

Dear praying friends,

We have been featuring stories of Trans World Radio missionaries but today I want to share with you a story of a new South American ministry which sounds like some of the old stories we used to tell while on deputation. It shows that the Lord is still doing a powerful work in South America even after these many years. Mark Blosser, with whom I worked in Swaziland and who will be featured in a future letter, coaches new TWR missionaries and shared this story, which I have condensed somewhat:

I (Mark) was asked to coach a couple, Tom and Junine Schoen, who have a fascinating story and future assignment with TWR. Tom grew up in Suriname, an MK whose father ministered to two tribal people groups called the Wajana and Trio. Initially, the tribe was on the verge of extinction due to infighting and conflicts. About 80% of this tribe have become Christians and now their children are spreading into the jungle and they need radio to keep them united with teaching and traditions of their culture.

Tom's father (now retired and in his 80s) learned the language, reduced it into writing and translated the Bible. After several miraculous breakthroughs, many in the Wajana tribe came to Christ, along with a neighboring tribe called the Trio, whose language is similar. The people gather for worship and teaching God's Word five days a week, doing their hunting, fishing and work around those meetings! Outsiders often observe that the rest of the Christian world does the opposite. Their reply is, "That's because you have had the Word of God your entire life, but we have just recently received it!"

Matching this is a zeal to share the Gospel with other tribes deeper in the jungles who are suffering just like they were. These efforts take huge amounts of time and sacrifice as they are unable to provide food through hunting and fishing, cut their gardens, build canoes, etc. Tom told about a Wajana missionary outreach to "the Naked People" across the border in Brazil. They spent several months with these people and found them very receptive to the Gospel. They were excited by the prospect of having radio programs in their language, which would help them reach these people.



Since Tom grew up among the tribe, he speaks the language fluently and has been asked to translate the THRU THE BIBLE programs into their language. His plan was to have his very close friend and tribal leader, Situnka, voice the production of the programs and then install a radio station. However, COVID-19 has worked its way into the jungles, and his good friend passed away a few weeks ago--a huge setback for Tom! He longed to attend his friend's funeral and mourn with his family and friends, but COVID restrictions stopped him. Tom is now looking to see what God will do to fill the gap left by his friend. Could it be that a number of younger men will step up to take Situnka's place? God always seems to use weakness and failure to His glory and honor, multiplying the outcome. Tom asks that we pray for this situation, and we have included this request on the next page along with others from the Africa-Middle East ministry. Please pray earnestly for these areas as the Lord's return could be very close now.

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)

▶ Let’s remember Tom Schoen’s request for the Lord to provide someone to voice the THRU THE BIBLE programs which he is translating for the Wajana, Trio, and “Naked People” who are just now coming to Christ and need the discipling of the THRU THE BIBLE broadcasts. And if you would like to support the Schoens, you can reach them at this link: www.twr.org/global-staff/thomas-schoen.

▶ *Pray for the Wajana missionaries who make great sacrifices to leave their work and families to minister Christ to their neighbors.*

▶ 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 Savior. 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, BeholdIsrael.org? 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. According to the above website, Iran is in turmoil and ripe for regime change; this emphasizes how important TWR’s ministry is. 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. And TWR is searching for a qualified leader for ministry to the Persian-speaking world. *Pray that the Lord will supply His person to lead this critical ministry and that His Word will go out mightily in this area.*

▶ *From Egypt:* “I would like to thank you for your care and efforts to help me go through the Word of God. I always look for God in the Bible, and whenever I feel weak because of my circumstances, the Word and the Holy Spirit open my eyes to the truth that God is good. Since becoming a follower of Christ and not having people to support me in this journey, I find your program a source of nourishment and encouragement. God bless you and thank you. Please pray for me.” *And for all the others who listen in Arabic in the Middle East and North Africa.*

▶ 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.*

TWR Cary Office Address

TWR
P.O. Box 8700
Cary, NC 27512-8700
Tel: 1-800-4567-TWR

Email Addresses

engineer.twr@gmail.com
lledoh@gmail.com

TWR:

<http://www.twr.org>