



Ambassador

We Connect. Ministry and Media.

DECEMBER
2018
UPDATE



Then let us all with
one accord
sing praises to our
heavenly Lord!



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DID YOU KNOW?



From **Revive Our Hearts**, a new Advent devotional by **Nancy DeMoss**

Wolgemuth has been published. Titled “The First Songs of Christmas” the 31-day study includes meditations from Luke 1 and 2.



Charles Morris and the **Haven** team are in Cuba as *Update* lands in your mailbox, continuing their efforts in Bible distribution, broadcast follow-up and providing eyeglasses to those in need.



AnGeL Ministries (**Anne Graham Lotz**) marked 30 years of impact in 2018. A look back included milestones such as the 1998 re-publishing of *Daily Light* (a devotional Anne’s mother had given her when she turned 10), launch of the daily 1:00 feature in 2005 and serving as honorary chair for the National Day of Prayer (2014). See more at the ministry website.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Murphy Rules

We’ve been growing here at Amb-OS (as you likely know from reading this column). And the consequence was a project to install a whole new patch bay system. Very exciting! I love getting a soldering iron in my hands. However, as Murphy would prescribe, just as the last solder joint cooled, someone on our team cautiously suggested we consider an Audio-Over-IP network instead of an analogue patch bay.

Even though I personally had a few dozen hours into the project, I had to laugh because in the end, I’m excited to enjoy the flexibility of AOIP.

You may know **Ken Van Prooyen** who has been of supreme help in evaluating and designing the right system for us. So I’m pleased to announce we’ve chosen Wheatstone’s system of blades and software. While Wheatstone is clearly the best fit for us, it’s no question that any of the alternative AOIP systems would work far better than relying on an analogue patch panel that’s subject to dirty contacts and bad solder joints! Happy days ahead for us!

(BTW – If you have a need for a ¼” patch bay, lemme know. I’m happy to send along our uninstalled bays!)

Pictured at right:
Members of the Amb-OS team (Tom Bedson, Jim Sanders, Ken Van Prooyen, Jerry Lee)



Jim Sanders



SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT



◀ LEE ANN REPORTS ON MEDIA SUMMIT IN EGYPT

Imagine selfie-taking teens juxtaposed with *five thousand* years of history—that’s *Egypt*! Privileged to be part of an international team hosted by Ron Harris, President of MEDIAAlliance, our two-day media training in Cairo included 50 people from six ministries involved in Christian media in the Middle East.

My takeaways?

First—the youth are very friendly ... my face is now included in a number of selfies taken by young Egyptians anxious to be seen with tourists!

Second—Cairo is chaos! A city of 9.5 million, it is the fourth largest metropolis in the world! And traffic? No one uses the painted lanes on the roads. Horns are constantly honking. People jump in and out of old VW buses in the middle of the road. And that road is being shared by everything from cars to buses to donkey carts. (I did ride a camel but that was in the desert!)

Most importantly—as I led Social Media sessions and interacted with attendees, hearts resonated with a mutual conviction and commitment to share the Gospel. One young woman (my translator) exhorted “be anointed”—what great marching orders for my own life!

See page 4 for more



Don't miss these special presentations for the holiday season!

HOLIDAY RADIO



◀ CHRISTMAS STORIES

Jim Daly, John Fuller and Focus on the Family guests share Christmas memories.



◀ WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES AGAIN

From **Charles Morris** ... we celebrate His birth at Christmas—but He's coming again!



◀ WHERE'S CHRISTMAS?

Psalm 22 is the basis for Pastor **Carter Conlon's** Christmas reminder.

▶ CLASSIC CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

Re-discover old favorites! Introduce your listeners to timeless offerings such as **John MacArthur's** "One Perfect Life," **Max Lucado's** "Because of Bethlehem," Focus' "Adventures in Odyssey Christmas Marathon," "A Christmas Carol," and more! Visit ambaa.com/special for details.

▶ RECLAIMING THE CULTURE OF AMERICA!

