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the Connection  
twr alumni newsletter

## ▶▶ All Aboard!

editors perspective

### What is TWR Alumni?

TWR Alumni(TWRA) is an alumni initiative, a network association of individuals and families who formerly served with Trans World Radio, including retirees, former staff, short-term workers and volunteers.

### What are the goals of TWR Alumni?

- 1) To *CONNECT* with all of the TWR Alumni. The strength of the response will be measured by the grass-roots initiative and commitment level of each participant.
- 2) To *COMMUNICATE* with TWR Alumni. Communication will be done by phone, e-mail, mail, and group meetings, such as the reunion event for this October 24-26. FoTWR leadership seeks open and candid two-way communication; without that, there can be no real connecting.
- 3) To *provide CARE* for those who are hurting. Regretfully, some have exited TWR with baggage, some with hurting hearts and/or bitterness. Part of the healing process can be accomplished just by communicating and connecting with staff and friends of TWR. The leaders of TWR are committed to seeking opportunities to help in this healing process. Our doors are open to listen, and our phones are ready to hear. Healing does take time, however there is hope that there will come a point when each can move forward and serve our Lord with a joyful heart. Connecting at the October 2003 reunion will go a long way in the healing process.
- 4) To *build a CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP* with TWR and missions. This type of relationship with TWR will flow naturally from those who have a heart that beats for reaching the world with the Good News of hope, love, forgiveness and redemption through Jesus Christ. People involved with TWRA will be "lights" for missions in their area; they must clearly understand and maintain their roll in world evangelism—that is as an extension of the local Church in particular, and the Body of Christ in general. It is upon this biblical principle that TWRA are to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

### What is the motivation of the TWR Alumni?

Motivation is a heart matter that only God can fully know, and it is the fervent desire of the TWRA leadership that TWR's alumni be one of God's resources to help awaken the Church in North America to a greater vision for, and participation in, world missions and evangelism. May the day come when hundreds of bright TWRA lights will shine all across North America and to the regions beyond.

### When are important dates for the TWR Alumni?

September 15, 2003 - First mailing of the quarterly TWRA newsletter, *The Connection*

September 15, 2003 - Official introduction of TWRA Web site, [www.twralumni.org](http://www.twralumni.org)

September 15, 2003 - Official introduction of E-Alumni

October 24-26, 2003 - Alumni Reunion; official roll-out of TWRA

December 15, 2003 - First mailing of the annual TWRA directory

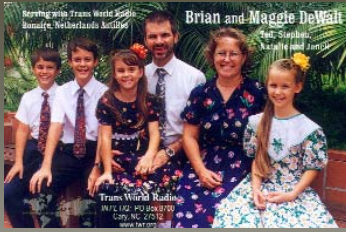
### How can I help the TWR Alumni?

The TWRA office will be greatly encouraged by your response to this initial newsletter. We are on a new journey and it will take a large team to get us safely home. Will you consider being part of the FoTWR team?

### You can...

- Be part of the TWRA Advisory Team
- Contribute questions, comments, and ideas
- Be a TWRA Guest Writer
- Be a TWRA Interviewer or Interviewee
- Return the TWRA Registration Form
- Send us TWRA News for *The Connection* newsletter and E-Alumni
- Alert us to changes for TWRA Connections (who, where, when and children)

# ▶ Alumni Connection



**Brian & Maggie Dewalt**  
3045 Saucon Ave,  
Allentown, PA 18103  
610-351-3227  
bdewalt@wfmz.com  
Service: Bonaire, 1983-84  
& 1987-2000  
Children: Ted, Stephen,  
Natalie, and Janell



**Stan and Karen Hustad**  
4448 47th Ave So.,  
Minneapolis MN 55406  
612-722-4262  
kehustad@aol.com and  
Stan at ptmark@aol.com  
Service: Bonaire from  
1978 to 1983 and in  
Holland from 1983 to  
1987 Children : Amy,  
married and living in the  
Boston area. Megan; sin-  
gle and living in New York  
City.



