



As a Canadian Regional Director, I have the opportunity to meet many very special people who have given of their lives for the sake of the Gospel. Some have served overseas and then continued to serve as volunteers after returning home. Their stories are remarkable testimonies of how God has led them, and how they have trusted Him. One such couple is Bill and Grace Pilon. Here is their story:

While employed with the Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre as vice-president of finance, Bill suffered a health setback that would make him rethink the course of his life. To remove the pressure he decided to leave the Hospital and take early retirement. It wasn't very long until Bill would start feeling improvement in his health.

Having had many opportunities over the years to support missionaries and missionary work, Bill and his wife Grace asked themselves the question, “What would it be like if we were actively involved ourselves?”

That same week, a friend of theirs dropped by from Calgary, Alberta, who heard that the TWR organization was in desperate need of financial administrators. It was at that point that he dropped the ‘bombshell’: “Bill and Grace, I hope you don't mind, but I took the liberty of putting your names forward.”

Now what? They clearly remembered that they DID pray about such a possibility, and God confirmed it with His word. However, the final decision was when Dr. Carl Seyffert, the Canadian Director of Trans World Radio, announced during a visit to their local church: “Among your people you have a couple, Bill and Grace Pilon, who should have been in Holland a week ago!” (Isn't it interesting that we both are of Dutch descent?)

As they prepared themselves to go to Holland, they prayed that the Lord would not only use them in the work, but also that they would be an encouragement to the staff and those with whom they would come in contact. The Lord answered their prayer.

It was on May 13, 1993 that they placed their feet on Dutch soil for the first time as ‘short-term missionaries.’ They settled into their new home in Hilversum. They lived in one of the bedrooms of the same building that housed the European head

office of Trans World Radio. Bill's involvement was with national and international accounting. On several occasions he had to attend to the financial matters in the Monte Carlo and Vienna offices. Grace's involvement was very much with hospitality.

On May 10, 1995, a two-year commitment came to an end. They commented: “We have truly appreciated the opportunity of serving the Lord with Trans World Radio in the Netherlands. The going has not always been easy, but we had the assurance that the Lord wanted us there.” Bill believes that it was ‘timely.’ With the knowledge of the two languages (English and Dutch), he was able to assist in several areas of Dutch law and administration during the transition from Hilversum to Voorthuizen.

It was on November 20, 1997 that they returned to Holland for a second time. This time Bill was there to cover various duties in the accounting department for a missionary couple that was away on furlough. They were there till June 2, 1998.

They have never regretted being short-term missionaries with Trans World Radio. Their lives have been filled with many blessings as they followed the Lord's leading. They made many new friends in the family of God who would not otherwise have crossed their paths.

Upon their return to Canada they have since been involved in helping to organize annual Trans World Radio banquet functions in Red Deer, Alberta Canada. During the past 50 Years the Lord has blessed these “Missionaries That Know No Bounds!”

Their closing comment was: “It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to bless the ministry of Trans World Radio in evangelizing the world. God has truly blessed us in being a part of this Great Mission!”

Conclusion: What about you? Might God still be calling you to be involved where you are? God has and continues to bless the ministry of Trans World Radio, and you can be a part of it now. Contact your nearest Regional Director to find out how you can minister. It will be worth it! (Editors note: For US

Alumni ministry, contact your TWR Alumni Director)



Steve Regier
Regional Director for TWR
Prairie Provinces Canada

Announcements

A special thanks to those of you who responded with a gift to the TWR Alumni. If each of us would take a small part, then our budget needs would be met. To help underwrite the costs of producing the TWR Alumni web site, and the printing and mailing of The Connection and the TWR Alumni Directory, please send your free-will gifts to TWR with a memo line note: “TWR Alumni.” Thank you for your support!

Editors Personal Note: Dennis Ford

I underwent open heart surgery on May 1st and am now home in recovery. Thank you for your cards, e-mails, phone calls, flowers and prayers. Doctors tell me that it will be 6-8 weeks before returning to a full work schedule. You may reach me at: dford@twr.org



Purpose Statement:

The purpose of the TWR Alumni is: “To connect and communicate with TWR Alumni through effective care, resulting in a continued partnership to reach the world for Christ by mass media so that lasting fruit is produced.”



1. Editor's Perspective
2. Alumni Connections
VIP News & Events
3. Because You Asked
4. Guest Writer

the Connection
twr alumni newsletter

progress & change - monte carlo

Many of you may have already heard the following news that was announced by TWR's European office on Friday, May 21:

After 44 years of operations, Trans World Radio Europe plans to close its offices and studios in Monte Carlo, Monaco, at the end of 2004. Personnel and program production is being moved into the receiving areas, further implementing a TWR policy that began with the fall of the Iron Curtain in the early 1990's.

