

KTIS

*Serving Christ
for 50 Years*

Snapshots

1949-1999

from the KTIS family album

50 years ago America was coming back to life. Like frozen ground warming under the rays of the spring sun, normalcy was returning after the anguish and uncertainty of World War II. President Harry S. Truman was in the White House, meat and butter were once again abundant, and the 1949 Crosley automobile was introduced to the public. Factory chimneys plumed with production; "Some Enchanted Evening," "Bali Hai" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" made the Hit Parade; and "All the King's Men" received an Oscar for Best Picture. On the world front, the Berlin Airlift ended in West Germany and apartheid began in South Africa.

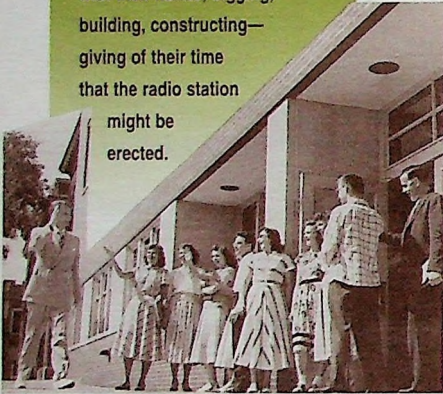
Thanks to the GI Bill, ex-soldiers were going to school, building homes and getting down to the business of raising families. All across the U.S., hospital nurseries bustled with the arrival of a "boom" of blanket-wrapped babies in glass bassinets.



Dear Radio Friends: I have never in my life been quite so happy as I am since your dear station KTIS came on the air.

August 1949
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Students were out there working with their hands, digging, building, constructing—giving of their time that the radio station might be erected.



Northwestern president Billy Graham (1948-52) with students outside Memorial Hall

In 1949 another birth

was recorded:

KTIS AM at 2:15 p.m., February 7. Memorial Hall on Northwestern's Loring Park campus was packed with faculty, students, friends and family members waiting expectantly for that long-prayed-for moment. In anticipation of the premier broadcast, testing had taken place throughout the night in the tiny studio at 50 Willow Street.

"We were in our home in south Minneapolis. I remember that Bill and I got up at about one or two in the morning," recalls Beryl Berntsen, widow of former Northwestern president (1965-1984) William B. Berntsen. In 1949 Bill was dean of the department of music. Clad in their pajamas, the couple went into the living room and switched on the radio. "They said, 'KTIS testing. KTIS testing.' We just stood there with the tears running down our cheeks, because we were so excited and happy that our station was on the air."

Programming officially began at 2:15 p.m., after station manager Loren Bridges received the go-ahead telegram from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington, D.C. Announcer Paul Reynolds flipped on the microphone for the official sign-on, and Northwestern president (1948-52) Billy Graham offered a prayer. The calming sound of "Blessed Quietness" from the old Allen organ was the first music aired on the fledgling station.

On that day misty-eyed believers gave thanks for a Christian radio station in their area. At the time few realized that the vision for KTIS was born years before in the mind of Dr. William B. Riley, founder and first president of Northwestern (1902-1947). Riley was a genteel, white-haired gentleman who possessed both an unshakable confidence in the Lord's ability to make the impossible happen and an uncanny way of choosing the right people to get the job done. *



Loren Bridges
(Radio manager 1945-58)



Music professor William B.
(Northwestern president
1965-84) and Beryl Berntsen



Announcer
Paul Reynolds



Dr. William B. Riley
(Northwestern's
founder and
president 1902-47)



Dear KTIS Staff: Have been listening to your appeal for help and just had to send you something to help you out at this difficult time. Your station has been such a blessing to me since I first found it and now that my son is entering Northwestern this fall term, the Lord willing, it seems more of a friend than ever.

September 1949
Spring Valley, Wisconsin

Even in the early '30s

Dr. Riley was intrigued with radio's potential. In meetings at the Medicine Lake conference grounds, Riley swapped ideas with Loren Bridges, radio director for a commercial station in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. Years later in a 1983 interview, Bridges recalled a pivotal conversation with Riley: "I said, 'There are a lot of good frequencies open now. It would be nice to have a station for Northwestern.' Riley said, 'Well, we don't have any money. You know, no school has any money.' Then he added, 'Well, if the Lord wants us to have a station, what's money?'"

