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with the Lord and she indicated that the Lord had been speaking to her during that same time.

We immediately called the TWR office but it was too late in the day to talk to anyone about it. I left my name and said I would write a letter giving some of my background. Before they could possibly have received the letter, they called me! They knew where I grew up as a kid, what church I attended, where I went to school, and much more. That blew our minds.

We found that Bill Mial and Gene Priddy had been talking together in Monte Carlo about potential new missionaries for Bonaire. Gene talked of a man in one of his supporting churches who had been involved in broadcasting. Bill talked of a man who built the new studio facilities for the radio station at John Brown University. Although neither knew that the other had ever heard of me, at some point in the conversation they discovered they were both talking about some guy named Dick Kennedy.

Upon arriving home for furlough, Bill told of this seeming coincidence to Dr. Freed. Upon hearing this, the personnel director retrieved a note from his desk indicating we had called just two days before. That was no coincidence but our sovereign Lord speaking to two godly men in Monte Carlo while He simultaneously called both Mary and me while separated by three thousand miles.

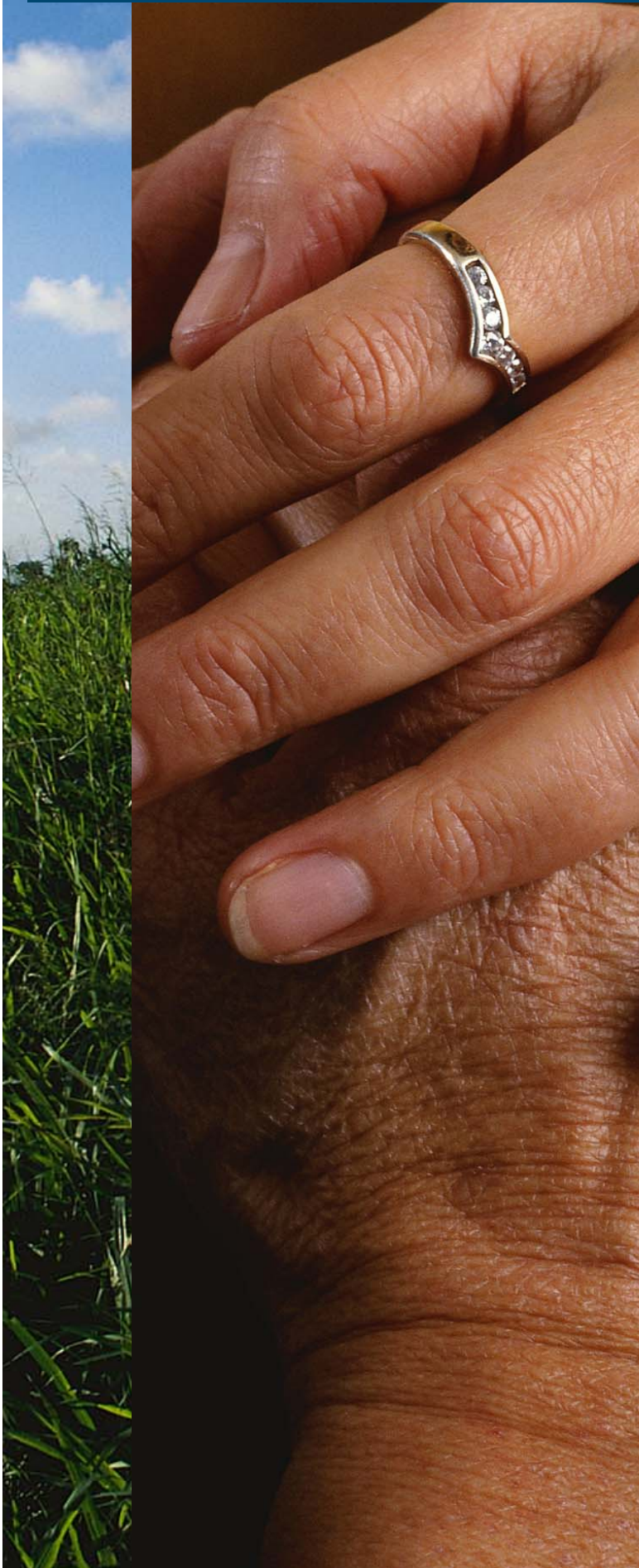
We accepted the call without hesitation and departed for Bonaire with our three children, the Lord having confirmed His call with full support commitments in less than six months. Those ten years with the Bell System were part of our preparation as I was one of only two engineers with solid industrial experience and the only one with industrial and radio broadcast experience. Our calling was so sure we expected to spend the rest of our lives serving our Lord as part of the TWR staff.

**The Connection:** What was the most positive blessing you received from your ministry with TWR? How long did you serve, and where?

**Mary:** Actually there were two real blessings: The bond of love and fellowship formed among our sisters and brothers who were united to serve the Lord and the many encouraging letters from listeners.

