastor Stephen crafted a list of 10 things he 'heard and observed.':</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Many are hurting - Broken homes, broken relationships, disappointments</li> <li>2. Many are confused - So many voices speaking into their lives</li> <li>3. Many are distracted - social media</li> <li>4. Many feel alone - isolation, abandoned, social media</li> <li>5. Many are searching - looking for someone that cares</li> <li>6. Many are empty - looking to fill a void with a relationship or substance</li> <li>7. Many want a role model or mentor - An example to pour into their lives</li> <li>8. Many would turn to Jesus if we showed them Jesus - He is the Answer, He fills the Void, He is the Friend</li> <li>9. Many need a church that cares - Camp, conferences and retreats are great but the church needs to disciple these young people. Train them and love them.</li> <li>10. Many want the truth - stop trying to be cool and just preach the Word to them. They are hungry for truth. Let's determine to reach the next generation with the gospel and love them to Jesus.</li> </ol>
<p>Entertainment</p>	<p>KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast</p>	<p>January and February 2024</p>	<p>4 per week, 16 total</p>	<p>60sec 15.50min Podcast</p>	<p>An American Ninja Warrior...For Christ</p> <p>This was the third season Elijah Browning took part in the American Ninja Warrior competition on NBC, and the Tennessee athlete is only 18 years old. That's remarkable. "Super-blessed to get my dream handed to me a little early," explains Elijah. He had been competing in Ninja Warrior-type local competitions since he was ten years old, hoping to be trained up when he became old enough to compete for the national TV production. At the time a contestant was required to be at least 19 years old. But something unexpected happened for Elijah. "I got a call out-of-the-blue when I was 16 years old" from the host of American Ninja Warrior offering an age exception and invitation. He also points to his support team, including his mother, Renee, who was on-set with him, helping with mindset encouragement. Elijah sees the Ninja Warrior competition as "70% mental, 30% physical."</p>

Faith – Ministry	KLOVE’s Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	January and February 2024	4 per week, 16 total	60sec 15.29min Podcast	<p>Nick Vujcic: No Arms, No Legs, But A Big Heart for Sharing Jesus</p> <p>Nick Vujcic was born in 1982, surprising his parents and doctors when they saw he had no arms or legs. It’s a rare birth defect known as tetra-amelia syndrome. Nick tells us the Australian doctors were extremely apologetic that they had not detected the syndrome and offered his mother the option of abortion. For a growing boy, not having limbs and knowing what the doctors had said, gave little Nick a rough path. “Looking at my brother and sister born after me – and them having arms and legs – kind of felt a little unfair and weird. And with no answers, it’s easy to start believing the lies, the little voices that say, ‘you’re not good enough, you’re a mistake, there is no greater purpose for your life,’ and so as I went to school, I was facing bullying. I went through depression at age 8 until age 12, and I felt like there was no hope for my life.” During that period, Nick attempted to take his own life by drowning. Fortunately, he failed. Fast forward to today. “Here I am now at age 40, with a beautiful wife, four beautiful children, and this incredible ministry Life Without Limbs – being the hands and feet of God (even without hands &amp; feet), standing in front of the gates of hell and redirecting traffic. I now try to encourage everyone that no matter what pain we go through, that God can do beautiful things with our broken pieces...if we give those broken pieces into his hands.”</p>
Entertainment - Faith	KLOVE’s Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	January and February 2024	4 per week, 16 total	60sec 3.24min Podcast	<p>Video Games and Jesus: Online Gamer Connects Youth and Faith</p> <p>Video games and Jesus? It might not seem to match up. Online gamer, Josh Clayton, has made it work. Josh utilizes many gaming platforms to build relationships with other gamers. “I personally believe that the online community is the largest, unreached, unengaged people group in the world.” With a background in Biblical counseling, Josh is able to walk with those struggling or facing trials in life. He shares, "What video games provides is...a common ground that's there to forge a relationship." Josh says we cannot know what someone is going through. Oftentimes, they hide behind their smiling profile. But connecting those people with Jesus comes natural for Josh. He says, "It's so important for us to not only acknowledge that people have real life that's going on, but that Jesus can answer those real-life situations in your life." Claremore First Baptist Church caught wind of Josh's success in reaching young people. He was hired, during the pandemic, to boost their online following.</p>

Ministry	KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	January and February 2024	4 per week, 16 total	60sec 18.36min Podcast	An Amazing Thing God Is Doing Aaron and Erin Nikou have an 8th grade daughter whom they love very much. "And it wasn't until we really started getting to know her friends, having them to our house, and having conversations with them – and kind of watching her walk this journey of middle school – that we noticed that there was a really big need for a community just for them. But how? Fellowship Nights at their home Husband Aaron pitched in with teaching from the Bible and selected topics. "And from my perspective," Aaron says, "her passion, my calling, come together and all of a sudden it creates this explosion of kind of organic growth here." The co-ed fellowship group saw 32 young people show up the first week, but it didn't take long for as many as 125 to gather at the Nikou's central Indiana home! Many of the kids were dropped off by their parents and, somehow, God kept making room in the home. The weekly get-together became so big that the Nikous accepted an offer from Pastor Danny Anderson at nearby Emmanuel Church to use a church fieldhouse for the fellowship group.
