

(BESI)



Believer's Express Service, Inc.

Bringing a Message of God's Love and Grace to the Congo

A Story of Faith, Calling, and Providence

Part One: Birthing BESI

Looking back at how BESI began, like many good endeavors, it began with struggle and heartache for Kathy and me and the Smiths. Those details will wait to be shared in Glory!

Our partnership with the Smiths began with a letter from Kathy and me to Harold and Barbara, my sister, in 1985 while they were students at Toccoa Falls College, in Georgia. They were preparing to join HCJB World Radio in Quito, Ecuador having been interviewed by Ben Cummings, Vice President for HCJB. That meeting took place at the Music Department at TFC where Barbara was working as a secretary and attending college classes along with Harold in preparation for that service.

Mr. Cummings offered Barbara a position as his personal secretary and shared their plans for Harold to travel with their medical teams visiting jungle villages. Harold had acquired training as an orderly working in several hospitals over the years. His barbering skills always paid the bills. Then in their forties they were answering the call of the Lord to move in the direction of missions once again.

Earlier in their late 20s they served as home missionaries for four years at Hope Town Christian School in Carmel, NY as house parents for six children with disabilities being fully supported by the Altoona Bible Church in Pennsylvania.

Unexpected Redirection

Unknown to each other, both couples experienced heartache and setbacks at the same time. These events drew our lives together to forge a new endeavor.

Kathy and I wrote to the Smiths requesting that they consider helping us to incorporate a new ministry which became (BESI) Believer's Express Service, Inc. on March 11, 1986 — forty years ago. Radio Kahuzi was not even a dream at this point, but we know now that the Lord did have a special plan.

Gratefully, Harold and Barbara changed their plans from going to Ecuador to helping Kathy and me at a time when we had no funding, no organization, and only a partial vision of what it was the Lord was asking us to do — step out in faith and trust Him for our future service.

We thought our mission was to help other missionaries coming to Congo and finding themselves in desperate situations. During our early years in Africa, we often navigated government red tape to help those in need, believing it was our purpose. However, a greater plan awaited us.

Six Years Later — A Blind Man Received a Vision

Richard's emergency trip to the hospital with torn retina problems opened the door to radio broadcasting. You can view the rest of the story in a video entitled *"The McDonald Story"* at www.besi.org.

RADIO KAHUZI

Reaching souls . . . Declaring His Glory!

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS OF BROADCASTING



Part Two: President Mobutu Signed the First Free Broadcasting License

Richard stood before President Mobutu and asked him to consider an application for a broadcasting license. At that time, regulations prohibited the use of Shortwave or HAM radio for communication with parties outside the country. Richard was really asking for the impossible — to allow a Free Media and to open the country up to a free society. This was very brazen but full of Faith that the Lord was working in Congo (then Zaire) to bring freedom to the population and later, free elections.

After using the last of their personal funds, they felt the pressure to return to the States for deputation. Yet, they felt directed to stay in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) despite the worsening political situation. When the Peace Corps organized to leave Bukavu, many of the missionaries decided to evacuate with them, only to learn that Bukavu was the safest place in Central Africa and they soon came back.

Staying When Others Left

As Rich and Kathy prayerfully evaluated the situation, they saw it was important to stay. The Lord used circumstances to slow their preparations twice when they would have evacuated because of rumors.

Because they stayed instead of evacuating, they, along with other foreigners, were invited to the Governor's mansion where he honored them as "Zairians" and would receive special help with projects, visas, and more.

The Lord was orchestrating a new thing in the Congo — and you know the rest of the story.