

WRGN RADIOGRAM

Number 268

2457 State Rt. 118, HUNLOCK CREEK, PA 18621

July 2011

WRGN: On The Move Throughout The Years!



This early photo (1985) shows WRGN founders, Burl and Shirley Updyke in the "old" control room. Much of the equipment was used equipment, and employed vacuum tube technology. WRGN's current studio has 'state of the art' solid state equipment. (Photo courtesy of Fritz Chamberlain.)

It has been nearly thirty years since God placed a burning passion on the heart of Burl Updyke to construct a radio station which would broadcast the gospel to Northeastern PA. Was Shirl with Him? Indeed she was. They had just completed twenty years of working together to establish and operate a weekly newspaper in Sweet Valley, "Country Impressions" / "Suburban News." Since that time, two of their sons operate it. Burl is a broadcast engineer and felt God urging him to work at occupying the air-waves for Him. The result is WRGN radio and ten years later, the construction of WIVH, a missions out-

reach in the Virgin Islands. Eight years ago the Updykes also established the Good News Library, an outreach of WRGN. Prior to founding the newspaper, Burl was employed for ten years as a television engineer at WBRE-TV Wilkes-Barre, PA. Add these years all together and the total is nearly 60. It doesn't take much figuring to see that the Updykes are not youngsters and they believe the time has arrived to pass God's station on to the next generation. Timothy and Heather Madeira, of Dallas, PA. have shared

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WRGN, On The Move Throughout The Years!

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their vision for Christian radio and were approached as next operators. After much prayer they believe God will honor their efforts to continue the work here. (See the letters in this edition of the Radiogram.)

What started out to be a low-powered radio station has grown to be a regional one reaching most of Northeastern PA. Within eight years of its beginning, six translators were added and the station is now heard on the internet, all over the world. The newest development at WRGN is the station's "Country Stream heard on the internet. Listeners tuning in hear the same talk programs but the

music is country/southern gospel. WRGN's history is a testimony of how God enables those who willingly serve Him. WRGN's story is told in a book Shirley Updyke wrote, "Vision to Reality." It is available at WRGN.

"All the praise goes to God," said Burl. He said a most wonderful aspect of the Christian radio project is that it will outlive him. "If God has placed a dream on your heart with burning passion, he has probably created you to do it," Burl said as he encouraged others to serve God with all their heart, soul and mind.

An Inmate Writes

An inmate at the Lackawanna County Prison, in Scranton, recently wrote to express his thankfulness for the broadcasting of WRGN.

He wrote: "Dear WRGN: My name is Harry Kline and I am an inmate and listen to your radio ministry every day. I enjoy all the encouragement and uplifting of

my spirit it brings me in a not-so-uplifting environment. I will be free this August and will remain in my thirst for God's love and grace He has given me. I'd like to visit WRGN's Good News Library and see what it has to offer. "I want to say thank you, so very much, to everyone there for all your efforts in spreading the gospel to all who can hear. My ears are always there, listening daily to your station."

Contributors to WRGN's 2011 Yard Sale/Fair

Our sincere thanks to the following:

Back Mountain Feed and Seed
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Bryant's RV Showcase, Inc.
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Clarke Piatt Funeral Home, Inc.
Country Side Market
Curtis Swanson Funeral Home, Inc.
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Sweet Valley Church of Christ
Women's Fellowship
The Old Filling Station
Pennco Contracting Inc.
Price Chopper -Kingston
Price Chopper- Wilkes Barre
Longo's Bakery
Wegman's
Weis, Nanticoke

Please pray with us

PRAY: as Tim and Heather Madeira begin serving as managers of WRGN and for Jonathan and Tiffany Bowman who are desirous of accepting the management of WIVH. Pray, too, for Burl and Shirley Updyke, who will continue serving the Lord by being consultants to both stations and will manage WIVH until a change can be enacted.

PRAISE: Being founders and managers of WRGN and WIVH for 27 years, makes the change difficult for the Updykes. However, they are leaving both stations when neither are in debt and both are operating successfully and growing in listenership.

PRAY: Shirley will miss her time with the listening family on "Shirl and You." In both their hearts, the Lord has placed a love for the people of Northeastern PA and the people of the West Indies. It's this love and their desire to reach people with the message of salvation that has motivated them to keep the stations operating at times that seemed rather difficult. During these times, God has come through and their faith has grown in leaps and bounds.

PRAISE: This is a good time to remind you that Shirley wrote a book about the past 25 years of ministry at WRGN/WIVH. "Vision to Reality" is available at the studios. It surely places the praise where it belongs, to God, who directed this ministry all-the-way!

