



**AN
AFRICAN
HARVEST**

THE FIRST FOUR DECADES OF TWR IN AFRICA



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INTRODUCTION

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

The Great Commission - the last instruction given by Jesus before leaving earth is not just our responsibility as Christ followers, but our motivation for the way we think, speak, and live. Go and make disciples of *all* nations, though? Jesus didn't say some, or most, or the ones that are comfortable to visit.

Jesus said all.

But the reality is that this task is a huge one. Sending people to carry the Good News to every tribe and tongue seems impossible. As human beings, we have so many limitations that appear to hold us back from fulfilling this command. And if we don't have any obvious limitations, then we make them up. Does this excuse us from obeying what Jesus instructed us to do? Do we brush off His last words as though He couldn't possibly have meant that we were supposed to tell every ethnic group about Him?

Jesus said all.

But how then do we reach the Boko Haram who are feared for their violent persecution? How do we reach into countries that legally forbid Christianity or are trapped by the crippling fear of evil spirits? How do we reach the animistic tribes in the Nuba Mountains who are cut off from the rest of civilization?

Sending missionaries to live among these people groups and learn their cultures, worldviews, and lifestyles is of extreme importance - there is no substitute for hand delivering the Gospel to people who have never heard it before. However, this isn't always possible in every circumstance.

But when Jesus said all, He was not joking.

Even when missionaries cannot physically go somewhere, the message of Truth can. Radio, Internet, mobile devices, and other media open doors that did not always exist. When Jesus commanded His disciples to go to all nations, they took Him seriously even though all that they had were their voices and their feet. We have been equipped with powerful media tools to take the Gospel into places where we physically cannot go. TWR has been doing this faithfully for 60 years around the world and 40 years specifically in Africa. The passion to fulfil the Great Commission has driven the radio pioneers to bring the Word of God to ears that have never heard it before. As TWR celebrates 40 years of ministry broadcasting from Swaziland, we celebrate the marvellous things God has done and anticipate what He will do in the coming years through this ministry.

Through the power of the Spirit, we can use radio and other mass media to accomplish the task Jesus gave us to make disciples of *all* nations.

PAUL FREED SPEAKING AT SWAZILAND'S OPENING CEREMONY





PLOUGHING THE FIELD

TWR AFRICA'S FIRST 30 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Picking a Plot!

As technology developed in the mid-1900s, Christians started using radio to help spread the Gospel. Stations sprouted up around the world, but southern Africa remained a region where no signals of hope could reach. This area afflicted with poverty, crime, underdevelopment, sickness, and spiritual darkness had a great need for the message of salvation through Christ Jesus. It was a big “blank spot” on the missionary broadcast map.

Long before TWR endeavoured to build a station in Africa, missionaries in Johannesburg were burdened to see this blank spot filled. In the late 1940s, they began praying that God would provide an opportunity for a full-time Gospel radio station to address this spiritual need. Despite numerous rejections for permission to build a station, they remained diligent in their prayers and attempts for broadcasting licenses.

After about 25 years of petitioning, the leaders of Africa Evangelical Fellowship (AEF) approached TWR in 1965 for help establishing a radio ministry in southern Africa. The founder of TWR, Dr. Paul E. Freed, passionately accepted and joined forces to accomplish this mission.

The Kingdom of Swaziland was selected for the transmitter site because of the stable government, availability of fuel, and local receptiveness to the project. Missionaries spent hours in the Deputy Prime Minister’s office working on license negotiations. That patience and dedication paid off when the Swaziland government granted permission to build the radio station in June 1973. Finally, prayers had been answered and the next steps in airing the Gospel could be taken!

God Sends a Flood

Work began immediately on preparing the Mpangela Ranch where the transmitter site would be built. The site was six miles from the nearest paved road and had 30 acres of trees and bushes that needed to be cleared. It was necessary for the land to be prepared for God to do His work.

Sand was needed as building material, but it was not available and TWR had no funds to get it. In the same way the missionaries had learned to rely on prayer for a license, they turned to prayer in anticipation that God would somehow provide the sand needed for construction.

One night, a fierce storm passed through the transmitter site with a torrential downpour. The stream running along the property flooded high above its usual level, stirring up the riverbed. When the waters finally subsided, the missionaries could not believe their eyes. An enormous amount of sand had been picked up by the heightened waters and deposited directly in front of the construction site for the transmitter building! God had literally brought the sand directly to them, free of charge. It was obvious to everyone that God had His providential hand on the operation in Swaziland.





On Air!

On 1 November 1974, after over a year of preparation, the first 25,000-watt short wave transmitter was switched on in the secluded location just outside of Manzini, Swaziland. The joy and excitement brought about by this milestone was overwhelming as TWR launched its fourth international transmitting site. The biggest blank spot on the missionary radio map was covered at last!

Programmes went out in English, Afrikaans, German, Zulu, and Portuguese throughout sub-Saharan Africa. The Gospel was reaching ears that had never heard its sweetness before. Four letters were received from people who had heard the first broadcast and had decided to follow Christ as their Saviour. God was already at work in this small, humble beginning.



“We feel that, although we are a small nation, God has selected us to serve Him in this capacity - just as He selected the small village of Bethlehem to be the birthplace of Christ, and thus to become an important centre of the message of peace and salvation to mankind. We believe that where there is Christ, there is always peace and harmony.”

- Prince Mabandla Dlamini,
Prime Minister of Swaziland, 1981



TWR founder, Dr. Paul E. Freed at TWR Swaziland's opening ceremonies with several Swazi dignitaries.



TWR Speaks to the Hurt of Angola

In 1975, Angola entered into a 27-year civil war that caused unbelievable strife to the country. Devastation shattered Angola's infrastructure, economy, administration, and religious institutions. The country today suffers from overcrowding in major cities as a lack of running water and proper sanitation enhances the prevalence of disease. If these treacherous threats weren't enough of an obstacle, civilians had to be cautious of the 10 million land mines that blanketed the land. By the end of the war, over 500,000 people had lost their lives and 3.8 million were displaced within the country. What should be a prosperous country with oil and diamonds is stricken with poverty and distress.

This dire situation was causing Angolans to suffer both physically and spiritually. TWR-Swaziland saw a need to reach these people with the hope that Jesus offers. Gospel radio productions began in 1978 as one of only two non-government stations broadcasting in the languages of the Angolan people. With local help, a simple studio was built that could be dismantled in about an hour in the case of emergency evacuation. Even though it was dangerous, having a studio inside the country allowed programmes to be developed in the heart languages of people groups like the Ovimbundu who had fallen victim to the civil war, drought, and famine. The church blossomed in Angola through short wave broadcasting.