**Tony & Terri Tangeman**  
(Tony - deceased 04/29/00)  
1102 Wicklow Dr  
Cary, NC 27511  
919 468 0059  
tltangem@bellsouth.net  
Service: MC 1982 June-  
Aug.; Aug. 1982 - Aug.  
1983 Swaziland, Africa;  
Bonaire 1987-2000.  
Children: Benjamin  
10-13-88; Cort 5-19-92



**Arthur & Karin  
Thompson**  
408 Birch Place  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-654-5929  
athomp02  
@sprintspectrum.com  
Service: Bonaire 1964 to  
1970 - Transmitter Site  
construction and  
operation  
Chatham 1970 to 1971 -  
Assisted in design of  
South Africa facility  
South Africa 1971 to  
1973 - Site research and  
location determination

## ▶ TWRA News & Events

In this section of *The Connection*, we will highlight a TWR ministry event opportunity from a TWRA alumnus. Send your story to Dennis Ford at [dford@twr.org](mailto:dford@twr.org)

The temperature was more than 110 F outside. Sun City, Arizona, definitely lived up to its name. Yet on that evening of Sunday, July 13, more than 150 people gathered to hear about the worldwide radio ministry of TWR. Dennis Ford spoke before the congregation of Grace Bible Church (GBC), located in an adult retirement community in Sun City. Despite their age, the church's heartbeat for evangelism and world missions was not diminished. The response was overwhelming, and nine individuals

and couples signed up to receive the quarterly TWR magazine. Then the chairman of the missions committee invited Dennis to meet with the missions committee for financial support considerations. The warm and friendly reception of the congregation reflected the presence of the Holy Spirit and the gracious leadership of GBC. May God continue to bless the work and ministry of GBC.

*If you have a TWRA alumnus news event to share in our next quarterly newsletter, let us know. We want to know what God is doing in and through your lives. It may seem small to you; however, if God is in it, it is big. Send your story to Dennis Ford at [dford@twr.org](mailto:dford@twr.org).*



## ▶▶ Because You Asked

by kris carraway

Of all the “how we met and fell in love” stories floating around Trans World Radio, Perry and Sally Zavitz have one of the best. I caught up with them in Johannesburg, South Africa, this spring, and, after sharing a guest flat with them for two weeks, learned that their meeting and marrying was the last thing either of them had in mind.

As Perry puts it (a much shorter version than Sally’s), “Sally and I had been to Bonaire several times, but the first time we were both there concurrently was in 1998. We were both widowed, yet neither of us wanted to remarry, and neither of us knew the other felt that way. However, God changed our minds and we have always shared the desire, whether married or single, to be used by God in whatever way He desires.”

They were married on September 24, 1999, after which Sally made the transition from the U.S. to Canada, settling in Perry’s home in London, Ontario. Before retirement, Perry’s career was in broadcast production and Sally’s was in social work, and both have found key roles to play in the TWR-Canada office, which also is located in London. Both are in their 70s and want to invest their lives in the kingdom as long as their health allows. Both have pensions and savings which, though modest, are adequate for their needs and allow them as a team to take overseas assignments with TWR as opportunities arise.

As they prepared to go to Bonaire in 2002 and South Africa in 2003, the couple prayed that the Lord would use them, not only in their work, but also as an encouragement to the staff in each of those locations. He has done that on both occasions. But both Perry and Sally are quick to point out that the benefits to them are enormous.

“Serving overseas broadens our experience in many ways,” Sally explains. “We’ve seen beautiful and unique places we would have never seen

otherwise, and we make new friends in the family of God who would not otherwise cross our paths.”

All of this and more was evident in their June e-mail report from Africa after they joined other TWR staff in visiting and bringing food to people in a remote part of Swaziland, an area devastated by two years of severe drought and the spread of HIV/AIDS:

“The first place we stopped there was an ‘old lady’ of 43 years living with her son and daughter. The rest of her family had either left or died, and the three of them have AIDS. The pastor who led the team—he is trying to look after 36 destitute families—took us into the tiny mud hut with a grass roof full of holes. There was a narrow doorway, but no door, and any of our tool sheds would be palatial compared to this hut.

