

# THE HISTORY OF THE WAY OF TRUTH MINISTRIES



BY: DR. GARY G. DULL  
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT OF WOTM

“I HAVE CHOSEN THE WAY OF TRUTH”  
PSALM 119:30



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### **THE ORIGINAL VISION AND DEVELOPMENT OF WOTM**

The vision of The Way of Truth Ministries was planted in my mind when I was a youngster growing up in Western Pennsylvania. I had the privilege of being born into a Christian family where my parents attended a Bible Believing Baptist Church in Mill Run, PA. It was The Indian Creek Baptist Church where the Word of God was preached and taught faithfully in those days. As a young boy I was taught by my parents of the importance of the church, of the Word of God and of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As a result, at the age of 12 I received Jesus Christ as my Savior. The date was July 17, 1964. The next morning, July 18, 1964, I preached my first public sermon on “The Seven Sayings of Christ from the Cross.” By 1965 I had begun to preach on a regular basis and as the teen evangelist for Youth For Christ beginning in 1968.

From the time I was small, I can remember my father, Gorman, listening to Christian radio programs. Two that stand out to me are Oliver B. Green and Charles E. Fuller. Later on, I came to know of other radio preachers like J. Vernon McGee and J. Allen Blair. It was by listening to these radio preachers that I became very interested in Christian radio.

In January of 1968 I surrendered to the Lord for the ministry of the Gospel. Even though for a couple of years I considered other occupations, such as radio and television broadcasting, I kept coming back to the commitment I made to the Lord for ministry. So, in 1970 I went to the Washington Bible College to study for the ministry.

From my early years of listening to the radio with my Dad, the idea of broadcasting the Word of God on radio was a thrill and a dream to me. It was actually by listening to J. Allen Blair of Glad Tidings Broadcast during my college years, that I began to embrace the idea of a 15-minute daily radio program. That was on my heart for many years, and with each passing year, I loved the idea more and more. It is as though God engrafted the concept deep into my heart.

In 1978, as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lebanon, PA, I began a daily radio program called “Moments of Meditation,” a daily 5-minute outreach on one local station, WVLV in Lebanon. Soon that grew to several stations across Pennsylvania. The second station “Moments of Meditation” was aired on was WJSM in the Altoona, PA area.

In about 1981, the idea of developing a ministry that would be based on a 15-minute daily radio program became even a stronger prevailing concept in my mind, once again, rooted in those early days of listening to the radio with my Dad and then later on listening to J. Allen Blair. Every day, the thought of this ministry was on my mind. I would dream about it, I would think about it, I would talk about, but it never seemed that it went any further than that. But, one day in 1988, I made an appointment with my Dad to share my vision with him. So, we met in a little restaurant in Mill Run (now called “Show’s County Café”) and I told him how this vision of ministry had been on my mind for so many years and now I felt as though God wanted me to do

something about it. He encouraged me to continue with my dream, which I fully believe God had planted within my very soul.

In the spring of 1989, I began to lay out the plans for the ministry God had placed on my heart. I began to think of a name. One day while reading the Bible for my devotions, I came across Psalm 119:30, which says, "I HAVE CHOSEN THE WAY OF TRUTH." Right then and there, I realized that was the name God wanted me to call this new ministry. It would be THE WAY OF TRUTH MINISTRIES.

Then, I began to pray about some men I could share my burden with and in July of 1989, six of us met in the Family House Restaurant in Breezewood, PA to discuss the possibility of developing a ministry to preach the Gospel through radio. Discussions went on for a while but no decision was reached at that initial meeting. So, I gave the challenge to pray for God's wisdom and direction and the men continued to meet in Breezewood in the months of August and September to further pray for and discuss the formation of a new ministry. Then, on October 20, 1989 the same men met again in Breezewood to discuss what they believed the Lord was leading them do to about proclaiming the Gospel through radio. That date actually became the birthday of WOTM. She was conceived many years prior in my mind, revealed in July to a group of men, and born on October 20th. The names of those men, who became the founding team of The Way of Truth Ministries are: Gary G. Dull, Gorman L. Dull, Gary L. Gruver, William L. Long, Elwood W. Pfaunmiller, and Fred Young. The Way of Truth Ministries was born. Soon, WOTM was organized as a Pennsylvania corporation with a 501 (c) (3) status. A new ministry to teach the Word of God now began to grow.