PRAISE: Burl and Shirley will now have less responsibilities and perhaps some extra time to spend with their family. God has blessed them with five children, 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. However, both of them desire to continue in service to the God they love and to honor Him in all aspects of their lives.

PRAISE: the changes in radio operations during the past 27 years have been great. WRGN/WIVH has kept up with these changes and both remain state-of-the-art operations. This makes for good broadcasting and has enabled us to pro-

vide listeners with the best in Christian broadcasting.

PRAY: as listeners request a booklet being given away this month at WRGN. It's a great booklet that's designed to help listeners use fear to motivate them to better trust God.

PRAY: Internet radio is a tremendous development that allows WRGN to be heard the world-over. It may be listened to over a person's computer but an even better way is to listen over an internet radio. WRGN is offering one of these units at cost to listeners. This is ideal for use by those living in the fringe areas of WRGN's signal. This is just another blessing to help increase the listening family of WRGN.

PRAY: WRGN's "Country Stream" is heard on the internet. Listeners tuning in there hear the same talk programming but when music segments air it is country/southern gospel music.

PRAISE: WRGN's web site is top-notch in that it offers much information to those seeking it and answers most questions about the station. There is an extensive upcoming events listing, also CONNECT is played there. Underway is a new development where titles of songs being played will appear during their airing. Check out www.wrgn.com.

PRAY: Many prayer requests are also listed on the station's website. A great friend of WRGN, Iva Killian, is recovering from surgery. Pray for her.

PRAISE: The Good News Library, another outreach of WRGN, is open to the public and provides the latest in Christian reading and viewing. Many of today's issues concerning marriage and the family are covered in the items lining the shelves.

PRAISE: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." - Romans 12: 2A. It's important that believers change the way they think, Christian radio helps a person do this .

Listen Every Day To WRGN



Bart and Ellen Earl, Harding, are faithful listeners to WRGN. They were attendees at WRGN's recent Yard Sale.

People You Should Know



Listeners to "Shirl and You" know this couple but, perhaps, are seeing them for the first time. They are George and Mary Ann Meeker, of Plymouth, faithful listeners to WRGN..

Here at the studios...

When summer arrives prayer emphasis at the studios is that as listeners' routines change, they will not forget their monthly gifts to WRGN. Although operating costs remain the same here, this does happen. Since the station is dependent on listener-support we ask that you pray with us about this.

We talked to Sue Robbins, Huntington Mills, and she shared a story that some may have read about in the newspapers. Her granddaughter, nine year old, Felicia, wanted to express her faith with other students and began to pass out Bible tracks. She said the school principal called and said she was not allowed to do that. Sue called Rutherford Institute and learned that this was not true. Now, Felicia is permitted to do this outside of class. "Felicia knows what's important to her," said Sue.

"Shirl, you are really a blessing," said John Thompson, of Avis, as he talked to Shirl from his tractor-trailer. He listens every time he passes through the area. He said ten years ago, a divorce sent him seeking the Lord. He found a wonderful church and raised his two children." I felt hopeless and very worried, but with God's help my finances are now good and my kids are great." He recommended the Lord to listeners.

Mary Morrison, Scranton, called to say that the testimonies being heard on "Shirl and You," were a blessing to her. She said she was raised by her grandparents who led her to the Lord. They made sure I married the right young man and were quick to say, "no not that one." She and James are now married for

46 years.

Nancy Miller of Drums, expressed an interest in activities that would work well in ministry to children. She works with kids, pre-school to sixth grade. When asked what was the most meaningful events in her life, she said, the day she was saved and the day she got married.

A new caller, Corin Watt, Walnutport, has been listening over a year to WRGN. She said the event making the greatest impact on her life was the day her mother died. She was very close to her mother and misses her to this day. Corin is single and lives in the family home. She works in accounting at a charter school in Allentown

Susan Lesnefsky, Pecksville, appreciated the gift of tickets to the Kutztown Festival. She said she studied Special Ed. in Kutztown State College in 1970. "It will be like going back home." Susan is now a math coach, has a heart for kids, and said when they leave her teaching she wants them to feel like a million dollars.

Shirl met Margie Sandefer, of Lehigh, at WRGN's recent Yard Sale and asked her to call, she did. Margie found WRGN just over a year ago when tuning across her dial. She called when the subject was "Spam." She was among the many who said they don't eat it.

Alyssa Powell, 19, of Germansville, had been listening only the past month. She will serve as a day camp counselor in Shamokin where she will introduce campers to Jesus. Her church organizes the event.