Money was a problem, confirms Dr. Curtis Akenson, who served on the School's corporation board before becoming Northwestern's president (1957-65). "My earliest recollections of Radio are of Loren Bridges appearing in the late '30s and early '40s at the corporation meetings, pleading for permission to go ahead, to pursue the getting of a radio station. He was always declined on the basis of finance. It was difficult enough to keep the Bible institute going."

World War II temporarily shelved plans for the radio station, and it wasn't until after Riley's death in 1947 that a construction permit was granted in April 1948. Several acres in Golden Valley were purchased for the transmitter site at the providential purchase price of \$1, and many others graciously donated supplies and labor. But the station still needed \$44,000 to pay for ordered equipment, and in September 1948 Graham presented a challenge in chapel. If 1,000 students would give \$1 a week, the bill could be paid.

"We took an offering every week," remembered Mary Lou (Haburn '51) Hovda. "Most of the students were working; very few who didn't have to work. It was a sacrifice. We felt it was necessary to get the Gospel out in that way." The students raised the money, and in January 1949 a 305-foot tower was raised in Golden Valley. KTIS was almost ready. *

The majority of the student body, which numbered about 1200, were ex-GIs trying to make a new start after the war, recalls music professor Oliver Mogck, who would later sing during the first KTIS broadcast.



Dr. Riley, Margaret and Loren Bridges at Medicine Lake conference grounds



Much early planning and prayer in the kitchen of the George Wilson home in South Minneapolis



Music professor Oliver Mogck



Dr. Curtis Akenson (Northwestern president 1957-65)



Dear Sirs: KTIS is certainly a great blessing to our home and we thought that you might be interested to know that some of your programs go out as far as Pennsylvania. Our wire recorder makes it possible to pass some of these blessings on to our family there.

October 1949
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Reynolds wasn't the only staff member showing adaptability. A stenographer played the organ, secretaries sang solos and formed trios, and Bridges, who was a skilled cornet player, offered selections as well.



Student announcers John Hart and Robert Goffrier



Technical director Clarence LaBonte with assistants Arnold Rocholl and David Brush



Announcer Forrest Boyd

Story lady Jean Makas



In those early years it was determined that the broadcast day would begin and end in prayer. Area pastors or technical/production staff members would ask the Lord's blessing on that day. KTIS airtime was 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. When KTIS FM came on the air in May 1949, its programming continued until midnight, and the two stations operated in "duo" from 3 to 10 p.m.

Paul Reynolds was the first KTIS announcer. Along with a strong spiritual commitment to Christian ministry, announcers were required to be creative and flexible. During his "Good Morning, Neighbor" program, Reynolds would dispense recipes, household hints, folksy conversation and an occasional potholder. The comment was made, "Although he doesn't know a cake tin from a roast and would have to be taught how to boil water, Paul Reynolds is a household word for KTIS womenfolk who bake cookies and cakes following his direction."

Forrest Boyd, one of three new faces in August 1949, has very clear memories. "The studio occupied two rooms that had been intended for pipe organ lofts [and there were] three flights of stairs from the gymnasium. The studios were small, but we had what amounted to remote studios all over the building. We would switch to those locations for live programs. One of these locations was Billy Graham's office. We would introduce him, then throw the switch, hoping he was there."

The radio station experienced other difficulties. "Our news wire teletype was located on that lower level [at the base of the stairs]. Before a newscast, we would play a record that would run at least three minutes, run down past two shower rooms, across the gym and into a little room where the teletype was, rip off all the copy, and run back up the steps, sometimes trailing copy behind, and into the studio hopefully before the record finished. Then we would go on the air with the news. Reading news 'cold' and out of breath was challenging, to say the least," Boyd confided. ✱



Gentlemen: Please accept this small gift of two dollars for your station. I am 83 years old and cannot get to church, so I get much blessing from your wonderful programs everyday.

