



## OUR TOWER IS DOWN

This was the last thing we expected or wanted to hear. For over 2 years we had been planning a visit to Liberia where we have (by the grace of God and help of caring Christians) built 3 small FM radio stations, and our Monrovia site was the most powerful. We could hardly believe our ears; just 2 weeks before we were due to arrive at Worship FM, the tower was down. Station manager Slewion spoke in rapid pieces of sentences... *"Robbers came in at night and cut the guy wires...tower came down...they wanted to take our antenna...no one has seen anything like it before..."*

## OUR TOWER IS UP

Within 2 days, as Marty and I prayed and searched meager finances (we have no budget for robbers trying to steal an antenna) we received another excited call from Slewion who explained in never ending word bursts that he met a "tower man" who works for the UN. This Liberian had heard of our unusual circumstance and as a Christian, he felt motivated to help solve the problem... and most unusual in Liberia, this man offered to build and install a new 100-foot tower for half the normal cost...Two days after the first news, the tower was up again and we were back on the air! I wasn't sure which shock was the greater...tower down or tower up or the tower man's unexpected generosity...

Boarding our overseas flight only a few days later, Marty and I had a deep sense that our trip would be *unusual*. Time proved this to be an understatement!

## WELCOME TO LIBERIA

Having managed the 15 hours of air travel, interspersed by the usual 6-hour layover in Brussels and finally, the Liberian gauntlet of attendants, baggage handlers (and all *their* friends and *their* associates who could touch our luggage) we *finally* tipped our way safely into the taxi, heading for Monrovia where we might finally sleep...

As a courtesy to his passengers our kind driver turned on the radio and tuned to 101.7 (after we told him why we were here) and instantly my tired eyes popped open when we heard these words "Welcome to Mama Marty and Don McLaughlin. We are pleased to receive you. Worship FM welcomes our partners Mama Marty and Don McLaughlin." What a sweet surprise for tired travelers. But more soothing to our souls was knowing that Worship FM is reaching so many people whose eyes would "pop open" when the GOOD NEWS is heard in their home, fields or streets. We could hardly wait till next day when we would meet the precious Worship FM staff we have worked with in faith for 2 years.

Endless container stores, broken down trucks, buildings in pieces and partially constructed projects of all kinds were our first glimpse into Liberian life as we



TOWER DOWN



TOWER UP



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**UNDER THE TREE  
-BEFORE THE STATION**

wove our way through downtown Monrovia, across the only bridge on to Providence Island (where freed slaves first arrived from America) and finally on to Somalia Drive that led us to Bardnersville where Worship FM works tirelessly.

How does one find Worship FM? After an hour in Monrovia traffic, watch for "Under the Tree" just as it is identified on the internet. Sure enough...just 500 feet from the station, locally known and respected "Mama Sarah" smiles broadly as she welcomes visitors. There are no addresses in this area...just look for her "Under the Tree." And we did. Brief hugs, smiles and then on to the station.

### IS IT ME?

Looking up to the top of our new 100 foot tower and starting to "snap" a few photos, I thought perhaps I was not yet oriented after so much travel when Sleweon interrupted my thoughts...*"the tower is leaning a little...and the tower man cannot install the next 50 feet until we add the 4<sup>th</sup> set of guy wires."* Blinking wildly in this bright Liberian sun, it was very clear to me-the tower was indeed guyed on three sides, and a strong wind or even a pull on one of the other wires would bring it down.

Less than 24 hours here, and I was already into my first emergency!

The *bad news* is that we had no more property on which to install the last set of anchors and wires...the *good news* is the property adjoining us is not yet built upon and therefore available...the *challenging news* is that we discovered we need \$3500 to purchase the property before we can secure the tower. This felt strangely like another one of those African puzzles that never seem to have enough pieces...we agreed to wait on the Lord!

