

V.P. of Ministry Development Position Description

The Organization and Mission

Mars Hill Productions is a non-profit media ministry dedicated to leveraging media to its highest potential for the purpose of helping fulfill the Great Commission of Christ to reach “every tongue, tribe and nation” with the Gospel. For over 40 years, Mars Hill has created award-winning films and videos that have been used around the world in a wide variety of venues to communicate the love and truth of Christ with millions of people.

In the past 15 years, Mars Hill has redirected its production capabilities to advance a global strategic partnering model for the purpose of translating, adapting and disseminating The HOPE, an 80-minute dramatic motion picture presentation of God’s redemptive story from creation through Christ. The HOPE is the Gospel in metanarrative form; the “scarlet thread” of the Bible. With over 70 translations and adaptations in distribution and over 30 in the pipeline, The HOPE is being used in settings ranging from remote jungle villages to college campuses to satellite television. God is using The HOPE to reach unreached people groups around the world ... but so many are still unreached!

To better understand the value of The HOPE and how it is being used, please view our 3.5 minute video at www.HelpReachThem.com.

Mars Hill’s emphasis on strategic partnering to maximize the adaptability of The HOPE is well illustrated in the Tibetan version of The HOPE. Our three lead partners in this project - a missionary, an ethnomusicologist, and a filmmaker - believed that a greater degree of contextualization was needed, and could be accomplished by wrapping The HOPE inside a traditional Tibetan storyline. To achieve their goal, these partners created new film footage depicting a storyteller who, in typical Buddhist tradition, travels around sharing his story and worldview with villagers. Ultimately, he finds an elder who has a book that tells the story of the world. To illustrate the story in this book (the Bible), our teacher uses a traditional form of Tibetan artwork called a Thangka. Our partners created Thangkas to parallel and set up the 36 Biblical events portrayed in The HOPE. The use of the traditional artwork, an original Tibetan soundtrack, and native dances has resulted in a powerful, culturally relevant media tool used by many to share the Gospel in Tibet and surrounding regions. (For more on The Tibetan HOPE, view pages 12-13 in our Invitation to Partner flipbook at <http://invitation.thehopeproject.com>.)

This case study demonstrates our commitment to achieve cultural relevance in presenting the essential metanarrative Gospel story of the Bible. It also exemplifies our core competencies to develop partnerships on the ground, and to engage in and support translation, production, and dissemination.

As we continue to grow our efforts, The HOPE is increasingly being recognized as a valuable asset to grassroots practitioners around the globe, and more and more partners are seeking us out for translations. Our partnering model allows us to leverage our core capabilities through those of others, helping them to increase their effectiveness, while remaining lean within our organization. With this model, every position in Mars Hill Productions, including the one described herein, is vital to our team and the success of our mission.

The Opportunity

Since our inception, Mars Hill has sought to participate in the Great Commission, and to do so using innovative practices in the use of media. The HOPE led us into a model that allows us to reimagine what that looks like each time we partner with a new ministry or engage a new cultural tradition. Now that our core tool and processes have been defined, we are asking the strategic question, “How can Mars Hill scale production and raise The HOPE flag while remaining entrepreneurial and responsive to God’s leading, retain our core DNA, and use an internal staffing model that focuses on high leverage not size?”

The Vice President of Ministry Development will serve a pivotal role in taking the work we have done up to this point and extending it. Specifically, we are looking to increase our engagement with supporters and further develop partnerships to expand our reach. Experts currently estimate there are between 4,000 and 5,000 unreached languages, and the next chapter of Mars Hill will require a strategic effort to leverage communications, outreach, and networks of relationships to create more visibility. Our goal is to significantly scale up our work in resourcing ministries with the vital tools to reach the people in these unreached corners of the globe.

The Ideal Candidate

The Vice President of Ministry Development will ideally have significant experience in ministry, working in global missions contexts. He or she will have experience as a practitioner, understanding the needs and goals of our ministry partners. This person will also have high aptitude in both verbal and written communications, with an ability to convey the passion and mission of Mars Hill, as well as the vision for The HOPE’s ongoing impact. Ideally, he or she would have some experience in film production, but this is not a requirement for the position. Most important, the Vice President of Ministry Development will have a passion for the Great Commission and seeing the Gospel go forth to every tongue, tribe, and nation.

The Vice President of Ministry Development will bring fresh connections and relationships, as well as the ongoing capacity to develop strategic networks. When it comes to cultivating new relationships, he or she will take the long view, working with ministry partners to further develop our capacity to adapt to their needs, as well as supporters who can raise the flag for The HOPE within their own networks. He or she has an entrepreneurial drive to use all of the resources at our disposal to reach unreached groups in creative ways.

The ideal candidate is transparent and accountable to other team members, as well as the board and leadership of Mars Hill. He or she has the capacity to articulate a shared vision and mobilize others to achieve the vision. He or she is a strategic thinker who can work closely with the President of Mars Hill to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to fulfill the mission of the ministry. And he or she will assume leadership responsibility for major initiatives within that strategy. This person will serve as a co-leader in strengthening production, expanding dissemination opportunities, and refining processes to adapt The HOPE to user (ministry leader) needs.

This person will provide leadership in the following areas:

- Executive Leadership
- Strategic Planning
- Governance
- External relationships and partnerships
- Data-driven decisions that include key metrics/reporting systems and processes

- Digital communications/communications collateral
- Financial Management
- Operational Management
- Fundraising

Specific Responsibilities

- Report directly to the President and interact with the Board of Trustees in regard to various responsibilities
- Assist in recruiting staff and building organizational capacity
- Engage in key donor development and assume an integral role in ministry-wide fundraising strategies
- Build and nurture relationships with strategic ministry partners worldwide
- Communicate the vision for the mission, and represent the ministry to internal and external communities
- Work with the President, V.P. of Administration, and Board of Trustees in the budgeting and financial oversight of the ministry
- Build a personal ministry team who support the person in this position through prayers and financial contributions (note: all full-time Mars Hill staff engage in the activity of building ministry teams)

Qualifications

Character & Personal Qualifications

- A mature Christian who is theologically sound and well-grounded in the Word of God
- Able to work well with people from diverse theological and cultural backgrounds within the Christian faith
- Committed to prayer and integrated and active in a local church body
- Deeply committed to and passionate about reaching every tongue, tribe, and nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- In agreement with the Mars Hill Statement of Faith
- Passion for missions and the ministry leaders who serve in missions around the world
- A sense of calling and commitment to the particular mission of Mars Hill and The HOPE within the Great Commission

Professional Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree or higher
- Strategic and creative thinker with entrepreneurial gifting
- Personal experience with the creative process (experience in media production is a plus)
- Skilled writer
- Capable public and personal communicator
- Competency with common software applications such as Word, Excel, and Outlook is essential
- Ability to manage others or work independently
- Some familiarity with the functioning of faith-based ministries and missions

Compensation and Benefits

- Salary level is currently open and will be set by the President and Board of Mars Hill

- All full-time employees and their families are covered by a generous health insurance package
- After one year of service, all full-time employees qualify for participation in a 403b retirement plan
- Minimum two weeks paid vacation per year from onset. Based upon previous work experience, additional vacation time may be warranted.

Inquiries

Please direct all inquiries to Laura Sorrell: laura@sorrellco.com or 713-854-5351.