Dr. Benjamin L. Armstrong, 87, who served at the helm of National Religious Broadcasters from 1966 to 1990, died recently at his home in Sellersville, PA. He was suffering from cancer and had been under hospice care.

Dr. Armstrong was a friend to TV38 and came to visit on numerous occasions. He was the author of The Electric Church published in 1979.

Dr. Armstrong is survived by his wife of 64 years, Ruth (Freed); a son and two daughters.

Community wise, Thurman originally served as TV38’s “Field Representative” for the station, whereupon he visited a large number of churches who supported the stations’ vision. One interesting side note was having the privilege of speaking for many weeks to the large and growing group of “Charismatic Catholics” who were ardent supporters of TV38. The magnanimous woman named Anna Canoni was a driving force within the movement, and she engaged Thurman to teach for a number of weeks. Thurman remembers this fondly and states, “it was such a joy to behold her love for the Lord and her spontaneous expression of love for everyone.” Many of us will also remember Thurman as he directed the Ministries department at TV38.

After leaving TV38, Thurman spent some years in financial services and in the field of education. When he retired, he and his wife, Connie, moved to south Florida and spent seven years there. Finally, they moved to the Tampa Bay area and now live in a large retirement community.

Thurman reports that they travel back and forth between Jamaica (where they have property) and Florida, as well. During his retirement years, Thurman has been writing books and some poetry; some of Thurman’s poems can be read on a site called Authors Den. His current book, To The Spiritually Inclined, is available on Amazon.com. and is written for the broad spectrum of the Christian community, which he served when an active part of TV38.

Thurman says that he has appreciated reading the newsletters and being brought up to date on the lives of others within our unique group, and asks that “God’s grace may continue with each of you.”

Send a greeting to Thurman at:

tfaison1@live.com

Some of Thurman’s recent writings available for viewing at:

www.spirituallyinclined.com

What a joy it was to finally connect with a good friend to so many. After a number of alumni went searching for Thurman for many months, we recently received a greeting from Thurman along with an update.

Thurman sends his “hello” to all the old TV38 family, and reminds us “how quickly the years pass by.” Thurman says that “one thing he has noticed is this, if you stay around long enough you will get older, (smile), but thanks be to God for giving us life and allowing it to be extended to see our children and grandchildren grow up before our eyes and bring such joy to our hearts.”

Prior to coming to Chicago, Thurman was pastor of a church in Harlem, NY, until a call came from Chicago to pastor Southside Tabernacle Assembly of God. Thurman later served as the executive director at the Chicago office of Teen Challenge.

Many will remember that Thurman Faison served with TV38 in many different and varied capacities. When TV38 was in its infancy, and first produced the Chicago program from the old Olympic Studios, Thurman first served as the co-host with Owen Carr. He also hosted the daily program God’s Word For Today on numerous occasions, and hosted In The Word for several seasons.

In Memoriam

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Well, the Alumni Association archives has come up with another winner; here’s our old friend Thurman on the set of In The Word, which he hosted for a number of seasons.
Larry began his association with TV38 as a volunteer, helping out during the summer while attending court reporting school. He hand typed donor contribution records on index cards (first TV38 database) and typed thank you messages from Rev. Owen Carr on donor receipts for mailing. In the fall of 1976, Larry was hired as a staff member and continued typing the receipts. When the ministry was able to purchase its own computer, Rev. Carr arranged for Larry to attend computer classes at IBM. Larry’s position changed to overseeing the Data Processing and Mailroom departments. Larry continued developing the computer network and recalls pulling great lengths of network cable at the Civic Opera House at 20 N. Wacker Ave.

During Larry’s 27-year tenure at CCC/TV38/TLN, he saw many changes. The best memories always involved the many dedicated staff and volunteers who felt the call to reach people in Chicagoland with the Gospel via TV. The passion to serve was evident in all departments and, of course, the telephone counseling ministry. While Larry worked with many people over the years, some special ones where Rev. Owen Carr, Florence Gentilcore, Barbara Dahl, Dave Oseland, Tom Walters, Sally Hewlett, the Scavos, Thurman Faison, Diane Lembesis, Alan Winters, Bert Phagan, Pat DiSantis, Bruce Vogel, Kathy Polk, Audrey Koepe, Denise Whiteurst, Debbie Revitzer, the Hamricks, Kathy Swanson, and Carla Walker (plus hundreds more).