**Dick:** We were among the first arrivals on Bonaire in early 1964 and I was privileged to contribute significantly to the design and construction of the transmitter and studio facilities. We were totally inundated in the work with the one goal of helping to make the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ known throughout the world. As more missionaries arrived, we found ourselves in the most closely knit, cohesive group I have ever known. Neither before nor since have we experienced the closeness that we felt with that group of dedicated missionaries. We still value associations with many of our former colleagues.

**The Connection:** What was the most negative aspect of your ministry while serving with TWR?



**Mary:** The most negative aspect was the management style which showed little concern or sensitivity for the needs of individuals and families.

**Dick:** As rewarding as the work was, I experienced a few unfortunate relationships that made the task very difficult. At times I thought I could not continue but for the sure knowledge that God had led us there. After six years and the completion of the studio-office complex, the Lord confirmed that our portion of the work there was done. We resigned, still sure of being in the Lord's will but not knowing where He would lead next. As we shifted to a new phase of service for our Lord I thought the few relationship problems of Bonaire were left behind.

**The Connection:** How were you able to gain healing and reconciliation?

**Mary:** God so gloriously called us that we expected to remain on Bonaire. I was sad when we resigned but I was not bitter. Upon our return, as I was involved in the Word, I was compelled to write to one person in TWR voicing the fact that I felt this one had wronged us but that I had forgiven.

**Dick:** About 25 years after our departure from Bonaire, the Lord dealt with me in a very specific way. I had not long retired from active broadcasting when I fell into a deep depression I had never before felt. In waiting upon Him, I found God was saying, "Dick, you have not resolved the Bonaire problems." I wrote a letter to Dr. Paul Freed and both of the former workers with whom I had felt any conflicts. I asked each one to forgive me for my contribution to the problems and offered my forgiveness to each one for any wrong that I perceived had been done to me. Immediately after mailing the letters, a peace engulfed my spirit that I had not previously known. Without realizing it, I had carried resentment in my heart for 25 years. I WAS NOW AT PEACE! All but one of those individuals wrote to me indicating full reconciliation.

I have since met with each of the individuals involved either at a TWR banquet here in Asheville or at the first Bonaire reunion in Cary, NC a few years back. The reconciliation was confirmed in person with each of those who responded to my letter.

The Lord is able to heal those wounds. I know from firsthand knowledge.

**The Connection:** What have you been doing since you resigned from TWR?

**Mary:** Conducting home Bible Studies was one of the most rewarding ministries I have encountered as many women from diverse backgrounds came to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. Teaching the Word in Sunday School has been a blessing.

**Dick:** After leaving TWR, we felt led to accept the position of VP Engineering and Development with Trinity Broadcasting Corporation based in Detroit. Once again, the Lord confirmed the decision by providing within one week through separate sources, a missionary minded conservative church, an available apartment, and a Christian psychologist only two blocks away to help with our youngest son's educational problem, which turned

out to be dyslexia. In addition to overseeing the technical aspects of a small group of FM radio stations, I designed and installed sound reinforcement systems and did professional recording work.

**The Connection:** How are you both involved in Christian ministry or service today?

**Mary:** Currently, I am involved with a prayer chain and a prayer team at church plus a very dear friend and prayer partner with whom I meet several hours every Tuesday. Prayer is the ministry the Lord has given to me.

**Dick:** This month I will celebrate (?) being on this earth for three quarters of a century. At 75, my energy level and endurance are not what they used to be. I find myself more in the Barnabas role of encourager. I am pleased that the Lord has used me in recent years to initiate and lead mission conferences in two different churches. It is a pleasure to help motivate a church for active personal involvement in the mission enterprise. As a result, I am beginning to see the Lord lead in the lives of younger people to carry on the task of worldwide evangelism with which He entrusted us.

**The Connection:** What counsel would you give others who are still hurting from damaged emotions?

**Mary:** Do not hide it away in your heart but open it before the Lord and the individual(s) to be forgiven and reconciled.

**Dick:** It takes at least two people to have a problem resulting in damaged emotions and rarely has only one of them contributed to the problem. The problem will not go away by itself. Someone has to initiate reconciliation. Whether or not you feel you are the primary cause, honestly search your heart to see how you may have contributed to the problem. It may be pride, excessive ambition, immaturity, or a host of other possibilities. Then seek out the other person(s) and admit your contribution. Seek their forgiveness for your part and offer forgiveness to them for any wrong you may correctly or incorrectly perceive that they have done to you. I see a distinct correlation with 1st John 1:9. Although we often use the verse as an evangelistic tool, John was writing to believers. His concern was with relationships. In verse 9 he enjoins us to confess our sins and our Lord will forgive and cleanse, thereby restoring our relationship with Him. We, as brothers and sisters in the Lord, can do no less to restore our own broken relationships.

**The Connection:** Thanks for your honest and biblical approach to finding peace. Your story is a powerful testimony of making the right choices.

**Dick:** Not all of our choices have been right but I will be pleased if our story can help other TWR alumni mend broken relationships. We cannot function effectively for our Lord if we harbor bitterness and ill will against our fellow workers. Even, as in my case, if we do not fully realize it. We are a family; let us be the loving family our Lord wants us to be.