As TWR Swaziland broadcast to Angolans, it became apparent that there was a need for an on-the-ground women's ministry. Project Hannah, founded by TWR in 1997, is designed specifically to offer compassion, encouragement, and hope to women who have dealt with extreme hardships. The need was great in Angola. With countless prisoners, orphans, and hospital patients, the programme *Women of Hope* spoke Truth to these hurting hearts as prayer groups started forming throughout nearly a dozen cities in Angola. In 2002, a local Project Hannah ministry was established and just eight years later over 4,000 Angolan women were involved in prayer groups. The effect of this ministry went far beyond numbers - it restored hope to those who had lost it.

Bringing Hope to Mozambique

Dealing with war is a daily struggle for many sub-Saharan Africans, be it war between countries or fellow countrymen. Similar to Angola's Civil War was the Mozambique Civil War from 1977-1992. A total of one million people died in the fighting, with five million displaced and countless amputees from land mines. Death and disease were paralyzing this country.

In the midst of despair, a voice on the radio began telling stories of the wonderful love of Jesus. TWR penetrated the fighting in 1990 with *Molumo Olipelela* (Words of Hope), which offered Truth to the Makhuwa of Mozambique, Africa's largest unreached animistic group. These messages quickly became louder as word of them started spreading throughout the country. During the fighting, a listener said, "Something is happening. People in my country know about TWR." These broadcasts spoke of peace, togetherness, friendship, and tranquillity in the middle of extreme violence and disunity.





President Joaquim Alberto Chissano saw the potential of the broadcasts to bring national reconciliation and reconstruction, as he noted that the opening of a TWR studio would bring about the “rediscovery of spiritual and social tranquillity for the people of Mozambique.” His foresight was not put to shame. People listening to the broadcasts were giving their lives to Christ. Churches started to develop. The country began to change.

Molumo Olipelela became the first radio programme to be produced in the Makhuwa language; this seed grew into a “radio church” where five people began gathering in the Monbapo village each evening to listen to the teachings. The numbers increased as more people heard of the messages that were changing lives. In five months, the church grew to 40 members. They decided to construct a church building by themselves so they could have a bigger meeting place to listen to the radio broadcasts.

In addition to the Makhuwa programmes that were winning people to Christ, the Lomwe programmes also trained church leaders in how to disciple these new believers. The purpose of Christian radio is not just to create believers, but disciples. As a result of six years of broadcasting into Mozambique, over 300 local congregations established themselves in the work of the Lord. Praise be to God for the way He united this country in His love despite the war that threatened to tear it apart.



Muslim Ministry

Christian radio developed a strong presence in southern Africa after TWR-Swaziland went on air in 1973, but further north where the influence of Islam was strong, there was still a great need for the Gospel.

Some Muslim countries do not allow Christianity within their

borders. As a media organization, TWR can reach these people with the message of salvation through Christ in a culturally relevant way. Radio dramas were produced focusing on a personal and subjective approach to life's questions, specifically addressing questions about the Christian faith. These dramas were

broadcast into areas that had dense Muslim populations.

But it is not enough for radio to speak truth - it is also necessary for the church to actively engage with their Muslim neighbours. For this reason, the 12-part video series *Battle for the Hearts* was completed in

2001 to equip Christians to reach out to their Muslim friends. TWR worked hand-in-hand with SIM International's Life Challenge Africa to complete this informative, practical video series. *Battle for the Hearts* remains perhaps the most in-depth, quality video training on Muslim ministry ever made.

Just the Beginning

After decades of faithfulness, prayer, and listening to God, the 1940s vision for a Gospel radio station in southern Africa was finally a reality. The ground had literally been prepared at the Swaziland transmitter site for God to plant His seeds through radio messages. The Good News of Jesus Christ was reaching areas where missionaries previously had not gone, gracing the ears of people who desperately needed to hear the message of hope and salvation. With a Christian radio station established for thirty years, it was time for TWR to start looking at how God wanted to expand even further into Africa.



BAOBAB TREE IN KRUGER PARK, SOUTH AFRICA





SOWING THE SEED

TWR AFRICA'S PAST 10 YEARS OF MINISTRY

“How do we reach this vast number of people best but through the medium of radio? Through radio we can plant the seed.” – Ray Alary, Former TWR Africa Director of Operations

By looking at a map of Africa, the Sahara Desert covers the top and geographically divides the continent in two. What is not obvious on satellite maps, however, is the division between the north and the south when it comes to religion. The northern part of Africa is predominantly Muslim while Christianity is openly practiced in sub-Saharan Africa. Having a Christian radio presence in the southern part of the continent allows for strengthening of believers as well as reaching people who have never heard the Gospel before. However, there is a desperate need to move the Good News north where Jesus is little known or often misunderstood.

In the midst of spiritual darkness, ancestor worship, widespread illiteracy, war, corrupt leadership, political and civil unrest, and Islamic influence, Christians began searching for a way to have a radio presence in West Africa. Radio ELWA (Eternal Love Winning Africa) had a presence in Liberia for decades starting in 1954, but the station was looted multiple times and ultimately destroyed. It was obvious that serious spiritual warfare was taking place in this region of Africa when TWR entered the battle to spread the Gospel.

God Raises a Warrior

Abdoulaye Sangho was from an Islamic background in Mali who had lost his parents and grandparents by the time he was ten years old. Missionaries reached out to him in love during this difficult time and demonstrated to him what a Christ-centred life looked like. As a result of their influence, Abdoulaye gave his life to Christ and learned to walk with the Lord as he grew up.

As a West African Christian from a Muslim background, Abdoulaye was an ideal man to reach this part of the world for Christ. He understood the cultures and mastered the French language. Desiring to be used for the ministry, Abdoulaye produced the first TWR programme in West Africa called Africa Challenge. This programme taught, trained, and encouraged Africans in vital and practical topics of African life, airing on over 50 stations.

When Reverend Stephen Boakye-Yiadom, International Director of Africa, met Abdoulaye, he knew that this was the man TWR needed to reach West Africa, and when Rev. Stephen asked Abdoulaye to join TWR in establishing an office and studio for French speakers in West Africa, he immediately agreed. On October 1, 1996, TWR-Côte d'Ivoire was founded in a small,



hot, converted child's bedroom in Abdoulaye's home. The walls were lined with egg cartons for sound proofing as Abdoulaye sat day in and day out recording the first French programmes to be aired from a short wave transmitter in Johannesburg. This South African transmitter that previously spewed government propaganda during the Apartheid era was now sending out messages of God's love.