As the New Year arrives, Times Square Church Pastor **Carter Conlon** reminds us of Jesus' call to "Come to me." The right launch to 2019!



Sanctity of Life Sunday (January 20)

◀ BREAKING THE SILENCE

Brad Mattes (President of Life Issues Institute) looks at a concern examining the truth about chemical abortion. It's one more way to educate and equip listeners on what threatens the sacred gift of *life*.



More for the holidays

Watch the A-List email for updates on Christmas content including a special *Spanish* edition of **Seeking Him** (based on the Advent Devotional—see pg 2) for the month and Max Lucado's **UpWords** focused on content from *Because of Bethlehem*. Whether programs or specials, you can always contact Marketing@ambaa.com for more information or clearance to air.



UPDATE IN HAND

L-R: Amy Casselberry (Truth for Life); Stephanie & Jay Flowers (Grace to You); Nancy & Robert Wolgemuth (Revive Our Hearts); Dan Craig, Collin Lambert (Moody Radio), Roger Kemp (Kemp & Company), Bob Lepine (FamilyLife), Doug Hastings (Moody Radio); John Fuller (Focus on the Family)



▲ NOW THIS IS SOME "UPDATE IN HAND" SHOT

At the dedication of the **new Chapman Center at Moody**, Dan Craig corralled a crew of friends to display the nine years of Update he'd discovered during an office move. You win the #saveUpdate award, Dan!



◀ COVERING THE MIDDLE EAST

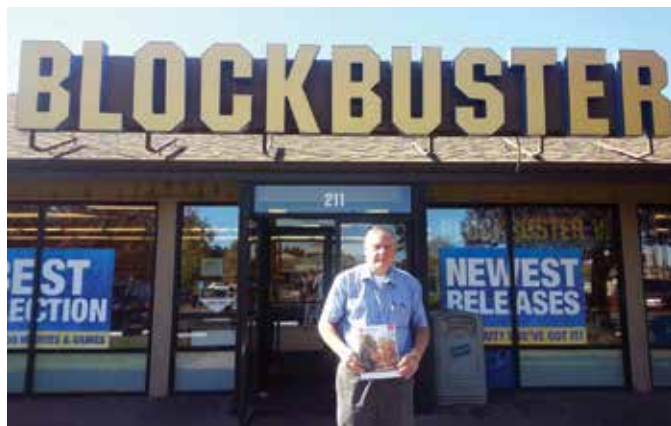
Brad Mattes was in Israel to speak multiple times for an international pro-life conference ... but had time to sail on the Sea of Galilee!

Meantime, our **Lee Ann Jackson** was off to Cairo to present sessions on social media for a MEDIAAlliance-sponsored gathering (read more on Page 2).

COAST TO COAST ▶

Steve Ostini (Grace to You) was chaperone for his daughter Katie's 8th grade trip to Washington DC—what better place than the National Air & Space Museum to display Update proudly ©!

Thanks to **Terry Cowan** (KNLR-Bend OR), he has helped prove one of our recent mAAx FAX tidbits—that's Terry standing in front of the only remaining Blockbuster store. (OK, maybe one more in Alaska!)



MEET & GREET



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1 Boise again? This time it was our Jennifer in town with son, Carson, "auditioning" Boise State for his college choice. Thanks for hosting our crew again, **Beth Schafer** and **David Schafer** at KBXL!

2 On the road again ... **Bob Lepine** delivered powerful encouragement to fellow pastors at the KSLR (San Antonio TX) annual Pastor Appreciation Luncheon. Thanks to Salem's Ron Walters for the photo!

3 Meantime, **Mike Horton** (*Core Christianity*) was in Manaus (Brazil) to speak several times to more than 600 attending the Reformed Faith Conference on the theme "The Fullness of Christ for the Church."

4 With transition of production assignment for BreakPoint, **Bill Reitler** was honored by the ministry for his 20 years of faithful service as both announcer voice and producer of The Colson Center features.