October 1949
Minneapolis, Minnesota

KTIS stretched its wings by covering the Billy Graham Crusade in Boston (December 1949-January 1950). Conditions for this remote broadcast were primitive, with Bridges and announcer Jerry Beaven tying equipment to a tree and setting up operations in the back of a car. Although heavy rain seemed likely to doom the project, remarkably the rain stopped and the sun came out whenever Graham was at the podium.

Remote broadcasts were done frequently. Clayton Pyche, the remote engineer, handled details for programs aired from area church services and the Medicine Lake conference grounds. "I would feed the broadcasts back to the station. We did a lot of praying," Pyche remembers. "A lot of times I didn't know if the station had received it or not."

Pyche wasn't the only one disconcerted by the station's crude equipment setup in those days. When Graham proposed broadcasting First Baptist's Sunday morning services, he assured a skeptical Pastor Akenson that "there is nothing to it. You just put a microphone on the pulpit."

"The idea that one microphone on the pulpit of a 2,000-seat auditorium was the total equipment wasn't an exciting thought," recalls Akenson. "That decision on Billy's part is characteristic of how he has successfully operated over the years. He could have more good ideas in ten minutes than you could fulfill in years. After announcing that this is going to happen, he just backed off and assumed that his staff would see that it was done."

And successful it was. For the next 25 years, Akenson would preach not only to his local congregation but also to his radio listeners. As many as 4,500 to 5,000 listeners would faithfully tune in to worship with First Baptist each week. ✱

Besides covering church services, the station offered a complete United Press news service summary on the hour with three 15-minute news programs daily. Loren Bridges instituted the idea of adding a Bible verse immediately afterward. "That was the news. Here is the Good News," he would often say.



Technician
Clayton Pyche



Speech
professor/news
caster Mark Lee



Newscaster Jerry
Beaven interviewing



Announcer Brandt Gustavson

Also in 1956, another special KTIS story began to unfold. On weekdays, professors Ethel Wilcox, Jean Makas and Dr. Harry Stam offered the program, "Resting Time." One April morning, a listener called in with a prayer request. The caller was expecting a baby she couldn't care for. The woman, who was a believer, wanted her child to be placed in a Christian home. Ethel Wilcox passed the request on to her listeners. A family in Hutchinson, Minnesota, eagerly contacted the station. Wilcox helped the expectant mother obtain medical care and also worked with the prospective adoptive couple, their pastor and the woman. The baby, born in July, was gratefully welcomed into his new home.



Ethel Wilcox
on "Resting
Time"



Pastor
Cedarholm

Kennedy
family
members



Dear Sir: May the Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless and keep you on the air 'til He comes again. Many people are listening that never would go inside a church door where Christ is preached.

September 1949
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Right from the start, KTIS has reached out to listeners with a distinctively personal touch. Mary Kennedy discovered the peace she was searching for while listening to a KTIS program. Shortly afterward, she sent a letter to her daughter, Mary Jane Wheaton.

"My mother wrote that she had been listening to a Christian station and had heard the Gospel ... She was listening to a Pastor Cedarholm, who was on about 6 o'clock in the morning ... She got down on her knees by her kitchen table and received Christ as her Savior. She didn't know another Christian."

Unimpressed, Kennedy's daughter was worried her mother would start "acting religious and pious." Months later, she picked her up at the airport for an East Coast visit and "saw in her face a peace and joy and happiness I had never seen before. It was the most beautiful thing."

Eventually, Wheaton moved to Minnesota, began listening to KTIS and accepted the Savior herself. Not long afterward, her husband Bruce also made the decision to follow Christ at a Medicine Lake conference meeting. Later, walking by the lake together, they noted the significant changes that KTIS had begun in their family. "I told my husband, 'We will never be the same.' And we never were. It's not that we have had a perfect life or that we are perfect people, but we really moved from darkness into light."

