

The background of the cover is a photograph of three young women. The woman in the center is smiling and wearing a purple sash and a colorful patterned headwrap. The woman on the left is wearing a black top and a headwrap with red and black circular patterns. The woman on the right is wearing a purple hijab and a teal garment with a white floral embroidery. The background is slightly blurred, showing an outdoor setting with greenery and a building.

**twr**  
MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY - MAY 2019 • TWR.ORG

# Oasis for West Africa

EXPANDING MINISTRY TO A DIVIDED LAND

# BECAUSE **you gave**

EXTENDING THE REACH OF THE GOOD NEWS

## GOSPEL MAKING IMPACT IN WEST AFRICA

West Africa is home to many of the world's remaining unreached people groups, many of which are predominantly Muslim, and religious radicalism is becoming more widespread. TWR's broadcasts of God's Word into the region would not be possible without your support. They overcome barriers of illiteracy, fear and hopelessness to bring encouragement to seekers and new believers while providing training for pastors and seasoned Christians. Programs are airing in more than 20 languages, and your gifts of over \$65,000 in 2018 will go a long way in helping us to advance the gospel in the region. Said one listener: "Thank you for all that you do for Muslims, for by presenting the gospel in their own languages, you will bring down all the prejudices they have about Christianity. I support you in prayer for that. God bless you."

## TWR360 AVAILABLE IN DOZENS OF LANGUAGES!

TWR360.org is an online portal developed by TWR for various forms of Christian content: biblical programs, the *Daily Audio Bible*, the *JESUS* film, music streaming and many others. Partnering with us are 224 like-minded ministries utilizing the technology of TWR360 in 69 languages, and thanks to you, more languages are being added. The TWR360 app makes it easy to access the content by mobile phone, and this is especially helpful in cultures where personal computers haven't become commonplace because of poverty and a lack of infrastructure. Your response with more than \$69,000 is allowing us to expand rapidly on TWR360. Thank you!

## TWR GUAM GENERATOR SOON TO BE REPLACED

Shortwave Bible broadcasts across much of Asia go silent if radio station KTWR on the island of Guam doesn't have a generator to rely on when a Pacific tropical cyclone knocks out the power grid. KTWR's generator, which has been providing crucial power for more



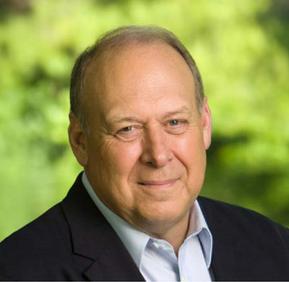
The Detroit 16-cylinder generator has been a workhorse but a fuel-guzzling one now ready for pasture.

than two decades, operates today at only half power due to its age and the scarcity of replacement parts. Listeners in countries like China, North Korea and Indonesia count on the airwaves for spiritual food, so replacing the old generator is one of our highest priorities right now. We plan to raise funds over two to three years, and we are on our way because of your gifts to this important project. Said one listener in Myanmar: "I am joyful to have the opportunity to believe in Christ. I have received assurance of salvation. I am not afraid, even if I am killed for believing in Christ. I am prepared and ready when Christ calls me to his heavenly home. I can never thank you enough, TWR Myanmar. Our prayer group is praying for you all."

## anniversary milestones

Join us in thanking the Lord for these TWR colleagues whom we honor during the first half of 2019 for serving 10 or more years with the ministry.

- 35 Chuck & Darlene Saunders, Cary, N.C.  
Jim & Roberta Hill, Cary, N.C.  
Kalman & Annamarie Dobos,  
Santa Clara, Calif.
- 15 Ann White, Cary, N.C.  
Tammy Stores, Cary, N.C.



# president's column

by Lauren Libby, President/CEO

**A** spiritual mentor of mine told me years ago, "If the Lord opens a door within your calling, walk through it!" When windows of opportunity open in ministry, the question is, "Will we have the faith and courage to seize the moment and allow God to use us?"

TWR has opened a "God-sized" opportunity right now in West Africa!

It's an opportunity that involves establishing a 200,000-watt radio transmitter to reach Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and adjacent areas with the good news of Jesus Christ. Large sections of this area – northern Nigeria in particular – have been zones of violence and religious persecution. Believers in Christ have been injured, kidnapped and killed by persecutors. Churches and homes have been burned. The broadcasts from this new transmitter will encourage believers and expose the persecutors to the hope that only the good news of Jesus can bring.

Four years ago TWR was able to purchase a newly retired 200,000-watt transmitter in Europe for pennies on the dollar – a unique opportunity! TWR leadership sensed that there would be a need for this transmitter. At almost the same time, we learned of the possibility of this strategic new transmission site. Through a miraculous set of relationships, the possibility became reality!

Since then, construction has started and is slated for completion by mid-2019.

This opportunity can't be realized, however, without the prayer and help from people all around the globe. So we are asking people to pray, volunteer and give to see God do something that could change the destiny of a generation of people in West Africa.

We call this endeavor the Oasis Transmitter Project. It will serve as a spiritual oasis for an area of more than 190 million people!