5 It was also a farewell as **Jim Garlow** concluded pastoral leadership at Skyline Church on November 11. His energetic work continues through Well Versed, serving the Kingdom in places of key decision-making—Washington DC (various government offices), New York City (U.N.) and in Jerusalem as well.

6 Wonderful to enjoy fellowship with **Joni & Ken Tada**, **Joe Stowell** and others at the annual President's Retreat for Joni and Friends.

7 Welcome again to **Tom Steigleman** (KATB-Anchorage AK) who brought wife, **Kathy**, along this time! We can't think of a better place to mark a 30th anniversary—SoCal that is! ☺

8 Now these are favorite people! **Chuck & Cynthia Swindoll** participated in a Moody-hosted forum in Dallas, joining **Bob Lepine** and **Charles Morris** for this photo op.

9 Our own **Leah Handley** and husband, **Eric**, experienced a Weekend to Remember—great idea to enjoy that now with a baby expected in 2019!

Christmas Stories

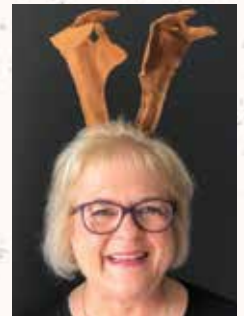
Inspired by Focus on the Family's new radio special, "Christmas Stories," our team shares our favorite Christmas memories!



Charley Mefferd

I remember the one Christmas when I was five years old. I had a high fever and couldn't attend our extended family's Christmas Eve party. My parents arranged to have **my cousin dress up like Santa to deliver my gifts** in the middle of the night. I was completely convinced that I saw the real Santa.

I remember the one Christmas we **went to church for our Christmas Eve service** from 11:30PM to midnight. It became a favorite family tradition because my dad sang "Ring The Bells" (by Harry Bollback) every year. The words became more precious to me as the years went by . . . and especially now that he is in Heaven. "Born to die that man might live, came to earth new life to give. Born of Mary, born so low, many years ago."



Jani Williamson



Michelle Blood

I remember the one Christmas when there wasn't enough money for presents. As a single mom, money was always tight but one year in particular was hard. So, I **wrapped up some old toys** and put those under the tree with a few new ones. I recall feeling sad at the time. But when I recently shared that story with my now 34-year old son, he didn't even remember. Ah, God's amazing grace.



Tom Bedson

I remember the one Christmas my wife and I flew to Seattle to spend the holiday with our son, daughter in-law and new granddaughter. Though there was only rain in the forecast, we woke on Christmas morning to find a 6-inch blanket of fresh snow covering everything! Picture a brisk fire in the fireplace, a hot cup of fresh roasted coffee, **my new granddaughter in my arms** and outside a soft snow falling on a magically transformed landscape. That is a Christmas I will treasure forever.



Dick Becvar

I remember the one Christmas as a grade-school-age child when my grandparents **put up a silver tinsel tree illuminated by a multi-colored spinning floodlamp reflector**. At the time I thought "I'D NEVER LIKE THAT!" Now those small tinsel trees are once again being spotted in stores, I'm 60+ years older, and I think I wouldn't mind seeing extended family gathered around a silver tinsel tree one more time!



Mark Conner

I remember the one Christmas I planned to propose to my wife Cathy in a hot air balloon. But when the big day finally arrived, so did the fog and no balloon launching. My plan "B" was the Balboa Pier in Newport Beach. But the fog was actually worse there. We ended up going to church that morning and while we all stood and sang "Joy to the World," **I pulled out the ring** and asked her to marry me.

I remember the one Christmas morning that **my parents surprised my three sisters and me with a scavenger hunt** around the house. Through the kitchen, backyard, and everywhere in-between, we ended back where we started—in the living room. The final clue led us to the television—where we were delighted to find that we were now DirecTV subscribers, and could access the Disney and Boomerang channels!