Finances	Closer Look	2/4/24	7:00pm	29min	Food Prices, Fight Inflation from Your Fridge Food costs more these days. COVID-19 shutdowns drove up the price of labor, fertilizer and fuel needed to move crops from farms to factories to stores and eventually to your kitchen. What can you do? Should you panic buy? Comparison shop? Billie Wright checks in with Assoc Prof. Joe Balagtas at Purdue University and Jordan Page, lifestyle blogger and mom of 8 for proven tips on cutting your grocery bill.
Veterans – Homelessness	Local Closer Look	2/4/24, 3/10/24	7:30pm	20min	Talked with Emmy Hildebrand, CEO of the HVAF of Indiana organization. Hildebrand explains that HVAF stands for Helping Veterans and Families and that their main mission is to do what they can to ensure all veterans in Indianapolis are not homeless. She also shares, in detail, the many programs and services that they provide include employment opportunities, resume assistance, counseling, mental health assistance, and food and clothing assistance. Information about their programs can be found at (HVAF.org).
Marriage	Closer Look	2/11/24	7:00pm	30min	50% Divorce Rate Is Myth, Researcher Says We've heard the chances of staying married are like flipping a coin. Christian author and social researcher Shaunti Feldhahn believed it too. But when she wanted to cite an original source for the 50/50 divorce rate, she was surprised none could be found. After eight years of study, Feldhahn is confident the true divorce rate is currently no greater than 25%.
Veterans	PSA	2/12/24 – 2/25/24	112 spots, 8 times each day	15sec	Veterans face homelessness at higher rates. Veterans represent only 4% of the population but account for 11% of those experiencing homelessness. HVAF works to change that, offering housing, therapy, employment aid, and more. Learn more about their mission at hvaf.org.

Healthcare	Closer Look	2/18/24	7:00pm	15min	Tackle Childhood Obesity at Home, Church and School Millions of American kids suffer words like chubby or chunky – or fat – to describe their young bodies. The COVID-19 lockdowns only worsened already alarming levels of childhood obesity, as the CDC found the BMI (body mass index) in children ages 2-19 years old increase nearly doubled during the pandemic. Excess weight weakens growing muscles and joints and can lead to juvenile diabetes or even trigger life-threatening asthma “Prevention is what we really want, right?” says Geri Henchy, Director of Nutrition Policy at the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). “We want kids to be in environments that are not obesogenic; where they’re gonna get healthy meals, where there isn’t a lot of junk food, where they have activities -- that’s really gonna make a difference for kids.”
Childhood Issues	Closer Look	2/18/24	7:15pm	15min	Teens Aged-Out of Foster Care Get Help From ‘Dream Makers’ Without family and often lacking lifeskills, former foster kids become homeless adults by the thousands, turning to drugs and crime on the streets just to survive. “Every statistic you hear that is going bad in the United States, a lot of them link back to the foster care system and those kids just not being taken care of.” Dream Makers steps in to link aged-out foster kids with practical assistance by connecting them with the generosity of strangers. “It totally up to the community to fulfill the dream.” The young adult with a need fills out an application to ask for things that teens with families could easily get from a mom or dad: like money for work clothes, or a laptop for school, or maybe a used car – but Melton says the most common dream request from these youth by far is – food.
