

CHRISTMAS: PAST, PRESENT, AND YET TO COME

Guest Writer: Joan S. Britton
November 2004



Christmas Past: In his book A CHRISTMAS CAROL, Charles Dickens confronted Scrooge with the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. For me Christmas Past holds many wonderful memories. At age seven, I accepted the Lord Jesus as my personal Savior at a children's Christmas rally in New York City. Skip and I met and were engaged in Monte Carlo in December 1967. Growing up in a Norwegian family, I experienced a dream come true when I spent a Christmas in Norway: fishing on the fjord, baking cookies, going by boat to midnight service at church. I loved a winter Christmas with snow, sleds, skates, skis, cookies, caroling. What a shock to find myself on Bonaire where the sun shown bright on blue water and a picnic on the beach was preferable to cocoa and fireplaces. Looking back to the fourteen Christmases spent on the island, I recall some of the best moments of our lives: caroling from the flatbed truck, practicing for the concerts, airing live 24-hour Christmas specials. What fun, what opportunity for sharing about Jesus Christ and the Reason for the Season. We moved to Europe in time to experience Monaco's first winter of snow for years: skiers on the promenade and snow on the palm trees. But even better was to look up to Mt. Agel and see the antenna towers from which the Christmas message was being sent. Our next move to Bratislava, Slovakia, took us again to cold and snow. Our first Christmas several TWR staff visited two orphanages to present the Christmas story and bring gifts for the children. Christmas Day we spent at the Program Distribution Center enjoying turkey, singing carols, and playing games while the Good News was going out in many languages. Christmases Past: wonderful memories, meaningful moments, life-changing experiences.

Christmas Present: Life has changed drastically as we are

now retirees living in the United States. It has taken nearly as much adjusting as when we moved from country to country. One plus factor is we understand the language (although here in Tennessee even that is questionable). At first we felt lonely, disorganized, with no specific jobs. Then God opened our eyes to needs and challenges in our neighborhood. He led us to a church with a godly pastor who has a heart for missions. Reaching out to family was impressed upon us in a big way as during our first year back, Skip lost three brothers. Dr. Louis Muggleton told Skip, "If you're going to retire, you better rest up because you'll be busier than ever." We are, but it is a different kind of busy, and took time to know God's new job description for us. Christmas Present: new challenges, opportunities galore, family relationships.

Christmas Yet to Come: In 2005 we look forward to adding two new members to our family: Ellen's fiancé Brian and Doug and Susan's first child. None of us knows about tomorrow, let alone Christmases ahead. Unlike Scrooge who needed a death dream to awaken him to the spirit of Christmas, we know Who holds the future. Jesus Christ came as a baby so that one day He could pay the sacrifice on Calvary for the sins of the whole world. As I look about my world, I see people without purpose and without hope. As missionaries we do not retire, we just change our address and maybe our type of service. Skip and I never want to lose the prayer burden for the unreached peoples and the ministry of TWR. This Christmas, I encourage you to relive the joyous memories of Christmas Past, then find ways to reach out with the Good News this Christmas Present, and for Christmas Yet to Come pray and rejoice. "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "...plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Announcements - Budget

Every gift to TWR, designated for the TWR Alumni, will help us end the year in the black. Send in your gift to TWR at PO Box 8700, Cary, NC 27512-8700 and mark the memo line: TWR Alumni. I received word that a financial gift came in from a former TWR staff now living in Europe. WOW! Those of you who pray for and support the TWR Alumni are sustaining partners. Your gifts will help us keep The Connection newsletter and the annual TWR Alumni Directory coming to your door. Thank you!

Editor's Personal Note: Dennis Ford

My recent meetings with a number of TWR Staff and the TWR Alumni Advisory Board were a huge success. A special word of gratitude goes to David Tucker, Tom Corcoran, Kris Carraway, Ralf Stores, John Summerville and Siny Widmer, all of whom participated in special presentations to the Board. Thank you for sharing your vision and purpose of TWR and the exciting ministry we share in introducing men, women, boys and girls to Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!



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

ADVISORY BOARD MEETS: By Dennis Ford

The nine (9) member Advisory Board (AB), and the Director of the TWR Alumni conferred in meetings at the TWR Cary office on November 12-14. The agenda and discussion points, as set by Duane Gow, Chairman of the AB, and Dennis Ford, covered a wide range of subjects to enhance the vision, goals and purposes of the TWR Alumni initiative. To make the meetings effective and meaningful, a list of action points were set in three priority levels, with level "A" as the highest. The following represent the "A" list:

>Promote current TWR awareness and vision through effective and varied communications -

The AB and the Director are committed to improving existing and engaging new venues of communications to and from the TWR Alumni. As of January 30, 2005, all visitors to the www.twralumni.org web site will see a totally redesigned and inviting site.

