



MINISTRY THROUGH MEDIA

November 2011

Dear Friend,

I pray that this finds you doing well in His amazing grace!

In our last ministry update we described how, as part of our Raise the Flag campaign, we are creating vision casting videos to help increase the worldwide ministry of The HOPE. Within the past month this effort has taken members of our team on the road to capture some of the amazing things God is doing with The HOPE.

In October, Mars Hill board members Greg Belin and Kyle Vann joined me on a trip to Honduras. We went with a ministry that is using The HOPE throughout Central America to do evangelism and Church planting. The ministry is Harvest Partners. They are the largest user of the Jesus Film outside of Campus Crusade (now CRU). In Central America they are starting to use The HOPE in addition to the Jesus Film. Worldwide, Harvest Partners sees about 1 million decisions for Christ per year.

We arrived late for the first screening due to unexpected road hazards . . . a portion of the road had washed away and a big truck had jackknifed creating bumper to bumper traffic for miles. On the second night we went to a small, very poor, village on the outskirts of Choluteca. Over 200 people showed up that evening for an outdoor screening of The HOPE. After the movie 122 people came to Christ for salvation! I wish you could have seen the amazement in the eyes of the people as they experienced The HOPE. I was particularly moved by the children. It was such a blessing for us to watch them respond to the Gospel! It is amazing to know that this kind of ministry is being replicated by Harvest Partners throughout Central America and the Caribbean!



Villagers in Honduras gather, full of anticipation, for The HOPE. This scene will be repeated throughout Central America by Harvest Partners.

Two weeks later Jean Ngo, our Communications Director, and I hit the road to visit some of our key partners. In North Carolina we did several interviews with the staff of the Vernacular Media Services (VMS) of Wycliffe Bible Translators. VMS produces Bible based media for people groups under a million. They are very involved in creating new versions of The HOPE.

Wycliffe is traditionally a Bible translation organization. But their work through VMS reflects a growing sensitivity for the challenge of reaching the oral cultures that make up the majority of the remaining unreached people groups in the world. These people groups do not read, so if we're going to reach them with God's redemptive story anytime in the near future, we need to offer them

something they can understand . . . like The HOPE. VMS is absolutely committed to producing as many language versions of The HOPE as possible . . . as soon as possible.

VMS is also very big on the fact that The HOPE lays a foundation for the Cross by presenting “the big picture” of God’s story beginning with creation. In fact, they told us about an indigenous man on the Amazon whose voice was recorded giving the Gospel at the end of a tribal version of the Jesus Film. However, it wasn’t until he worked on The HOPE that he actually understood the Gospel and then trusted Christ himself for salvation!

Next, Jean and I drove over to Georgia to meet with World Renew Outreach. WRO manufactures solar powered, back-pack, video projection systems for reaching people in remote areas. They are pre-loading their systems with The HOPE. As we interviewed the folks at WRO, we heard the same heartbeat we heard at VMS . . . let’s work together to provide appropriate means of communicating the Gospel to the unreached oral cultures of our world through media like The HOPE!

At WRO, we heard a very special story from one of their staff, a young man who quality-checks audio players with scripture before they go out. He told us that he knew about Jesus since childhood, but he didn’t really understand who Jesus is until he saw The HOPE. He then invited his (very large) family to WRO where he showed them The HOPE. After the screening there were many tears . . . and many decisions for Christ!

It is a huge blessing to have strong partnerships with ministries such as Harvest Partners, VMS and WRO. They each play a unique role in the process of producing, delivering and using The HOPE. And these are just three of the many ministry partnerships God has blessed us with worldwide.

It is also a blessing to have the partnership of those who pray for and help to financially support this work. Without this kind of partnership, our work would not be possible. Thank you for your interest in the ministry of The HOPE. May you have a Christ filled Thanksgiving!



Young man at WRO expresses gratitude for the way God used The HOPE to touch him and his family.

By His Grace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred Carpenter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Fred Carpenter
President