

## Hurrah for Team Work! by Ruth Luttrell



**Ruth Luttrell**

It was a very hot tropical afternoon on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, and the men and some children from Calvary Evangelistic Mission, Inc. were laying the foundation for the new radio station building. They had on hats and long sleeved shirts to protect them from the strong ultraviolet rays of the tropical sun.

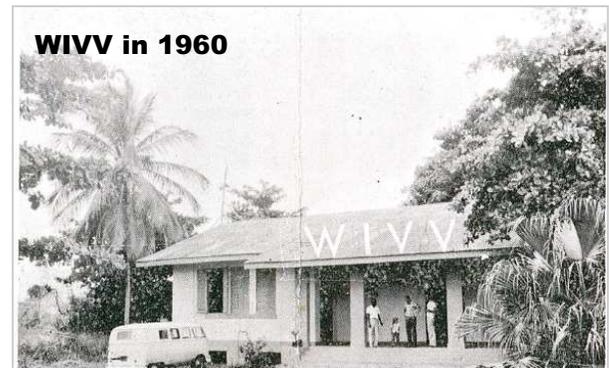
When they stopped work for a little rest and a cool drink of water, Ted, the engineer for WIVV Missionary Radio Station, sat down on a stone and leaned against the fence. Fences are a must to keep the neighbor's horses, cows and goats from wandering around the buildings and eating flowers and vegetables. Ted felt something moving on his neck, but he couldn't scratch the itch or knock the invader off, because he had his glass and snack in his hands.

"Whatever that is on my neck is really tickling," said Ted as he set his glass on the ground. Suddenly, one of the missionary kids hollered, "Don't touch it, Uncle Ted -- it's a tarantula!" God used that child to warn Ted just in time. A tarantula is a large tropical spider whose poison bite can even kill people. The missionaries and children stood around Ted and watched, knowing it was best not to disturb the tarantula, so that it would not fight back with its painful bite. Each missionary and child trusted God, too.

While anxiously waiting for that tarantula to crawl off Ted, the missionaries had time to think. They thought about Ted's wife and his little twins back at the house near town. They thought of his great value as a radio engineer, and of his willingness to tackle extra duties in construction since there were so few workers to get important jobs done. They thought of his generous heart in helping others. They didn't think about blaming him for sitting there to take a rest, because they all wanted a rest.

The tropical sun made Ted sweaty and hot, and perspiration ran down his face as he tried to out-wait his eight-legged visitor. One of the kids thought it was time to cheer up the gang, so he said, "Play it cool, Uncle Ted -- just take it easy." Ted smiled from underneath his wide-brimmed farmer's hat. He's the kind who could force himself to take it easy, because he knows God's promises and believes them. He's the kind of guy who stays "prayed up."

After a long five minutes, that seemed like an hour, of walking around on Ted's neck, that rascal tarantula started slowly walking down Ted's shoulder and onto his shirtsleeve. Don, the director of the Mission carefully calculated, then knocked that tarantula for a loop! Another missionary stepped on it and ended that threat—just one of many thousands on the island.



**WIVV in 1960**



BOARD MEMBERS AND MISSIONARIES MET AT MISSION HEADQUARTERS. BOARD MEMBERS PICTURED ARE JOHN SHEREDA, DR. D. E. LUTTRELL, REV. VIRGIL GEREN, JOHN TIDIK AND RUTH LUTTRELL. NOT PICTURED, EFRAIN SANTIAGO, JUAN VILLARINY, AND DON LUTTRELL.



That night at a staff meeting the missionaries thanked God for His protection and care -- for the privilege of being able to serve Him and trust Him. They thanked God for all the members on the Great Commission Team, especially those back home who also are concerned about teaching the saving Word of God to those in other lands.

Jesus said in "As the Father has sent me, I send you" that all obedient Christians are to be missionaries wherever they are! A mission field is wherever there is a spiritual need, and that is every place in the world. So, some are home missionaries and some are foreign missionaries, depending on where God

places us. But, every Christian is a vital part of missions.

The Great Commission Team works together. They go, they pray, they send. Some do all three at once -- others two -- others only one. Each Christian can do at least one -- to go, to pray, or to send someone! All Christians are on the Team, and when one member doesn't do his part it hurts the Great Commission Team's work throughout the world! Every Christian is needed and must do his part on the Team, -- and play to win -- investing in souls that will be his joy and reward throughout eternity!

As one of the missionary kids said, "I'm playing it cool right now—I'm staying 'prayed up' and obeying! It really pays to live for God!"

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*Ruth Luttrell Tidik (1926-2014) was the co-founder of Calvary Evangelistic Mission and The Rock Radio Network (WIVV, WCGB, WBMJ). With her husband, Dr. Donald D. Luttrell, she moved to Vieques Island, Puerto Rico in 1953 to do Christian missionary work throughout the Caribbean. After Don's passing in 1987, Ruth assumed his office as President of the ministry, a post she held for more than two decades. In February of 2006 Ruth was awarded the 'Milestone Award' at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention for broadcasting over 50 years. Ruth worked faithfully in the offices of the Mission till the very end, where she shared her homespun wisdom and vast Biblical knowledge with all.*