But this start was so small - was God going to do anything big through these humble beginnings?

The day came when the TWR-Côte d'Ivoire office received its first letter from a listener. It was from a woman nearby who was crippled, which caused her to be ignored and rejected by the people in her village:

You don't know me, but I used to listen to TWR from South Africa. I have a radio that somebody gave me. I don't know how I stumbled onto your station, but that day I turned the dial and listened to TWR and your show. The way you spoke, the way you shared the testimonies on the programme that day, stopped me from committing suicide. I didn't kill myself that day like I intended. I cried to God for help. That is why I am writing to you. Can you send me a Bible so I can read the word of God? I know God saved me from killing myself.

The Good News was being received by people in Côte d'Ivoire! The first evidence of the work God was doing in this region led TWR to pursue the best location for a radio station to reach the whole of West Africa.

Where to Plant

The search for a place to build a transmitting station in West Africa was not easy. For years, TWR explored opportunities in Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Mali, but to no avail. Frustration and patience warred with each other as seemingly open doors kept closing.

But then something unexpected happened.

At the Global Conference on World Evangelism (GCWE) in 1997, President Matthieu Kerekou of Benin voiced an urgent request for a Christian radio station in his country. As the birthplace of Voodoo and the former Slave Coast, Benin is a very spiritually dark country. Its people live in fear of evil spirits and seek the protection of fetishes (religious talismans) to counteract any spiritual attack they may face. One pastor told of a man who used to practice Voodoo asked for help to destroy his fetishes after he came to know Jesus as Lord. Two vehicles were filled to the brim after all of the fetishes were collected! Such stories show the spiritual war being waged for the souls of the Beninois and the need to set them free from the crippling fear in which they live.



Benin in the Making

How then does a country so plagued by spiritual darkness end up with its president requesting that a Christian radio station be built in his country? Through the diligence, obedience, and prayer of a faithful young pastor named Romain Zannou.

For 20 years, God laid it on Pastor Zannou's heart to pray that Benin's Communist Marxist President Matthieu Kerekou would come to know the Lord. Not only did Pastor Zannou pray, but he also actively pursued a friendship with the president despite his nerves in doing so. After President Kerekou lost the election in 1991, Pastor Zannou spent some time going through the Bible with him until the president eventually got too busy and cut off their meetings. But Pastor Zannou was not about to give up. President Kerekou had yet to fully understand and accept the love of Christ, and Pastor Zannou was dedicated to this task that God had given him.

For 18 months, Pastor Zannou wrote letters, made phone calls, and stood outside of his mansion for up to 16 hours a day in hopes that the president would open his doors to hear the Gospel again. Throughout this time, Pastor Zannou remained diligent in prayer that this leader would come to know the surpassing love of Christ. That dedication paid off when President Kerekou finally reopened the gates of his mansion to Pastor Zannou in 1995 and gave his heart to the Lord! He burned all of his fetishes and worked with Pastor Zannou on cultivating his newfound relationship with Christ, all the while developing a passion to see his country come to know and love Jesus. God placed President Kerekou back in power in 2001, but this time he was a new man with a new vision for Benin.





TWR Gets Involved

With a godly man now in leadership of a country in West Africa, the door that TWR had been waiting for suddenly swung open in 2003. President Kerekou not only invited TWR to build a station in his country, but he also gave as much land as TWR needed to construct the site. The elders of the Sirarou village in Benin showed TWR's Ray Alary and James Burnett the beginning of the property and said, "Now your land starts here. How much land do you want? You can go back as far as you need."

The ease of the process and the generosity of the Beninois people were astounding. Ray speaks of the experience as a very profound moment:

"Then we walked the land feeling like Moses sending Caleb and Joshua into the land of Canaan. This was a very significant day to me personally. The whole day, I walked through the land feeling like this was our Promised Land experience. All this laid a foundation to build upon

when difficult days would come."

The location that was given to TWR was in the centre of many unreached people groups, some having less than five believers per 10,000 people. The fact that the doors to other countries had been closed to a Christian radio station was evidence that God had this plot of land picked out to accomplish some mighty works in the years to come.

On Air!

Many factors made the road to being on air very difficult. It was seemingly impossible to get a license from the Benin High Authority of Audiovisual and Communication (HAAC), but Abdoulaye had formed a friendship with the president of HAAC years before TWR had an interest in Benin. This friendship is the reason TWR was granted a medium wave (AM) license on 4 July 2006. Another issue was that the entire transmitter site had to be built by hand. Finances were slim, but God provided a blind man from Canada who sold two generators to TWR at a reduced cost. Several missionaries' family members passed away during the time it took to set up the station, but the joy of the Gospel being spread to West Africa helped ease the emotional pain.

A spiritual clash in Benin occurred on 10 January 2008. This is National Voodoo Day, when people flood the streets with chants, dances, animal sacrifices, and ceremonies. In the small village of Sirariou, just 450 kilometres north of the hectic celebrations, the 100,000-watt medium wave transmitter was successfully switched on for the very first time. Tears of joy flowed from the eyes of the TWR missionaries as years of hard work had culminated in this successful moment.

Once the testing was completed, official Gospel transmissions went on air on 1 February 2008, as TWR's 14th major international transmitter. The coverage of this site was enough to potentially reach 190 million people in West Africa. The relief of finally having a station to send messages of hope to these people caused for a huge celebration! Over 1,200 people attended the official dedication of the station on 5 July 2008, even though only 500 chairs were provided.

