



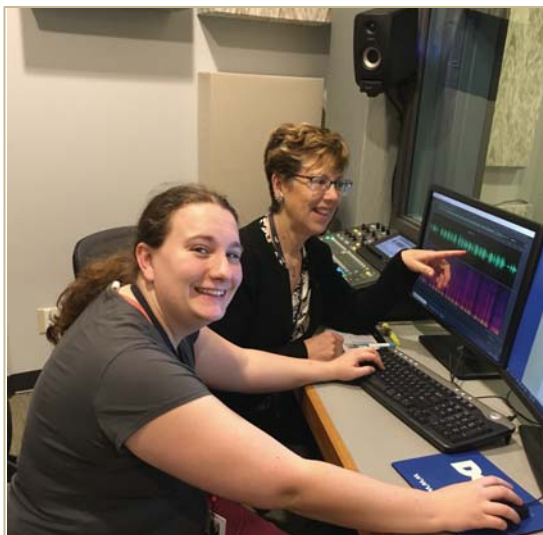
Speaking Hope to the World

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Valerie: We heaved a huge sigh of relief! After many months of hard work and an inordinate number of setbacks, illnesses and spiritual attacks, the SIP Creative Content Team met their January 31 deadline! We had set that goal to finish the SonLift project for Unreached People Groups in China. The audio files were sent to our NE Asia team on time. Phew!

With that project finished, we are now cleaning up our digital “leftovers.” Audio files are often huge. They tend to pile up as we proceed through the tedious production process. In order to reclaim space in a shared file storage, we are doing “audio housekeeping.”

A fun project I’m working on at the same time is compiling my favorite clips from the various SonLift episodes. We plan to play them at a staff meeting and let our colleagues listen to the office talent. It will be “Guess that Voice”!



Tom Watkins
Director of SIP

Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

Mission Statement:

Partnering with like-minded ministries to create culturally sensitive and relevant media content so true Christ-followers are produced.

I’ve been with the Creative Content Team of the Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships (SIP) Department for a year. Several people in the department work remotely on other projects, and I’m still learning more about what they do.

SIP was established in January 2008. Some of our partnerships are ongoing; others are intermittent. We have about 20 active partners. In addition, we have large multi-organizational initiatives that we interact with on strategic opportunities. It’s exciting to be working in a department that teams up with other organizations.

These include Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU), Jesus Film Project, Walk Thru the Bible, Samaritan’s Purse, American Bible Society, as well as many others. There are larger multi-organizational initiatives where we represent TWR: Table 71, Go2020, OneStory Alliance, InterSearch, Missio Nexus, Every Tribe Every Nation/Digital Bible Library, and others.

I love how TWR partners with other ministries to reach the world for Christ. Investing in development of a product or platform that is used by multiple ministries is a cornerstone of wise stewardship.

Cassius: Adaptability and flexibility are the watchwords for us today – with the changing situation around the world each day, new questions arise, and decisions are made. It makes for a challenging work environment, and the need to ask for wisdom every day! We are reminded of Proverbs 16:9: “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”

In January, just a few days before my scheduled trip to one of our European offices, we were notified that Mrs. Betty Jane Freed, the widow of TWR’s founder, had passed away. The family wanted to have her funeral in TWR’s building here. Lauren and I adjusted travel plans and came alongside the grieving family to help them with this event.

Since last September, we had been planning a partner meeting in Batam, Indonesia, scheduled for early March 2020. Because of the coronavirus outbreak in China, the partners could not attend, and that meeting was postponed. We are now planning to meet with these partners in September 2020.

The TWR family has experienced several medical crises recently. One of our senior missionaries in the IT department was diagnosed with a terminal cancer. Another engineer was examined at the Mayo Clinic last month and has been diagnosed with ALS. Pray for these two men and their families as they cope with the difficult road ahead.

- Please pray also for protection for the TWR staff all around the world.
- Pray for healing for Valerie. She had a serious intestinal infection in January. She is still dealing with residual effects.
- Praise God that our grandson continues to make progress adjusting to life with diabetes.
- Praise God for an outstanding medical check-up for Valerie’s mom!



Frequently I’m asked what TWR’s biggest need is– and that answer is simple. **People!** With the extent of our ministry around the world, we need people from many disciplines. Software integrators, developers, sound engineers, audio producers, project managers, accountants, graphic artists, video producers, electrical engineers, maintenance workers, mechanics, and even contracts administrators.

One of our missionaries said it well: “I never thought God could use me as a missionary. I don’t have traditional missions skills. I’m an electrician. But at TWR, I can use my skills and talents (technical, creative or business) to touch the most difficult-to-reach people with God’s message of hope.”

If you sense that God is calling you to use your skills and experience for kingdom work, *please let me know!* I’d love to talk with you about TWR. My contact information is below.

*Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
till the storms of destruction pass by.*

Psalm 57:1 ESV

In HIS grip,
Cassius & Valerie Smith

Cassius & Valerie

Contact info: csmith@twr.org