



Speaking Hope to the World

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Weekend forecast: *Between 0 and 158 inches of snow, starting Saturday...or Sunday...or maybe Monday or not at all. Get bread and milk now, before the snowpocalypse or a beautiful weekend!*

Weather forecasters seem to have a difficult time here. We ended up with 8 inches of snow one Sunday morning in December. See photos above and at right. Was it ever pretty—and surprising! In a similar way, we’re never sure what to expect when we head to the office. Each day is different.



Cassius: My job as Deputy to the President is multi-faceted. Because I oversee the building and TWR lodge maintenance, my day can be full of unexpected events. Other parts of my job are more predictable.

One responsibility I have is to attend meetings of our International Board of Directors. Our president, Lauren Libby, is accountable to this Board for his work in leading TWR.

TWR’s board is comprised of men and women from various backgrounds: pastors, businessmen, professors, industry experts, and former missionaries who share a heart for TWR’s ministry and calling: *“To reach the world for Christ, using mass media, so that lasting fruit is produced.”* The board is international in composition: Austria, Brazil, China, Canada, Kenya, and India are represented along with the United States.

The bi-annual board meetings include committee meetings to discuss specific portions of the ministry. The full board meeting receives reports from the President as well as from the officers of the ministry. We also schedule a ministry report from one of the regional Vice Presidents. The most recent meeting included a ministry update

from our VP for Latin America and the Caribbean region, Steve Shantz.

It is such an encouragement to meet with our board in person. Whatever may be happening with the ministry, they are faithful to hold TWR up in prayer and to encourage the leadership. This prayer support and affirmation is vital when we face difficult situations.

Please pray for our International Board. As they face decisions, they need guidance from the Holy Spirit. Pray for the newest members as they come up to speed. Pray for safety in their travels; many come from great distances to attend. Pray for their countries – some are hostile to Christian ministries, and sometimes block visa processes for the members to travel to the United States.

Valerie: For the past year and a half I've been involved with a program, *Hope Has A Name*. It features the Global Ministry Director of TWR Women of Hope, Dr. Peggy Banks, along with singer/songwriter, Babbie Mason. The podcast can be heard on TWR360, and it's broadcast as a 15-minute program on Babbie Mason Radio.

Hope Has A Name has a discussion format: Peggy and her guests chat about life, faith, and hope found in Christ. They talk about issues that affect women's lives today. Their purpose is to encourage listeners how to live and walk out their faith in God's Word.

Podcasts differ from scripted radio programs. They have a more casual format; however, the process of creating it is just as

demanding. The original recording must be high quality and the production needs to be clean and concise. Participants have a planned discussion, but sometimes they get sidetracked. So the production requires careful editing to create an appealing result.

A producer in another department created the first 36 episodes, but his schedule became too packed to keep it going. In November he passed all production responsibilities to me.

It's been challenging for me to learn new skills to produce the podcast, but I have lots of encouragement and support from colleagues. You can hear the podcast at the twr360.org. Search for *Hope Has A Name*.

One of our TWR friends and prayer supporters in Colorado is connected to an evangelistic and teaching ministry, FOCUS Ministries. One part of their mission is to help pastors in Cuba. They've asked me to accompany them next

month on a ministry trip. I'll be sharing about TWR Women of Hope's prayer ministry. We'll be speaking at churches and universities in Las Tunas, Bayamo and Holguin on February 5-12. Cuba is spiritually very needy, and I'm looking forward to encouraging women there.



Praise and Prayer:

- Pray for Valerie's trip to Cuba, that she would be used of God to encourage women there.
- Pray that we would both be teachable and malleable in God's hands.
- Pray that our daily walk would be Christ-honoring in all circumstances.

"May mercy, peace, and love be lavished on you!"

In HIS grip,
Cassius & Valerie Smith



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Cassius & Valerie