The EAlumni email network (prayer requests, praise items, and news) now has nearly 300 TWR Alumni names and addresses. This network is a powerful two-way communications tool that will keep you in touch and in tune with the alumni family. If you are not yet receiving communications from this network, send your name and email address to: EAlumni@twr.org

>Create, communicate and continue presenting truth and reconciliation efforts for damaged emotions -

The AB and Director are committed to a year long (2005) effort to communicate the need for truth and reconciliation, giving care to confidentially bring hurting emotions to the fore, and address them with the attempt to move forward. This effort will include related articles in The Connection, special written and phone communications, and a toll-free phone number to the Director's office. That number is: 1-800-713-9288 (PIN # 113-7239).

>Present TWR vision and how the TWR Alumni can best partner in that vision -

The AB and Director are committed to sharing the vision of the TWR for today's world, and ways in which you can partner in the Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP). It is exciting to

report that VIPs are already involved. Some are serving short-term overseas, some are representing TWR in churches, and some are assisting in the calling donors program. The opportunities to stand in smaller churches and present today's ministry and vision of TWR are yours for the taking.

>Recruit TWR Alumni to "tell their story" and post it on the Alumni web site -

The AB and Director are committed to receiving, posting and archiving your missionary story. Each of you has a missionary story and you need to tell and share that story. You are invited to send in your story for posting on the TWR Alumni web site. As each new story comes in, previous stories will be archived by title and writer's name for historical value and potential publication. Send your story to: Director, TWR Alumni EAlumni@twr.org

>Promote and encourage TWR MK activity -

The AB and Director are committed to include and feature TWR MK Alumni in the promotion and activity of events. We are seeking MK Alumni who are available and willing to provide leadership in setting up a regional or a national TWR MK reunion. We are also asking for your MK "missionary story," and your involvement in the EAlumni network. Send your response to: Director, TWR Alumni EAlumni@twr.org

>Implement a recurring "Director to Alumni" email communiqué - of "teamSPIRIT," "TWR E-Snapshots" and/or "Monday Morning Update," etc. -

All who have asked to be a part of the TWR Alumni Network will receive "teamSPIRIT" from David Tucker, and "E-Snapshots" from David McCreary. In addition, I will forward you a monthly newsletter from TWR Africa. Other regular communications are under consideration at this time.

NOTE: When you communicate with the TWR Alumni Director, you need to include your name, address, phone number(s), email address, electronic photo, and where and when you served with TWR. This information is needed when featured in The Connection.



Alumni Connection



Calvin & Tijuana Donner

60300 Pembroke Ln.
Elkhart, IN 46517-9167
574-875-8593
cald@maplenet.net

TWR Service:
1973 - 1984: Swaziland
1984 - 1988: South Africa



Bill & Beth Ury

1081 N. Carey Lane
Avon Park, FL 33825
863-452-6124
billury@tnni.net

TWR Service:
1987 - 1990: Hong Kong
1990 - 1997: Singapore
1997 - 2001: States

Present Ministry:
CEO for LEAD International,
an affiliate of OMS
International.

Our children are:
M. William Ury - professor at
Wesley Biblical Seminary
Thane Hutecherson Ury - can-
didate for teaching at OMS'
seminary in Hong Kong
Hope Owsley - Free
Methodist missionary to Brazil,
serving in Cuiaba
Faith Ury - member of The
Miracles choir, The Baddour
Center in Senatobia, MS
Grace Ensz - Wesleyan mis-
sionary to Brazil, serving in
Manaus.



Helen Brown

Photo: Anna Lee (Erickson)
Stewart (left) & Helen Brown
(right)

10 S. 8th. Ave., Apt 310
Yakima, WA 98902
509-469-1310
helbrun@mailstation.com

Service with C&MA
1950 - 1967: Ivory Coast, Africa
1968 - 1970: NY, NY

TWR Service:
1971 - 1977: Monte Carlo
1977 - 1978: Chatham, NJ

Helen now at 87 years of age
is a 27-year survivor of cancer



Marilyn Dunn

Bible Basics International
Attn. Marilyn Dunn
PO Box 726
Odessa, FL 33556-0726
(H) 727-841-8589
(W) 813-920-2264
dunn@biblebasics.org

TWR Service:
1967 - 1974: Monte Carlo
1974 - 1978: South Africa
1978 - 1979: Swaziland
1979 (part of year): Chatham, NJ
1979 - 1981: Hong Kong
1982 - 1983: Port Huron, MI
1983 - 1989: Guam
1990 - 2001: Cary, NC

**Service with Bible Basics
International**
2003 - present
(Administrative Assistant for
Bible Basics International in
headquarters office; recep-
tionist; handle receipting;
assist Mission Accountant)



IP NEWS & EVENTS

Leland Smith, a fourth year electrical engineering student at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), NY, widened his horizons by interning with Trans World Radio in Kempton Park, South Africa. Lee had exposure through his aunt and uncle, Daryl and Carol VanDyken, who live and work there with TWR (Daryl is an electrical engineer and Carol serves in HR).