Despite the closing of TWR Europe's Monte Carlo office, TWR-E will continue to air programs via Radio Monte Carlo on shortwave and medium wave. In addition, TWR International will maintain a small office in the principality. TWR missionaries Curt and Carol Detwiler will work in this office under the auspices of TWR's global Media Services team.

Tremendous blessings have flowed across the European region from Monte Carlo, which for almost 30 years was the hub of TWR's European ministry. For many locked behind the Iron Curtain, the Gospel broadcasts from Monte Carlo were a lifeline of encouragement and hope. “It was God's will for TWR to be there and He has blessed!” says Werner Kroemer, TWR International Director for the European Region.

The fall of Communism ushered in the first big change for the Monte Carlo operations. At that time, Eastern European and Russian program production-which was centered in Monte Carlo-was transferred into the newly free countries. National partnerships

were established in the region which took responsibility for program production and listener follow-up.

Another change that has affected Monte Carlo's ministry is the change in Europe's media situation. When TWR Monte Carlo was established in 1960, most broadcasting in Europe was controlled by national governments. Today, government restrictions have been lifted in most countries, opening up many more broadcasting outlets for TWR throughout Europe.

I believe that Werner Kroemer's thoughts on this subject echo our own as alumni: “Monte Carlo has had a wonderful part in our history and we honor that. But we feel that God is leading TWR Europe on to new visions and new locations. We want to follow His leading.”

Dennis Ford
Director, TWR Alumni



Dr. Ralph Freed and Norman Olsen, Monte Carlo

alumni connection



Bill & Joan Mial

117 Halsmer Ct.,
Apex, N.C. 27502
919-387-1418
bjmial@juno.com

TWR Service:

1958 - 1959 Tangier, Morocco
1959 - 1961 Monte-Carlo
1961 - 1964 Chatham, NJ
1964 - 1970 Bonaire
1970 - 1976 Monaco
1976 - 1977 Chatham, NJ
1977 - 1981 Hong Kong
(3 months in Sri Lanka)
1981 - 1989 Chatham, NJ
1989 - 1994 Netherlands
1994 - 2004 Cary, NC

Sandra - married to Brad Swanson - Bonaire
Rick - works at IBM - Cary, NC



Dick & Jeanne Olson

614 Kinship Lane
Apex, NC 27502
919-303-8683
919-460-3726 (W- Jeanne)
randjols@bellsouth.net

TWR Service:

1961 - 1963: France (Monte Carlo)
1963 - 1966: Bonaire
1966 - 1970: Beirut, Lebanon
1970 - 1971: Monte Carlo
1971 - 1973: South Africa
1973 - 1985: Swaziland
1985 - 1988: The Netherlands
1988 - 1998: Monte Carlo
1998 to present: Cary Office
Dick: retired October 2002, presently volunteering part time in the mission archives.
Jeanne: works part-time in donor services



Brian & Kathy Moyer

8803 Catbriar Bay Way
Orlando, Florida 32829-8744
407-273-6600 (H)
407-852-3762 (W - Brian)
407-852-3709 (W - Kathy)
brian_moyer@wycliffe.org
kathy_moyer@wycliffe.org

TWR Service:

1964 - 1980: Bonaire
1967 - 1969: Chatham, NJ
1980 - 1995: Sri Lanka
Anniversary Sept. 01 (1962)
Brian's Birthday - Dec. 30
Kathy's birthday - Oct. 28
Daughter - Melanie Joy



Virginia Pent

6342 Sleepy Hollow Rd,
Titusville, FL 32780
321-269-4745
321-917-4539 (C)
ginny910@juno.com

TWR Service:

1985 - 1991: Hong Kong
1991 - 1993: Singapore
1993 - 2000: Bonaire, N.A.
2000 - 2001: Miami, FL
2001 - 2002: Pt. St John, FL
2002 - 2003+: Titusville, FL

WIP news & events

TWR FAMILY

by Boyd Griffith



A friend of eighteen years recently said to me, "When it all boils down to it, what you have left is family."

A few weeks ago Kathy and I and another TWR Alumni rushed to Denver, less than an hour away, when we heard that Martha Brown Hollis was in serious condition.

The Hollises had moved to Colorado from Australia last summer.

We knew that we were still family when we saw Wally and the girls. We had not been with Wally and Martha for many years.

The Lord enabled us to enter in to the final hours

of Martha's life on earth, and to just be there for Wally.

