

Carol Witthun's Guam Chronicle – March 2020 Edition

Dear friends,

Hafa Adai from Guam! I trust that this letter finds you well. I know that this time of year the “flu” is a major concern in the US. On a global level, there is great anxiety with the coronavirus. At the writing of this letter (February), Guam has not had any cases, for which we praise God. However, many in Asia (particularly China) have been drastically affected by this illness. Pray that our broadcasts would be a source of comfort and strength to many people throughout Asia. Latest update: TWR is preparing special programming to respond to the crisis.

We continue to be encouraged by our listeners' responses to our broadcasts into Asia. Three Guam staff ladies (Denise, Melinda and Eli) work on responding to each person by postal mail or email. Some countries we've recently received letters from are Japan, India, Taiwan, Indonesia, Philippines, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Finland, United Arab Emirates, and the USA. A listener in Germany told us, “I made a recording of the program on November 2 and listened to it later. My dad passed away on that day, and to listen to your program was a blessing for me at the time.”

Franklin Graham, son of the former evangelist Billy Graham, will be coming to Guam to share the message of God's love at the “Guahan Festival of Hope” on February 23, 2020. Michael W. Smith and, award-winning guitarist, Dennis Agajanian will be performing. Much prayer and preparation has occurred over the last few months for this event.

KTWR was supposed to be undergoing an internal audit at the end of February, ending in early March. TWR has an internal auditor, Curt Detwiler, who visits TWR offices to ensure that policies and procedures are being followed. Although it is primarily looking at finances, his review looks at many different aspects of the work and ministry. Because of the coronavirus crisis, the audit has been postponed until it is safe to travel globally, probably sometime in April.

Although we are only five months into our 2020 fiscal-year budget (October 2019 to February 2020), it is time to start thinking about preparing budgets for 2021. Here are just a few things we must budget for: electricity (transmitters don't run cheaply – the average electricity bill is around \$20,000/month), antenna maintenance (making sure the towers and antenna systems are strong enough to withstand a typhoon), and transmitter maintenance. I will probably be making a trip to Cary, in early June, to assist the Cary finance team import and post all TWR's global budgets into our finance software. It is much easier for me to do this in Cary than remotely from Guam. With the 14-hour time difference, if there are issues or questions, having people in the next cubicle works out so much better.

During January, I heard a lot of hammering and noisy construction work as the guys were busy building an office for Asia's human resources director. There have been personnel changes happening on Guam over the last few months. Grant Hodgins, former KTWR station director, became the human resources director for all of Asia. Therefore, we needed to build him a new office space (many visits were made to Home Depot to get supplies). On the backside of this prayer letter you will see two pictures. They “recruited” the Guam finance person to help put on the first coats of paint. The second picture shows what it looked like after I put on the first coat of primer. Mitch Becker has now become the station director for Guam and has moved into Grant's old office. However, Mitch is still overseeing the maintenance of our antenna field and building facilities. In January, we hired two part-time workers, Scott and John, who will be working as night operators.

On February 1, TWR began broadcasting from its Oasis transmitter in western Africa. This site covers the whole country of Nigeria. Programs in six languages will be broadcast: Yoruba, Igbo, Fulani, Hausa, Kanuri and African English. Programming includes long-time favorites like *Thru the Bible* as well as *The Way of Righteousness* and *The Prophets*, which effectively share the gospel with Muslim listeners.

Prayer Points:

- The Coronavirus would stop spreading in Asia and that people affected by the illness would be comforted by our broadcasts.
- Many would receive Christ as Savior as a result of the evangelistic crusade on Guam led by Franklin Graham.
- Budget planning for fiscal year 2021 – that we would be good stewards of the resources God has provided to maintain Guam’s transmitter site.
- Personnel changes on Guam: Grant’s new role as the human resources director for Asia and Mitch’s new role as the station director for Guam, the need for new people to fill in vacant positions in the area of property and antenna maintenance, and the new night operators as they learn the details of running the transmitters.
- For the broadcasts into Nigeria from western Africa.

Thank you for your continued support through prayer and financial giving. Because of people’s generous giving in December 2019 almost all my support shortage for the year was reduced.

In His Service,



Carol Witthun

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6095, Merizo, GU 96916

Email: witthunc@yahoo.com