In Isaiah 54:2-4, the prophet challenged God's people:

**"Enlarge the place of your tent and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; hold not back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your descendants will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities. Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced."**

The Oasis Transmitter Project is an application of this spiritual principle and promise.

May we ask you to pray and join us at TWR as we watch God transform lives in a spiritually ravaged piece of real estate. Let's do it together!

## CONNECT WITH TWR



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**Vice President/Chief Development Officer** Tim Klingbeil

**Director of Marketing & Communications** David McCreary

**Editor** Jon Hill      **Designer** Nicole Hughes

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Projected  
coverage  
by the Oasis  
transmitter

# living water for Africa's giant



The listener responses from Nigeria are often encouraging or even inspiring. Other times, they can be troubling.

“I am enjoying your program even though I am a Muslim,” one listener told TWR only a few months ago. “You are really teaching and preaching the truth. Pray for me, too.” Another wrote, “I am indeed delighted with your teachings. You are preaching peace. I am a Muslim. Please pray for our effort to unite for peace.”

But some of the feedback to TWR's programming has a harder edge. “I have known this truth [that you teach] but cannot come out in the open to declare my newly found faith in Christ,” one wrote. “We thank you for the encouragement to stand firm even in the midst of persecution,” another said.

It's because of messages like these and many more that TWR Africa has initiated the Oasis Transmitter Project to bring springs of living water to a spiritually thirsty land. The objective is to purchase and install a 200,000-watt medium-wave (AM) transmitter at the ministry's West Africa Transmitting Station, or WATS, to focus gospel programming on Nigeria. It will join an existing 100,000-watt transmitter already broadcasting in 22 languages across the whole region.

HELP OASIS FLOURISH  
Find out more at [twr.org/oasis](http://twr.org/oasis)

The “Giant of Africa” has the largest economy on the continent and the seventh-largest population in the world (nearly 200 million), but it's a nation splintered between the mostly Muslim north and mostly Christian south. News reports tell of kidnappings by Boko Haram fighters and deadly attacks by herdsmen on church congregations.

“Oasis will be a carrier of hope, an instrument of joy to speak life and redemption to an ailing nation,” said Abdoulaye Sangho, TWR's international director for West and Central Africa. “And the most beautiful and distinctive feature of this living Oasis is that it will speak hope to these men and women in their very own heart languages!”

Oasis is an ideal project for this purpose, said WATS station manager Garth Kennedy, because radio is still king among African media and AM listenership is growing in Nigeria. Since receiving government permission for the installation in 2018, he said, preliminary work has started in earnest at WATS, including raising a tower and building facilities to hold generators and serve as antenna-tuning huts.

Kennedy estimates that, as dedicated supporters meet the challenge of this \$1.25 million project, \$500,000 of which has already been donated, basic installation will be finished by June 2019. After that come government inspections and (Lord willing) the awarding of a broadcast license, followed by completion of final technical details.

And then good news will stream forth from Oasis to Nigeria and adjacent lands.

# love then the listener, share the Word

The clash of cultures between Christianity and Islam weighs heavily in international affairs, but it takes on a very personal character in the life of Abdoulaye Sangho.

TWR's international director for West and Central Africa was born into a Muslim family in the legendary Islamic city of Timbuktu. When a missionary dentist fixed the boy's teeth and took the time to befriend him, giving books to the avid young reader, answering his questions and introducing him to Christ, young Sangho internalized the lessons that he would later apply in his own ministry.

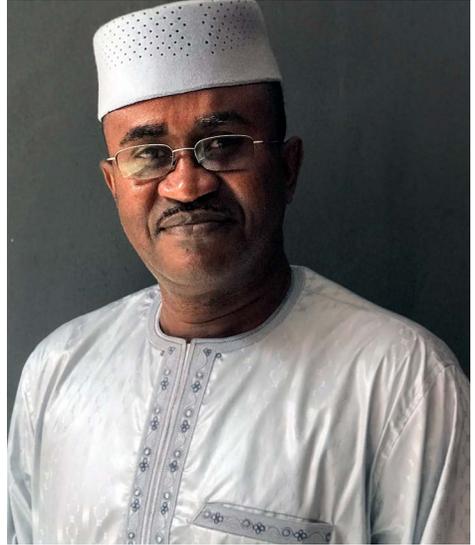
"Muslims need to know we love them," Sangho said. "We don't love them just because they are lovable people but because it's a command from the Lord. If you want to share the Word of God with a Muslim, he needs to know firsthand that you really have true love for him, and then he can listen to you. If you are far from him, if you don't have any relation with him, if you just throw the Word of God at him, he is not interested."

Sangho brings that perspective to two radio programs he produces and hosts: *The Prophets* and *The Messiah*. *The Prophets*, which he adapted from a program produced for TWR's national partner in Serbia, focuses on the biblical prophets who are also revered by Muslims, and it offers a Christian perspective pointing forward to the coming gospel.

His original content in *The Messiah*, which isn't on the air yet, helps listeners understand that Jesus Christ is much more than one among many prophets, that instead he is the only Son of God and sacrificial lamb for the forgiveness of sin.