Selah Cosentino



Katie Burke

I remember the one Christmas **I found all of my yet-to-be-wrapped presents** in my mom's closet. I was around 10 and yes – I had been snooping. Christmas morning came and I did pretty well in acting as if I'd never seen each gift. I recall feeling let-down that I spoiled my own surprise and delight, and I've never been tempted to "snoop" since!



Sheri Cooper

I remember the one Christmas I **received a beautiful blue bike** – with a bell of course! I lived at the bottom of a hill, and I loved to ride to the top and coast down! It was like flying!



Jerry Lee

I remember the one Christmas when I came up with a great idea for how to wrap a gift for our men's "Secret Santa" gift exchange. I found an old VCR that didn't work, unscrewed it, and **hid a gift card inside the machine**. I even had the original box to put it in! After the recipient opened this box, I gave them a second gift—a screwdriver.



Lee Ann Jackson

I remember the one Christmas when **my mom shared a family tradition she had growing up**. January 6th is Three Kings Day in Mexico, known in Spanish as el Día de Reyes—the 12th day after Christmas, when Christians commemorate the arrival of the Magi or "Wise Men" who arrived bearing gifts for baby Jesus. In Mexico, children receive gifts on this day, brought by the three kings. I loved my gifts—candy, trinkets and money!



Leah Handley

I remember the one Christmas my boyfriend "forgot" the apple cider for the dinner we were headed to. We detoured to his apartment to pick it up, when a friend called saying that he'd locked his keys in his car by a bridge. When we arrived, **my boyfriend rushed to the center of the bridge**. I slowly made my way to him ... now realizing he was about to get on one knee. I said YES!



Jennifer Perez

I remember the one Christmas when **my husband surprised me on Christmas Eve with an 8-week old Chocolate Lab!** Matt had always denied my pleas for a dog, but knew that I'd dreamed about having a puppy, especially a Labrador Retriever! So, this was a very special gift to me and when our family came over for Christmas Day, everyone chimed in with names. We decided to call him Bandit, our first "baby" to love, and we enjoyed his company for 12 years.



Bill Reitler

I remember the one Christmas, at about 12 years of age, when I got the most amazing gift a born radio geek could have hoped for: **a reel-to-reel tape recorder**. Most novelties could keep me engaged for a few days. This one kept me busy producing pretend radio shows for YEARS, and translated into a future career. It beat G.I. Joe, for sure!



Sparlin Sypherd

I remember the one Christmas in Yosemite. Our young children reasoned that Santa, unaware they were hundreds of miles away, would leave their gifts under the tree at home. After a very full, adventurous Christmas Eve, they fell sound asleep...and Santa's two elves went to work **decorating a Charlie Brown sized "tree"** on a table top & placing presents underneath. Next morning, two kids—and their parents ☺ — were joyfully surprised & grateful.



Jim Sanders

I remember the one Christmas I **had amnesia**.



Peggy Campbell

I remember the one Christmas my brother went out to play flag football without head protection, fell on a sprinkler and ended up with a concussion. The only thing that perked him up was asking (as **he seemed to experience memory loss**)—do you remember what you got for Christmas? The change was visible when he heard ... money!


What's your favorite Christmas story?
Tell us on our blog at ambaa.com/news



Merry Christmas from all the AAA Elves!





Ambassador

ambassadoradvertising.com

1641 Langley Avenue
Irvine, CA 92614

949.681.7600



@AmbassadorTeam

#AmbassadorLife

Wait! Isn't that ...

LOOK
BACK



It all began in a basement when this fellow (age 14) and a friend put a neighborhood radio station on the air (all 1/10th of a watt!). (By the way, this was *not* the original WIBI—that belongs appropriately to Illinois Bible Institute ☺.)

Later **Bill Nance** would serve a number of years at WFCJ (Dayton OH) before launching his current effort, the online Faith and Friends Radio—and noting that the work in Christian broadcasting continues to be a great blessing.



Thanks for another look back, Bill!



Do you have a photo of yourself to share from “way back when”? Send your early career memories to peg@ambaa.com!