

Staying Tuned with Cassius & Valerie

July 2019



In ancient times the Silk Road was a network of trade routes connecting China and the Far East with the Middle East and Europe. (See above.) Goods were carried along these routes between the various cultures.

Cassius: The new *Silk Road Transmitter* is intended to bring valuable “goods” to this region: the Good News of Jesus Christ! We are rejoicing because this vital outlet in Central Asia began broadcasting in June. The first broadcast was in the Kazakh language. Other languages on the air are Central Asian Russian, Uyghur and Uzbek.

The 200,000-watt transmitter replaces a 60+ year old 100KW unit that went off the air in 2017. As a result, TWR had to reduce broadcasts; some programs were scheduled late at night. However, with the new transmitter online, there is more capacity and better time slots available for programming. The signal covers large areas of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.



Fine tuning the transmitter



Silk Road Transmitter Hall

Remember the Oasis Transmitter project? The antenna tuning equipment is now in Africa but still needs to be transported to the site. Recent political unrest has made this step difficult. We are striving to get the transmitter on line as soon as possible.

These are just two of the projects that I'm excited about. Day by day, my work to support Lauren keeps me busy as ever. I expect my summer business travel load to be light but pick up again in the fall with partner conferences in Europe and Asia.



Speaking Hope to the World

300 Gregson Drive
Cary, NC 27511
www.twr.org
(800) 456-7897

Valerie: Summertime in our office means extra energy—in the form of college interns! The TWR internship program is highly competitive; the students who come are talented and enthusiastic. Our SIP department has a student from Cedarville University, Abi Russell. She's in the foreground of the photo below.

Our production team is currently working on the SON-Lift program, sixty dramatized Bible stories about the life of Jesus. Each episode includes a Bible story, an explanation of the gospel, and a prayer.

These programs are distributed to China via shortwave radio, audio players, and the Internet. The purpose is to give UPGs or Unreached People Groups access to the gospel.

One of TWR's main distribution channels, shortwave radio, leaves no trail or record, preserving listener anonymity. Shortwave transmissions cross oceans and continents to deliver biblical content to listeners.

- Please pray for the station staff and the TWR engineers who support the Silk Road and Oasis transmitters.
- Praise God that Valerie's mom recovered from a head injury due to a fall. We are amazed at her resilience.
- We are thankful for you all – we depend on your prayer support.

In HIS grip,
Cassius & Valerie Smith

Cassius & Valerie

TWR's Chinese ministry team set a multi-year goal to reach out to 106 unreached people groups. Seven of the fifteen language productions are complete; others are in various stages of development. Many people in China are eager to learn English. What better way to give them that opportunity than with Bible-based stories? As a result, the Cary team is producing the English version of SON-Lift. Abi and I share



responsibilities.

Volunteers from the office and the community voice the many parts. (Cassius is the apostle Paul!)

We recently needed "extras" for several episodes. Abi recruited some of the interns and staff members to be crowd voices. I discovered that

most people can be coaxed into the recording studio with freshly baked brownies. That's the "rest of the story" behind the group photo. The man on the far right is Scott Hollinger, our Executive Producer.

One of my favorite parts of working on this project is when I record the man who is the voice of Jesus. He's a Believer from Syria and has a great Middle Eastern accent. Sometimes Cassius will ask me about my workday only to hear me say, "I spent the day listening to Jesus!"

"Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Praise the LORD!"

Psalms 117, ESV