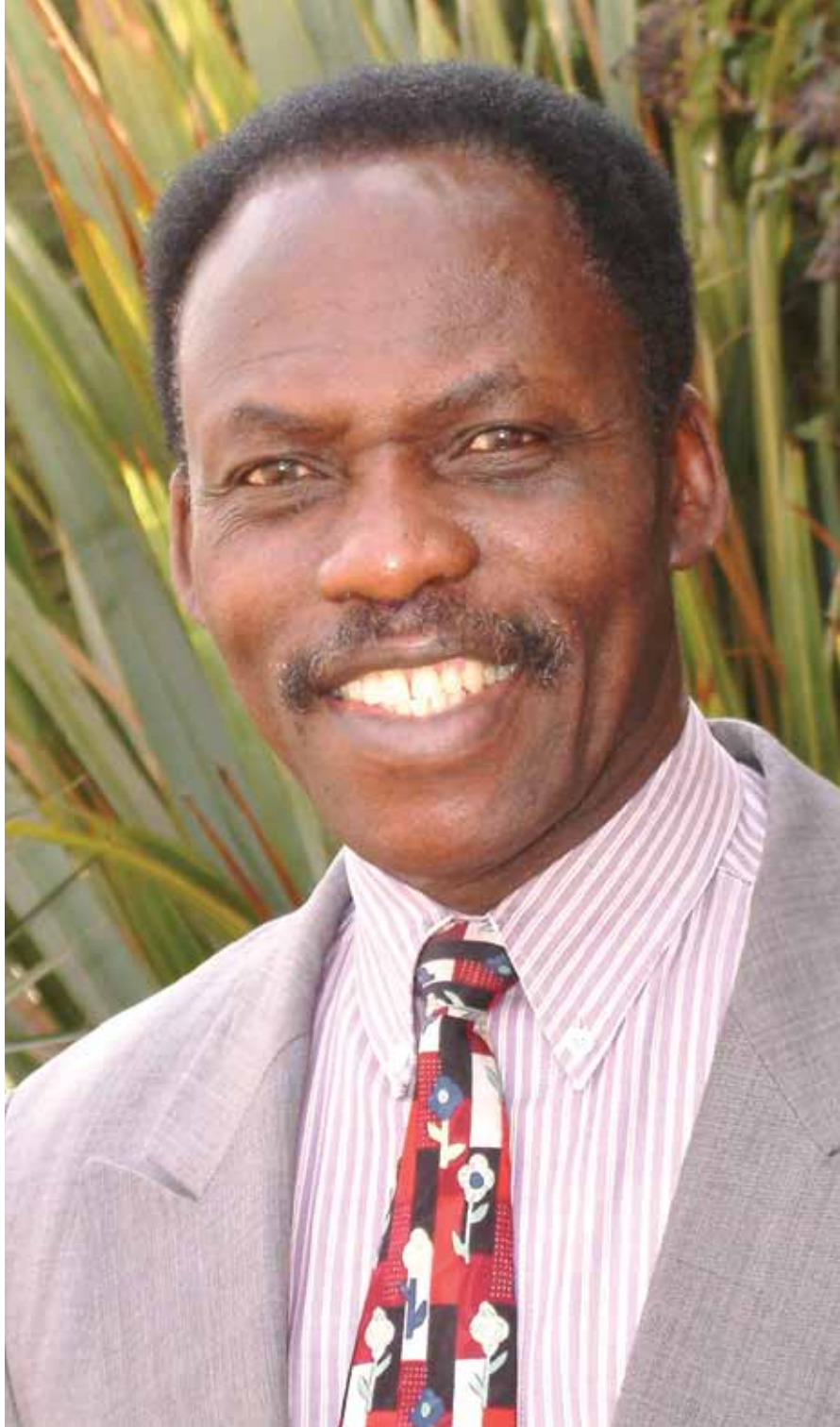


Abdoulaye said the following in response to the wonderful work God had done and had yet to do in West Africa...

“I have a dream that the Lord will raise men and women in Africa, in conjunction with missionaries from the West or other parts of the world, strongly equipped and highly passionate to love and reach Africa. I have a dream that every African will hear and understand the Word of God in his own language, and that one day the African church will grow not only in number but in depth to become a church of mission, reaching all Africa and beyond.”

A Modern Day Moses

Reverend Stephen Boakye-Yiadom had a strong desire to see West Africa reached with the Gospel. His passion initiated and drove the project of building a station in Benin. To the heartache of many, he was unexpectedly called home to be with his Lord on June 2, 2007, before witnessing the completion of the Benin station. Stephen worked faithfully in the ministry since 1975 and served as International Director for the African Region for 15 years. He will forever be tenderly remembered as a man passionate about spreading the Gospel and for often stating, "Africa needs Jesus."





HORST MARQUARDT, STEPHEN BOAKYE-YIADOM, ANDREW MACDONALD AND FORMER TWR PRESIDENT TOM LOWELL

Giving Thanks for Faithful Servants

Rev. Horst Marquardt has been involved with TWR's German partner ERF Medien since 1960. From 1994 to 1997 he was TWR's International Director for Europe, the CIS, the Middle East and Africa and mentored Stephen Boakye-Yiadom.

Horst and Irene Marquardt have been married 59 years and been blessed with four children, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He celebrated his 85th birthday on 14 July 2014 but continues to produce messages for the radio. While he hasn't served in Africa for many years, we know that God's provision through Horst still resonates here.

