

commission

BROADCAST CENTRE

NEWS SHEET • JUNE 2016



radiobibledrama.com

listen to
what you
want...

*when you
want*





Let's tell the world!

With our new Internet Radio service at www.radiobibledrama.com, and with over 36 hours of free drama content on the site, Commission is very keen to spread the word about how easy it is to download and listen to our dramas. We'll be using our facebook page, www.facebook.com/commissionradio/ to promote this online. Through the Internet, we have the potential to reach thousands,

even millions more people, and we'd very much like 'Friends of Commission' to promote the facebook page by 'Liking' the page or 'Sharing' or promoting the site itself in your own way.

We will be uploading all our new content to the site as soon as possible and hope to expand our Internet services further in the months ahead.

Dave Stothers

www.radiobibledrama.com

One of the often repeated phrases used when members of the Commission team were out taking meetings in churches used to be **"We don't actually broadcast our programmes, other people do that"**. Commission relied totally on missionary radio stations such as Trans World Radio to make our programmes heard worldwide. We still do, of course. However, if you wanted to hear the programmes on radio in this country, that was more difficult.

One day in 2013 I was coming out of our drama studio 1 and my eye fell on our shelf full of master recordings – about 70 hours' worth of Bible drama -

just sitting there. The thought came into my mind 'Why not put this on the internet? That way, people all over the world and here at home could listen to the programmes whenever, or as often, as they want.'

I spent the next two years trying to find someone who understood the technology and would take on the considerable work involved in setting up an Internet Radio Station. And finally, through what seemed like a chance meeting at the studio, I was put in touch with John Callister who agreed to set our station up.

Now just under a year since we began serious work, our

Commission On Line Radio site is up and running with 35 hours of drama being played live, or available 'on demand'. It did take quite a lot of work but we are very pleased with what you can hear if you go to 'radiobibledrama.com'. You can just listen to what's playing – (it sounds a little bit like BBC Radio 4 only with Bible dramas its main programme type), or you can scroll down the page and find a series title for yourself.

All at Commission hope you'll enjoy it and let your friends know too. Those of you on Facebook etc. can help by sharing. We plan to add more series until eventually our entire catalogue is available.

Colm Flanagan

<p>SEVENTH SON 13 x 15 min episodes written by Colm Flanagan</p> <p>From a shepherd boy to the King of Israel. The brave but flawed man who gave us the Psalms – David, son of Jesse. His story, told by his unnamed brother.</p>	<p>CORNELIUS 6 x 15 episodes written by Hugh Finlay</p> <p>A blunt speaking Roman soldier who became a friend of the early church and helped Peter understand the thinking of people who weren't Jewish.</p>	<p>The Promised Land 7 x 15 min episodes written by Colm Flanagan</p> <p>Joshua and the Israelites plan to enter the land promised by God. But it will not be an easy journey.</p>	<p>THE DARKEST NIGHT 1 x 15 min episode written by Maureen Long</p> <p>He betrayed Jesus in the garden; but why did Judas do it? Mono</p>
<p>Beyond the Darkness 1 x 37 min episode Written by Richard Erskine</p> <p>They called her the madwoman from Magdala. She was abused and tormented by seven devils, but Mary was the first to experience the power of the Risen Lord.</p>	<p>WITNESS 25 x 3-4 min episodes written by Ian Poulton</p> <p>Dramatic monologues starting with Advent themes and running through to the Resurrection.</p>	<p>Belshazzar's Last Feast 1 x 15 min episode written by Colm Flanagan</p> <p>What was the meaning of the writing on the wall?</p>	<p>Mary - Blessed Among Women 13 x 15 min episodes written by Maureen Long</p> <p>Mary, teenage girl who became the "mother of God." She tells the wonderful story to Luke.</p>
<p>ESTHER - Genocide averted 6 x 6 min episodes written by Hugh Finlay</p> <p>A Jewish girl who became a Queen in a faraway pagan country, and saved her people from genocide.</p>	<p>The Good Companion 12 x 7 min episodes written by Richard Erskine</p> <p>This is a re-edited version of the 15 m series "Silas" with new narration added. Remastered 2009</p>	<p>ELIJAH 6 x 15 min episodes Written by Noel Speers</p> <p>The prophet who confronted King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. He put his own life on the line, and called the people of Israel back to God.</p>	<p>OUTCASTS 13 x 15 min episodes written by Richard Erskine</p> <p>Jesus came to seek the lost, and none were more lost than Zacchaeus the outcast taxman. The story is told by his nephew, Shim.</p>

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INTERNET RADIO STATION



The period since our last News Sheet has been a busy one; 13 new drama programmes, on Barnabas and Daniel, are now about to go off to our regular outlets, Reach Beyond in Australia, broadcasting to Northern India and surrounding countries on short wave, and Trans World Radio in the UK. They will also be sent to Voice of Livingstonia in Malawi.

We have been supplying this relatively recent station since 2014, and it is now broadcasting nationwide. They have asked us to send as much as we can as their listeners apparently really love the Bible drama!

