

MILLER MESSENGER

Aug. 2021

Dear praying friends,

Continuing our little-known stories of TWR missionaries, we have James and Lyn Burnett of South Africa. James was Chief Engineer when we arrived in Swaziland in 1993. He fell in love with radio while a boy in much the same way that I did, watching the glow in the vacuum tubes and then hearing words and music coming out of thin air. Later, as a teenager, he gave his life to Jesus and saw the opportunity to preach Him by missionary radio, as did I.



Then came the training: he as an electrical engineer, I through college and the US Air Force. And then the call to a new TWR station just being built—I to Bonaire in 1966, he to Eswatini (Swaziland) in 1981.

And the testing: just before departing for Bonaire, I had a bout with Satan trying to discourage me from going. He learned that I was serious, and he left.

James was tempted to stay on in his comfortable job, but the Sunday evening before he had to decide to accept the call to serve with TWR, his pastor preached on Matt. 16:24 where Jesus says, “If any would come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and come and follow Me.” James made the decision and phoned Station Director Dick Olson in Eswatini to answer the call.

He and Lyn were assigned to help build the TWR station in Bophuthatswana, “Radio 540,” near Pretoria, in 1982. The South African government terminated the license after five years, but the broadcasts gave Radio 540 a good start, a base of support which continues to this day as it continues to minister through many local stations.

In 1984, they were transferred to the Eswatini station, where they stayed for the next 12 years. James became Chief Engineer and saw the expansion of the station to 26 languages. Lyn held up the studio end, doing the announcements on the English broadcasts. Our service there overlapped theirs by three years—enough time for me to be impressed by their competence.

In the mid-1990’s, TWR regionalized—moved from a “top-down” organization to “regions,” each overseen by a Regional Director. In 1996, the Burnetts were moved to the new Africa Regional Office in South Africa, where he became Technical Director for TWR-Africa and Lyn became the Women of Hope coordinator for South Africa.

The work expanded greatly: new studios and FM stations were built, and in 2005, the West Africa project was begun: two 100 kW medium-wave (AM) transmitters reaching into Nigeria and a major part of North Africa. Benin, the birthplace of voodoo, and Nigeria, home to the bloody Boko Haram terrorists, were definitely Satan’s territory.

Many new missionary endeavors through the centuries have been born in blood. The Burnetts’ youngest son, Andrew, was killed in a traffic accident in late 2005. Another co-worker had a son who was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2006 and is still suffering the effects of it. Ray Alary, project manager, lost his father-in-law to cancer in February of 2007. Stephen Boakye-Yiadam, international director for Africa, passed away in his home suddenly in June 2007. Andrew MacDonald, program director for Africa, passed away from cancer six weeks after Stephen. Other staff families there had bout after bout of malaria.

Could this have been the “seed” for the West Africa outreach? Satan does not give up his territory easily.

So, please be much in prayer for this ministry! Millions of souls are being, and will be, impacted for Christ!

Your Africa–Arizona missionaries,

Joe and Edna Miller

“Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.” Heb 13:18

- Boko Haram continues to violently oppress Christians in Nigeria (it has been called “the deadliest place to be a Christian”) and neighboring countries. Pray for the outreach of the new 200 kW “Oasis” transmitter, part of the WATS complex, beamed specifically to this area.
- The two-year-old “Silk Road Transmitter” is broadcasting in the Central Asian languages of Kazakh, Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, and Russian. Again, there is much persecution in this area.
- The CAMENA (Central Asia, Middle East, and North Africa) outreach from several transmitting sites is nothing short of miraculous—these stations should be impossible. Thank the Lord for protecting these sites and pray that He will continue to bless their outreach.
- TWR-Asia produced a 12-part series, *From Despair to Hope*, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been well received. Please pray for its outreach in several Oriental languages.
- We are hearing a lot on the news about Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Colombia, where the drug trade is formidable and poverty is endemic. TWR broadcasts not only from the Bonaire station but also from local secular stations to this area. Pray for their outreach and especially for the *Women of Hope* programs which address the huge domestic violence problems there.
- Afghanistan is much in the news nowadays. TWR broadcasts to this country in Dari, Pashto, and Urdu. Pray for the Christians who are under much persecution there and that the Church will grow—as it always does under persecution—and that God will use the believers and TWR to spread it.
- And please continue to pray for us Millers: our ministry to our family and our outreach to our neighborhood. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last month and were encouraged by the love and gratitude expressed by family members.

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