

SWAZILAND

on the air



Trans World Radio

TWR-SWAZILAND ON THE AIR

by David Fisher

Triumphant applause rang out as a member of the King's cabinet concluded, "I now declare Trans World Radio-Swaziland officially open!" For the TWR missionaries and Swazi nationals who had worked toward that moment, they were words of resounding victory. For an entire sub-continent, they were words foretelling of opportunity to hear the Gospel.

A few moments later, the Honorable A. K. Hlope -- acting as official representative of the Deputy Prime Minister of Swaziland, His Excellency the Honorable Zonke Khumalo -- pushed a red button. That control, only one inch in diameter, applied 9,000 volts to the transmitter and sped signals across thousands of square miles.

Prior to that moment on December 4, 1974, there had been months of preparation and construction. A few sample scenes:

Nine missionaries and 22 Swazis line up along what looks like a huge kite. Meanwhile, 110 feet above, missionaries Burl Sommer, Cal Donner and David Nordquist stand on the slanting metalwork of a tower.

Following Burl's instructions from above, the ground crew begins lifting an intricate network of cables and insulators which form an elaborate antenna. Slowly, like a giant kite 180 feet across the front and an equal distance long, it rises . . . its motive power not the wind but the muscles of missionaries and nationals lifting together.

Five times this scene is repeated as the TWR staff erects five antennas designed to send the Gospel to all of Africa south of the equator.

Missionaries Jonathan Gain and Tom Krewson had planned and surveyed the locations of the six towers that support the five antennas just installed. Now they proceed to the next phase of their work, installing transmission lines, the high-precision, low-tolerance bundles of wires that carry radio-frequency energy from the transmitters to the antennas. Factors like the spacing of wires, their expansion and contraction with heat and cold, and many other details have to be observed meticulously.

Inside the building, foreman Titus Thule, a Swazi Christian, oversees plastering and painting. South African Christian Evert Kleynhans supervises other phases of construction. Steve Platt and two Swazi workmen pull wires to feed transmitter number two. Dave Rodgers and Dave Fisher install the last component of transmitter one and prepare for its initial tune-up.

