



CDs by post and these were subsequently broadcast.

On this occasion I was able to hand over CDs with nearly 100 of our drama programmes to Mphatso (pictured left) to take back to Malawi. Also, Mervyn Shaw and I met up with David McCullagh, who was a valued member of our team here in Northern Ireland. He is now a missionary working with Scripture Union Malawi (SUM) in schools and mission outreach.

Commission in Malawi

We at Commission rarely get the chance to meet someone who has actually heard one of our overseas Bible Dramas being broadcast. But, at this year's Bangor Missionary Convention we had the great pleasure of meeting Mphatso Nguluwe, who is Director of an AIDS and HIV programme in Malawi in southern Africa. She has contacts with a new community radio station there, called "Voice of Livingstonia." Earlier this year Mervyn Shaw, one of our committee, had been asked if we could provide programmes for this station. I

contacted the station manager. After trying unsuccessfully to send some programmes over the internet, Commission sent

This is a great encouragement to all of us: we believe our radio dramas are of value in helping spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, but having this confirmed by people who have actually heard them is a big 'bonus'!

Colm Flanagan



Mervyn Shaw (centre) with Mphatso and David McCullagh

The people behind the glass – our technical team



Jennifer Hobson and Chris Clotworthy in the Editing Suite

Commission is a team work. We need producers, voices/actors, and presenters, but we also must have a competent technical team. Although the equipment used at Commission has changed over the years, we still need people who can make sure this sophisticated equipment is up and running; our volunteers have limited time and we must make the best of it.

The “engineer” needs to be there first, to set up the microphones and check everything is working properly. Problems need to be solved quickly, as our sessions can’t go on all night! The Lord has been good to us, as we have professional equipment which is usually reliable – even if the cost is high for such specialist “kit”. You can’t buy it in the shops!

During the recording session, our engineers are responsible for making sure the voices are clear, and that sound effects are blended into the “mix” to create the illusion that we are in 1st century Palestine. Our well sound proofed studios keep the noises of 21st century Northern Ireland out.

After the session ends the recording is burned on to a CD for safety. This can then be used in the time consuming work of adding further sounds, music, narrations, which go to make the finished product. CD copies may be needed for distribution, and this work is also in the engineers remit. Unlike the voices,

who naturally come and go as required, the engineers need to be there at every session, for the whole 2-3 hours we work.

As well as our radio drama work we need technical operators to record our regular weekly “International Religious News” item.

Right now Commission is hoping to train new people to join this vital team, so that our work can continue. If we had more technical people (as well as producers) there are things we could do which currently are not possible. Training is usually provided “on the job” and you don’t need to be a techy nerd either to be involved! If you think this might be for you then email our Chief Engineer Chris Clotworthy at mail@commissionradio.org

Colm Flanagan

Our current drama schedule

Earlier this year we completed 6 programmes about Barabbas; this series was written by Hugh Finlay and is nearly complete. It will be sent abroad, along with 7 episodes about the life of the prophet Elijah. This series was written by Noel Speers and produced by Jennifer Hobson. Noel is now considering writing a series on Gideon; we have some older programmes about him in our catalogue, but we think this would be a good time to write and record a new and improved script.

We had an Open Night in the studio in June which focused on writing and we hope that we may gain a few new drama writers as a result of this.

In the meantime I will be recording a series on Barnabas, the "man of encouragement", who played an important role in the early days of the New Testament church - not least by his introduction of Saul to the church leaders in Jerusalem after his dramatic conversion. It is planned to complete this

series in 2015. In the UK you can hear our dramas every Saturday on Trans World Radio UK which is available here on the Internet, at twr.org.uk, and also on a Sky satellite channel.

Colm Flanagan

Our IRN Team continues to grow...

Each week, a dedicated team meets to produce and record International Religious News (IRN) at our studios. These two-minute programmes take a topical look at four or five news items, which are making the headlines in the world of religion and ethics. After recording, IRN is uploaded to Audiopot (www.audiopot.org), where it is freely available to radio stations for broadcasting. Currently six stations throughout the UK broadcast IRN each week.

Since September we have been joined by two new voices.



Anne Bailie, originally from Cookstown, lives in Belfast with her husband, Paul, and their big old Labrador-Collie cross dog, Samson. She became a Christian

when she was seven years old, and her faith and her family are of the utmost importance to her. Anne is an English teacher in a boys' grammar school, a job she loves. She has recently joined Talking Newspapers, and is already really enjoying working with all the other people who are involved in it. She loves to read, and also enjoys theatre, especially Shakespeare. Her other interests include dog walking, card making, letter writing, sewing,

photography and coffee with friends. One thing most people don't know about Anne is that she speaks Kikuyu, which is a tribal language of Kenya. Paul and Anne lived in Kikuyuland for five years and go back as often as they can. A perfect day for her would start with an early morning game drive with Paul in Samburu National Park, Kenya, followed by breakfast at the Java coffee house in Nairobi. She would spend the afternoon catching up with Kenyan friends, and then magically be home in the evening for a stroll round Lough Fea, dinner with her parents and another coffee (an espresso this time) before heading back home to her beautiful dog and a good book.



Hilary Jewhurst

first heard of Commission many years ago. Now as a recently retired primary school teacher with time to spare she was delighted to find

that Commission was still going strong and even interested in taking on totally green volunteers! Home for her is the Cregagh area of East Belfast and she worships at Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church at Ballyhackamore. Although she's not sure what interests would be seen as assets for helping out at Commission... years of loving to read aloud to the children in school and to herself (silently!) might qualify. Rambling, cross- stitching, coffee and chocolate – probably not!

Mervyn Shaw

UCB Car Show

After hosting a number of very successful Ladies' Lunches this year in Commission's Green Room, it was time for the men to take centre stage. After some discussion, we realised that a significant number of our UCB supporters shared a passion for all things cars. With the help of Ronnie McKee at TBF Thompson Ministries in Garvagh, who provided the venue, refreshments and many of the contacts, we ran our first UCB / TBF Thompson Car Show on Saturday 13 September and were delighted with the response and the turn out on the day. The sun shone, the cars arrived, the visitors thronged and UCB's profile was further raised in



Best in Show Winner Philip McLean and his 1934 Clyno with Ronnie McKee (TBF Thompson Ministries)

Northern Ireland. A great day was had by all!

Dennis Aicken



Cutting a Music CD?

Whether you are a Solo singer, in a Group, part of a Choir or play in an Orchestra and would like to hear how you sound when professionally recorded, why not check out our new music recording facility at the Commission Broadcast Centre. Out Studio 1 offers excellent acoustic space and our new operating system can support a total of 128 tracks. For full details simply email dennis@commissionradio.org. Making that CD (or even a single track recording) couldn't be easier.

Dennis Aicken

Finance

Thank you to all our 'Friends of Commission' who continue to support us financially. The day-to-day running of the studio and our on-going radio missionary outreach is only made possible by your valuable commitment.

Help Us Save on Postage Costs

To receive your next Commission News Sheet by email simply contact us at mail@commissionradio.org and we will forward future News Sheets to you using this method. Thank you.

Website

For further information and up to date news about Commission, simply visit our website at www.commissionradio.org

You can also follow us on



facebook.com/commissionradio

STUDIOS: Commission Broadcast Centre, 6A Ballyoran Lane, Belfast, BT16 1XJ