From Tim & Heather



Ever since WRGN signed on the air nearly 27 years ago, I have had the honor and privilege of serving alongside Burl and Shirley Updyke in the ministry of the station. I have served as a volunteer, full time staff, and part time staff. I even met my beautiful wife, Heather, while she was volunteering at WRGN! From its humble beginnings in a farmhouse, to the current facility which God provided almost twenty years ago, WRGN has been a BIG part of our lives.

When Burl and Shirley met with Heather and me earlier this spring and shared the news of their desire to help other missions stations get started and step back from the daily operations of WRGN, they asked if we would be willing to take on the ministry of WRGN. As many of you know, my heart has ALWAYS been with this ministry, so the answer was easy...even though we knew it would be a challenge. Heather and I realize that we will never be able to “replace” Burl and Shirley Updyke. They have forged an exceptional path! Heather and I are trusting God for the strength and wisdom to continue on with this great ministry which they have founded.

The Friends of WRGN have already expressed their support and encouragement to us at their recent meeting. It is our hope and prayer that as we remain faithful to God and His work here, you and all of the WRGN listening family will continue to hear the station Radiating the Good News to Northeastern Pennsylvania. It is our desire to see Burl and Shirley’s vision and legacy live on!

Tim and Heather Madeira

From us
to you ...



June 2011

Dear Ones:

Someone recently said to us "You are still working at the station? You are icons." Icons? Aren't they images on stained glass windows? They are also "objects of uncritical devotion," so says Webster. That person was complimenting us for our faithfulness in ministry here. It's been thirty years, since work was begun on WRGN and they have been tremendous years as God worked miracles to keep WRGN and WIVH on-the-air. Yes, we have remained faithful, dedicated to the work here, and always hearing people wonder, how do you do it? Only with God's help and guidance and a good staff of dedicated people. The responsibilities have been great, we have given the operations "our all" and have no regrets. However, we believe the time has arrived when some of these responsibilities should be transferred to others who are also dedicated to Christian radio.

It was, 27 years ago, while we were testing a signal, that Timothy Madeira first contacted us and he has remained faithful to the ministry. It is to him and Heather that we are passing on these responsibilities.

We are making the change when both of us are reasonably healthy, and eager to continue serving the Lord. We will remain directors of Gospel Media Institute and will serve as consultants to both WRGN and WIVH. Also to other radio stations. We believe this is the time to make the transition, when the station is doing well financially and is in no debt.

We are leaving when people are very complimentary about our work here. The comment we treasure most is one heard most frequently as listeners appreciate our efforts to convey the love of God to them. "It's the station that radiates love to its listeners." No higher compliment can be made, as we minister here with a desire to love others and to daily present the gospel message.

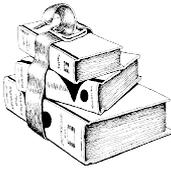
Our sister station, WIVH, will continue broadcasting under operators, Jonathan and Tiffany Bowman. Tiffany is our granddaughter. Within the next few months we hope they will become permanent managers there.

Serving here has been the greatest experience we have ever had and until He calls us home, we will continue on for Him...

Believing This to Be the Wise Thing To Do,
Forever Grateful and Sincerely Yours,

Burl & Shirley Updyke

Burl and Shirley Updyke



New at the Library



If you like fiction but find yourself embarrassed by the language in a book you thought was o.k. reading, this will not happen when you borrow fiction from the Good News Library. You've got to see the hundreds of books that line the shelves under the category "fiction."

Listed are some of the newest titles found at the Good News Library. The book, "Co-Parenting Works" is written to help parents

know how to deal with their children after a divorce. The author says as the post divorce dust settles, your child's chances of leading a healthy, successful life are directly linked to how you and your former spouse relate to each other.

The next book is about influence. It's title, "Golf's Sacred Journey," helps you get your game and your life back on course. The author says since you never know when your influence might change another life, be ready to do it.

"Mentored by the King," gives Arnold Palmer's success lessons for golf, business, and life. The author shares the wisdom and insights he has gleaned from golf legend, Arnold Palmer, over the course of their more than twenty-five year friendship.

When wondering what the Bible says on a particular subject a great book to turn to is the one entitled, "The Bible Search Engine." In it you'll find 1001 topics both biblical and contemporary and 15,000 key scripture references arranged under subject headings.

"What Happened to My Little Girl," is a dad's ultimate guide to his tween daughter. This is a guide to help your daughter live as a strong, smart, faith-filled child rather than a mini-teenager. The author invites the reader to raise their daughter to be a respectful, confident, God-centered young woman.

The Good News Library, located at WRGN, is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. It's open to the public.

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