Bill Freeman

The broadcast “bug” bit Bill as a child. To this day he can still clearly see the pulsating VU meter on that RCA radio board, as he peered through the double-glass window from one of the country’s relic, live, radio studios. The station was located in a lovely place called Hastings, Nebraska...almost in the center of middle America. About 10 years later Bill was sitting at the same board producing a morning show. After 13 years, following a stint at KYTV 3 in Springfield, Missouri, he was back in the same Nebraska town—the second stop in his television career.

In 2008 Bill celebrated his 51st year in broadcasting. All of this “has been purely by the Lord’s grace,” as he reflects on the privilege of being a co-laborer with some of the most exemplary people in the business. Bill counts among the milestones a short, but significant time, at TV38 with Jerry Rose, working off and on for 18 years with Pat Robertson and serving as Russ Bixler’s first GM at TV40 in Pittsburgh, now Cornerstone TV Network. His next move was to Campus Crusade with its founder, Bill Bright. Finally, Bill joined Ken Mikesell at Good Life Channel 45, in the 19th market of Orlando/Central Florida. He is now in his third year at this station.

As he prays about retirement, he asks himself, “Why the nagging feeling that the further I go, the less I know? Should I quit while I’m ahead? You know, like Michael Jordan should have done instead of trying baseball.”

Bill says that the upside of staying with the business of broadcasting has been mind expanding. For one thing, he had never touched a TV camera or an editing system like Final Cut Pro until four years ago. Bill has even run the teleprompter in the past few years as producer of three weekly shows. Now you can’t beat that for advancement!

When Bill wonders, “Now what?” he remembers that Bill Bright often described retirement as unscriptural. A couple of years ago, 95-year-old Art Linkletter appeared with Mark Victor Hansen for a half-hour segment (on Bill’s show) trying to convince old timers to consider the concept of “re-firing” instead of retiring; this was the thought behind the title of their book, How to Make the Rest of Your Life, the Best of Your Life. Recently Channel 45 conducted a stirring interview with Charlie “Tremendous” Jones. This enthusiastic 80-year-old is a godly example of perseverance; in his fight against cancer he lost the use of his left eye and the chemotherapy took away his wavy frock of hair. One must ask, “How now shall I pray?”

Bill and his lovely wife, Lindy, finally ended their “commuter marriage” that began in 1984 between Chicago and Washington, DC, and then Chicago and Orlando since 1995. After Lindy’s retirement as a Chicago Public School social worker of nearly 34 years, they sold their old Irving Park Queen Anne home, packed and made the big move to Orlando last April.

Bill and Lindy send their very best to all the former TV38 staffers, and would be delighted to have you say “hi” via e-mail...

Bill@tv45.org

Do any of you remember what a “test pattern” looked like? In the early days of television, even before TV38 came on the scene in 1976, stations would sign on the air with the test pattern prior to the start of the broadcast day.

Bill with Ken Mikesell, Rita Christian, Art Linkletter and Victor Hansen.
Veronica Butler

Veronica came to TV38 in 1990 hoping to secure a position as a receptionist or secretary. After completing the application, she interviewed with Pat DiSantis, and only then discovered she would be working at a Christian television station.

Veronica began working at the station on June 17, 1990, and continued in that position until June 2000. She truly enjoyed working for TV38 and fondly remembers the friendships she made, many that are still strong to this day.

There are a host of funny and unusual stories that come to Veronica’s mind when she recalls her time at TV38. One is when the new green marble reception desk was being built (at 38 S. Peoria) but the security door was not yet completed. A rather unkempt fellow walked in and proceeded to grab some loose change that was on her desk. Alfonzo Wesson (the “Fonz”) was nearby and attempted to intervene, however, the guy was gone in a flash.

Veronica also remembers when her “nemesis” called once again. Helen was a lady who hated every person in the world! She called almost every day and spewed hateful words about “this and that.” But Veronica knew she was hurting and needed someone to talk to, so she would listen as long as possible and then try to connect Helen to a phone counselor.

Who remembers the man and woman who would ask to use our restrooms, and lo and behold, staff found them taking “bird baths” in the sinks? Veronica had to ask fellow co-workers to escort them out of the building.

Veronica remembers well the precious times the Spirit of the Lord was moving in our midst. She thinks of two special moments in the chapel when everyone was in one accord and the Lord dealt with us in a special way. She says she misses those occasions and having the opportunity to spend “throne” time.

After leaving TV38, Veronica worked part time as a secretary at the Encyclopedia Britannica sales office in Forest Park. From there, she found a position with the DuPage Water Commission where she’s been employed for seven and a half years as a secretary and administrative assistant.

Some of you may remember that Veronica has been married for 16 years to James. They have two children, Nicholas (13) and Jessica (11), who are honor roll students. Veronica is involved in her children’s many activities in Romeoville, Illinois. They attend Living Word Christian Center where Bill Winston is pastor.

Veronica is also currently working on the first draft of a children’s book, and she is still involved in a ministry of constructing gift baskets for friends and family; she gives them away as charitable gifts. She enjoys her current position with the DuPage Water Commission—the gentleman who hired her is also a Christian. Blessings to all! Let me hear from you.

VeeButler@yahoo.com

Consider being our next featured TV38 Alum. We would all love to hear from you. Share about family, church, jobs, etc!

Happy Birthday Debbie

Debbie Revitzer (center) with a host of friends as they celebrated her birthday. Debbie’s birthday was February 12.