We got to know 25 new friends from their Denver church. We all prayed together, shortly after Duff and Marge Brown arrived from the airport. Then we began singing - praise songs, old hymns. It was glorious.

Halfway through singing, someone remarked, "I feel like we are helping the angels carry Martha to heaven."

Yes, the Lord had us all there as family, in an hour of great need. TWR Family (Alumni), please continue to pray diligently for Wally, Kyla and Shannon Hollis.

Boyd Griffith
To contact Griffith, send message to:
b_griffith@gemission.com

Martha - How did you first hear about Trans World Radio?

Marge - DR. Ben Armstrong was Pastor of the Ringwood Presbyterian Church and also a patient. He had heard that we had been to the Virgin Islands for a vacation, and suggested we go to Bonaire instead. We contacted TWR in Chatham, N.J. and volunteered to hold a clinic for the staff on Bonaire. In 1965 we went on our first trip to Bonaire. It was exciting. It was the year Princess Beatrix dedicated the Transmitter site. We set up the first medical clinic in the all purpose building. Beth, Debbie and Scott were on hand, and Marge was the receptionist. It was the beginning of many, many wonderful trips to this special "Island of the Flamingos."

Martha - During these years visiting Bonaire, you offered a valuable service to the staff, along with social events. Could you describe these for us?

Marge - Each evening from about 6:30 P.M. until about 11:00 P.M. were clinic hours - Monday through Friday. The cases seen were nutrition problems, childhood diseases, pregnancies, psychological problems, trauma, lacerations, and reef injuries. I planned for an all staff event each year - red, white and blue party, Valentine program, American History Night (each staff member had to come in costume depicting some character from an event or personality from some phase in American history), aerobic night and craft night.

Martha - You also opened your home to missionary kids for furthering their education. How many students did you host and who were they?

Marge - It was a blessing to host Lee Lowell, Steve Grow, Larry Grow, Wendy Van den Akker and Becky Van den Akker. The first four all stayed through their senior year at the same high school our children attended. It was a positive experience for all of us.

Martha - Over the years you also visited other TWR fields. Which ones were they?

Marge - It was a great experience to see the staff "Telling the World of Redemption" throughout the world. Bonaire-many times; Holland - two times- Monte Carlo-once; Guam - two times; Australia - two times; Singapore - two times; Hong Kong - once; Swaziland - once; Wales -once,

U.S.A. - Chatham and Cary - numerous times! We were blessed.

Martha - After retirement, you went to Bonaire as volunteers. Could you describe what you did and how long you were there?

Marge - The first time was for three months. Bob and Millie Bartlett, from Canada, were there also. Duff and Bob did maintenance of all kinds! This included carpentry, electrical work, masonry, roof repair, and tile work, etc. I taught in English school-3 Bonairians and Eunice Rodriguez from TWR staff who was deaf. She also cleaned houses, and taught Sunday School. That was in 1992. A few years later we volunteered to do general maintenance and ministered to whomever the Lord put in our paths. In 2003 we spent 3 weeks with Henry and Lois Weis, painting S.S. rooms and repaired termite damage with Ivan's help. I was pleased to introduce Project Hannah with Maggie Fuller during this stay.

Martha - Is there anything else you would like to share with the "TWR Alumni" about your experiences with TWR?

Duff - I was pleased that the Lord allowed me to have a clinic for TWR on Bonaire. It was a wonderful experience and gave me a chance to be of service to the Trans World missionaries as I dealt with their medical problems. I thank the Lord for this opportunity. After retirement from medicine, I was pleased to be able to work with friends on the maintenance projects.

Marge - I Peter 3:18 was written on the flyleaf of my Bible when I was 11-years-old. It has become my lifetime verse. Over and over it has been my joy to see my Lord and Saviour in action. My experiences with TWR and their fine, committed staff, have helped me grow in His grace. The five young people from TWR who lived with us taught me much - everything from how to save water in house activities, but to worship our Lord in any and all situations. I treasure those years. I have praised God numerous times for TWR - its staff and their commitment. It has been a joy to have our own daughter affiliated on the field with TWR. The reunion in Cary was a highlight we hope we shall never forget and are indebted to Almighty God and the staff for such a blessing.



because
you
asked

Interview with Dr. Duff & Marge Brown

By Martha Brown Hollis
January 6, 2004



Editors Note:

Little did

Martha Brown Hollis know that this would be her final ministry tribute to her parents, Marge and Duff Brown. Yet in God's perfect plan and time, Martha was the one to receive a final tribute from loving family and friends.

Martha Brown Hollis - June 3, 1962 - February 29, 2004.