Now 96, Mary Kennedy continues to listen to KTIS. All four of the Wheaton children and many others have come to a saving knowledge of Christ, thanks to the infinite grace of God and that long-ago radio conversion. "She [my mother] has really lived the Christian life. It hasn't been all talk. I saw Christ in her life and wanted what she had," declared Wheaton. ✻



Dear Mr. Hartill: We certainly do appreciate your radio programs. I don't have to nail my dial to 900 because we hunger and thirst after righteousness.

August 1949
Big Lake, Minnesota

Dr. J. Edwin Hartill was host (1949-81) of "Bible Nuggets," a program that presented deep biblical truth wrapped in homespun, Hartill-esque charm. Engineer Don Malley remembers his production experience with the unforgettable professor. "We would roll the theme and announce him. Occasionally, we would open the mike and hear a little rattling around, like Dr. Hartill had just dashed out of his class and slid into his chair to do 'Bible Nuggets.'"

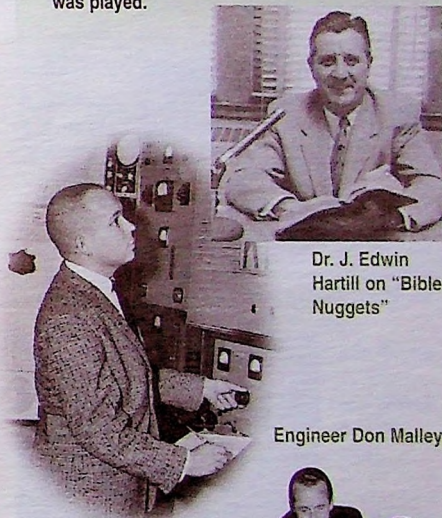
Hartill had great energy and a droll sense of humor. One day, he and Loren Bridges joined forces to play a trick on an announcer known for his dignified manner on the air. Shortly before the daily chapel program, Bridges and Hartill switched the lines leading to his headset.

After announcing, "And now, I bring you the morning chapel hour..." the announcer didn't hear the expected opening music (although radio listeners actually did). What came through his headset was Dr. Hartill's rollicking piano version of the "St. Louis Blues." It seems that before "Eddie" Hartill had found the Lord, he had used his considerable musical skills performing in several dance orchestras.

"The announcer jumped up, ripped off his headset, switched off the microphone and groaned, 'We're ruined, we're ruined!'"

Many other Northwestern faculty members contributed time and skill to create programming. And, like other wives and women faculty members, Hartill's wife Mildred ("Mir") would prepare food and serve refreshments for various radio open houses and celebrations. On weekends radio staff members visited churches and held radio rallies. The KTIS listening audience continued to grow. ☀

In the beginning Berntsen and professor George Makas secured and catalogued more than 1,000 musical recordings and transcriptions. "When I first came, the only music we had was 10-inch, 78 rpms and a few 45 rpms," recalled Paul Ramseyer. "Later we had 10-inch LPs, but the scope of the music library was extremely limited." Hearing the same songs over and over was a boon for young Don Ericksen, a junior at Minnehaha Academy when KTIS signed on. He learned every song on every album that was played.



Dr. J. Edwin Hartill on "Bible Nuggets"

Engineer Don Malley



"Music Hour" host Bob Blanchard and Spencer Bower (radio director 1958-66)



"Clockwatcher" host Bill Western



Dear Sirs: I want to thank you for your "meaty" talks on KTIS. I am a mother of four young children and live on a farm. These two things keep me home most of the time; therefore, the station KTIS has become a dear friend to me, as it brings me the joy-giving, strengthening messages.

September 1949
Pine City, Minnesota

Listeners were loyal, sending in many comments, prayer requests and contributions. This overwhelming listener support shocked the local community, especially those who had predicted the radio station would fold after six months of operation.



Grace and Paul Ramseyer (KTIS manager 1967-80)

"At the beginning we couldn't have anticipated where [KTIS] would be today," reflects Paul Ramseyer, who came to KTIS in 1953. "It would have blown our minds to think it would be what it has become. We were just trying, day by day, to keep it going."