Healthcare	Closer Look	2/25/24	7:00pm	30min	Young Girls Pregnant and Scared Turn to StandUpGirl.com Dawn-Marie Perez, Executive Director of StandUpGirl.com says their site stands ready to help. “Our mission is to have these girls be able to find life-affirming information through us -- and then we connect them with pregnancy centers in their neighborhood.” Quick response is essential. “If you go google the word ‘abortion’ right now there are millions of websites that are gonna come up,” she says. “Our goal is to have StandUpGirl show up on that first page of their search.”



Social Media	KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	February 2024	4 per week, 16 total	60sec 15.50min Podcast	<p>Rob Kenney, "Internet's Dad" Shares Life Hacks, Encouragement, And Loves God</p> <p>With prompting from his daughter, Rob Kenney launched a social media outreach during the COVID-19 outbreak. "We were all locked away," and the idea was to offer a 'dad video' to encourage or entertain people coping with the pandemic. "I put up my 'How to Tie a Tie' video on April 2 of 2020 and about a month-and-a-half later, my channel went viral! That was scary for me, but I'm grateful that I went viral for something wholesome." These days, Rob is on multiple social media channels, including Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube as Dad, How Do I? And "On TikTok, I'm The Real Dad, How Do I? because there were people who were imitating me." The videos show Rob demonstrating how to put air in your tires, unclogging a toilet, applying deodorant &amp; cologne, how to shave, explaining an Allen Wrench, or making popcorn. Things a dad would share with a child. Why is Rob committing so much time and effort to these videos? "I think that there's definitely a need for people to understand how cool it is to be a dad. I feel like that's a mission that God has given me to try to encourage dads to hang in there, and you're needed and you're valued." It bothers him when he sees TV shows offering "stereotypes, Homer Simpson and Al Bundy...the bumbling dufus of a dad. And you know, I've met a lot of cool dads and a lot of very good dads. We need to encourage that behavior." Due to the popularity of his channel, Rob authored a book "Dad, How Do I?" which shares about important character traits for a good life, his own faith in Christ, and 58 useful 'how-tos.'</p>
Entertainment	KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	February 2024	4 per week, 16 total	60sec 15.35min Podcast	<p>Valentine's Day: Putting 'Love First' – But What Is Real Love, Exactly?</p> <p>"Your relationships, they matter. They're important. They're important enough to prioritize. God gave us people in our lives for a reason and to help us building community. And I think sometimes because we have social media, we feel like we have community, we're looking at community, but it's not the same thing as being in community and relationship with one another," "Sadie Robertson-Huff adding, "I think a lot of people fear relationships because they're hard and they're messy." Her advice? "If you put God first in your life, then all of your relationships will be better, and be blessed." She urges people to consider "God's view of relationship and community." To help make this do-able, Sadie and her husband, Christian, have put together their first jointly written book, "How to Put Love First." That love, Agape love, does not have barriers. It's "available to everyone." She says, "Your relationship with God is how you really find what true love is – and then, from there you get the blessing of relationships with people. That is an overflow."</p>

Entertainment – Faith	KLOVE’s Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	February and March 2024	4 per week, 16 total	60sec 16.43min Podcast	<p>Geek Devotions: We Speak ‘Geek’ And Share Jesus with Isolated People</p> <p>When it comes to telling others about the offer of eternal life through Jesus Christ, there are evangelists, pastors, and missionaries, to far away countries. But how do you reach a people group that has what might be considered an unusual affinity? Geeks. First off, let’s define the word: “A geek is merely a person who is very much – I won’t say obsessed – but very much in tune with what we call ‘Geek Culture’ – things involving comic books, video games, anime, and movies and fantasy books,” explains Dallas Mora, who along with his wife, Celeste, lead the Christian outreach Geek Devotions. Dallas and Celeste want you to know that people in the geek world - not unlike many people - often have issues with isolation and depression, but in different circumstances. It's sometimes almost like social persecution. For anyone who believes in Christ, Dallas believes there’s always a local mission field: your circle of associates and friends. “Speak to the culture that you’re in. People everywhere need to know about Christ. There are people everywhere who are hurting, who feel abandoned,” and Dallas reminds us, “You have this precious thing called Christ, salvation...and they just need somebody to speak their own (cultural) language – presented in a way that they understand – and allow the Holy Spirit to draw them to salvation.” And Celeste added a very soft, but heartfelt “yes” after that comment.</p>