"They have a great idea about God, but they think God is so far, too far from us," he said. "So we try to use this [common ground] while bringing God close to them. The goodness of God is evident for Muslims, but the closeness of God is not evident."

*The Prophets* is airing now from TWR's West Africa Transmitting Station, and both programs will be broadcast into predominantly Muslim areas of Nigeria



**"Muslims need to know we love them. We don't love them just because they are lovable people but because it's a command from the Lord. If you want to share the Word of God with a Muslim, he needs to know firsthand that you really have true love for him, and then he can listen to you."**

**- ABDOULAYE SANGHO**

over the planned Oasis Transmitter. There's already interest in using the programs in other regions with large Muslim populations such as Indonesia and Russia.

# the pork producer

## behind gospel media



Fran and Ken Clemens join TWR CEO Lauren Libby for the Bonaire ribbon cutting.

How does a major Pennsylvania pork producer become a crucial link in broadcasting the gospel to Latin America? The connection isn't as strange as it might sound and can be traced straight back to a Sunday afternoon ice-cream outing nearly 30 years ago.

During a drive in the countryside north of Philadelphia, Carol and Daryl VanDyken stopped for ice cream at a dairy farm and market just up the road from Central Schwenkfelder Church. Recently appointed as missionaries with international media ministry TWR, the young couple wondered whether Central Schwenkfelder actively supported missions.

Before long, the couple were making a presentation to the church about the work of TWR, and they were making friends with and gaining prayer and financial support from Schwenkfelder members like Fran and Ken Clemens. Ken just happened to be the executive vice president of The Clemens Family Corp., maker of Hatfield Quality Meats and owner of Country View Family Farms, the Clemens Development Group and PV Transport.

“For my wife and me, there’s not a lot we can do ministering on the mission field other than to donate and help people [like the VanDykens],” said Ken Clemens, who retired in 2001. “But with TWR, they can reach millions of people all over the world and can get into countries where anything faith-based is forbidden. ... Certainly, even our [Schwenkfelder] mission board can’t reach the millions of people out there still wanting to hear about Christian beliefs.”

## Great Commission partnership

Over the decades, the Clemenses developed a Great Commission partnership, helping to make disciples around the world through their faithful personal and church support of the VanDykens and TWR. But then they went a step further, persuading the family corporation’s Philanthropic Committee to make generous grants to TWR’s Bonaire Power Up project.

That three-year project raised \$3.8 million to expand the ministry’s broadcast signal across Latin America and the Caribbean. When the new transmitter was activated in 2018, the station on the island of Bonaire became the most powerful in the Western Hemisphere, significantly increasing its potential listenership in countries like Cuba and Venezuela.

It’s the kind of project that reflects the purpose of The Clemens Family Corp.’s philanthropic endeavors.

Founded in 1895, the family business began pursuing philanthropy in an organized, intentional way under the leadership of Ken Clemens’ father, John, and his brothers in the 1950s. Ken said his father was inspired by R.G. LeTourneau, a mid-20th-century inventor and manufacturer of earthmoving equipment who was widely known as “God’s businessman” and as a benefactor of Christian causes.

Over time, the Philanthropic Committee established a rigorous application and review process, awarding grants primarily to faith-based organizations. The committee scrutinized applicants to see if they had creditable boards and records of accomplishment, and it preferred to fund special projects over operational expenses. In 2018, however, the Clemens corporation decided to inactivate the Philanthropic Committee and no longer accepts applications for funding.

The grants awarded through the years supported a wide range of work: Christian schools, including Lancaster Bible College; the medical ministry Cure International; the building of churches in developing countries; the provision of clean water in Haiti; and various programs to combat hunger. The committee also contributed to post-hurricane recovery efforts in Houston, Texas, and Puerto Rico.

Even though the Philanthropic Committee received dozens of applications each year, Ken suggested to Carol VanDyken that TWR submit one more. They were strolling through a parking lot as Carol told Ken all about the Bonaire project, which she knows well because Daryl served as its lead engineer.

## Backing the Bonaire project

The application from TWR was practically perfect, Ken said, and his fellow committee members were receptive to his own efforts to inform them about Power Up. A generous donation resulted, eventually followed by another, though the couple asked that the amounts not be publicized.

“I just felt that the dollar would go a long way with TWR, and we’re helping people immediately,” Ken said. “You know, if you help to build a building, that takes time, and you don’t know how that’s going to be used down the road. But it’s instant help when a radio program goes out over the air.”

When the new transmitter began broadcasting a year ago January, Fran and Ken were celebrating alongside Bonaire natives, the island governor, TWR personnel who run the local station and others visiting from abroad, and a variety of invited guests. “A great occasion,” Ken recalls.

Through their close relationship across the years with a TWR missionary family, the Clemenses have gained an insider’s perspective on what the ministry stands for and how it makes a difference in the lives of its listeners.

Fran said, “I guess it all started with the VanDykens, getting to know them and having them keep us informed. Information is important. It lets us see what’s happening and what the needs are, and we’re happy to be involved.”

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