According to the original charter of WOTM, "the primary purpose of The Way of Truth Ministries is to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the world, including but not limited to evangelism, publication of printed material, education, Christian counseling, music, and by media communication, bearing in mind at all times that a spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ is essential to a meaningful life." The Way of Truth Ministries was off and running.

One of the first things I wanted to do after the formation of the organization was to develop a prayer band for the ministry believing that without prayer, WOTM would go no where. So, in one day's time, my wife and I came up with a list of about 35 individuals to ask to be a part of this very important prayer ministry, and they all agreed! That was one of the first indications to me that God had sanctioned the ministry. Immediately I started to write a praise and prayer sheet for the prayer band to use, which actually developed into what is now *The Chronicle*. Many of those individuals still pray for and support WOTM. Their prayers truly strengthened the foundation of what God was going to build. I will forever be grateful to those precious people!

Early financial support was rather skimpy to say the least. But God blessed it in a tremendous way. The very first gift of \$140.00 came from my mother, Dorothy, and the second gift of \$300.00 came from a local Pennsylvania State Representative, Mr. Ed Johnson, who is now with the Lord. Shortly thereafter, a young widow lady named Karen Butler gave a \$75.00 gift to WOTM and she has not missed a month of giving ever since. In fact, over the years, her \$75.00 donation has increased. I certainly do praise the Lord for Karen! From that point, folks began

to give and the Lord blessed each gift. I have often said that WOTM is a living miracle because God has done so much with the ministry of so few finances. It appeared in those early days, that every dollar received into the ministry was multiplied ten times right there on the spot! Truly, WOTM is a ministry of faith. GREAT FAITH INDEED! IT IS A MINISTRY BLESSED AND SUPPORTED BY GOD! AMEN AND AMEN!

God was not only faithful to the ministry, but also to our family. I resigned a church when I started WOTM and thus had no salary. I was simply living on faith totally for a while by means of gifts received into the ministry to my account. There were times when we literally did not know where the next meal was coming from, but God always supplied. We never went hungry. But what is even a greater part of the miracle is that during that time, God enabled us to purchase a 7-year old home for only \$150.00 per month! And do you now what? God supplied that \$150.00 a month also! We never missed a payment! God is so good!

Right away, we began to pray about what type of broadcasts to produce and where to air them. The decision was soon made to produce a daily 15-minute program called, "The Living Truth," and a weekly 30-minute program called, "The Message of Truth." In April of 1990, a 1-minute program called, "A Moment of Truth" was being produced and a daily live 60-minute program called, "Truth Talk" was established in July of 1992 for the purpose of bringing the Word of God to bear on the issues in America. "Truth Talk" still is on the air, but has been reduced to a 30-minute program. In 1996, "Truth Talk" became an independent entity due to the nature of the broadcast and 501 (c) (3) status of WOTM.

Those first broadcasts were actually produced on a very small and inexpensive cassette recorder in the master bedroom of our home. Later on, Elwood Pfaunmiller, Gary Gruver, and Kevin Mayfield, my brother-in-law, built a very nice studio in the basement of our house, which served the ministry very well for several years. The duplication system in those days was very basic and not too sophisticated. I would make the radio tapes and often, my wife, Nancy, and son, Mike would duplicate them while I was away. On one occasion, both Mike and I were away and since Nancy did not know how to use the equipment to duplicate in the studio, she simply did the duplication on our dining room table recording the program from one cheap recorder to another. And, by the way, the recorders were not even electronically connected! The programs were duplicated on open microphones, and so if any one was in the house, they could not speak a word or those particular programs would have had some very interesting background noise. I am not sure the stations or the listeners would have appreciated that form of primitive technology.