Entertainment	Closer Look	3/3/24	7:00pm	17min	<p>Young Storytellers Outreach Brings Kid-Scripts to Stage</p> <p>Children feel the thrill of seeing their scripts come to life with the help of creative-writing mentors and local actors who volunteer to perform. Though based primarily in Los Angeles, the arts program Young Storytellers works to scale its success to other cities by providing free online videos educators can use to help students shape stories.</p>
Family Issues	Closer Look	3/3/24	7:17pm	25min	<p>South Carolina Dad Helps Reconnect Non-Custodial Fathers with Their Kids</p> <p>Vincent Mercer from Moncks Corner, South Carolina, knows how important it is for dads to be there for their children. He helps lead Father to Father, a program that helps low-income non-custodial fathers (and some moms) overcome life barriers that keep them from being involved with their children. As a father himself, Vincent understands the importance of a dad being there for his children. By doing so, Vincent says, “that child is less likely to be incarcerated, more likely to finish high school, more likely to be successful in the job market,” and have better interactions with their peers.</p>
Animal Safety – Special Needs	Closer Look	3/10/24	7:00pm	15min	<p>Poodles, Labs Trained Free by Guide Dogs of The Desert</p> <p>Guide Dogs of the Desert is one of just 14 schools in the U.S. for certified canine companions. Labradors are the main breed, but it specializes in standard poodles, which are hypoallergenic. Dogs are paired with the blind in need at no-charge.</p>

Veterans – Animal Safety	Closer Look	3/10/24	7:15pm	15min	Dogs Rescue Soldiers with Paws of War A small meow tugs at a soldier’s lonely heart. A bony pup cowering nearby begs for a bite of ration. U.S. combat vets adopt battlefield pets they must leave when deployment is done. Paws of War runs missions to find the soldier’s beloved cat or dog in countries like Iraq and Syria, Jordan, Kosovo. “We do it, we do it at no cost to our active military members; we get those animals back here and we reunite them.”
Food Insecurity	Closer Look	3/17/24	7:00pm	15min	“Share The Wealth of Your Dirt” Through AmpleHarvest.org AmpleHarvest.org is nationally recognized for successfully recruiting backyard gardeners to fight food insecurity. The site lists 8,000 local pantries which accept donations of fresh fruits and veggies. The non-profit also works to involve pastors and churches nationwide through the Faith Fights Food Waste campaign and recently added a program to feed malnourished people on Native American reservations.
Addiction	Closer Look	3/24/24	7:00pm	29min	Parents Of Addicted Loved Ones Turn to PAL Groups for Support One of your kids is on drugs. Getting in trouble. Calling you over and over bail them out. You don’t know what to do. PAL Groups bring people together to swap stories and share strategies -- online or in-person. “When we found PAL we’re like okay, we’re not alone, there’s other people who’ve been down this road.” PAL groups were first formed back in 2006 and the Christian-run non-profit now hosts more than 180 meetings nationwide. Members may attend in-person or choose to join online sessions available most days of the week. All meetings are free, confidential, and open to any parent who needs to connect with others for help and hope.
Entertainment	KLOVE’s Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	March 2024	4 per week, 16 total	60sec 12.14min Podcast	‘Junior Reporter’ Shares His Faith, Encourages the Community Ezra Speaking is just 8 years old, he’s a Christian and loves the music we play. He has a YouTube channel and likes to do interviews with community leaders and personalities. But most importantly, Ezra loves to share his faith with others. “Christians are supposed to share the Gospel with other people and almost my whole time I’ve been trying to be a Christian, I’ve tried to help.” Recently, Ezra had the chance to interview music sensation, Lauren Daigle. Ezra says his experience was ‘very special!’ He said Lauren was “super nice” and that he’s very glad he interviewed her because very few kids, or even adults, get a chance to interview celebrities. But doing interviews is just the beginning for this young man from Lafayette, Indiana. Ezra has big plans! “I have three main things that I want to become; a teacher, a nurse and, I want to become a local weather person too.”