As the years rolled by, many were cynical about the station's hope for longevity, especially when they considered the "FM" factor. For a time between 1953 and 1954, KTIS was the only FM station in the Twin Cities. Today, KTIS FM holds the record for being the longest-running, noncommercial, under the same ownership FM station in the area.

Although KTIS continued to thrive, Northwestern College was facing troubles in the early '60s. Enrollment was down and money was tight. In view of the bleak circumstances, many felt the College should close. But seeing God's blessing so mightily upon the radio station was a sign to the leadership that He wasn't finished with the College. President Berntsen temporarily closed Northwestern College in 1966, except for the evening school classes, and rented the facilities to the state of Minnesota.

KTIS in new quarters, 1970



Just as the College provided the backbone for the fledgling radio station back in the 1940s, the KTIS network throughout the '60s was boosting the effort to re-establish Northwestern. "You really can't separate the two," observes Beryl Berntsen. "It was the School and the students that actually got Radio going. When the College came to the straits, the Radio helped out."

"Radio was well-established. We were still there, operating on the second floor. We were an island, a Christian radio station in a sea of students on a secular campus," says Paul Ramseyer. "There was a cadre of listeners who were very loyal to the radio station and hadn't necessarily attended Northwestern College. The radio station had become an entity of itself. That is why it could survive."

In answer to many prayers, the College was re-opened in 1972 at the new location in Saint Paul. Through the years Radio has been a major asset to student recruitment and making listeners aware of the College. Radio has supported Northwestern College through its broadcast ministry. ✨



Dear Sirs: I am enclosing a small gift for the radio work. I receive the greatest blessing from KTIS and thank God everyday for making it possible. I enjoy most of the programs very much, some more than others, naturally.

November 1949
Mound, Minnesota

The idea of Sharathons,

days set aside for listeners to call in pledges to raise support for the noncommercial radio station, began in 1967—the brainchild of radio director Cornelius “Cornie” Keur, Northwestern president Bill Berntsen and Mel Johnson of “Young World” fame and chairman of Northwestern’s trustee board (1978-97). Results have been both electrifying and heartwarming. “Something my husband always enjoyed was building. He saw potential,” recalls Cornie’s widow, Ferne.

“Throughout my time with radio, what has been outstanding are the Sharathons. It has been challenging because each year we have found increased enthusiasm among the listeners,” declares Dr. Mel Johnson. “We let people know why the stations deserve their support.”

Many millions of dollars have been contributed and the KTIS listener base is growing, but the KTIS vision continues to be about ministry, not numbers. Wayne Pederson, executive vice president for radio, tells of a Sharathon experience that touched his heart. He answered the call from a young man in Hennepin County jail. “I’m going to be released tomorrow. I don’t want to repeat my mistakes,” the caller told Pederson. “I want to get my life straightened out with the Lord. Tell me how.”

Pederson obliged, sharing the plan of salvation. “Lives being directly changed doesn’t happen everyday, but it happens often,” observed Pederson. “Our three purposes are to glorify God, build up believers and to win the lost. We want to make sure that we keep presenting the opportunity to receive Christ.”

“Faithful obedience in everyday life is a miracle-wrapped-up routine,” added Ramseyer. “It is the little things, the ministry that is going on everyday that is significant. It may not be sensational—that isn’t necessary—but it is going on all of the time.” ✱

Television didn’t become a competing medium until the mid- to late ‘50s, Ramseyer said. “And a competitor it is. If there is an outstanding radio program being aired and an outstanding television program at the same time, people will watch the television. However, radio has one advantage: it is ubiquitous. It is everywhere you go—in the car and as a transistor. Radio is very mobile, very information-oriented. You get information and inspiration when you want it.”

KTIS-FM DEVELOPMENT



Cornelius Keur
(radio director
1967-80)



Harv Hendrickson with
Northwestern Radio
since 1964 (network
operation director
1985-89)



Wayne Pederson (KTIS
manager 1980-92)



Dear Sirs: I want to thank you for blessings received from an all-Christian radio station. It is really wonderful to tune in and hear all the old hymns and new ones, too.