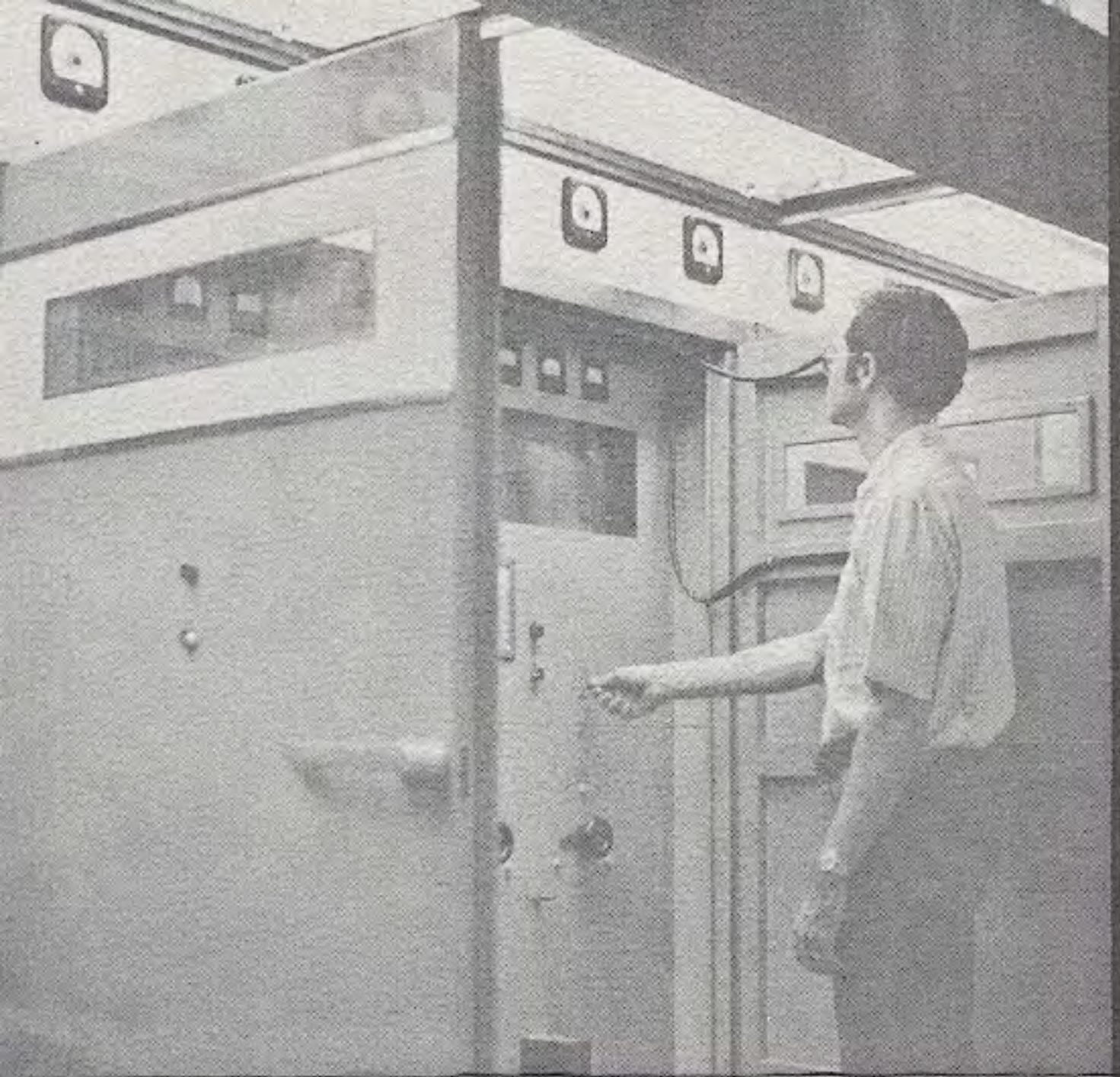
"HELLO, TESTING"

The generator starts with a big cloud of diesel smoke. Next come the transmitter motors -- pumps and blowers to carry away the heat that powerful equipment produces.

"Matima" (pronounced ma-TEE-ma), a Swazi exclaims to his fellow worker as he looks at the equipment from a distance. All those wires and components look like "hard work." More adjustments and checks are made, and additional stages are energized.