Speaking of my brother-in-law, please allow me to share an interesting note on how he was used to give some vital direction to WOTM. Well, at least, sort of. Kevin and his family are faithful and effective missionaries in Ecuador. When he was working on our first studio, I can remember him asking me what my objectives were for WOTM. I can remember him asking me that question like it was yesterday! And, actually, I stumbled around with the answer for a bit. After a few minutes of stuttering and stumbling I do not think I really answered his question clearly. So, I can remember him saying, "Now Gary, you should know where you are going with this ministry shouldn't you?" I said, "well yes!" Actually I was irritated because I did not think he believed in what I was doing at that time. So, as a result of him pressing me, I said, "Kevin we want to reach the world for Christ." That answer seemed to please Kevin, and in fact, I was

pretty impressed with it myself and hence, the motto of WOTM, "REACHING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST." And guess what? Today WOTM is reaching the world for Christ by means of radio, the Internet, and missions ministry! What was a frustrating answer from my mouth became a reality for WOTM. At times, I truly believe God has a sense of humor.

Once "The Living Truth" and "The Message of Truth" were being produced, the opportunity to air them on WJSM, AM and FM in the Altoona, PA area became available. And so, both programs began to air in November of 1989. Later on, "A Moment of Truth" and "Truth Talk" were aired on WJSM as well and therefore WJSM has always been considered the "pilot" station for WOTM.

I will never forget the first time I heard "The Message of Truth" on the air. Gary Gruver was our first announcer and when he came on the air with his deep voice saying, "FROM ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA, THE WAY OF TRUTH MINISTRIES PRESENTS THE MESSAGE OF TRUTH," I cried! It was a dream that had come true! I could hardly believe it! But that was only the beginning of what God was going to do! From that one 6000 watt station in central Pennsylvania, the WOTM radio broadcasts soon became world-wide, reaching into over 160 nations by utilizing nearly 200 stations. Today, the broadcasts are being aired over short wave radio and the Internet. Therefore WOTM is REACHING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST!

Early on in the ministry history, we began to hold banquets in the Altoona area with the intent to present WOTM to interested individuals. Those banquets were very well attended with the largest one having nearly 500 people present. Later on, regional banquets, luncheons and breakfasts were held in Lebanon, PA, Lancaster, PA, Normalville, PA, and St. Petersburg, Florida. For a period of about two years, a monthly Saturday morning prayer breakfast was held at the old Chilcoate's restaurant in East Freedom, PA. Some of those breakfasts had over 50 people in attendance as we prayed for the new growing ministry. I believe those early gatherings for food, fellowship, prayer and information were very important aspects of our ministry in those days.

Dr. Alfred B. Smith had been a friend of mine for many years and was always a special guest at the banquets. What a blessing it was to have him involved with our ministry until the day the Lord took him home in 2001. Until Al died, his music was all that was used on the radio broadcasts, and he was also a member of the WOTM Advisory Board. As a radio man in the 1940's, Al knew the effect of radio and gave me some tremendous advice. I owe a lot to Al for what he did for WOTM. It was because of him that we were able to be in touch with The Bible Broadcasting Network and Mr. Lowell Davey for ministry. Al was a tremendous encourager of the WOTM.

Another special friend of WOTM was Dr. Paul Van Gorder, who also served as a member of the Advisory Board. When we first started to produce the radio programs, I would send them to Paul for a critique. Certainly he was qualified for that position because of his many years of broadcasting the Gospel over radio and television with "The Radio Bible Class." Paul gave me many pointers in those days to use as a broadcaster. One of the things I can remember him telling me was that radio is a very personal and intimate medium. With that in mind, he said that when I preach on the radio, I should not talk as though I am chiding the listeners or speaking to a

thousand people in a great auditorium, but talk in such a tone as I would in giving loving direction to one of my children. With every broadcast tape, he would write back and tell me where I had to adjust. It got frustrating to me at times, but I learned a wealth of information as to how to produce a radio program from him. After I got where he thought I might be finally breaking through, he was instrumental in getting WOTM on WAYR, a radio station in Jacksonville, Florida, which is clear channel and reached all the way from the southern tip of Florida to the middle of North Carolina. To this day, Paul is a friend of WOTM. I shall be forever indebted to Dr. Paul R. Van Gorder!

What a tremendous thing it is for me to consider that God brought two pioneers in Christian broadcasting along my way to help get WOTM on its feet! How amazing! Only God could do that in His great love, mercy and grace!

