

## MILLER MESSENGER

AUGUST 2019

Dear praying friends,

We had a visit in May from a former Swaziland colleague! Mark Blosser is an MK whose parents were missionaries in India. He came on a guided tour of Arizona's Grand Canyon and swung by our place to renew old acquaintances.

Mark had spent some time as Station Director of the Swaziland station and filled me in on some of the situations that had been developing before we left. Many of them I had been somewhat insulated from as a worker "on the floor" rather than an administrator. Now I got a "behind the scenes" look at some of them.

Swaziland is a difficult field and I had great respect for how ably our TWR leaders handled the problems—and after Mark's visit I have even more. Swaziland (now called Eswatini) is a place where stealing has been raised to a fine art. All of the Mission vehicles had at least three anti-theft devices: the "Club" on the steering wheel; a lock on the transmission; and a hidden switch which, if not activated, cut off the ignition after a minute or so. That allowed time for the thief to start the engine and drive out into traffic before the engine stopped and hopefully left him sitting in the middle of the road where the police could take care of the situation.

Our apartment, on the third floor of the TWR headquarters, had five security barriers—locks, keypads, etc.—to get in to it from the street. We communicated by shortwave radio (my ham license came in handy there) with the vehicles and the transmitter site (this was before the Internet) and often the communications were distress calls. Once the van which transported us to the transmitter site arrived with the windshield missing—someone had appropriated it during the night. Another morning one of the men started his Jeep, put it into gear, and it didn't move: someone had stolen the drive shaft. That was strange because he had dogs in his yard. The thief must have pacified them somehow.

If you were driving in the town at night and the stop light went red, you looked around and if there was no significant oncoming traffic you drove through it. Stopping with nobody nearby would invite hijacking. One of our engineers encountered a pile of brush on the road to the site. He knew what that meant. He gunned the engine and crashed through it. One more hijacking thwarted.

Well, those were some of the memories we have. I think it took 27 years on Bonaire to fully prepare us for the Swaziland experience. But the rewards, as you can see from the next page, were worth it!

All this shows how much your missionaries need your constant prayers. Many of them are in similarly difficult circumstances, or more so. Please remember the prayer requests on the next page, and missionaries of any other mission that you support.

Thank you for partnering with us!

*Your Africa-Arizona missionaries,*

*Joe and Edna Miller*



“The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.” James 5:16b

☪ The Bonaire broadcasts continue to go out to hurting countries like Cuba and Venezuela, as well as the rest of Central and South America. Difficult conditions like this make many people think seriously about the Gospel. Please continue to pray for the moving of the Holy Spirit in these countries.

☪ Gabriel Fernandez continues to produce Gospel programs from the TWR studio in Venezuela. Alberto Gonzales likewise produces from Cuba. Brad Swanson, our IT man in Bonaire, says, “It’s pretty much impossible to overstate the impact that this program has had in Cuba over the last five years or so.” The same is probably true of Gabriel in Venezuela. They need our prayers.

☪ Colombia, too, is a hurting country and TWR is planning to build a studio there. Brad says, “I’m hoping that when we are able to beam radio programs created in Colombia, back to Colombia, that we’ll see a similar type of response.” Let’s pray to that end too!

*We mentioned the difficulty of the Swaziland field. Here are some of the rewards. Praise the Lord with us and pray for these new believers:*

☪ “Hello Pastor, I am a listener of your program *Thru the Bible*. Since I became more interested in the Bible through your teachings, I see a change in the way I pray, my understanding of God’s Word and my behavior. Before, I was not interested in the Word of God but I was attached to our ancestral practices. Now I have abandoned idolatry to the glory of God. At present, I am more fulfilled than before. I say thank you to the Lord, because my coming closer to God helps me to progress with God.”

☪ “...I live in Abengourou where I listen to your programs in the Baoulé language. Your messages do not only work spiritually; God uses them to heal and restore homes. I had repudiated my wife and for two years she has been living out of my house because she went to an evangelical church while I’m a Muslim and Allah does not permit a woman to disobey her husband. I got sick, and on my sickbed, I started listening to your programs and I understood that Jesus can heal. I wanted to tell my wife to ask her pastor to come and pray for me, but shame prevented me from doing so. Then I asked the pastor of another church to come and pray for me, ordering him not to say anything to my wife or my Muslim brothers. After the prayer, I got my healing. Today, I know that the God of the Christians is real. I have decided to follow this God and bring my wife home. I know that it is a decision that could cause a lot of confusion in my extended family and in the mosque. Please pray for me.”

☪ “...I am from the Akan ethnic group. We are known as a people who forgive with difficulty. Lack of forgiveness and rancor was destroying me from the inside. I felt like I was caught in my own trap. Thanks to God that today, I’ve been taught to forgive through your programs. I say thank you for the work you do in our lives.”

☪ “Your program is widely listened to here on the eastern side of Mali and the prejudices we Bambara have about Christianity are beginning to fall. Thank you very much for the instruction that God gives you for us.”

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