



Staying Tuned with Cassius and Valerie

October 2019



Speaking Hope to the World

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Cassius: “*Anglicky prosím?*”

I said to the store clerk. That’s “English, please?” in Slovak. Lauren Libby and I were in a music store in Bratislava, Slovakia. I needed some bass guitar strings. I had agreed to play with the worship band for the TWR National Partners Conference ... as long as a bass was provided.

Unfortunately, the bass loaned to me had badly rusted strings. So, there we were on a Sunday night in downtown Bratislava, hoping to find an English speaker in a Slovak music store.



Fortunately, we did! We got the strings and I joined the international gathering of musicians. See the above photo. You’re looking at two Italians, one Dutch, one German, one Norwegian, one Swede and three Americans. As you can imagine, I had a blast!

That was **not** the main reason I was in Slovakia—it was for two important conferences. The first was a leadership meeting for some of our national partner organizations. We invited the directors and their board chairpersons to discuss partnerships and the recent changes in TWR’s global organization. The meeting went well; we received good feedback.



The full National Partners Conference, pictured above, was next. It also was successful. Attendees were encouraged by reports from the field, stories of changed lives, and the opportunity to worship together. Over 100 people attended from Europe, Central and South Asia, the Middle East and the USA. I enjoyed being with colleagues I hadn’t seen in a while. See picture at right.



With the Ministry Director for Central Asia

Then on the 3rd of this month, I’m making the long journey to Singapore, back and forth in one week. I will attend the Asia Partners Conference. I’m going to present TWR’s new Audio Engagement Initiative. It’s a special project to accurately estimate our global impact. Please pray for a fruitful and safe trip.



Valerie: We continue to make steady progress on the SonLift programs for China. It's fun to record our colleagues as they voice roles in the stories about Jesus. I'm amazed at our office talent.

Last week I needed women to be Martha and Mary, grieving about Lazarus; distraught sobbing was required. Imagine my surprise when I discovered our Benefits Administrator can generate convincing tears at will. Wow!

Remember the Syrian believer who plays Jesus in the programs? In the photo at left we are working together in a recording session.



In the above right photo, our producer is coaching two colleagues. They're playing the deaf/mute man and his friend. If you look carefully you can see the window to the control room where I sit. That's the top of my head as I watch the monitors and adjust the sound levels.



Sometimes we need to be especially creative in directing our coworkers. One day we needed to record a crowd scene--women who watched Jesus raise a widow's son from the dead. We needed them to respond with astonishment. So, we had an intern lie on the floor as if he were dead. Then Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!" The intern sat up and the women shrieked! It was hilarious.

We not only seek assistance from our officemates when we need voices for programs. We're also working with a Congolese church in Raleigh. They are helping with a project we're producing for southern Africa. I love working with the body of Christ!

Praise and Prayer:

- Praise for the many blessings that God continues to shower on us daily. He is SO good!
- Pray for safe travel and a fruitful trip to Singapore for Cassius.
- Pray for Valerie's audio production work. Pray for creativity and skill.

Thank you for continuing to support us both prayerfully and financially. We are so grateful for your love and encouragement.

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

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In HIS grip,

Cassius & Valerie Smith

Cassius & Valerie