

SPREADING THE WORD:

Let the Bible Speak

Radio Ministry



Left:
The original LTBS recording studio.



Above:

All LTBS programmes created today are digitally recorded on computer hard disk, making all editing and mixing computer based. The end result is CD-quality recordings going out to all radio stations.

Dr. S. B. Cooke performs the opening ceremony at the LTBS studio.



Our radio ministry commenced in February 1973 as the first mission project of the newly formed youth movement of the Free Presbyterian Church and of its magazine, *Truth for Youth*. The name chosen for the new ministry was Let the Bible Speak, for we determined from the beginning that we would not stray from the single purpose of declaring all the counsel of God. In April 1973, we started broadcasting four times a week over Manx Radio in the Isle of Man, and in November of the same year we began a weekly broadcast over CFGM 1310, one of the leading stations in Toronto.

Initially we used Ballymoney church and a minimum of equipment—just two tape recorders, some cables, and a microphone—to record the programmes. We soon realized that we needed a more permanent home with better equipment. The Ballymoney session and committee kindly made the old Cabra church freely available to us and provided major assistance in transforming it into a well-equipped recording studio. On Saturday, April 20, 1974, all was ready for the official opening, and Dr. S. B. Cooke performed the opening ceremony before a crowd of more than seven hundred enthusiastic supporters of the work.

Let the Bible Speak quickly extended its ministry to the United States with programmes in Greenville and Philadelphia. These broadcasts proved instrumental in the formation of Free Church congregations in both areas. Indeed, the radio ministry has prepared the way for a number of our North American churches, and some of them now have their own local “Let the Bible Speak” programmes.

Soon other opportunities to spread the gospel arose, and we added stations in India, South Africa, and Australia to carry our weekly thirty-minute programme. When Rev. Alan Cairns—who along with Revs. James and Frank McClelland founded Let the Bible Speak—moved to the United States in 1980, Rev. Leslie Curran took over the day-to-day running of

the ministry, a position that now engages him full time. Under his guidance the work has spread to new stations in Africa and the Far East, so that currently the potential weekly audience is in the hundreds of millions.

From the beginning Let the Bible Speak has enjoyed an encouraging level of response from listeners. Some have written to recount the story of their conversion to Christ through our ministry, including Muslims and Hindus. Others have written to thank us for providing much-needed spiritual food and guidance.

It was not until October 1998 that an opportunity came for our programmes to be heard in the United Kingdom on London’s Premier Radio. More recently the Republic of Ireland has opened up to us. Currently Let the Bible Speak broadcasts nine fifteen-minute programmes each week over three local stations, some of which reach into parts of Northern Ireland. We have also launched a web radio service, which may be accessed through our web page, www.ltbs.org.

From our very first broadcast we determined that we would never make any financial appeals on the air. Our lifeline is the prayerful financial support of the Free churches. They have never failed us and Let the Bible Speak has been able to meet every financial commitment.

We have seen the Lord do great things, but we believe that the best is yet to be. ■



Rev. Leslie Curran is Programme Director for Let the Bible Speak in Northern Ireland.