



From the Pen of Ken Missionary Radio and Trans World Radio Update

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For over three years, Missionary Radio **WNKJ-WNLJ** has been in partnership with Trans World Radio (TWR) to do our part to raise the power of TWR, Bonaire 800 AM from 100 thousand watts to 450,000 watts. In a “Ministry Impact Report” from TWR, it was announced that “on June 16, 2017, TWR President Lauren Libby announced to our worldwide staff that the Bonaire Power Up Project funding goal had been met.” He further announced that “a date to dedicate the upgraded radio station to the Lord is set for January 30, 2018.”

Thank you listening family for your generosity each time we had a fundraiser especially for the Bonaire Power Up Project. According to John Summerville of TWR, our listeners have given over \$52,000 to help reach Cuba and many other parts of South and Central America with the Gospel. Tammy and I plan to be in Bonaire for the dedication and the power up of the Bonaire transmitter.

The Board of Directors of Missionary Radio **WNKJ-WNLJ** decided to continue on with our missionary partnership with TWR. Ten per cent of all the Care-a-thon gifts from October are sent monthly to TWR. These funds are going to help with the costs of the first year of operation of the upgraded 450,000 watt Bonaire transmitter.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From all of your **WNKJ/WNLJ** missionaries,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from
Ken and Tammy Cummins, Don and Gail

Griffey, Joe Barner, Roy Cavender, Ronny Fuller, Kenny
Bates and Timothy Griffey.

Sidebar: Please permit a slightly technical diversion for a moment. We have a very expensive broadcast microwave signal that travels between our studios here in Hopkinsville and our transmitter site just south of Hopkinsville. That system only covers about 7 miles. I needed to get the audio from our transmitter site (before audio processing there) to Madisonville which is about 45 miles away. Since WNKJ began the Federal Communications Commission authorized a low power microwave system that cost a fraction of what a dual broadcast microwave system would have cost. In order to use the new system (or the old for that matter) I would need to relay the audio signal at least once between our transmitter site and Madisonville—hence the request to Herman.

This time I believe we took the **WNKJ** station vehicle to another building on his property where he had things stored. We entered the building (after being warned of snakes) and immediately turned to the right. At the far end of that path a practically new fiber glass communications enclosure sat next to the wall. Herman looked at me when he pointed to it and said something to the effect that he found it at a sale, that it didn’t cost much and that he didn’t really know what he would ever do with it. But then a smile crossed his face and he said, “The Lord had me buy it because He knew **WE** would need it for **WNKJ**.”

Over the years the Lord God has brought many wonderful people into my path as He has ordained new outreaches and challenges for me at **WNKJ**. Many I can still call upon but others have run their races and moved onto the rewards their faith and deeds have won. I am humbled and proud to have known **Herman Fentress** and I am glad for his sake that he has joined them in their journeys but his “can do” attitude, constant help and encouragement and what I can truly call friendship will be sore missed by this recalcitrant pilgrim.

A Tribute to Herman Fentress

By Don Griffey

Herman went to be home with the Lord on the 23rd of August of this year.

I have known him for all or most of the 36 years I have been at **WNKJ**. I knew him as a man who loved the Lord, his family and **WNKJ**. I would see him frequently at **WNKJ** functions and he was always excited by the ministry here.

At one such function many years ago Herman offered his marvelous location (that of the Crofton Fire Tower) to me (as engineer) for any use we might have for it. When the Madisonville, KY translator site was granted full radio station status I needed a way to get quality audio from our studios to that site (see **Sidebar**) and thought immediately of Herman’s offer to help.

When I called Herman not only did he graciously grant us use of the fire tower there for the microwave relay but helped me at every point in that effort. When it turned out that the fire tower itself wasn’t tall enough for our needs he let us put up a 200ft tower on a different part of his property to make it possible to relay a microwave signal from our **WNKJ** transmitter site to the **WNLJ** Madisonville site.

Though I would like to describe the technical aspects of how wonderful that location is for that purpose, that would prolong this part of the tribute (ask

me about it some time when you visit **WNKJ**). Once the microwave site went online (fall of that year) the “link” lasted until lightning from a spring storm destroyed the radios and associated equipment in the cabinet at the base of the antenna. This happened three more times—a couple of them blowing the door off as far as 30 feet away. We were powering the site from an extension cord that went several hundred feet ultimately to the electric power source in Herman’s green house. When the last hit caused burn

marks to show a couple of places in his building I decided that we needed a new solution and went to chat with Herman about it.

Just as Herman had been enthusiastic about the site from the beginning so also when I suggested that I was going to deploy solar power right at the base of the tower to hopefully prevent the destruction of the radios on the tower, the equipment (and enclosures at the base) and eliminate damage to his building and electric system, he embraced the idea as readily as he had the initial project (albeit skeptically).

Not only did Herman embrace the project but he went far above and beyond the call to make the solar install the success it has turned out to be (so far). I researched the solar panel system but Herman constructed the metal frame on which the panels rest. Also, I wanted to put an extensive ground system near the tower to minimize the distance between the solar panel system and earth ground. Herman (who had a remarkable array of tools from the smallest wrench to earth moving equipment) dug a four by four foot hole for the ground system. He also took me on a spin around the area on his golf cart and we found scrap copper wire he had there which he eventually placed into the hole. He did many other things just with this aspect of the Crofton Microwave Relay Site that I will not try to go into. Needless to say, the microwave site would not exist without his help and advice.

I worked closely with him on a lot of this work. He loved the Lord—of that there was no doubt—he loved and supported **WNKJ** whole heartedly and we discussed both of those from time to time. But often Herman and I would just talk “shop.” Though our paths were different, shop talk was shop talk and it reminded me a lot of working with my own father who had a shop at home and with whom I worked often growing up. In those chats Herman and I became firm friends and I genuinely enjoyed any time we spent together.

One last thing that I think puts this all into proper perspective. After the last time lightning blew the enclosure apart (Herman kept repairing it) I was faced with having to come up with a new one because that one (though he could repair it again) was no longer large enough for the two 110LB plus automobile type batteries that were required to provide constant electric power during the winter months.

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