I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. Matt 16:18 NASV

Missionary pioneer and founder of the WEC mission, CT Studd issued that famous statement which continues to challenge the church today....*"Some wish to live within the sound of Church or Chapel bell; I want to run a Rescue Shop within a yard of hell."*

I have never had the intention or desire for such a work nor do we consider ourselves in the same missionary pioneer status as this wonderful man of God, but somehow, we continue to find ourselves *"within a yard of hell"* and usually after we have been there for a while. We eventually understood we had been called to work in demonic strongholds of Sudan, Uganda and Rwanda, but had not realized Liberia was included. Working here in faith for over 2 years we encountered all kinds of unexplained and unusual circumstances - too many to list, and simply thought it might be due to Liberia's emergence from 20 years of brutal civil war...it was that and so much more!

### BLEEDING TREE

We had just distributed hundreds of Galcom's wonderful fix tuned radios. For two days, people lined up outside the station, arriving at 6:30 AM. Poverty is a lifestyle in this area, so a solar powered radio is a unique gift that is highly valued, allowing them to hear the Word of God through our broadcasts... people are seeking in Liberia and we were more than amazed at the depth of spiritual hunger.

Two days after the distribution, hundreds of families could hear the approaching Easter message how the "Blood of the Lamb" has provided their redemption on Worship FM broadcasts...and then on the third day, *the shadow appeared*. Directly across the street from the station a large crowd gathered around a tree that was seen to be bleeding! Superstition and fear immediately gripped the community and everyone stood for hours, waiting desperately for a sign.

Seeing our surprised faces, Sleweon explained how dark this area actually had been...at the time we bought this small commercial station and converted it to Christian format in 2008, the entire street had been lined with nightclubs and various kinds of alcohol related industry and the noise was so excessive that Worship FM could not be heard...Sleweon had been threatened – told to leave, but like a man truly called of God, he refused to move an inch.



**LEANING TOWER**



**CROWD AROUND THE TREE**



**TREE VICTIM OF  
SUPERSTITIOUS BELIEFS**



**GALCOM RADIO FOR  
LIBERIAN LISTENER**

Now, only 2 years later, every alcohol related store and facility is gone and Christian music floods the neighborhood from our outdoor speakers...but the attacks do not stop. As a local pastor came to the station to minister to the community on air, he explained to us how believers are standing strong in warfare around this area...the bleeding tree is just the *latest incident*. His church had been praying and he felt led to anoint a handkerchief and nail it to the tree...as soon as he did, a blood-like substance squirted out of the tree on to his assistant pastor and screams were heard from a girl in a nearby house who complained of sudden and severe stomach pain. That child is now undergoing deliverance, the tree has been cut down and the church continues to pray. This courageous pastor poured out incidences of witchcraft attacks all around this area...in such an environment, scripture is THE answer:

“Ye are of God, my little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.” 1 John 4:4 ASV

Looking hard at the tired faces, many which had been victims of war, others of poverty, and even more victims of evil-minded charlatans who prey on vulnerable minds...looking at so many people desperately looking for any discernible sign of help, my resolve deepened. The enemy wants each and every one to join him in hell, but we MUST at least try to follow the footsteps of faithful men like CT Studd...we MUST do all we can to ensure Worship FM survives AND grows-even here at the edge of hell.

## REFUGEE RADIO

Still navigating all the emotions flowing from the raw exposure to witchcraft so close to our station, Marty and I took the less impacting visit to our most recent radio station-or so we thought!

Bomi County is located a one-hour drive north of Monrovia and seemed normal in every sense of the word. However, Sleweon had somehow forgotten to mention our new radio station was in the middle of an Internally Displaced People’s camp (IDP) where up to 6000 Liberians have been living for 19 years. They have no place to return to, and struggle to survive here. Clean water, sanitation and isolation are just a few of IDP camp challenges. After a very cordial meeting with camp leaders and representatives under the “meeting tree” we walked the camp, struggling with smells and sights that would stretch every Western visitor. Perhaps more challenging was knowing this was normal life for 6000 people who have no options-*no one to complain to and no one to hear them!* Just one hour from Worship FM Monrovia, we could again see the fingerprints of the enemy himself-all over this camp. Destruction is his signature and despair is his savor! These precious people gently asked us for help to build a septic system...after 19 years, 30 filled pit latrines have polluted their borrowed land and its water supply. And they really need a \$10,000 properly installed septic system...please pray about this with us!

