

*Dear praying friends,*

*We're continuing to share with you some early TWR stories. John and Gladys Aasen served in Ethiopia before coming to TWR-Swaziland. His story is somewhat similar to mine: the Lord's early preparation of a farmer's son for a very specialized mission. We also share "Northernness"—he was raised in Minnesota, I in North Dakota.*



John was 68 years old when he came to work with me at TWR-Swaziland. Born on a farm near Willmar, MN, he brought a wealth of experience with him, having joined Radio Voice of the Gospel (RVOG) in Ethiopia two years before I joined TWR-Bonaire. He had learned electronics in the Army, where he was assigned to Artillery Communications, and had further training at an electronics school in Minneapolis. He put in nine years maintaining radio stations in Minnesota before the Lord called him to RVOG.

Gladys felt called to missionary work since she was a young girl: a returning missionary challenged her and she carried the challenge into a career in Medical Technology. The Lord brought them together in 1950; they were married in 1954, after John's stint in the Army and electronics school and Gladys' year-long internship at Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis. John found work at two radio stations in southern Minnesota and they settled down and began their family.

Two years later, a position at RVOG opened up and Gladys urged John to apply. But it was not yet the Lord's timing and so John continued working at the radio stations for the next eight years. Five of their six children were born during that time: Carter, Alane, Brent, Gayle, and Nadine. Finally, in 1964, the call came from RVOG and they were overjoyed to finally reach their "promised land"! Gladys worked at Princess Tsehai Hospital in Addis Ababa as a Medical Technologist and did a lot of supervisory and training work there too. Ethiopia was looking for her kind of talent to help modernize their country. John worked on the shortwave transmitters of RVOG. Their sixth child, Grace, was born there.

Ten years later, their missionary commitment ended, they returned to the States and John spent the next 21 years at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, maintaining their AM radio station and adding two FM stations.

John retired in 1995 but the missionary burden was still strong and the next year they applied to TWR as short-term workers. He was assigned to Swaziland where we worked together on the shortwave and AM transmitters there, except for four months in 1998 when he was loaned to Yemisrach Dimts, the recording arm of RVOG, to help with their recording studio. Back to Ethiopia! And to get re-acquainted with many old friends.

Testing time: the 1997 flooding of their home in Grand Forks—the "500-year flood." The basement and first floor of their home were submerged and Gladys returned to the States for awhile to clean up. John stayed in Swaziland and continued to help with the transmitters, drawing upon his farm experience as well as his electronics school training and transmitter experience—very similar to mine. Two ND farm boys who became engineers--those transmitters never had it so good!

Gladys went to be with her Lord and Savior in February 2019. John writes of this experience: "Many of Gladys' and my experiences were exciting and delightful but, I believe, were only a foretaste of what God has planned for us as we move into His future!" And we pray that for all of you!

*Your Africa-Arizona missionaries,*

*Joe and Edna Miller*

**“Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God.” Col. 4:2 (GNB)**

▶ *From Kenya:* “I am a Muslim living in Mombasa. I woke up this morning to begin my fast and heard the program on the radio. I am not sure about the Christian faith, but I want to learn more.”

▶ *From a listener to the new Oasis transmitter in West Africa:* “I listen to your broadcasts every morning. I am very grateful; it is indeed a blessing. Please put me in your prayers. I am 86 years old and very sick. I need your prayers.”

▶ The Lord has provided for the Burundi studio to expand into new quarters. They were sharing a studio with Scripture Union, and this will allow both missions to expand. Thank the Lord! And pray that this expansion will allow more listeners to be served!

▶ *From Burundi:* I am a farmer who spends a lot of time in my rice fields. I always listen to the radio as I work. Thank you very much for the program Good News for All. This program has touched my heart in such a way that I decided to receive the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. Please pray for me to keep firm in my faith." Pray, too, for the many others who have similar stories.

▶ Are you familiar with the website, *Behold Israel?* An Israeli Christian soldier gives weekly updates on what’s going on in the Middle East and North Africa, things the U.S. media don’t cover—and they are important! These developments emphasize the critical need for the TWR broadcasts in Farsi (Persian) to Iran and in several Arabic dialects to the rest of the Middle East and North Africa. There has never been such a willingness to listen in these areas, partly because of the lockdowns (Christians cannot get to church) and the general uncertainty. The Lord is moving mightily and you can have a part in it by prayer!

▶ TWR is searching for a qualified leader for ministry to the Persian-speaking world. According to the above website, Iran is in turmoil and ripe for regime change; this emphasizes how important this ministry is. Pray that the Lord will supply His choice of person to lead this critical ministry.

▶ I (Joe) have been a Gospel tract distributor for most of my life. Most places we visit around here are not conducive for a personal testimony but tracts can often testify to our Lord when we can't. *Please continue to pray for our witness here in the Phoenix area.*

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