



MINISTRY THROUGH MEDIA

November 2009

Dear Friend,

We at Mars Hill pray that this letter finds you doing well in His amazing grace!

In the mid '90s God used certain people to bring about a major shift in my understanding of the Great Commission. This shift was so significant that it ultimately changed the course of Mars Hill, and resulted in what people around the world now know as The HOPE. In the year 2000 I wrote a paper to explain the basis for this shift. At this link, [How to Make Your Life Count](#), you will find an updated version of that paper. It is basically a "white paper" . . . not big on style (layout and design), but huge on substance. I sincerely encourage you to set aside some time to read it. But I must also warn you, the ideas and information presented in this paper could cause a shift in you . . . as has been the case with many others.

Here are some current examples of how God is using The HOPE worldwide. I believe these things are happening, not because of our vision for the world, but rather because God has put us in touch with His vision for the world.

- I recently took part in an event to preview the Tagalog HOPE. Tagalog is spoken by about 90 million people, mostly in the Philippines. One of the Tagalog storytellers in the video is a Filipino princess. Another storyteller shared with us what it would mean for her people to have God's story in their heart language. She wept tears of joy as she spoke. We also heard this story. As is often our practice in the translation process, we had a non-Christian translate the Tagalog script back into English in order to evaluate its effectiveness with our intended audience. After reading the script, that person came to Christ!
- A few days ago we received word that in Ho Chi Minh City the government censorship committee approved the newly completed Vietnamese HOPE to be released for public distribution. The Vietnamese HOPE will be unveiled at 4 major Christian events in December (www.asiastories.com).
- The HOPE is now in 30 languages. Each of these has stories similar to those above. We now have 26 translation projects in process. Visit http://www.mars-hill.org/media/the_hope_main/chart.html (Adaptation Chart) for a list and status of The HOPE languages.
- With growing frequency we are receiving orders for The HOPE in languages other than English. In the past few weeks we've shipped various quantities of The HOPE in Hindi, Japanese, French, Mandarin, Spanish and Swahili. View the languages for purchase at <http://www.mars-hill.org/store/the-hope.aspx>.
- The HOPE English as a Second Language Software Curriculum is now streaming from a server in Beirut, Lebanon (<http://www.christebc.com/ESL/ESL.htm>)! Missionaries around the world are using the ESL HOPE to teach English, and share the Gospel. The ESL HOPE is also available at our online store.
- Within the past 2 weeks we've had discussions/meetings to move new HOPE projects forward in Farsi, Turkish, Magyar, 3 African tribal languages and in various sign languages. Please pray for these projects.
- Among the decisions for Christ we've heard of in the past month there were 20 people from various countries who emailed us to let us know they had made a decision for Christ after viewing The HOPE online. In Uruguay, 3 deaf people trusted Christ after viewing the Uruguayan sign language version of The HOPE. And a few weeks ago on the way back from Church I received a call from our film

evangelist partner, Edwin Villafranca. He was calling me from the edge of a river to let me know that he was standing in front of 33 young people who were about to be baptized. The night before, they had all trusted Christ after watching the Spanish version of The HOPE. I wish that everyone receiving this letter could have been listening in when I heard those young people yell out “Thank You!” to me.

- And last but not least, God has filled our Communications Director position with a young man, Jean Ngo. Jean comes from a French/Vietnamese background. He speaks 3 languages. He has an International MBA and an MFA from the American Film Institute. But most importantly, Jean loves Christ and has a passion to complete the Great Commission. Like all full time staff, Jean is responsible for building a ministry team that will pray for and help fund his role at Mars Hill. Jean is now building his team so that he can launch into the responsibilities of his position. Please pray for Jean as he gets off the ground . . . and for the rest of the staff as well, in that team building is an ongoing process.

When I speak to groups about the Great Commission, I often talk about its breadth and depth. I believe the breadth of the Great Commission may be understood in terms of the nations. God desires people from every tongue, tribe and nation at the throne of the Lamb (Rev.7:9). At this point, there are many tribes and nations (in Biblical terms; people groups) yet to be reached. We welcome your help as we pursue that goal.

On the other hand, I believe the depth of the Great Commission may be observed in 2 Peter 3:9. Here we read that the Lord does not desire for “any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” We don’t know how many will come to Christ within each nation, but we do know there are many who have not yet come to Him.

Many have found The HOPE to be an effective personal evangelism tool. People often give a HOPE DVD to family or friends with the intent to talk about it after it has been viewed. Employers have given it to employees as Christmas gifts. For these kinds of opportunities, we offer quantity discounts. Please contact us if you are interested in using The HOPE for outreach.

This ministry is made possible by the prayers and contributions of those whom God has led to partner with us. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about what we are doing, or about the paper we’re sending with this letter. Thank you for your interest in the ministry of Mars Hill and The HOPE.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fred Carpenter
President