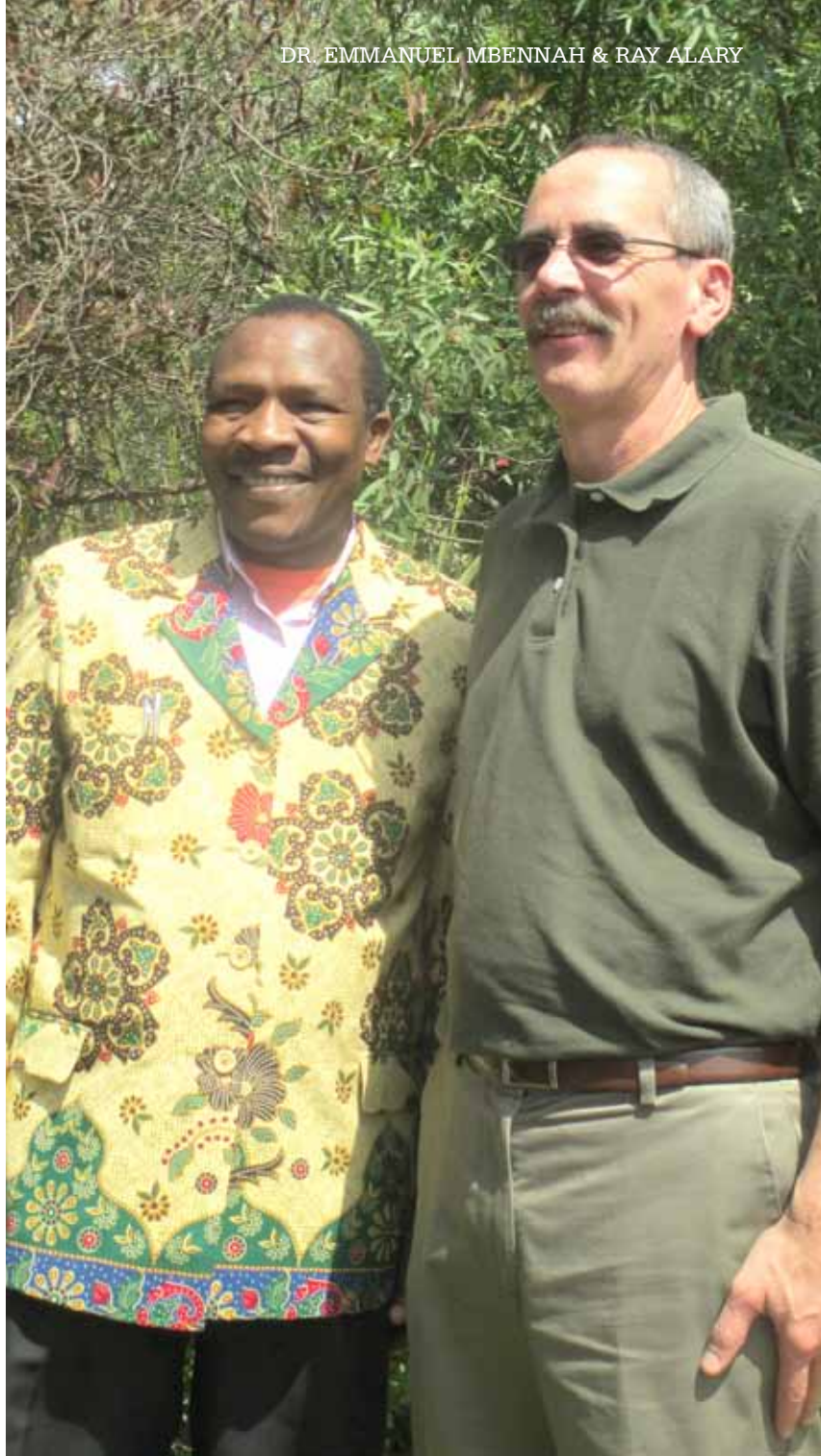
"The Lord," as Rev. Andrew would say, "put up one of those stop signs in our Christian walk." Leaving the business world behind in 1977, Andrew and Barbara MacDonald began serving with TWR. After constructing a studio and office in Cape Town in the late 1970s, the MacDonalds moved to Swaziland for 14 years where Andrew eventually became Director of Programmes.

When TWR's International Board decided to regionalise in 1992, Andrew and Barbara were asked to transfer to Johannesburg the following year. Andrew led Ministry Development while Barbara also helped establish the Africa Regional office.

In 2005, shortly after moving into a consultant role, Andrew was diagnosed with cancer. He was taken home to be with the Lord on 12 July, 2007 after more than three decades of faithful service.

After the untimely death of Rev. Stephen, the Africa region was led briefly by Ray Alary who helped keep Africa moving forward until a new International Director could be installed. Ray was able to accept the call to lead TWR Canada once the next International Director was found.

Dr. Emmanuel Mbennah became International Director on 1 April 2009. Raised in Tanzania's capital Dodoma, he first crossed paths with TWR in the early 1980s. While a college student in Nairobi, Kenya, he met Stephen Boakye-Yiadom. In 2008, TWR searched for someone to provide leadership for the Africa region and asked him to pray about it. Dr. Mbennah and his wife, Ruth, prayed together and confirmed that God was calling them to TWR. "We are thankful to the LORD for honoring us with the opportunity and privilege to serve Him through this unique ministry of TWR."



A New Era

While a medium wave transmitting station in West Africa was a huge need to expand TWR's reach, another need also drastically developed over the past 10 years: new media. Globally, the frontiers of the digital age are continually pushed wider. As satellite, Internet, and cell phones have become more common over the past decade, TWR has adjusted to these new demands and changing trends. Radio is no longer the only platform where people are getting information, and it is crucial as a media organisation to infiltrate new popular technologies.

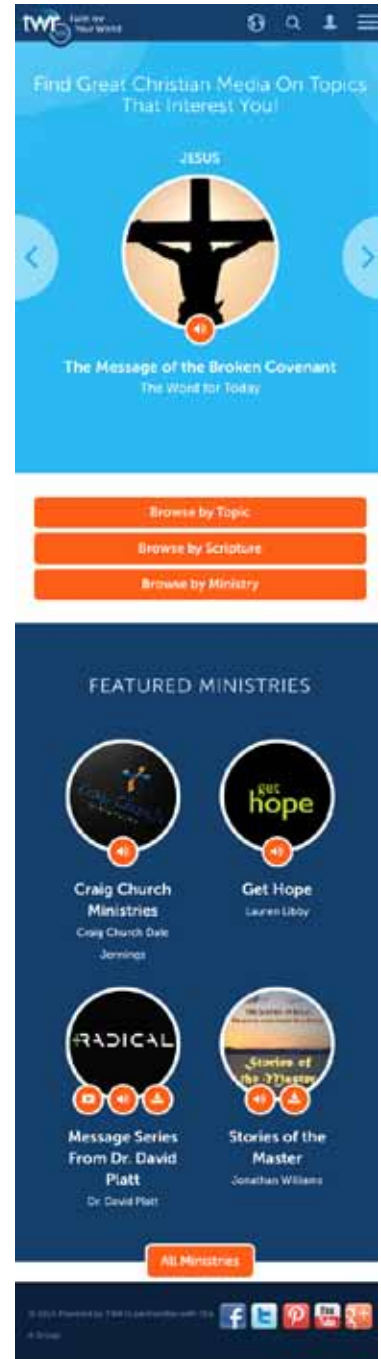
In 1995, TWR started satellite broadcasting, making it possible for any African satellite dish south of the equator to receive TWR audio 24 hours a day. This is an important way to distribute quality Christian media to local FM stations. Another way TWR is available at the touch of a button is the Internet. The first TWR-Africa website was developed in 2001 and began live streaming in 2007. Over a period of just four years, the number of unique listeners jumped from 354 to more than 2,800.

