

Reaching the World with LTBS

The Radio Ministry of the Free Presbyterian Church Worldwide

Since 1973 *Let the Bible Speak* has been using radio to spread the good word of the gospel to as many people as possible. Today we broadcast to millions over stations in Africa, the Far East, Canada, the United States, England, and Ireland. Some of these are broadcasts sponsored by local Free Presbyterian churches. Others are sponsored by the parent organization, Let the Bible Speak, Northern Ireland. Together we have been privileged to see the Lord bless our outreach to bring souls to Himself, to be a source of spiritual food and fellowship for Christians in lonely parts of the earth, and in places, to lead to the establishment of Free Presbyterian churches.

In recent times we have had new opportunities to extend the work, and as we go to press we are launching out on even more exciting advances.

Our Own Magazine

The first exciting development is obviously the magazine you are now reading. We have launched this new quarterly in the expectation that it will become a vital part of our radio ministry. There were various reasons for deciding to produce it.

First, we need good material to send to our listeners around the world, material that will be educational, edifying, and uplifting—a magazine that will live up to the name of our ministry and let the Bible speak. That is exactly what *LTBS Quarterly* sets out to do. In each issue we will be aiming to carry articles that will lead the lost to Christ and establish Christians in Him. Each quarter we plan to carry a main theme as well as features that will focus on Bible study, personal testimony, and matters of intimate concern to God's people.

Second, we need to keep our faithful supporters around the Free Presbyterian Church fully abreast of what we are doing, and we believe that this quarterly magazine is an excellent way of doing so. We trust that the result will be a growth of support for our ministry. We want God's people to take this work on their hearts and pray diligently for it. We want them to support it with their gifts so that we can continue to

add stations around the world to our schedule and reach many more with the gospel of free grace. We believe our readers will do these things as they see how the Lord is using *Let the Bible Speak*.

Third, we wish to give something back to those who for 27 years have made this ministry possible. We think that by providing an attractive, well written, and interesting magazine we can minister to those who for so long have ministered to us. With this in mind we are making *LTBS Quarterly* available without charge, as the Lord enables us. One of the ways we can do this is by tasteful advertising. We invite inquiries from potential advertisers and hope our readers will patronise businesses that support this magazine and its work with their advertising fees.



Monthly Cassette Tape

Our programme director, Rev. Leslie Curran, produces a monthly *Let the Bible Speak* magazine on cassette tape for all who are interested but especially for those who are shut-ins. With a variety of contributors providing good music and plenty of helpful items, this is an attractive and inexpensive way for folk to enjoy the ministry of Let the Bible Speak at their convenience.

New Programme Outlets

Obviously, the main part of *Let the Bible Speak's* work is radio programming. In the past our effort from Northern Ireland has been mostly a foreign missionary affair—preaching Christ in Africa, India, China, and other parts of the far East. It has been difficult to gain effective access to radio outlets in the United Kingdom and Ireland. However, in recent times that has begun to change.

England

Last year we commenced a five-day-a-week ministry over Premier Radio, London. It is an expensive facility to use, and we were not able to obtain a very good broadcast time. Still, the Lord has blessed the ministry and our minister in London, Rev. Gordon Ferguson, reports that he makes a number of new contacts each week as people respond to the broadcast.

Ireland

Perhaps the most surprising opportunity that has come our way in recent times has been to get our programmes on local stations in Ireland. Currently we use stations in Monaghan, Donegal, and Dublin and have been pursuing additional possibilities. *Let the Bible Speak* tries to use local Free Presbyterian ministers for local broadcasts, a policy we find helpful in integrating the work of the radio ministry and the church. Thus, Rev. Ivan Foster of Kilskeery preaches the Monaghan broadcasts, Rev. Ian Brown of Londonderry and Rev. James Porter of Convoy the Donegal programmes, while Mr. Foster and our Programme Director, Rev. Leslie Curran, share the preaching duties over the Dublin station. The broadcasts from Monaghan and Donegal can be received by people in many parts of Northern Ireland. Thus for the first time many who have long supported *Let the Bible Speak* will be able to hear it for themselves.

Charlotte, North Carolina

Our Greenville, South Carolina, church has recently commenced a weekday broadcast over three stations in the Charlotte area. The programme will be simulcast over all three stations at eight o'clock each morning and will cover the entire metropolitan area. This is an opening the folks in Greenville have long desired. Historically Charlotte has been a city with strong Presbyterian roots, and we trust that in the will of the Lord our radio ministry will lead to the formation of a Free Presbyterian congregation there.

