

What began as a simple discussion at a business lunch meeting has turned into a ministry of radio stations and translators all over Montana and into Wyoming called *Your Network of Praise!*

At a lunch meeting in 1979, two Christian businessmen began talking about Christian radio. From that discussion, a dream of having Christian radio to serve Montana's Hi-Line began. Soon others were contacted, and Hi-Line Radio Fellowship, Inc. was incorporated in 1980! The work of sharing the dream with others, raising money, and making arrangements was underway!

After three years of hard work, prayer and preparation, KXEI 95.1 FM Havre, was ready to sign on! July 28, 1983, the powerful 100,000 Watt signal began beaming the gospel of Jesus Christ to northern Montana, as well as southern Alberta and Saskatchewan, and the "Channel of Praise" was on the air!

Following KXEI's debut, requests came in for translators in areas where the station could not be heard very well. Over the next few years, translators went on the air in Great Falls, Cut Bank, Glasgow and Lewistown. Though the station had no formal "expansion plan", it was the desire of the board and management to follow God's leading in the matter.

Also during that time, one of KXEI's Great Falls listeners moved to Helena and was disappointed to find that there was no Christian radio there. She contacted the station to see if a translator could be placed there. Regulatory issues prevented that from happening, but as Christians in the area continued to pray a door opened to "lease" an AM station in Helena and to rebroadcast KXEI's signal on it. On June 3, 1991, KVCM-AM signed on bringing Christian radio to Montana's capitol city! Then in 1993, the Federal Communications Commission granted a license to KVCM to broadcast on an FM channel, 24 hours per day.

Now heard on two stations and a number of translators, the Channel of Praise became "*Your Network of Praise*".

In 1994, one of the most exciting opportunities ever was presented to the station. Through the Lord's provision, Your Network of Praise began broadcasting on satellite, making it possible to place translators and stations anywhere in the northwest! The satellite uplink began broadcasting in July, 1994, and the question was asked, "Where will the Lord take this ministry now"?

The next few years were filled with activity, locating tower sites, filing FCC applications for new translators and stations, and ordering lots of equipment! New translators went on the air in Butte, Shelby, Lustre, Deer Lodge and Philipsburg, and in March, 1996, the translator in Great Falls was replaced by a new FM station, KGFC. In 1997, applications were filed for translators in Browning, and Seeley Lake, and an FM station in Plains. As each one went on the air, it was a thrill to hear from new listeners in each area.

In 1999, Your Network of Praise filed more applications for new translators and stations than any previous year, and saw the debut of new translators in Choteau and Dillon.

As the year 2000 got underway more FCC applications were filed for more new translators, and for FM station to serve Colstrip/Miles City. In August, the FCC issued a construction permit authorizing Your Network of Praise to begin broadcasting in Missoula! The new Missoula translator began broadcasting on September 6, 2000!

In 2001, with the new millennium underway, we eagerly anticipated the construction of a new FM station to serve Miles City, Colstrip and surrounding areas. KMCJ 99.5 FM went on the air in August of 2001.

KALS, a Christian commercial station, located in Kalispell also joined the Network in August of 2001. Broadcasting in Montana's largest city began in 2002 with KBLW in Billings and a full station in Lewistown replaced the translator 2003. The KLEU transmitter site is located in the South Moccasin mountains.

Your Network of Praise expanded into Wyoming on March 27th, 2003 with the purchase of KAXG in Gillette and five weeks later a translator went on the air in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Things were quiet for awhile until a translator began broadcasting in Baker in October, 2004. Back to Wyoming for a long-awaited station; KOHR went on the air in August of 2005 in Sheridan.

In 2006 there were two new translators for the network; one in Wolf Point in March and the other in Conrad in September.

In the midst of all the anticipation and excitement it remains the goal of YNOP's board and management to humbly seek the Lord's will for the ministry in order that His word can be proclaimed throughout Montana, and beyond!

When the ministry of Hi-Line Radio Fellowship began, Isaiah 55:11 was adopted as the station verse. This verse tells us that when God's word goes forth, it will not return void, but will accomplish what He has purposed for it. It is our hope that we will be able to proclaim God's holy word to more and more people, and that many will be strengthened in their relationship with Him as a result. Please join us in praying to that end.