Not only can online users listen to live streams, but they can also access content on demand such as worship music, programmes, information on other ministries, and the JESUS film through the development of TWR360 (twr360.org). This tool was launched globally in 2013, allowing people from all over the world to access Christian media resources in their heart language. The website started out with over 8,000 pieces of media content in the languages of English, Mandarin, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic. Since its launch, TWR360 is constantly adding more languages to the database, including the African languages of Afrikaans, French, Portuguese, and Swahili. The purpose of TWR360 is to make Christian messages readily available to anyone with Internet access. It has also been developed into applications for mobile devices. The need to create mobile content is huge, especially in Africa where most people will never own a desktop computer, but over 83% use a cell phone. TWR has developed mobile apps for TWR360, *Thru The Bible* (TTB), Project Hannah, as well as making broadcasts available on popular radio apps such as Tune In. The success of these projects has been substantial, with TTB Afrikaans receiving over 500 downloads in the first month.

Although new media is rapidly becoming an important part of life in Africa, radio still remains the primary way people get their information. Since a radio set is typically the first luxury item that an African will buy, most families own one or more. Radio has the advantage of being media that can reach all kinds of people irrespective of their racial background, age, religion, or class. It also crosses political and geographic borders. Thus, radio remains effective and relevant medium. Listeners don't have to pay to access radio like some newer media.

In smaller countries and large cities, FM is growing in Africa. For decades, TWR has established FM stations in Mozambique, Swaziland, Malawi and most recently Kenya. They help TWR remain a relevant broadcaster in places where short wave listening has fallen dramatically.

By increasing the types of platforms for Gospel messages, TWR increases the number of seeds that are being sown on the African continent and leaving it up to God to grow them.





WATCHING IT GROW

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE OF TWR



Our calling is to reach the world for Christ so that lasting fruit is produced.

Looking back over the first 40 years of ministry, God's hand has been undoubtedly guiding and providing for TWR in Africa. Many seeds have been planted and they need to be cared for in order to grow. If new believers are not trained to be disciples of Christ, then the notion that African Christianity is a mile wide but only an inch deep may remain a too frequent reality.

Let this not be the case.

Our purpose is to create ministry that is sustainable and effective. TWR has a vision to continue growing God's family on the African continent through increasing media engagements, focusing on specific people groups, expanding

broadcasts, and connecting with people passionate about helping the ministry in Africa. It is not in our game plan to be an isolated media organisation. Instead, TWR continues to seek ways to shape the whole media industry to glorify Christ and to make His name known.

TWR moves forward with confidence in the coming years knowing that the Spirit will guide the ministry and open doors just as He has in the past. Our duty is to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that [He has] commanded [us]." We can do so knowing that Jesus will uphold the promise that He made before leaving earth: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Key Ministry Focuses

In the development of new radio content, it is necessary to consider who will be listening and what their needs are. TWR has identified some key areas that desperately need to be addressed in Africa including: children and youth, women, and health.

Children and youth

Research shows that people are the most open to the Gospel from ages 4-14. These are also the ages that most missionaries serving today chose to follow Jesus. On a continent where families are torn apart by HIV/AIDS and half of the population is under the age of 25, it is absolutely crucial for children to be fed spiritually and to understand the love of their Heavenly Father. TWR serves younger children through Project Samuel, which currently has nurturing care groups in Kenya, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Burundi, and also has a programme called Jesus to the Youth (J2Y) which serves ages 13-25. Today's youth are called "Generation M" because of their technological literacy, so these programmes are working to develop content for new media that will best serve this new generation.





Women

Each day, women in Africa are severely oppressed by things such as domestic violence, rape, sex slavery, neglect, kidnapping, and cultural and religious practices. It is an urgent need for these women to know that they are cherished and loved in God's eyes. Project Hannah is a TWR ministry that offers compassion, encouragement, and hope to these women. The motto of Project Hannah is "Prayer is the work; ministry is reaping the results." Through prayer, advocacy, radio, and mercy ministries, Project Hannah currently has a presence in about 11 African countries and restoring hope to over 10,000 women. Preparation to expand into new countries is underway, as well as development of educational drama series to address cultural practices that harm young girls.

Health

Two-thirds of the world's HIV infections are found in Africa, including a sobering 91% of the HIV positive children. The poorest continent is also home to 80% of malaria cases. Often the root of these problems is that people are simply uninformed on issues that affect their daily lives. In order for the continent to move towards healthier living, TWR believes Africans must have their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs met. Programmes continue to be developed which focus on specific diseases, ages, and people groups instead of just generalised health information.



Expansion

As new focuses develop, TWR is asking God to expand the ministry through additional transmitters and stations. More platforms may also be needed to broadcast a wider variety of content.

Benin continues to broadcast 15 languages every night, but the signal covers only part of some countries that TWR desires to minister to such as Mali and Mauritania.

These areas have a desperate need to hear the hopeful message of Jesus Christ because of the powerful influence of Islam. Mali is part of the buffer zone between Muslim North Africa and the more Christianised South. Less than 2% of its population practices the Christian faith, causing extreme conflict within the nation. The Timbuktu station Abdoulaye used to broadcast from was destroyed along with a library and Bible school. All of the equipment was smashed and the buildings were burned. A nation similar to Mali in terms of Muslim dominance is Mauritania, with less than 1% of its population being Christ followers. This country on the furthest west coast of Africa is unreachable by our transmitters. TWR desires to share the Good News to people in this country and a short wave transmitter in Benin could easily reach them.

Although listening patterns continue to change, it must be taken into consideration that short wave may be the only option to reach certain countries with the Gospel. Short wave has the ability to travel long distances. Although the quality is not as high as FM, short wave signals are still clear enough to convey speech. Short wave can cross international boundaries and reach countries that don't allow Christian messages to be broadcast within their borders. The *Thru The Bible* broadcasts from Swaziland to Madagascar resulted in 20 churches being established. With over 61% of Africa's population living in rural areas, these far-reaching transmissions are crucial to covering the entire continent with Christian radio. Even though FM and medium wave (AM) are more popular in urban areas, short wave remains the only radio for many remote people groups and the reason TWR prayerfully desires short wave in Benin. However, this prayer request has been a struggle for the past decade. The government in Benin happily granted TWR a medium wave license, but it may take a miracle for a short wave license. TWR has also been praying for a short wave license to be granted in Angola or Côte d'Ivoire, but there has been no progress yet.