Along with Dr. Al Smith and Dr. Paul Van Gorder, God used another other well-known Christian leader in the early years of WOTM to get the ministry off of it's feet. That was Dr. David Gibbs II of the Christian Law Association who gave us some tremendous legal advice in those forming days. The Gibbs family remains friends of WOTM, and in 1994, WOTM was able to return a favor to The Christian Law Association in giving some guidance for their radio ministry called "The Legal Alert." In fact, David Gibbs, III has said that the Lord used me to give them the vision of radio. I would not claim that myself, but nevertheless, that statement has been made and today CLA is on nearly 2000 stations in America, which is many more than WOTM could claim. I am so thrilled at the individuals God led me to in those early days who were used to give such a young preacher trying to begin a new ministry, godly direction.

Shortly after the radio broadcasts began to be aired, The Altoona Christian Counseling Center, founded by Dr. Stan Winder, approached WOTM to see if there would be any interest in a merger of ministries. Through discussion and prayer, WOTM actually took over the ministry of ACCC and therefore launched into a biblical counseling ministry to the Altoona community.

Two months later, the first edition of *The Way of Truth Chronicle* was printed in our home. My wife, Nancy would type it out and then take it to The Faith Baptist Church of Altoona to be printed. Oh, how slow that copier printed! And in those days, *The Chronicle* was just on one legal sized sheet of paper and went out to no more than 50 people! There was also a time when the Knights Inn in Altoona allowed us to use their copier to print *The Chronicle*. That was because Nancy was the front desk manager there, and her boss, Mr. Fred Warnick, offered her the service of the motel free of charge. It is amazing how God worked through individuals. The printing ministry was very primitive in those days, and almost embarrassing, to be honest, but God saw fit to bless it nevertheless. Today *The Chronicle* is a growing devotional paper with a very professional appearance and is under the direction of Dr. Kerry Johnson who is the editor, and who also oversees the print division of WOTM.

Regarding the print division of WOTM, we really have not done too much in that area up until now, but we have printed several booklets down through the years that have been used by God. It would be a blessing if God would open that avenue of ministry to us again in the future.

From the very beginning, WOTM was open to get involved in any form of Gospel outreach the Lord would present. In fact, the word “ministries” was chosen over “ministry” so as to be open to the development of further ministries. And indeed, the Lord did open other ministry opportunities. In 2001 the Lord led WOTM to take on Rev. Elwood Pfaunmiller as the first full-time General Director of Ministries. Also, that same year, The Way of Truth Baptist Mission with missionaries in Africa and India under the direction of Rev. Elwood Pfaunmiller and Dr. Phil Kissinger was developed. Currently WOTBM has missionaries in Togo, Liberia, Ghana, China, India and the USA. WOTBM is very much involved with Military Ministries in reaching the armed forces with the Gospel under the direction of Dr. Kissinger. In 2005, the Way of Truth Institute of Biblical Studies and Counseling Center were brought into operation under the direction of Rev. Milton Lambertson. Then, in 2005, the High Way Ministries, the truckers ministry of WOTM, was formed under the direction of Rev. Steve Pearson. Also, it should be stated that in 2006, the board of WOTM authorized the WOTBM to begin a church planting ministry that at first will be focused the “21915 Corridor” (The area between U.S. highways 219 and 15 to the west and east, and the Maryland border to the south and the New York border to the north). At the present time, we are asking for God to provide a man to serve as director of that aspect of the ministry. In God’s time, that ministry will begin to reach the many small towns and villages in that area in which there are few fundamental local churches, and where millions of precious souls live who need the Lord.

### **THE NEED FOR WOTM**

The very day we six men met in July of 1989 to begin to discuss the formation of WOTM, I received a study conducted by the George Barna Research Institute. He was up and coming in those days too, and was just coming into the realm of being a student of religious and ministry trends. In that study he gave a long list of reasons why the world of Christian faith is not in need for any more radio ministries. In fact, he said, that the national radio broadcasts that were in existence then would soon fail, and those that were just getting under way, would never get off of the ground. His survey said that from that point on, all media ministries would come from the local church ministries alone. Why? Because people were disappointed with “radio preachers” and tired of listening to men they really did not know nor could they become acquainted with on a personal basis. Well, to say the least, Mr. Barna was wrong. WOTM was founded as a radio ministry, and still going and growing. It is interesting to see what God does, no matter what man may say!