Larry always appreciated the TV38 telephone counselors. Volunteers like Carl Mantegna, Miles and Ruth Newman, and so many others, were faithful to come to TV38 no matter what the weather—often taking several buses or trains for the trip without remuneration. Counselors talked and prayed with people one-on-one and were the heart of the ministry.

Larry remembers seeing the exciting initial TV38 broadcast from the old Olympic Studios. Larry also experienced the station’s official dedication at McCormick Place, with the late Mayor Richard J. Daley, presiding.

Larry had several other unique opportunities that he will not forget. One involved setting up the donor computer programs for a Christian station in Miami, Ohio. He was very happy to help another ministry. A talented artist, Larry drew portraits of well-known Christian pastors or musicians for TV38 programs, having them placed in TV Guide Magazine, posters and other media. He also joined the music group Skyway, composed of Bert Phagan, Kathy Polk and Despina Melas. The ensemble traveled all over the Chicagoland area ministering to people in song. Ah, those lovely blue tuxedos!

Today, Larry works in the public sector as IT Director for the Village of Villa Park. He interfaces with all departments. Shortly after he began, Larry set up a wireless system, enabling ten buildings in the village to communicate throughout the network. He is really enjoying his time working for this local municipality.

Larry works with Dave Oseland putting this newsletter together and looks forward to seeing new material from TV38 alum.

Larry lives in Roselle, IL with his lovely wife, Sally, and is a proud father of two grown children, Danielle and Mark, and has five wonderful grandchildren.

Please keep us informed of any e-mail changes and if you learn of any former colleagues that should be receiving this newsletter.

Watch for our next issue where we will feature great photos from our TV38 archive.

Feel free to send us some photos you may have squirreled away of your TV38 experiences; photos of you at a studio shot, photos of your colleagues at work and play or photos of TV38 events.
Don Albert

Who can forget Don Albert's infectious smile and laugh? Don started working at TV38 in November of 1986 after graduating from Columbia College. He first served part-time in the mailroom and traffic departments, then became full-time in 1987.

Besides those mundane mailroom duties, Don was given additional challenges that included pulling scheduled programs for air and shipping programs out. Don was later given many other opportunities; he served as studio camera operator, produced and edited spots/promos, and as needed, did some occasional voiceover work. Don says he felt like “a jack of all trades.”

Thinking back on some fond memories, Don recalls working the telethons as camera operator. He remembers how the directors would cut-off communication, and just have the ops get their shots and “be ready.” Don had enjoyable times with the staff, volunteers and the guest speakers that came to the telethons, who oftentimes decided to direct the show from the floor….folks like Steve “the madman” Munsey.

In April of 1993, Don realized his time at TV38 was coming to an end. With no foreseeable opportunity for advancement, and sadly no encouragement, Don decided to move on. Don says “he has always tried his best to offer all he could to honor God and be faithful for seven years, even though it wasn't always easy.”

As Don reflects, he truly appreciates what he learned and how much he grew from serving at TV38. Don says “I take nothing for granted today — still working in the field of TV/film—I’m just grateful.”

Don left TV38 to work as a master evaluator/duplicator/editor for six years at a movie duplication company, then accepted a position as production manager for Prime cable/AT&T/Comcast for three years, and did some freelance work for CLTV.

Presently, Don works for Comcast Sportsnet Chicago as studio camera op/on-location shooter; he also produces and directs the cable TV show Everlasting Love, and teaches a film producing class at Columbia College. If that’s not enough, he has co-produced three films now seeking distribution.

Don worships at Park Community Church in Chicago and enjoys serving as head usher and using his video background to serve when needed. He also enjoys swimming, nature and the movies.

Don would be delighted to get a shout from y’all; contact him at: donalbert75@hotmail.com

And you can also see some of Don’s work at the following links: www.youtube.com/producer175  www.everlastinglovetv.com

“GLORY!” was an oft heard expression of praise spoken by Rev. Gerald Derstine, who we see here, along with Jerry Rose at our TV38 Winter Breakaway in Bradenton, Florida. What great times these were. Christian Retreat had wonderful accommodations for our TV38 viewers, who would come by chartered bus and plane. Along with other planned activities, viewers could participate in two recorded programs each day. These Winter Breakaways were usually held in January, and were a nice break from the cold and snow in Chicago. If some of us remember correctly, our first Breakaway was held in January, 1979.

Heard quoted from former TV38 engineer... Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn’t much, but the reception was excellent.