

Edward & Sharon Short

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In April, we helped facilitate another InterMission reentry event for returned missionaries. This took place at the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond, OK. The photo shows the thirteen missionaries from Europe, Asia, Africa and Central America who attended the event, as well as the facilitators. What a joy to see the lifting of stress and burdens, even during the brief duration of two days of specialized discussion and activity.

As I announced in the previous newsletter, Andy Baker asked me to speak at the annual funding dinner for World Christian Broadcasting. About 600 people attended this event. The video presented at the dinner is viewable at: www.worldchristian.org . My speech is below; thank you for taking time to read it...

“Fifteen Minutes”

World Christian Broadcasting Spring Dinner, April 19, 2018

by Edward Short

On behalf of the staff of World Christian Broadcasting, our listeners around the world and visitors to our websites, I thank you for spending your evening with us.

I’ve been given ten minutes, and I think a trap door will open if I speak more than that. So, I’ll talk fast and you listen fast!

I received a letter from a non-believer, a young college graduate who had been listening to our Chinese program in northeast China. Her mother had recently died of cancer and she needed an ear. We continued to correspond and within three years, she became a Christian. Last year, she wrote a retiring staff member and said, “You serve so that people like me can listen to encouraging messages from God’s Word. You’ll never know how much that Word has changed my life...”

Our staff prays, Lord, send this radio signal to wherever there are people whose lives can change.

In the first meeting of senior producers after he became president, Andy Baker asked: How do each of you in your own language service get the audience to Acts chapter two? In other words, he stressed the importance, even as we talk about subjects as diverse as health, home, happiness, history, hypertension and humor, we must tell our audience about the love of God and the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. We must explain how each should respond in faith and obedience, and then live a faithful Christian life.

Most people in our audience don’t go to church; most are not Christians and some have never heard of Jesus. We try to give people a combination of the information they want and the Good News we want them to learn.

For example, after a major earthquake left thousands homeless in China, Edward Ho told our audience how to keep from contracting cholera and other diseases. He also assured them that God knew about the earthquake, God was aware of their suffering and that God loved them.

Regarding programming, Rob Scobey says that the audience must find our subjects interesting. For example, Nashville may not be too important to an international audience. But what happens in Country Music is important to many in our audience—that Tim McGraw collapsed during a show in Dublin or that Miranda Lambert won female vocalist of the year.

Whether Paul wrote Philippians before or after Colossians may be an entertaining subject for your Sunday school class, but it isn’t for our audience. However, why Paul was in jail when he wrote these letters and how he could say “Rejoice!” while in jail is fascinating to our listeners.

“One cannot bore people into accepting Christ,” Rob said. Therefore, we must grab their attention and hold it by being relevant and interesting.

Doug Poling is retired from CBS News in New York. Now he writes for us, "Today's News and the Good News," using current events to explain the gospel.

For example, Doug told about a man in Kansas who put himself in harm's way to save the lives of some immigrants from India. From this incident, Doug then introduced Jesus who put himself in harm's way to save all humanity.

Paul Ladd is our Interviewer Par Excellence! His interviews not only give added status to our English programs they also add variety we could not easily get otherwise. During the past few months, he interviewed Jim Caviezel (*played Jesus in Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ," and Luke in the movie "Paul, the Apostle of Christ"*), Tony Dungy (*former coach of the Indianapolis Colts*), John Bolton (*our National Security Advisor*) and other famous people.

Our language services include three categories of programs: Biblical, semi-Biblical and secular. Thus a secular song may be followed by a segment on Christian evidences, marriage or parenting, and then by a Bible drama, parable or prayer.

Listeners to Dr. Constantin Chernushenko's Russian broadcasts thank the Russian staff for using these multiple subjects to illustrate how Christianity influences all of life. Parables are a favorite because they use simple words to express deep ideas.

When we began broadcasting from Madagascar, I was most excited about the Arabic broadcasts. The message of Jesus is the only true and lasting answer to problems in the Middle East.

Dr. Tony Todros grew up in Cario, Egypt, so he understands the challenges people face daily in the Middle East. For example, divorce rates are climbing, as is drug addiction. Thus, Arabic programs include discussions of morality, based on the Bible. Tony tells his audience, "God created humankind; therefore his rules for life are good."

Edward Ho's intimate relationships in the Chinese church in Nashville give him a window through which to see the current Chinese home, mindset and challenges. He visits, teaches, prays with, counsels, and baptizes them. He knows their spiritual needs, so he writes programs that give Bible answers to those needs.

Edet Udofia shares the gospel far and wide, whether in his native Nigeria or in his adopted Murfreesboro where he has baptized several hundred people.

Rex Morgan, has trained Christians in Cuba and elsewhere to write quality Spanish programs.

Three questions:

First: Is our signal heard? A listener in Shanghai wrote me this month that he could receive the KNLS radio program clearly with a pullout antenna. A man in the United Kingdom told me that our Madagascar broadcast to Europe is heard even when the pullout antenna is not fully extended.

Question Two: Are we credible with listeners? After the catastrophic nuclear accident at Chernobyl in 1986, we received a letter from Russia. (Remember, in those days, letters were smuggled to another country and then mailed to us.) Someone wrote and said that they had heard over the grapevine that there had been a radiation leak or disaster at Chernobyl; but "we didn't know whether to believe it or not, until we heard it on KNLS. We know you will not lie to us," he said.

Question Three: Are we doing any good? This, of course, is most important. First, we are a seed-sowing ministry. God promises that his word will not return void.

Second, we know of people who have become Christians directly because they listened to KNLS.

Third, we deeply believe that the programs on KNLS influence multitudes of people for good and for God.

Fourth, there are some tangible statistics:

☞ Our Spanish broadcasts have enrolled more than 2,000 people in World Bible School's Spanish correspondence course since September.

☞ Constantin reports that over 1,500 people study a Russian Bible correspondence course from our office in St. Petersburg, Russia.

☞ We get about 13,000 hits a day on our websites.

☞ Our Spanish website receives over 2.5 million hits per year and our

☞ Chinese website about two million.

☞ A radio station in the Middle East likes our Arabic programming so much that they air it—two hours a day, free of charge!

Every day we are in China, Russia, Europe, Africa, Japan, the Middle East, Cuba and South America—in Chinese, Russian, English, Arabic and Spanish. Soon, God willing, we'll begin broadcasting in Portuguese.

What was your favorite item on tonight's menu? Tenderloin? Dessert? If we gave you only one bite of that item, what would you want to do? (*You'd want to sock us in the nose!!!*) You'd want more of that item. That's what we do in our broadcasts; we leave the listener wanting more.

If someone listens over time, they will hear "reasons for belief," "how to become a Christian" and "how to live a Christian life." Statistics tell us that a shortwave listener tunes in to a station for about fifteen minutes in a given hour. Tonight's video will explain more about how we use those fifteen minutes.

I say "we." Yes, "we" is our staff; but "we" also includes you. This is your ministry. More importantly, "we" includes God because this is God's ministry. We ask God's blessings, as "apart from him we can do nothing." We cannot do it without God, nor do we want to try. We also cannot do it without you. And so tonight, we thank you for your past support and we invite you to continue to partner with us. We need your prayers and we need your financial help. "We" includes "you."



InterMission Ministry Re-entry Event in Edmond, OK, April 20-21, 2018