August 1949
Saint Paul, Minnesota

The KTIS feature, "A Cup of Cold Water," allowed listeners to take part in the healing process. "That program let our audience know about the tragedies others were experiencing, usually an accident or the death of a loved one," said Mel Johnson, Northwestern College and Radio trustee. "We invited listeners to send that person a card. By doing so, Radio was used for comfort."



"Light in the Night"
host Brad Walton



Rose Totino,
well-known
KTIS
convert



"Melodies and Musings" duo, Jim and Louise Davies

Reaching out to hurting people has remained an important KTIS ministry. "People would call the station at night in spiritual need, going through domestic conflict. I would go out and visit and share," says Spencer Bower (radio director 1958-66), who remembered late-night meetings in the radio station parking lot, counseling listeners who wanted to be born again. "Radio has a powerful impact on people who are in need."

Brad Walton, for many years the voice behind the "Light in the Night" program, believed that the hush and solitude of evening provided opportunities to build an intimacy with listeners that isn't available during the day. "The door to the soul is more open at night. We feel our pain more at night, in a different way. We can't cover it up with the busyness of the day. Pain comes up to the surface at night."

One night a woman called in, asking Walton to play "Amazing Grace." She was sitting in a hospital room, caring for a small daughter with brain cancer. Minutes before, the doctor had presented her with a grim pronouncement: her child would likely die before morning.

Walton adds, "I don't know how you can capture a moment like that, except if you have a sense what children are about and what the Gospel is about, and the fact that you are dealing with an untimely death and loss. Here was a mother and daughter, and there is radio reaching into a place that the rest of us couldn't. Radio can go into those places, those times, those moments when life is really at a crossroads." *



Dear members of KTIS: I like to listen to your station. It is such a blessing to me. I am a girl of eleven years of age.

August 1949
Robbinsdale, Minnesota

How do listeners develop this trusting bond, this friendship with announcers? "I think the big factor is partly because of the personality of the voice—the appeal, the warmth. You can convey warmth over the radio," comments Ramseyer. He also talked about Radio's continuous presence in the lives of listeners. "We used to have a slogan: 'KTIS is part of the family.' In a very real way, we are another member of the family because we come into their homes. We are there when they are in sorrow and pain. We're there when they are rejoicing and happy.

"It's amazing the number of times we have had exactly the right song or verse of Scripture. Just last year, a man called the radio station asking about what particular songs were played on a certain Tuesday between 4:50 and 5 p.m. Despite thinking the request a bit strange, the KTIS receptionist looked up the selections and called the man back with the information.

"The reason I wanted to know," the man explained, "is because my wife was in a fatal car accident about 5 o'clock on that Tuesday. She always listened to KTIS, and I wanted to know what songs she was listening to when she died."

"That was touching," Ramseyer confides. "It turned out that two or three of those songs played in that period of time were on heaven. It's another example of how we never know, even though we plan things in advance, how God is going to use a particular song or statement or Scripture or something that might have been pre-recorded a month before." *

When one woman received the news she had cancer, she decided life wasn't worth living. Suicide via a drug overdose would be her solution. Before taking the pills, she flipped on her radio, searching for a blaring rock station to drown out her pain. Instead, she heard KTIS and Mel Johnson's voice. His words? "Now listen, get on your knees. The Lord will never leave you or forsake you. He knows all of your problems, for today and tomorrow." The woman slid to her knees and made things right with the Lord.



Mel Johnson, "Young World" host and College trustee chairman 1978-97

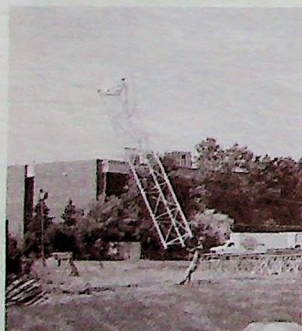


Paul Ramseyer (KTIS manager 1967-80) and Cornelius Keur



Wayne Pederson, from announcer in 1967 to executive vice president in 1997

Radical change came under the leadership of Dr. Don Ericksen, Northwestern president (1985-97), who laid a solid foundation for Radio's advancement today, power- and ministry-wise. The Lord provided space on the 1050-ft. Shoreview tower, enabling KTIS FM to move from 50,000 to 100,000 watts. KTIS AM increased its power from 2,500 to 25,000 watts in the move to the four-tower operation in Oakdale, made possible by the sale of the Golden Valley tower site.