Lee's responsibilities included hooking up equipment and finishing wiring in the studios at the Africa Regional Office (ARO). Additionally, he worked on the website and intranet inter-office connections, adjusted satellite dishes to maximize the signal, and began investigation on monitoring of the generator and UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply.)

He also had the opportunity to travel with Daryl and other TWR workers to transmitter sites in Malawi, Swaziland and Mozambique, observing their work as they inspected the sites for new equipment.

Having never lived outside of the United States, Lee believes that this experience gave him a new perspective on the world - he better understands cultures and what is outside the U.S. It "opened my eyes to the mission field; gave me exposure to missions that maybe this was something I could do." He feels that the best thing about his involvement is that "there is a service I can provide that would get the Gospel out and directly affect the spread of the Gospel to the world."



Carol VanDyken
cvandyken@twraro.org.za



BECAUSE YOU ASKED

Interview with Joseph Baranyi
HMI4HU@aol.com
By: Dennis Ford

Dennis - Tell me how, when and where did you and your family become a part of TWR?

Joseph - It was in 1972 when the inner conviction became so overwhelming in our lives that my wife and I decided to leave everything behind in our native land of Hungary, take our two baby daughters and go to Monte Carlo to become missionaries with TWR. I had been supplying broadcasting material to TWR for years and I wanted to do this as a full-time ministry. However, getting to Monte Carlo was everything but easy. We had to go through one country after another without legal papers, surviving a terrible car accident and finally with divine intervention making our way to Monte Carlo. It was only later that we found out that the mission staffs at TWR, without knowing anything about us personally or about our decision, were praying faithfully for months for an additional broadcaster to join their Hungarian Department.

Dennis - What was your ministry with TWR and how long did you serve?

Joseph - For twenty years we were part of TWR as Hungarian program producers. Starting out, I was responsible for a weekly youth program. Soon after additional programs were added to the list, like Euroclub for the intellectually minded, counseling programs, evangelistic programs, Bible teaching programs, and later on daily magazine type of programs designed to reach the younger population of Hungary. It was the most fulfilling experience for me to be involved in this ministry.

Dennis - What brought about the change from serving with TWR and where did God lead you?

Joseph - The dramatic political changes in Europe in 1989-1990 opened up numerous new possibilities to reach our people with the gospel. Television soon became reality in reaching the Hungarian population. Preparing others to do what I was doing for twenty years became more important for me than preaching by myself. With the help of numerous influential Christian leaders in the United States, we established Hungarian Ministries Intl., our goal being to equip Hungarian Christians to fulfill their ministry.

Dennis - What have you been doing since you left TWR?

Joseph - We soon established a small television studio and started broadcasting Christian news and monthly 30-50 minute TV programs in Hungary. But beside the electronic media, I had another interest as well, namely book publishing. In my country, basic Bible study tools such as a concordance or a study Bible were missing, so these challenging undertakings became the priority for me in the following years.

Dennis - How has God blessed?

Joseph - After several years of hard work we were able to publish the first and only exhaustive concordance to the Hungarian Bible and later on the Hungarian edition of the NIV Study Bible. We also established an organization in Hungary, called Protestant Media Foundation, uniting the different Protestant denominations in the use of the electronic media, and in the last years we held two major symposiums in Budapest. It was my privilege to invite some of my former TWR colleagues from the States and from Germany to be speakers at these occasions. Our television programs are broadcast via 50 local and regional stations all over the country.

Dennis - Recently your wife passed away. Can you tell us a little about her life and legacy?

Joseph - I see Maria's legacy reflected in my two daughters. I find great joy in watching them develop and carry on her creativity, hospitality, and dedication to the ministry.

Dennis - What projects are you working on now?

Joseph - There are basically two new projects that we are currently involved with, one is the revision of the Hungarian Karoli Bible, and the other is the continued development in our television ministry. The revision of the Hungarian Karoli Bible is long overdue, as the text is even more archaic than the Standard King James Bible. The revision has four phases to go through in order to be ready for publication. We are currently in the second phase, comparing six previous revisions in order to combine and update the best of all versions. Nationally recognized scholars, theologians and linguists are involved in the work to ensure that the Bible text is stylistically and linguistically accurate.