Is there a need for WOTM today? Actually, I believe there is a greater need today for a ministry like WOTM than in 1989 when it all got started. Why? Well, I think the answer is very simple. When WOTM started, one of the original introduction papers stated that this new ministry was being brought into existence because of the compromise and apostasy that was in the world and the church at that time. And, indeed, there were a lot of both! But, today compromise and apostasy is greater than it was in 1989! Many ministries that were once true to the Word of God are no longer true. Many new ministries today are not being founded on the solid rock of the Word of God. Many up and coming “Christian” ministries are more “people-centered” than they are “God-centered.” Bible exposition, biblical counseling, pure evangelism, and local church planting in America are more rare than it has been for years and years. So, is there a need for a ministry like WOTM? Indeed there is, and I am happy to say that WOTM is as solidly built on

the Word of God now as it was in 1989. God has kept WOTM free from theological error and compromise and by His grace; He will continue to do the same until Jesus Christ returns.

### **THE OUTLOOK FOR WOTM**

In my opinion, the outlook for WOTM is brighter than ever before! If we, as individuals who make up WOTM, and if the ministry itself stays true to the Lord, I believe He will bless this work of His in greater ways than we can imagine. Certainly, we have many areas in which we must improve. There are also areas of ministry that I believe we will be led into in the future that we cannot imagine today. I have a vision that in the years to come we will see more radio programs being produced, more missionaries accepted, new churches planted, a greater truck ministry, a larger education department, more military involvement, more printed literature and more people involved than ever before. All we need to do is to keep our focus on Christ and be faithful to His call, His direction and His plan for the ministry.

I have often said that had I thought about it more, I might not have called this work The Way of Truth Ministries. Why? Because, even the name itself, carries along with it such a great responsibility. Think of it. We are THE WAY OF **TRUTH** MINISTRIES! That means that as individuals and as an organization, we are responsible to see to it that we teach, live and uphold the TRUTH OF GOD at all times. With a name like ours, we cannot go wrong, and we must not go wrong! We have a name to uphold, and when you consider that Jesus Christ is the WAY and the TRUTH, the name we are upholding is indeed His, the Lord Jesus Christ! May we never forget that concept at all!

If WOTM is going to be used of God in the future, it is crucial that we develop, under the direction of the Lord, a strategy for growth and expansion. We must determine to maintain our doctrine and core values. We must determine to remain true to the local church and to the Word of God. Along with that, we must pray for and train future leaders for the ministry.

God has certainly been faithful to WOTM. And as I have said before, God has done more with so little in WOTM than in any other ministry I know. Truly He must receive the glory alone! He must want us around. We must be faithful to Him.

You know, our original motto was, "TAKING GOD'S WORD TO GOD'S WORLD." Since my chat with Kevin Mayfield that day in our newly built studio in Newry, Pennsylvania, our motto has been, "REACHING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST." Perhaps in concept, but not necessarily in motto, we need to put the two together and say that as the years come and go before the return of Jesus Christ, we will be committed to TAKING GOD'S WORD TO GOD'S WORLD AS WE REACH ALL THE WORLD FOR CHRIST. I believe that if we keep that thought before us, God will truly do great things through The Way of Truth Ministries.

Before I close, I want to give thanks for three of our founders who are no longer with the ministry, Mr. Fred Young, Mr. Gary Gruver, and Rev. Bill Long for the vision they shared with WOTM in those early days. Without them, we would not be where we are today. And think of it. Fred had the vision for the truckers ministry. Bill had the vision for the counseling ministry. And, Gary was our original technician and announcer for the radio programs. Gary really labored in those early days to get the radio broadcast to the quality it needed in order to be aired. In fact,

he spent hours and days seeing that everything was just right. Fred is with the Lord now and Bill and Gary are involved else where, but THANKS BE TO GOD for the way He used them. But, I can say the same for each individual involved today. WOTM would go nowhere if I were the only one involved. Everyone plays such a very important part to the functioning of the ministry. What started with one man's dream and just a few people in time now has many individuals involved around the world. Everyone is necessary and vital to the working out of our mission. I pray God will continue to keep us unified, healthy and true to His Word so that we can reach and disciple millions for Christ in the years to come. Amen!



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