Our Own 24-Hour Web Radio Station

This is the age of the Internet, so *Let the Bible Speak* has decided to use that medium to broaden its outreach. We have now commenced our own 24-hour radio station on the net (www.ltbs.org). As we obtain more recordings of the services in all our churches, we will be able to expand our schedule to include the preaching of most of our ministers. In the



meantime we will be using the messages we have available from Greenville, Malvern, Kilskeery, and Martyrs Memorial. Wherever you are you can listen to *Let the Bible Speak* on your computer any time, day or night.

This is just a beginning. As we archive more and more messages from our various churches around the world we will, God willing, be able to schedule our programming just like a full-service radio station. But that is for the future. In the meantime, we want to get the word out that there is always a good message waiting to be heard on *Let the Bible Speak*.

Satellite Broadcasts

All the radio output of our Greenville church over its local station, WMUU, is also carried on two satellite networks, *Sky Angel* and *Homesat*. These



satellite broadcasts reach subscribers all over the continental United States and most of the Caribbean. In a way we could not have imagined just a short time ago, the availability of satellite and Internet broadcasting is opening up to our ministry parts of the world that were previously beyond our resources.

The World Our Parish

John Wesley said that the world was his parish. In this day of instant mass communication this is more true than ever before. The world is a big place with between five and six billion people living in it. We are trying to touch as many of these precious souls as we can with the message of the gospel. The following responses to our African broadcasts, from Zimbabwe in the southeast of the continent to Liberia in the west, show the scope of our outreach and emphasize its vast potential.

Good Fruit in Zimbabwe

From Zimbabwe we have recent news of one soul coming to Christ and others being blessed through our ministry. One listener shares his testimony:

"The message really touched my soul when I listened to it recently on Radio Africa Two. The preacher's voice still echoed and reechoed . . . long after the programme had been aired, exposing the emptiness of a vain and sinful life. I have since then given charge of my life to my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I should like also to thank a friend of mine who encouraged me to listen . . . and I am indebted to bring others to listen too. Please send me Bible literature . . . and any other materials to help me grow."

Another Zimbabwe listener writes:

"A friend blessed me by introducing me to your programme on Radio Africa Two just about two weeks ago. The word you bring is a life-giving message. My family and I will always be by your radio each time you come on the air. Please be assured of our prayer support to your work. That is the little we can do as we cannot back you financially. May God bless your ministry."

Liberian Listeners to LTBS

From Liberia come these letters that tell something of how the Lord is using LTBS programmes.

"My sister and I are regular listeners of your programme *Let the Bible Speak* broadcast on Radio Africa every Friday evening. Since we started listening to this programme we have really known what the Bible is. We have therefore invited our neighbours to tune to the broadcast every time. We do pray that God [will] continue to guard you and enlighten your mind as you carry on this task. . . . Thank you for giving us light (the WORD) in this dark continent."

"I have found a spiritual companion in your programme over the radio station Radio Africa Two. I came across your message about three weeks ago while I was scanning through the air waves for our local station. I listened once for a taste then I was

hooked since that day. My family members have joined me in keeping a date with your programme. We are all benefiting from . . . the word. It really pains that you are only on air once a week. However we are waiting for you every week because you give us that spiritual drink."

These are just a few of the letters we receive in response to our broadcasts around the world. The geographic spread of the letters, from Zimbabwe in the southeast of the African continent to Liberia in the west, shows the scope of our outreach and emphasizes its vast potential.

Rev. John Greer's Return to Northern Ireland

After ministering in the Philadelphia area of the United States for some fifteen years, Rev. John Greer will be moving back to his home town of Ballymena, Northern Ireland, to take up the pastorate of the Free Presbyterian Church there. Mr. Greer has been a prolific radio preacher while in the United States and has led the church in Malvern, Pennsylvania, into a ministry of powerful radio outreach. He is heard daily on over 40 stations nationwide as well as being on the air in New York City.

His departure will be a blow both to the church and to the radio ministry in North America, but we are confident that he is moving in the will of God and that therefore the Lord will richly bless him in Ballymena. We believe He will also prosper the work Mr. Greer has commenced in Malvern.

All of us who are involved in the radio ministry wish Mr. Greer well in his new field of service and look forward to his continued participation in the work of *Let the Bible Speak*. We also wish all our readers to join us in prayer for the Lord to continue to bless the Malvern church and its radio ministry in the work of preaching the gospel and planting new churches. ■



John Greer with Reverends I. Foster, F. McClelland, and A. Cairns at his installation in Newtown Square 17 years ago.