## HONOUR SEAT

Sitting in Worship FM’s broadcast “building” I was given the seat of honour-at the microphone; positioned to speak the Good News to 6000 people as well as thousands more in the nearby Ivory Coast Refugee camp (and about 100,000 more within a 20-mile radius). Worship FM Bomi was almost on the air...

Sleweon had managed to find used studio equipment, a used transmitter, and an antenna. But, there is no transmission cable and connectors to attach the transmitter to the antenna that sits high on a borrowed tower. Western broadcasters would not blink at this cost of \$400 but refugees could not collectively find such funding, and by now, we were stretching tight (again). So we returned with this request as well. Please pray about this too!

## SPECIAL LISTENERS

Brother Dorbor is a very unique man. Ten years ago, he lost his sight and with it all his friends. At first feeling self-pity, he soon accepted his new handicap, learning all he could from whatever blind ministry was available in Liberia. Complicating his pain was the successive brutal Liberian wars (1989-1996 and 1997-2003) that finally ended in 2003. His testimony shook me as he went on...Dorbor refused to let anything stop him...in fact, he decided to start the Hope in God Association for the Blind, so he could reach out and help others less capable than himself.

Today, 64 blind members meet Dorbor and his volunteer staff where they teach each others to read Braille Scriptures with the few resources they



**HAPPY LISTENERS  
RECEIVE GALCOM GIFT**



**BOMI IDP CAMP**



**MEETING 12 TRIBAL LEADERS  
UNDER THE TREE**



**SLEWEON AND DON IN  
BOMI CAMP STUDIO**



**BLIND LEADER RECEIVES GALCOM  
SOLAR POWERED RADIO**

have-they do not yet have the complete bible in Braille. They provide basic lifestyle coping methods and food when possible, but the blind are marginalized in Liberia-there are no jobs for blind and therefore often not enough food for even one meal per day. The rented building they are in is in desperate need of repair. Our hearts broke when we saw their challenges.

We were also moved to know they listen regularly to our Worship FM broadcasts when a radio is available. It was an incredible blessing for us to provide one Galcom solar powered radio for each blind person who could never afford the batteries much less the radio. Today, Biblical music and message fills the air around these very special 64 people who trust completely on God. Our small gift of food was wonderfully accepted but we would so much like to provide them with at least \$50 per month for rice over the next year. Please pray about this opportunity to minister to these precious vulnerable Liberians.

### CHURCH IN THE SWAMP

Worship FM is blessed with the volunteer ministry of Pastor Henry who leads the every-Friday night on-air prayer meeting (midnight to 6:00AM) as he also ministers to other listeners throughout the week. But, Pastor Henry also leads his own Fellowship of Faith Church with 5 days of services each week and was so pleased we could be with him on Sunday-the problem was getting there.

Church was at the end of a treacherous road, followed by a winding walk through a hidden community and finally at the edge of a swamp, accessible by a bridge over water that (we were told later) actually has alligators and a few other things. We discovered we are usually on a need-to-know basis here, understandably. However, the trip was worth the effort, and once again, the Lord reminded us He has His saints living and serving in the most unlikely places-and He knows each one intimately. Looking at these beautiful believers worshipping in this partially finished building, I became aware of the need to make their floor safe with cement covering. When asked, Pastor Henry shared the need of \$550 to put in a floor. I promised to ask our friends and partners for help. Please pray about this need for a church floor.

"And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed are ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh." Luke 6:20,21

NIV...pray for Liberia...

Don



MEETING HOPE FOR THE BLIND MEMBERS



PASTOR HENRY LEADS TEAM OVER FOOT BRIDGE



PASTOR HENRY NEEDS A FLOOR

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE PORTION BELOW AND RETURN IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED. THANK YOU.**

My gift of  \$50  \$100  \$500  Other

**MAY 2011**

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