Tower en route to 36 acres of Oakdale swampland, perfect for the AM signal and its acquisition, a clear demonstration of God's hand in the radio ministry

Jon Engen (KTIS manager 1998-) with Dr. Wesley Willis (Northwestern president 1997-)



Don Rupp (KTIS manager 1992-98), executive director of network news



Dear Friends: KTIS is the station I hoped and prayed for. It is so wonderful. I haven't changed my dial for weeks.

August 1949
Menomonie, Wisconsin.

As far as equipment is concerned, 50 years ago engineer Clarence LaBonte could sniff the air and tell from the characteristic smell what problem was occurring with the tubes and capacitors.

Don Malley, who came to KTIS in 1958, has memories of the control room in the Willow Street studio. "In the early years I would check the tubes once a month in all of the equipment. Now we don't have a tube in the place. It is integrated circuits and large-scale integrated modules. Things are changing dramatically, quickly. Our transmitter change from low power to high power is all done automatically."

"Technology was pretty Spartan. There wasn't much money," Spencer Bower recalls about the early days. "We had to feed programs to Fargo and Sioux Falls. We had long telephone lines— and we were short of help in Fargo. Someone would be there who would handle the boards and dials. We would announce and do station breaks over the lines from Minneapolis."

Announcers also assisted with technology, and this sometimes resulted in interesting glitches. "Bob Blanchard used to do a 55-minute music program every day," Bower remembers. "He had to sub-control [the other stations] while he was taping it. While he was developing and taping his program, his concentration would really be into it. I told him to please make a station break around 3 o'clock for Fargo. Instructions were posted next to him. So excited, so thrilled with the music, he suddenly realized it was time for a station break. He turned on the microphone and accidentally read the instructions instead of the proper break information."

Since 1985 satellite delivery via SkyLight has been the programming link for Northwestern Radio stations. Dale Davis, vice president for communications, reports, "The latest technology includes digital satellite delivery, resulting in CD audio quality for the listener, and that's where we are today." ✨



KTIS: Enclosed find \$5 towards your next great work. This is from the Junior Church of the Calvary Memorial Chapel of Navarre.

August 1949
Navarre, Minnesota

While planning for the year 2000

and beyond, Wayne Pederson, executive vice president for radio, notes that the Northwestern radio network could branch off in many directions, from direct TV, direct broadcast satellite programming to utilizing the Internet. This adventurous future was made possible by decision-making in the '80s, positioning Northwestern Radio for a major role in the 21st century.

Digital technology holds the promise for vast changes. By compressing the broadcast band into a digital format, additional formats can be squeezed into the same group of frequencies. At some point listeners may be able to receive satellite signals from dishes attached to their cars.

In August 1997 God brought Dr. Wesley Willis to serve as president of Northwestern College and Radio. He strongly promotes the vision for radio ministry and affirms, "The opportunities before us are exciting, indeed, as we enter our second half-century of broadcasting. Our trustees, administration and staff desire to follow God's leading in taking the message of Christ through radio and other media to unserved and under-served communities."

"We would like to expand and grow," said Pederson. "The trustees have approved our strategic plan to add stations. In 1997, we added two—an AM in Madison and a new FM station in Sarasota, and in 1998 they authorized purchasing an FM station servicing the Sacramento area."

Why the push for growth? "It has been said," explains Pederson, "we drink from wells that other people have dug. We enjoy KTIS today because somebody else had the vision 50 years ago. We are digging wells today that the next generation can drink from." *

Every day for the past 50 years, KTIS radio has been sharing the Good News with a hurting, seeking world, Ramseyer remarks. "One of the greatest challenges for Radio today, as it has been in the past, is to do creative, imaginative things that present the Christian message in fresh, different, innovative ways, so that people will be drawn into the Gospel." A new addition in 1998 is under the direction of Don Rupp, recently named executive director of network news. "From the Religion Desk" is a news service providing hourly headlines on major religious news and issues.