Entertainment	KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	March 2024	4 per week, 16 total	60sec 13.51min Podcast	<p>Making A Difference with Positive TV: Great American's Leader Bill Abbott</p> <p>After only a few years, Great American Media has made a noticeable splash. Their Great American Family Channel is one of the fastest growing TV networks. And there's a good reason. They focus on "quality star appeal" and giving "viewers an alternative and a place to go," that offers relief from shows on other networks that "are uncomfortable and very difficult to watch," explains CEO Bill Abbott. The network targets movies and shows with positive outcomes, good news, and does not shy away from stories involving faith. "I spent my entire career in family friendly television and I just think there's such a need for our children and the world to have places to go where the story isn't always dark, that there isn't always some type of event or situation that you have to either run for the remote – or cover your eyes – or have nightmares," he chuckles, but in seriousness. A simple philosophy Bill shares, "I think there's a majority of people just looking, after a long day at the office, to come home and have something to watch and just enjoy themselves. And they don't want to be necessarily put in a position where they're going to be uncomfortable" watching a show that might cause discouragement or unpleasant echoes as bedtime approaches. Adding to its national media influence, Great American recently acquired Pure Flix, in partnership with Sony. The streaming service is known for family and faith-oriented content. And there's the Great American Faith &amp; Living channel as well.</p>
Relationships	KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	March 2024	4 per week, 16 total	60sec 15.35min Podcast	<p>"Love Is Not Teddy Bears and Roses and Chocolates" - Sadie Robertson-Huff</p> <p>"Your relationships, they matter. They're important. They're important enough to prioritize. God gave us people in our lives for a reason and to help us building community. And I think sometimes because we have social media, we feel like we have community, we're looking at community, but it's not the same thing as being in community and relationship with one another," Sadie Robertson-Huff adding, "I think a lot of people fear relationships because they're hard and they're messy." Her advice? "If you put God first in your life, then all of your relationships will be better, and be blessed." She urges people to consider "God's view of relationship and community." To help make this do-able, Sadie and her husband, Christian, have put together their first jointly written book, "How to Put Love First."</p>

<p>Faith – Education</p>	<p>KLOVE’s Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>4 per week, 16 total</p>	<p>60sec 13.37min Podcast</p>	<p>Despite Risk, She Plans to Return Home and Share Jesus Smyrna Pervez Masih and her family left Pakistan after persecution made life difficult. It was a particularly unsafe environment for the four girls in the Masih household. “I didn’t know English,” explains Smyrna, “I knew the alphabet, but not as much that I could make a sentence out of it, or I could make words out of it.” And school was not a possibility at the time. Being determined, she asked a pastor if she could borrow an English bible. The bible was a King James Version, which gave her a bit of a formal approach to English, not contemporary, but definitely useful. She would focus on a few English words at a time from the bible and “pull up Google Translator” to “try and find meanings in Urdu” (her native Pakistani language) so she could understand the word's intent. This focused research took place in the middle of many nights because the family only had Internet access from midnight to 7:00 a.m. Smyrna also watched American pastors on YouTube “and I would like try to catch their accent and understand what they’re saying.” She would get a little sleep, “and then I would wake up in the morning and teach my sisters” what she had learned the night before. So, they were not only learning English, but also reinforcing their knowledge of God’s word. Once in the United States, Smyrna was too old for traditional high school, so she went to night school online to earn her diploma, and did so in less than 18 months! Moving ahead, the Masih family was led to Mishawaka, Indiana, the home of Bethel University, a private Christian school. She is a Christian ministry major, with a minor in psychology. Smyrna’s father was an active pastor in Pakistan and still serves the Urdu community by way of Zoom and Skype. Smyrna shares that after graduation, “My goal is to be in ministry and comfort people.” She hopes to return to Pakistan and help young people who believe in Jesus to understand what their Savior and religion are all about, that “it’s such an honor to be a Christian and such an honor to be a child of God,” even in a country where they might feel secondary.</p>
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