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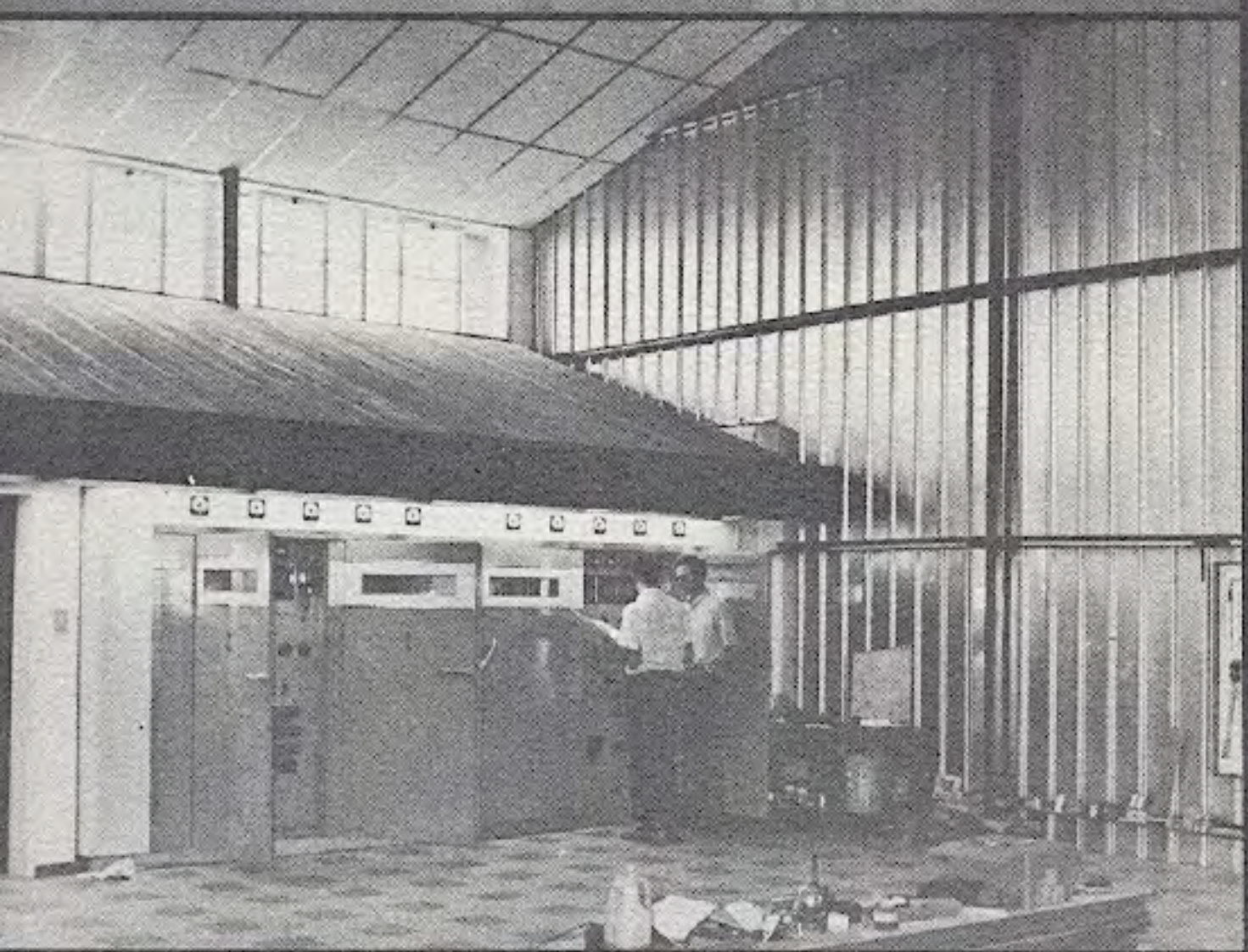


Then comes that one remaining red button -- "HV start," high voltage start. Chief Engineer Bob Schultz takes time from his other duties to be involved in this crucial test.

Everyone feels a tingle of excitement, perhaps of some apprehension, at the next move -- "100% HV," 9,000 volts. One meter reads slightly higher than the factory manual says it should. A touch of the control corrects it. Everything seems fine.

More tests, adjustments, readings. Electronic monitors give a merciless, meticulous evaluation: A counter reads the frequency to one part in ten million. An oscilloscope reveals any noise or other imperfection on the carrier wave. Test tones, then music, try out the equipment's sound-carrying capabilities.

Finally the missionary engineers are satisfied; transmitter one has passed its test.



PRAYING FOR PROBLEMS

A new installation invariably means problems to overcome. Realizing this, an interested friend wrote, "May you have few teething problems." Test technicians ask God to reveal all the defects during test days instead of letting them bite into broadcasting time.

As a cannon-shot sound echoes through the building, one missionary remarks to another, "That's what we prayed for. It happened now -- instead of in a few weeks, in the middle of one of Dr. Freed's messages."