Christmas with Dignity



Minnesota State Fair

"Sunday Nite"



Dr. Don Erickson (Northwestern president 1985-97), Dr. Robert Featherstone of "Think

About It," and Neil Stavem, executive director for programming and promotion, at the Metrodome Billy Graham Crusade (1996)

1949.

For the past half century, KTIS has “talked the walk” and faithfully presented the truth of Scripture.

Although primitive, the early KTIS model was no child’s toy. And those involved had no idea how powerfully God would use wires, tubes and microphones to reach others with His Word. To them, radio was another resource to be used for the Kingdom. Their task was to obey, to put one foot before the other everyday and see where He led them.

Perhaps Forrest Boyd’s assessment of KTIS history and God’s continued blessing says it best. “Looking at Northwestern and the radio ministry now, in the light of the modest beginning and the rough times that followed, I’m convinced I have witnessed a virtual miracle.”

Our prayer as we observe our fiftieth anniversary is that God will continue to receive glory through the ministry of KTIS in the century of opportunities ahead.



“Snapshots” was researched and written by Patty Thomson, a Northwestern College graduate (1996) who is communications coordinator for Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life. Her resume includes freelance writing and newspaper journalism. Editing and design was provided by the public relations office for Northwestern College and Radio.

NEW RADIO MISSION STATEMENT:

The purpose of Northwestern Radio is to lead people to Christ and to nurture believers in their spiritual growth through Christ-centered media.

1999

Compact discs, mini discs and digital audio tape take the lead in how music and programs come to us, and now we are venturing into the world of hard drive storage systems. Confusing? To many! Exciting? To say the least! It all translates into getting the message of God's love to the KTIS family in the best possible, most economical way. Our future shines brightly with the hope of the coming Savior and the richness of our walk as we wait for His return.

—Jon Engen, KTIS Manager



Our goal at Northwestern Radio is to continue to minister and reach out to this generation and the next. Pray that we would have the vision and wisdom to make appropriate decisions that will allow us to reach more people for Jesus through quality Christian media.

—Wayne Pederson, Executive Vice President for Radio



For 50 years God has richly blessed the ministry of Northwestern Radio. And our vision for the future includes expanding that ministry to unserved and under-served communities. We have committed ourselves, through radio and other media, to pursue aggressively our mission "to lead people to Christ and to nurture believers in their spiritual growth through Christ-centered media."

—Dr. Wesley Willis, President of Northwestern College and Radio



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KTIS 50th Anniversary Celebration

KTIS THROUGH THE YEARS

Fri., Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 13, 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., Maranatha Auditorium. A musical journey traces the station's musical history with medleys by the decade, arranged by Dick Anthony and performed by Northwestern College musicians. Studios depicting various eras in the history of KTIS will be set up on stage as announcers host radio programs. A display of old radios donated by Pavek Museum of Broadcasting, Minneapolis, will be on exhibit in the Denler Gallery throughout February. For ticket information, contact the Ticket Office at 651-631-5151.

KTIS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION & FAMILY FAIR

Sat., June 5, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This family event on the Northwestern College campus features entertainment for the whole family. Local singing groups will perform, and a cake-cutting ceremony will be held in the afternoon. Stay tuned to KTIS for more information regarding attendance.

STEVE GREEN IN CONCERT

Fri. and Sat., Aug. 6-7, 7:30 p.m., Maranatha Auditorium. Listen to KTIS for ticket information.

CHUCK SWINDOLL RALLY

Fri., Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m., Target Center, Minneapolis. Don't miss an unforgettable evening of worship and praise with Chuck Swindoll, host of "Insight for Living," and guest vocalist Steve Amerson. Stay tuned to KTIS for ticket information in late summer.

