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Think about it. Many of the Believers who were part of this exciting story knew Brendon, the man who brought The ESL HOPE to their land. Less, if any, knew of Pete, the man who created this tool. And it is unlikely that any of them knew about Mars Hill, the staff, board, funders and intercessors, who originally created The HOPE movie around which the tool is built. This wonderful story is a living example of 1 Co. 3:6-7, “6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.” The Gospel is the never ending story!

15 Years of HOPE

Mike works in maintenance inspection for a major airline in California. He is passionate about sharing the Gospel! Mike began using The HOPE when it was first released in 2003. He gave copies to his co-workers, to students at a local high school, and people he would meet in restaurants. He gave copies to friends at church and followed up when possible; as he did with one family whose son watched The HOPE over and over and trusted Christ as Savior. Or the visitor who watched the movie 3 times in 2 days receiving Christ and declaring that The HOPE made God’s story so clear to him.

Since 2015, we’ve heard from Mike often. In a local mall, he helped his Church do an outreach. They rented a kiosk, invited passers-by to visit their church, and gave them a copy of The HOPE. For the church’s latest outreach, they set up a table at a local Farmer’s Market. In addition to handing out tracts and HOPE DVDs, they gave out cards inviting people to visit their church, and to watch The HOPE online by scanning a QR code. Through 15 years of ministry, we have watched Mike help his church flex with ever-changing technology (from VHS to DVD to QR codes), while continuing to prioritize sharing the Gospel!

Our Newest Team Member

The Staff and Board of Mars Hill are pleased to welcome our new Ministry Partnering Director and his family to the team! In this role, Rob Watt will focus on building and nurturing ministry partnerships with those who help create new translations of The HOPE, as well as those who use existing translations worldwide. The Watt family has come to us from the mission field in Micronesia. The agency they were with has traces its roots to Hudson Taylor’s Inland China Mission. As do all full-time salaried staff, Rob is now building a team of people who will partner with their ministry at Mars Hill through prayer and funding. Please pray for Rob! Contact us if you would like to learn more, or if the Lord is prompting you to join his team.

The HOPE is a project of Mars Hill, a non-profit ministry dedicated to ministry through media. For more than 40 years, award-winning Mars Hill films and videos have been used around the world to introduce thousands of people to Jesus Christ. The Mars Hill website - www.mars-hill.org | The HOPE Partnering Portal - http://www.hopepartnering.com | Email us at hopeinfo@mars-hill.org | The HOPE Ministry website - www.TheHOPEProject.com | 4711 Lexington Blvd., Missouri City, Texas, 77459 | (281) 403 - 1403

We won! See our 3.5 min. video at www.HelpReachThem.com. It has now won 10 awards!

December 2018

Update on the Worldwide Ministry of The HOPE...

In the middle, a sister who came to Christ in the first ESL HOPE group and Brenda, on the outside, two of the Church planters who love to use The ESL HOPE

Our weekly staff devotions
www.devoonthefirsthil.org

The HOPE community
https://www.facebook.com/TheHOPE.AI
All our videos
https://vimeo.com/marshill-productions
Insightful posts
https://marshill.prod.com/mars-hill-productions
Timely updates
https://twitter.com/TheHOPE.AI
Images worth 1000 Words
https://www.instagram.com/photofull/
The Reach of The HOPE - How & Where It Is Used

To understand the ministry of The HOPE, it is first helpful to be aware of these two things.

a) The HOPE is not an entertainment product. It is an adaptable and versatile media tool. By definition, a tool is a device used to perform a particular function. Some tools can be used to perform multiple functions. People have a "go-to" tool, like a favorite kitchen knife.

b) The power of The HOPE does not come from its production value (technical and stylistic merits.) The power comes from the script, which is essentially God’s redemptive story from creation through Christ. It is the Gospel, “...the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). That said, these are some of the ways The HOPE has been used around the world in 2018...

- **HOPE on World Wide Web** - Our main website, www.TheHOPEProject.com, now streams The HOPE in 25 languages and provides a 65-lesson study guide in several of these languages. This site has received visitors from every country in the world. In addition to our main site, many of our ministry partners have created websites and apps that bring The HOPE to the language groups they are working to reach.

- **HOPE for International Students** - There are now more than 1 million International Students in the U.S. The nations have come to our doorstep! Many ministries continue to use The HOPE in their outreach to International Students. He Himself has students return to their countries after coming to faith in Christ and having been trained to share their faith with others.

- **HOPE for Those Learning English** - Billions of people around the globe are learning English out of necessity. Teaching English as a Second Language is a great bridge for sharing the Gospel. Read about The ESL HOPE in “A Never Ending Story of HOPE” - page 4.

- **HOPE in Isolated Places** - Many unreached people groups live in very isolated areas where there is little or no adequate electricity or access to the Internet. If they are going to be reached, someone has to go. And when that someone brings The HOPE on a solar powered video projection system that fits into a backpack, the whole village shows up to watch it! And so it goes, again and again. Unreached people experience The HOPE. For many it is their first time to see a movie and to hear the Gospel. Some (often many) come to Christ. A Bible study is started with a missionary pastor seeing Christ come to a person’s life. A village is born, and a Church is planted! For a related story, see “The First Believers in Their Village” - page 2.

Some places are politically isolated. People must break the law to share and receive the Gospel, often at great personal risk. In places like this, on Micro SD cards, The HOPE can be shared discreetly, copied and distributed widely through the underground Church. Hundreds of thousands of copies of The HOPE have been disseminated this way.