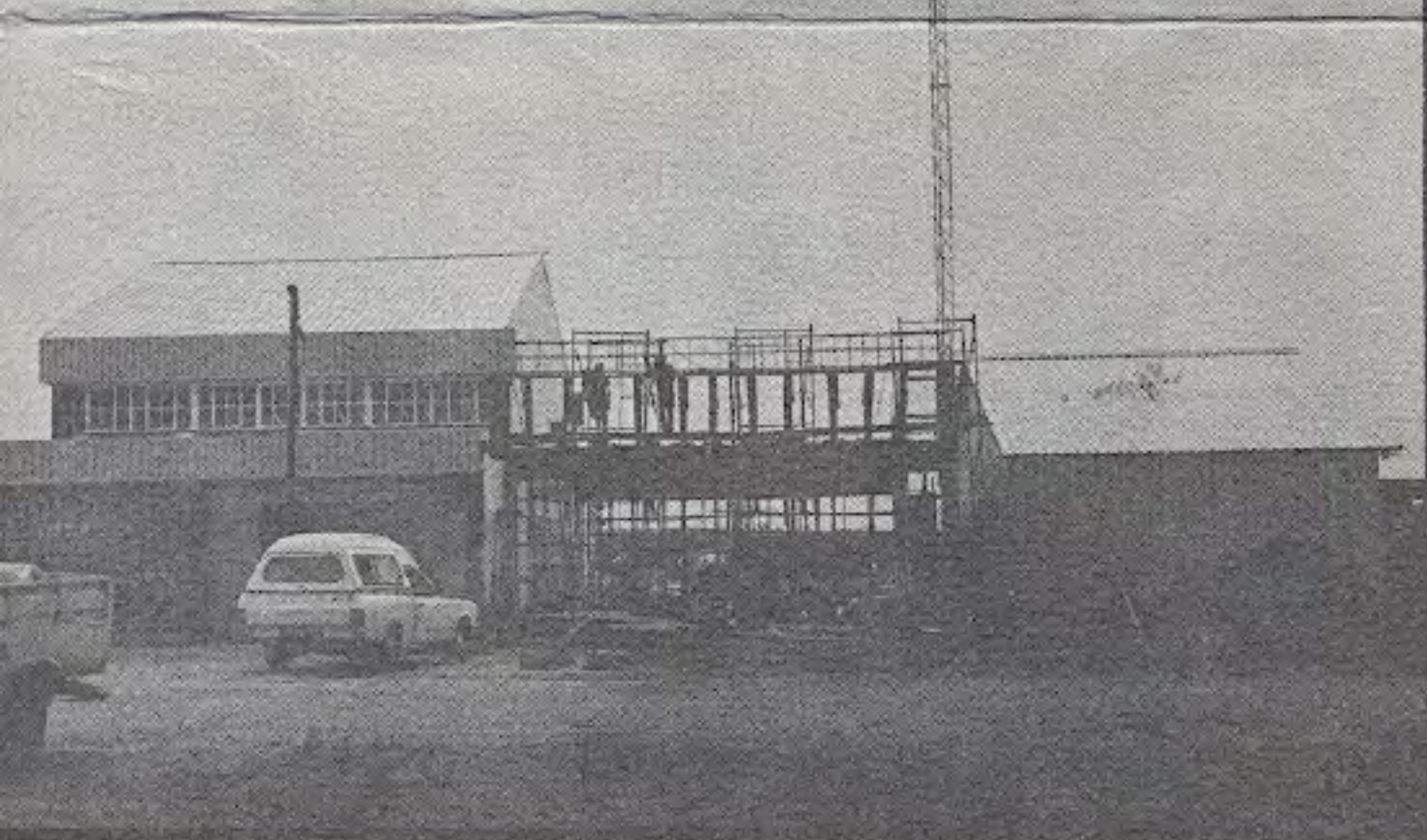
But there's more to international broadcasting than just equipment on the ground. Fifty to three hundred miles in space, the ionosphere -- part of the earth's atmosphere -- reflects radio waves over the long distances to TWR targets. The computer printout recommends certain frequencies at certain times of the day for several key targets, but engineers know they'll need to conduct test transmissions to know definitely which frequencies will do the job.

