

Brad and Sandra Swanson's TWR - Bonaire Update - September 2018

Hi from Bonaire

Our new transmitter continues to run well. We're very thankful for that. It looks like the reception is nice and clear in all our target areas, and even in some of the bonus areas. We added a new Spanish language program to our evening lineup during the summer and I'm anticipating adding another this month. We are gratified to see broadcasters catching the vision for ministry to Cuba.

I told you all about our new "Bonaire 800" online streaming service in my last letter. Unfortunately, we've had to discontinue that for the time being. I just got a phone call, here at the station, from someone who is missing it. I hope we can be back online at some point in the not too distant future. (Oct.18-Flash-We are testing a streaming feed again. We hope we can promote it soon) On the other hand, we've added Papiamentu programming on www.twr360.org. So now Papiamentu speaking people anywhere in the world can listen to a daily devotional and some good Bible teaching. As of July, TWR360 was providing programming in 64 languages and was listened to in 231 countries and territories. The United States, India and Iran were the countries with the most app users in July. They accounted for about one third of all the users world wide that month.

Sandra's mom, Joan Mial, passed away on July 7. We miss her greatly but are relieved that she didn't suffer and we're glad that she is now in the presence of her Savior. There will be a memorial service at Peace Presbyterian Church in Cary, NC, on September 29, and a second one at the Penney Farms Retirement Community, on October 8. We're planning to fly to Florida for a week to be there for the PRC service.

Sandra has had some profitable video conferences with her epilepsy specialist in NJ. Her seizures still severely limit her ability to be out and about. We've added an over-the-counter CBD oil to her arsenal of medications, and it seems to help quite a bit. We're thankful for that.

Please keep our TWR Venezuela office in your prayers. Gabriel and the team continue to have an effective ministry despite the very difficult living conditions there. The office and studios are on the top floor of a five-story building. They are the only tenant still in the building because the electricity has been off for ages. They have a generator on the roof that they use to power their office. Since there is no power, the elevators don't work, so they get plenty of exercise going to and from the office. Gabriel prepares a very popular daily one-hour program, called *Despertar RTM*, that we beam into Venezuela from six to seven AM every weekday. Internet access is a challenge for the team in Venezuela, so sometimes they don't manage to get the next day's program to us until the last minute. It is not unusual for me to have to return to the office at night to get the next morning's program loaded into our automation system.

Alberto Gonzales, the director of our office in Cuba, just delivered some new episodes of his daily five-minute program *Mensajes de Fe y Esperanza*. It is pretty much impossible to overstate the impact that this program has had in Cuba over the last five years or so. Our partner office in Colombia is working toward building a recording studio there. I'm hoping that when we are able to beam radio programs created in Colombia, back to Colombia, that we'll see a similar type of response.

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TWR

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