TWR Needs People

Although TWR seeks to expand its radio broadcasts and plant seeds in that way, this mission is not possible without people willing to help make it happen. God may give us a vision, but it is up to us to responsibly act on the charge He has given us. TWR has an immense need for people to make operations possible – engineers and IT experts to help with technology; communications people to tell others about what God is doing through the ministry; on-the-ground missionaries to cultivate seeds planted in listener’s hearts; supporters to enable the ministry to continue; prayer warriors to sustain and strengthen the ministry; and many more. Jesus calls all of His followers to go and make disciples, and a way to take part in that is by offering your skills to be used for His glory. God does not call us to be extravagant – He calls us see the value in being ordinary, because He uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.









REAPING THE HARVEST

AFRICAN TESTIMONIES

In 1974, four letters were received from people who had accepted Christ after the first broadcast from Swaziland. Today, the amounts of testimonies that have flowed in since then are too many to count.

However, the numbers are not important - it's the changed lives of listeners that are the real evidence of God's work. Through thousands of redemption stories, it is obvious that the Spirit is moving through Africa and opening people's eyes to the truth of the Gospel. The duty of TWR is to continually make this message available to unreached ears so that the Spirit can do His work in the hearts of those who listen. Whether the stories come from those who have accidentally stumbled across a TWR programme or those who have been faithful listeners for years, all of them are powerful and testify to the love of our mighty God.

The following stories are from TWR listeners who have found hope in Jesus Christ through radio. Each is uniquely miraculous - some will move you to tears, some will cause you to laugh with joy, and others will make you stand speechless as you witness how God has come to the rescue in seemingly hopeless situations. Stories such as these are what drive TWR to keep broadcasting God's Word.

As you read, allow yourself to marvel at our God. Ask yourself what you can do to help cultivate the seeds that have been planted. Jesus asks His church to be His hands and feet in doing His work, with the promise that you will reap what you sow. Ready yourself to be put to work; the harvest is growing fast.



“I am a young man of 25 years, of Mankayane region. I have been a slave of sin for so many years and I regret so much for what I have done. I’m not yet married but I have five children from different mothers and this has been a heavy load in my soul in such a way that I have tried so many times to kill myself. It happened that one day as I was thinking about my situation, I was listening to Voice of the Church (VOC) and a message was said that changed my thoughts. The presenter mentioned that God is above every situation and He is ready to meet the need of everyone who comes to him. As I continued listening, examples of many people in the Bible that have been through such situations were mentioned. That gave me a change of thought about myself. I called the presenter in the studio and I was invited to come and have some discussion which I did the next day. I came to VOC and I was led to accept Christ. My life changed from that day and now I am a daily listener of VOC and I so much love this station”

- Listener from Swaziland



“Dear brother, I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ! As you can notice I am from a Muslim family. I am a student and a newly born again Christian. I have been converted by a class mate but I have to hide myself to go to church. My father and my mother are both Muslims so

you can imagine the difficulties to normally practice my new faith. I am still living under their roof and I am not allowed to attend Christian church services...The programmes on the radio are what strengthen my faith. Your messages prevented me - more than once - from giving up. I want you to pray for me and for my

exam and for a job; so that I will have the means to live by my own. I currently need some advice. I'd like to visit you if you allow me to come to your office. I am very young in the faith and the things seem already so difficult...”

– Listener from Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire



I have been married for ten years and my in-laws never loved me. I'm a Christian but due to this situation; I was no longer active in church. My husband also turned against me. I cried for a long time and I felt like God has left me. One night as I was awake, crying, a message of hope was preached and prayer requests were open. I sent a prayer request that night. A miracle happened the next morning! My husband called me and apologised. Life is sweet now and I thank God, I never miss listening to VOC, and I love this station.

- Listener from Swaziland

“I am a suffering woman. My husband past away, a victim of HIV. Whenever I feel turmoil, I am comforted when I listen to TWR broadcast programmes. The messages have shown me that Jesus is the best friend; his love is also upon all those crying or in need, despite their social or economic status. I can now plan my life to better care for my children, trusting in the Lord’s mercy”.

- Listener from Mozambique

“Dear Father and Mother in Christ, Greetings once more. It is my greatest pleasure to write this letter to you first of all to thank you for being the servants of the Lord and serving the millions of people all over the world through your teachings in sermons and above all through the book *Your Quest for God* (by Dr. Richard Bennett).

I happened to be one of the blessed inmates who got the chance and opportunity to read and study this Spirit inspired book and my life has never been the same again. I will never ever be the same again. The book turned out to be talking to me personally and telling me about all the things I never knew about the Lord, as to who He is, does or how much He loves and cares for me.

All the things I learned in this book have become part of my daily Life in this place and the most amazing and surprising part of it all is how much joy I have found in the Lord despite me being in a maximum security prison. The Lord has managed to reach and touch me in this place. I have found God and His love and mercy for me in prison. I have seen His work being carried out in my life in prison more than in the outside world. I have met the Lord and I have been changed and transformed in prison – more than the outside world. I have been given the chance to know and be able to write to great caring and loving people like the Bennetts and many other servants of the Lord.

In my life I have reached a point where I thank God for making it possible for me to be imprisoned because the period we spend behind bars has turned out to be the best time of my life and I will cherish this period for as long as I live.

Lastly I would like to ask you to bless me with your other book *Food for Faith*.”

- Listener from a South African Prison

“Since I started listening to your radio station my life had a real encounter with Jesus and on 22 November 2000, while dying in hospital after being sick for one year, I met the Lord Jesus. During that time I was in the ICU of the hospital, doctors told me that they were discharging me to go home and die in peace at home. My Jesus came and changed all that, today I am alive. Jesus gave me a vision of what he wanted me to do for Him – Acts 9. I have now been in ministry for 10 years. The company I was working for put me on medical discharge on advice from the doctors. My Jesus said in Hebrews 13:5 – “I will never forsake you in sickness, in death, in trouble”. Thank you for opening doors for me to various ministries and teachers over the years. I have never been to college or any Bible school – your radio is my Bible school. My prayer is that whether we ever meet or not, that is not important, God richly bless you in all you do. It is as if you are my family – when I was sick my wives ran away and abandoned me. I overcame because you were my “encourager in the faith” (Romans 10:13-17).”

- Listener from Zambia





“We are 16 young disabled people, lost our sights, some since childhood, and some born blind. It is easy for a person to imagine how hard it will be to lose your sight. We are students in the college of social studies from different departments, law, anthropology and history. Though we are not in the same area of study, we have two things in common, one is the physical disability the second is the

radio ministry we are following together.