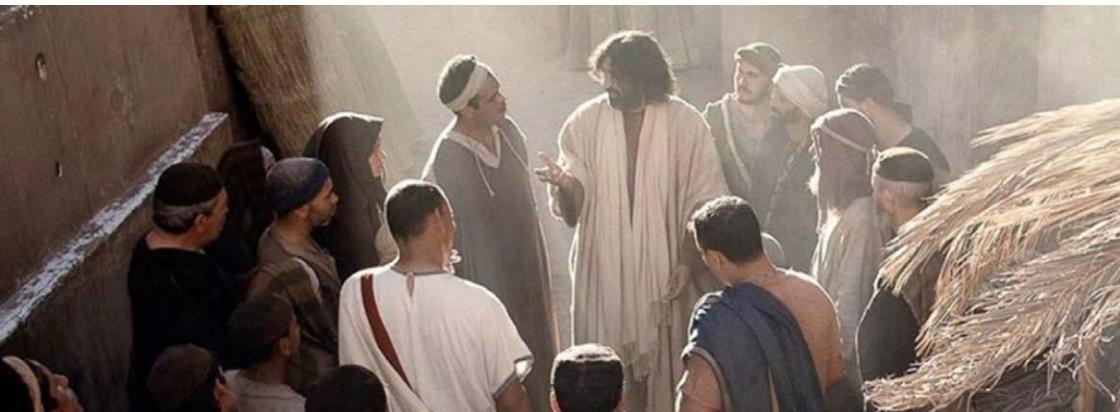
Programme Report

A series on Paul is nearly complete and we intend to begin recording another new series called 'Walking with Jesus'. This is written by Gloria Kearney, the latest writer to join our small team.

We stopped production of our International Religious News earlier this year, after twenty years, as it had ceased to be relevant in today's 'radio market'. But Commission is now in the middle of recording 13 documentary style programmes for Trans

World Radio UK. It deals with women's issues. Commission was approached to produce these on behalf of a charity connected to TWR, called 'Project Hannah'. These programmes will be broadcast by TWR-UK in the autumn, so it will be a busy summer for the small team making them. We've been pleased to welcome some new members to our recording team, and have currently no problem in keeping them busy!

Colm Flanagan



Artie Hoyle – Trustee

I seem to have been in Commission for most of my life. In fact for so long I can't remember when I joined or even if I did 'join'. I just have memories of going along out of curiosity to a house somewhere in the Stranmillis area and helping to press buttons on a sound effects tape machine in some guy's bedroom (the 'studio' being the lounge). This was just the start for Commission and the next stage was a dedicated house on the Ravenhill Road where I continued in an assistant engineer's role and doing the occasional soldiers voice or shouting in a crowd scene etc. However the sound proofing of the building was basic and many times we had to re-record sections of drama because there were no bus noises called for in the script!



At this time I became the Treasurer and was really thrilled at how the Lord met our every need just in time and with just enough finance to keep the work of mainly drama recording moving along.

When we eventually moved to an air raid shelter in Millar Street, I installed the electrical system with the help of a small team and have memories of spending the summer bending conduit and pulling cables etc. My training as an electrician in Hugh J Scott Ltd was very beneficial in

this context. The hard work of converting the air raid shelter paid off with a great increase in quality of recording.

When the lease on the air raid shelter ran out and we had nowhere to move to I was made 'redundant' (but no P45). However when I was asked to become a Trustee I jumped at the chance because I was and still am interested in Commission and the need to reach out with the gospel through the medium of radio to people who my not otherwise hear the Good News.

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. Our 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.

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.

Dennis Aicken

Noel Speers – Trustee

My earliest memories of drama go back to Saturday nights when at 8-30 pm I was given special permission to stay up late to listen to drama on the big Murphy radio. My next experience of drama was a few years later, when I was 14 years old; I played Portia from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice in the school play.

In the late 1960's I was introduced to the Irish Gospel Hour team whose programme was 15 minutes long, containing hymns, Bible readings and a sermon. Shortly after, I attended a short training course organised by the Worldwide Evangelisation Crusade, which confirmed to me that other radio programme formats, including interviews, documentaries, and to my delight, drama could also be used to communicate the Christian message.

However in the late 1960's it was difficult to cross Belfast in the evenings and since the Irish Gospel Hour studios were in the north on the Cavehill Road and the majority of the potential team of voices lived in the south and east of the city, those premises could not continue to be used. For all the early problems that sprung up God seemed eager to establish a recording work and has directed Commission to three different premises throughout the years and brought along team members from quite a range of backgrounds with either the experience



or the talent to make radio drama programmes.

Now 40 years later it is encouraging to see new members of Commission take forward with passion, the vision I held way back in the early 70's.

(Noel, the founding member of Commission back in 1975, is a retired Civil Servant and married to wife Muriel with two grown up children, Honor and John and five grandchildren. He is a member of Cloughie Presbyterian Church and a keen pianist).

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Website

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