Air-mailed letters notify 150 technically knowledgeable people of test times and frequencies for a series of experimental transmissions to begin October 12. "We're not really trying to lose you," Field Director Dick Olson comments on the air as he announces the third frequency change for that hour. "Quite the contrary. In fact, we're trying to make sure we FIND you with the best possible signal."

Did they succeed? An insurance man in South Africa has a signal-strength meter on his radio. He pretunes the receiver to TWR's frequency before the station comes on the air. "When your carrier comes on," he writes, "I not only see the meter move, I hear it 'ping' as it hits the top!"

A Cape Town man starts listening at the first minute of the first evening's testing, 5:45 p.m. After the 10:15 sign-off, he writes "Fascinating! My wife finally stopped calling me for supper. I wouldn't have missed this 'opener' for dinner at the best restaurant in town!"

Listeners in 21 countries on five continents write to say they've heard TWR-Swaziland during the 19 days of on-air testing.



• • • on the air

DEDICATION

TWR's founder-president, Dr. Paul Freed, told the Dedication Day audience, "As I was flying over Africa yesterday, I didn't so much see the mountains and the rivers and the valleys. I was more aware that there were PEOPLE there -- men and women, boys and girls." -- more than 100 million of them in the part of Africa reached strongly by TWR-Swaziland.

Swaziland Government Minister Hlope pointed out, "You will appreciate that you have in your hands one of the most powerful media devised by man. Used improperly, this medium can do untold damage. And yet, if used as it should be, it can do untold good."

It wasn't long before results began filtering in to the Trans World Radio offices. Nine known conversions had been reported by the December 4th dedication date. One letter excerpt received by youth evangelist Ken Terhoven said, "Before your broadcast on Monday, the eleventh, I wished I could be a real Christian. By your guidance and inspiration, I now know that I am."

How many more of the 100+ million in Africa south of the equator will God save through TWR's new Swaziland facilities? Early indications seem to say -- very many.

REPORT FROM FRED SIMMONDS Program Director for TWR-SWAZILAND

One of the broadcasters who joined us at the start of broadcasting on November 1st said that by the time the second program had gone out he had received four letters indicating people had definitely received Christ as Saviour through the broadcasts. There were also several other letters asking for spiritual help and for Bible correspondence courses. It was fitting that the very first response he received was from an Indian boy just outside of Durban who said that for many years he had been seeking for the truth and when he turned on the radio, his heart was seeking for God. When our program went off the air, he knew that he had found the Lord.

The second response was from a young Afrikaans man who was in his final year of high school. The young man wrote in broken English that he too had been seeking for the truth and had found Christ through this broadcast. One of the boys was an Indian, and the other was an Afrikaans.

One of the broadcasters from Roodepoort whom I have known for many years is an elderly man close to 80 years of age and known throughout the country as a real man of faith. He had desired for many years to broadcast in South Africa and was one of the first ones whom we contacted to make the programs. He phoned

me after the first morning release of his broadcast, and while weeping with joy related this incident. Immediately after the broadcast, a woman phoned him from Durban, which is 400 miles away, telling what a blessing Christian radio had been to her and that now the whole country would be aware of it. The broadcaster came in a few days later with a check for \$40 as a personal "thank-you" to God.

Preach the Word



*Dr. Paul E. Freed
Founder and President*

Praise the Lord! Once again we have experienced the Lord's hand of blessing with this new outreach. After years of praying, waiting, working and watching, the Gospel is sounding forth from Trans World Radio's missionary station in southern Africa.

How we thank the Lord for this opportunity. We even thank Him for the delays and trials encountered along the way. The Lord uses these experiences to teach us patience and to remind that He has His own timetable for His work.

Many of you have prayed and given in order to make the Swaziland station possible. We give our deepest thanks for this and pray God's blessing upon you.

Already, in the first few months of broadcasting, we are hearing requests to extend the transmitting facilities so that more people might be reached. What shall we do? Millions still have no Gospel messages available in their homes. Through radio, they can be reached with the saving Gospel of Christ. It is imperative that we continue to obey the Lord's command to "Preach the Word."

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