God has put His mercy up on us, as He did with the blind men mentioned in the Bible. When our Lord Jesus Christ restored their sight, they used to go out to tell the news of their healing to the rest of world. Here, we are also to do the same for the spiritual sight we have received, or for opening of our spiritual eyes. We

are no more blinds; it is beyond the things of this world that God enabled us to see. We can view that the Lord Jesus Christ has opened the heavenly gates for salvation to us. We have the hope for eternal life.

The story goes like this. There is one person among us who first learn about the radio broadcast and got a chance to listen. He found it valuable and was being

blessed by it. Then he asked a friend to take him to the radio ministry office to request for radio. Fortunately, he received one. Afterwards, he planned to organise and bring friends to sit together to listen. In the beginning we were reluctant not willing to join him. The brother was very optimistic with his plans; and was striving to attain what he had planned.

Thanks to our loving Lord, eventually he succeeded and brought us together to listen and we were blessed together. The common problem we have, that is, the physical inability, has helped us to be part of this God's wonderful plan. We are not to limit the blessings among us; we are to have a further plan to form more groups to share the good news and the blessings. Our graduated friends especially take initiative to spread the good news among people when they go else where for work. Those who will stay in the college will also work in the campus community. Our dream is to establish more groups with in the coming 3-4 months, so that people may not miss this opportunity to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Personal Savior.

God may bless you and your ministry.”

– Group from a College in Eritrea



“I personally benefited a lot from your service over the radio in these few years and as such I could not spend any single day without listening to you. Now the question of all questions is: How can I pay back for all that I got from you? I want to be sincere and open to you by revealing all that Jesus has done in my life as a result of your effort.

Friends, give glory to Jesus Christ! I am 22 years old this year. Senior six student. I had both parents that is father and mother. My father abandoned me and mother when I was eight years old. My mother being without clear source of income became bitter and as well deserted me. I had nobody to meet my basic needs. Friends, because of this I started asking many questions about life. I developed psychological trauma and became totally confused. I started planning to kill both of my parents for giving me a life of suffering, pain, and sorrow as my daily bread...Owing to this I started thinking of committing suicide as a means of relieving myself from the suffering my parents had inflicted in me. One night, when I was listening to your programme over the radio with a friend of mine, I heard that David in his lifetime had gone through very many difficulties in life and by the mercy of God he became king of Israel despite the estrangement experience he had due to Saul’s persecution.

Friends, due to this testimony I was strengthened further and encouraged to spend most of my times listening to your programmes. I developed a very strong hope and started believing in God and Jesus as powerful and able to give my needs.

Friends, by then I had confidence in God and started raising money through quarrying stone. Growing vegetables and as well as heaping sand. Friends, being confident in God I was able to pay my school fees and as well able to afford other needs. Friends, whatever I get from you I always put into practice as ways of imitating examples of James letter of “hearing and doing”. Friends, due to this my life has changed completely of course, I accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour and Lord.”

– Listener from Uganda



“I am a regular listener of your programme, *Tools for Wise Leadership*. This has become my own training school of leadership. Thank you for such a beautiful programme which is equipping me each time I listen. Focusing on how Jesus led his disciples, it is so powerful to realise that Jesus is the greatest leader. This programme has not only helped me in leadership skills but also in my spiritual life of understanding the word of God. Glory be to God. Your programme is powerful, everyone in our village is now turning to Trans World Radio, and lives are being transformed. Oh! God is great. Hallelujah.”

– Listener from Zimbabwe

Thru the Bible is my favorite radio programme. We never miss a single programme. We began listening to the programme as a family but today I can say that we are a small congregation. Each day we gather together to listen to the programme. The main problem we are facing is because we do not have Bibles. This is a big problem. If you send us Bibles we are able to pay for them. Please do this for us.”

– Listener from Angola





“It must be at least 20 years ago we first listened on shortwave to Trans World Radio with huge amounts of static but had our ears glued to hear what was taught by the Holy Spirit through Dr. McGee. Nowadays we have digital satellite which provides us with the same message and also the internet which provides us with a very clear reception of the Word... Thank you for the teaching provided by *Thru The Bible* where the journey on the Bible-Bus is so inspiring and new sites are seen even when the bus returns to the same place in five years’ time.”

– Listener from Zimbabwe



“I am an officer in the national army. I got saved during very difficult times thanks to your programme of *Good News for All*. My colleagues and I were in the bush fighting during the civil war in my country. We could not go to church and no preacher could come to us in the bush. Radio was the only source of information and our church! One Saturday, the preacher made an altar call after his sermon in that programme. I knew I needed to surrender my life to Christ and I did that. Thank you for saving my life because I now know that even if I could die during the fighting, my soul would be saved. From that time on, I persevered in that way and now I serve in my church with some responsibilities entrusted to me by the congregation.”

– Listener from Burundi

Forty years is years of sacrifices by Western missionaries and their families in difficult conditions. It's years of hard work by African pioneers in a new work slowly developing skills. It's decades of prayer addressed to the throne of grace. It is also generous donations from Christians around the world who believe in the mission and rejoice to see Africans join the family of God.

Whenever we receive a visit, message or phone call it is a compelling reminder that the Lord is at work and TWR is making a difference by helping people discover salvation in Jesus Christ (Acts 4: 12), transforming lives, changing habits, and centuries-old traditions. It is a huge comfort to know TWR partners pray and give to help produce lasting fruit in Africa. The next few years, with all our friends, we will go further by continuing to use new ways that God makes available to expand His kingdom in Africa and see Africa help bring the world the Gospel. The acts of the apostles continue until Jesus comes.

Rev. Abdoulaye Sangho
West & Central Africa International Director

It is a joy to ponder our 40-year journey. I'm reflecting this year on 1 Chronicles 16:12: "Remember his marvellous works that he hath done." The Israelites fought wars, and with the help of God, won them all. After the Levites restore the Ark of the Covenant to its place in the Tent, David appoints the singers to deliver a psalm of praise that begins from verse 8. No doubt, the Israelites remember that they are a chosen people like no other and their miraculous deliverance from suffering and slavery in Egypt. Indeed, they would remember God's provision during the long and difficult journey of 40 years in the wilderness.

We remember the coming of TWR to Africa, of which the building of a transmitter station in Swaziland was only the beginning of more marvellous works our God was going to do. We remember the many special ways God provided – laying His purpose in the heart of the Swazi King, missionaries, and those who continue to give. We remember too His calling people of various gifts, skills and abilities. Above all, we remember the transformed lives of the millions of people of Africa – transformed through this ministry as He used it.

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel D. Mbennah
East & Southern Africa International Director