- **HOPE from the Heavens** - Several times in 2018, The HOPE was broadcast throughout the Middle East, primarily in Farsi and Turkish. Each of these broadcasts is done through our partners to set up Facebook pages for their language groups.

- **HOPE for the Injured** - Medical and dental missionaries show The HOPE to people waiting to see a doctor. Doctors have told us that one of their greatest joys in these situations is talking with patients about what they saw in The HOPE.

- **HOPE for Refugees** - Because they are often traumatized, vulnerable and ready for a new start, refugees can be very open to the love of Jesus and the Word of God. Several of our partners use The HOPE to lead refugees to know and grow in Him.

- **HOPE in the Hands of His People** - Some of our favorite stories come from individual Christian followers who simply have a passion to lead others come to Christ. Danny had a 2018 goal to share the Gospel by giving out 30 HOPE DVDs every month. Since 2009, he has given out 609 DVDs! Mike’s story with The HOPE is inspiring! Read it on page 4, “15 Years of HOPE.”

The First Believers in Their Village

In April, in a remote Bankariya village in Nepal, one of our ministry partners approached us with this request: “Will you please send us a projector? The Bankariya are an unreached people group of about 500 people. They live in several small villages. Excited to see the movie, Lavita invited her father to join her. After viewing The HOPE, they both gave their lives to Christ. Our partner told us Lavita and her father are the very first Believers in their village. From the map at the right, the labeled red dot in the top left corner represents the Bankariya. The other red dots represent other unreached people groups! This is why we continue to do what we do!”
for me, the one He’d written from before time (Eph. 2:10). I began to see how small selfishness was in my desire to create that blockbuster film. I had to use everything He had entrusted to me for the purpose of helping to bring the unreached nations to the throne of the Lamb!

This is soil in which the seeds for our video, The HOPE, were planted. And to be clear, The HOPE is unlike any movie I would have ever dreamed on my own. It mirrors many of the principles I learned in film school. It is essentially the result of what missionaries around the world told us they needed, an overview of His story, from creation through the Cross. The HOPE is not about me or you or the Church. But the proof of its value is as they say, “in the pudding.”

There are over 70 translations/adaptations in use around the world with over 25 new translations in process. Of all the translations, My heart has latched onto. As many as the others are the result of missionaries and ministries who have approached us requesting a translation for the people group they are working to reach. And the requests continue to come!

Sure, there have been many moments when my resolve to follow His storyline for my life has been tested. With the current wave of “Christian films” in the mainstream marketplace, I am constantly reminded of the dream I once held dear. But I can also remember very clearly the morning that our Father showed me that I will have eternity to explore new creative endeavors, but I can only follow this storyline now. The type of Christian films that are being made in Hollywood would not work with tribal groups on the Amazon or with those living in closed access Muslim countries. In fact, they would not work with the many people who are willing to pursue God’s story for their lives, and He weaves many stories into one!

Jesus’s Story: Our Example - Even Jesus submitted Himself to the script the Father had written for Him. Several times in the book of John we see that Jesus did not act or speak on His own initiative, but rather He came to do the will of the Father (John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38, 8:28, 8:42, 12:49, 14:10). We read in First Peter 2:23-24 that, “... while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He left us an example, in order that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds we were healed.” Had Jesus not followed the storyline the Father had written from before time, even to death, we would not know Him today!

Your Story – The One He Has Written for You - How about you? Is the story you are living out, the one He has written for you? If so, though it may at times be difficult, perhaps even very difficult, I assure you that the time will come when you will know indescribable fulfillment in our Father’s pleasure. I believe He has created every person to live out a very unique personal story within His greater story. I know that God doesn’t have a “go to” tool for everyone, but I do believe He has written for you with The HOPE. But I am convinced that each of us is called to find our personal story within the greater story of His glory!

May He live large in you so that you might know the joy of walking in the story He has written for you! And may you be blessed so that you might be a blessing to others and bring glory to God!

The Reach of The HOPE - How & Where It Is Used

To understand the ministry of The HOPE, it is first helpful to be aware of these two things. a) The HOPE is not an entertainment product. It is an adaptable and versatile media tool. By definition, a tool is a device used to perform a particular function. Some tools can be used to perform multiple functions. Some people have “go-to” tools, like a favorite kitchen knife.

Some of our favorite stories come from individual Christ followers who simply have a dream or desire must be released to make way for a better story. This also includes our board and the many people who have faithfully prayed for and given to our work with The HOPE. Such choices often come with a sacrifice. Sometimes a dream or desire must be released to make way for a better one. What is happening with The HOPE is only possible as many people are willing to pursue God’s story for their lives, and He weaves many stories into one!

For many Christian workers around the world, The HOPE has become a “go-to” ministry tool. b) The power of The HOPE does not come from its production value (technical and stylistic merits.) The power comes from the script, which is essentially God’s redemptive story from creation through Christ. It is the Gospel, “… the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes…” - Romans 1:16. That said, these are some of the ways The HOPE has been used around the world in 2018 …

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Last year, one of our partners put up a Facebook page in the main language of one of the most populated Muslim countries in the world. This page streams video clips of the 36 Biblical events that make up The HOPE. Several clips have been viewed by millions of people. Tens of thousands of people have posted comments on these clips. Replying to these posts, our partners begin online conversations about Jesus. This has been a very fruitful strategy! We are now working with other partners to set up Facebook pages for their language groups.

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