“There was just one piece of furniture inside, a rusty cot frame with some dirty old sheets for a mattress. The lady sleeps on the cot, the daughter sleeps on the floor and the son sleeps outside. Every night two or three men come and rape the daughter.

“At the next ‘home’ there was a grandmother looking after ten or more of her grandchildren. The parents were all dead. We were told that the children had probably not eaten for two or three days. Even so, when we started to serve food to the family, one little girl insisted on staying by her dog who was clearly dying of starvation. She was finally persuaded to go and eat.

“Like many families, there are no adults, just lots of children, with the oldest here being between the ages of 12 and 15. **Of the surviving children, it is estimated that six out of ten will die of AIDS in the next five to ten years.** It is one thing to hear these statistics. It was quite another for Sally and me to witness it being “fleshed out” in the lives of desperate, dying people.

“This experience was, for both Sally and me,” Perry concluded, “the most hard-hitting memory from our time in Africa. It left us asking why God has blessed us so abundantly yet has left these people with next to nothing. But it also left us with a fresh resolve to make ourselves totally available to Him—whether at home or overseas—so that our remaining years will count the most for His kingdom.”





A well respected mission leader recently told me “It isn’t so much a case of deciding whether to change or not, rather it is a case of which change is TWR willing to stake it’s future on.” In saying this he was giving me an accurate description of our world today. Multiple change opportunities, coming faster than we can imagine. So widespread is this reality that this discussion took place at a meeting of mission agencies discussing the topic of organizational change!

Change. It’s all around us, isn’t it? Just this morning I had an Instant Message discussion via computer with a co-worker in South Asia. In real time, morning here and evening there, we were discussing a mission issue. And I thought e-mail was fast! New technologies, new ministry opportunities, new ministry methods. They come faster and faster with each passing day.

Here’s a question: What age group do you think is the most receptive to and understanding of the need to keep up with the fast pace of change? Well, recently a major mission, one with literally hundreds of missionaries, surveyed their entire staff on the subject of change. One of the things they sought was an understanding of what age groups are most open to change and which ones are most resistant to change. What do you think were the results? I have asked many people to guess their results and, almost without exception, they guess that the younger you are, the more receptive to change you are.

Wrong!

The mission discovered that those most receptive to organizational change were their retirees. They were the landslide winners. Those least receptive to change were the 35-45 bracket. Those in the decade just prior to retirement (like me!) were also generally receptive to

change. Of course, their 20-somethings were ready to change the world, too!

Why do you suppose this is the case? Why do retirees lead the way? They learned of two basic reasons. First, senior or retired missionaries have had a great deal of experience in innovation. The methods we need today may be different but we, more than the generations just behind us, understand that there are times when you just have to figure it all out as you go along! And we have learned it from experience. Younger staff, building on the legacy of the past, came into established organizations.

The second main reason is that we have a better understanding of a key missionary concept: the mission is more important than the method. As retirees are informed and aware of what methods needed to change to accomplish the same mission, they were ready and willing to support the change.

In Latin America our ministry leaders are keenly aware that they work from a foundation created by our ministry history. In country after country, pastors and leaders give testimony to the role that TWR played in their spiritual development. Our goal is to take to the next generation the same legacy. Our methods are changing and will continue to change. But our mission is the same.

With TWR Alumni, our goal is to continually give you information about what God is doing in and through TWR in this time of change. We hope you will be excited, be in prayer, and be blessed by seeing Him at work in our ministry. We also hope to present real and important ways that you, our most change-receptive generation, can be part of the continued mission. We are excited about this opportunity and energized to share, and enable you to share, the message that the mission continues.

**You’re Invited!**

**America’s Region Alumni Weekend**

**Date:** October 24-26, 2003  
**Location:** Cary, North Carolina  
 For more information contact:  
**Dennis Ford** 623-544-0323  
 dford@twr.org **OR**  
**John Summerville** 919-460-3795  
 jsummerv@twr.org

**PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

The purpose of the TWR Alumni is to cultivate connections with North American TWR alumni through effective communication and care, resulting in continued partnership to advance the vision of TWR to reach the world for Christ by mass media so that lasting fruit is produced.



Dennis & Carole Ford

