

Your Invitation

There is a timeless story of redemption that weaves through the pages of the Bible like a **scarlet thread**.
It is the Story of God's Promise for All People; the metanarrative that explains every narrative.



The HOPE is an 80-minute dramatic motion picture presentation of this amazing story as revealed in 36 Biblical events from creation through the promised return of Christ.



Dear Potential Partner,

Thank you for taking time to consider this invitation to partner in an adaptation of The HOPE.

At Mars Hill, we understand that our role in the Great Commission is simply that of a toolmaker. The value of our work is defined, not by the tool we have created, but by the workers who use the tool. That is why we are so grateful for you, and for what you do. And that is why we are so eager to work with you to make The HOPE whatever you need it to be. One of the primary goals in creating The HOPE was to make it easily adaptable to the needs of those who would use it. This booklet will give you a sense of how that can be accomplished.

If you believe the people group God has called you to reach could benefit from an adaptation of The HOPE in their heart language or if you just want to learn more, then please do not hesitate to contact us. We truly hope to hear from you.

Until All Have Heard,

Fred Cargenter

President, Mars Hill Productions

Opposite: Images from a showing of The Khmer HOPE at Prey Boh Village in Cambodia.

For a 90 second sampling of scenes from The HOPE, click on this play button.



Why The HOPE

Before making The HOPE, we went to missionaries around the world with two questions: *“Could you use another media tool in addition to the JESUS Film?”* and if so, *“What should it look like?”* The resounding response was *“Yes!”*, with a recurring request for a tool that met four criteria . . .

1) The Gospel as Story for Oral Learners - Over 60% of the Unreached People Groups consist of Oral Learners. These people do not readily embrace a “western” Gospel presentation with 3 points, a conclusion and an application. They relate to stories. The HOPE presents the greatest story ever told.

2) The Whole Story - Most Unreached People groups do not have a basis for basic Biblical concepts like sin or the existence of a perfect Creator of everything. The Gospel, presented as the metanarrative scarlet thread of the Bible, provides a necessary foundation, and a story that explains every other story.

3) Culturally Adaptable - People need to see and hear God’s promise delivered in their heart language, by one of their own, in a manner they can understand. As you will see on the following pages, The HOPE is unparalleled in its adaptability.

4) Quality - How we do what we do reveals what we believe about God as much, or more, than what we say about Him. The HOPE uses dramatic motion picture scenes from some of the greatest Biblical epics ever made. Plans are now underway to update several scenes. Because standards of quality are constantly changing, we view The HOPE as a living project.



Leveraging the power of media through the power of partnering to proclaim the Gospel . . . ‘the Power of God unto Salvation!’

- Romans 1:16

Translations

There are now more than 65 translations of The HOPE in use by ministries worldwide, with over 25 new translations currently in production. We’ve received thousands of reported decisions for Christ from those who have viewed The HOPE in their heart language.



Each translation of The HOPE involves a translation team like this one in Papua New Guinea, plus a production team and workers in the field who want to use it.

Power Through Partnering



In remote villages, like this one in Nepal, people who've never heard the Gospel view The HOPE, come to Christ, and a Church is planted.

Hundreds of ministry partners around the world play vital roles in the creation and use of The HOPE. Of all HOPE adaptations, completed and in process, Mars Hill has initiated less than 15. The others have been at the request of our ministry partners.

Leverage Through Technology

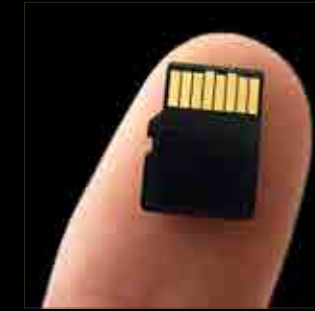
- Solar Powered Video Projection - From the jungles of the Amazon to the mountains of Nepal, The HOPE can be uploaded to these small projectors and carried to the most remote places on earth.



Partners use solar powered projectors like this to show The HOPE.

- Internet - Multiple languages of The HOPE stream for free online and are viewed by people 24/7. Many of these visitors are from the Middle East and are coming to faith in Christ.
- Satellite Broadcast - The HOPE is often broadcast into regions of North Africa, the Middle East and Asia that are hostile to the Gospel.
- Micro SD Cards - These tiny media cards can easily hold a HOPE video and a Bible. Inserted into

a mobile phone, it is a perfect way to distribute The HOPE to the underground Church in places where it is illegal to have a Bible or a Christian video. It is also an ideal method for sharing The HOPE in the refugee communities of our world.



One Micro SD Card can hold several translations of The HOPE.



Like something from a sci-fi spy movie, missionaries use this unit to covertly share The HOPE.

to log on. And if the unit has been placed by one of our partners, people will often find The HOPE, and the Gospel!

- Micro Wi-Fi - This little unit can be secretly placed under a table in a marketplace in a security sensitive country. When people in places like this discover a free Wi-Fi signal, they are quick

Derivative Projects

These projects are often led by our partners. One of these, an ESL software curriculum built entirely around The HOPE, is used by missionaries worldwide.



At the time of this photo, 70 people had come to Christ through this Canadian ESL class after using The ESL HOPE.

The HOPE Study Guide

The 167-page HOPE Study Guide is now used in 11 languages to disciple people around the world.



This is just one of many HOPE Study groups led by lay pastors in Haiti.

International Students

The HOPE is a primary media tool used by Bridges International (CRU) to share the Gospel with International Students in the U.S.



Nearly one million International Students are enrolled in the U.S.

Adapting The HOPE Through Art & Technology



Storytellers can be combined with dramatic images and then replaced with storytellers from different people groups.

In The HOPE, storytellers provide the commentary and continuity necessary to weave together a great amount of Biblical content in a relatively short amount of time. At times, these storytellers appear on screen along with images from the story they are relating. In other sections, they are absent from the screen, allowing the dramatic scenes to move the story forward. Because The HOPE has been digitally mastered, storytellers can easily be replaced. Thus, The HOPE can be adapted for any people group.



Voice-Over Storyteller Adaptations

In some cases, our partners decide not to use on-screen storytellers, sometimes for reasons of security and/or safety. In these situations, a voice-only narrator is often used. This kind of HOPE adaptation usually costs less and requires less time to produce than on-screen storyteller versions. Mars Hill almost always defers this decision to the partners in the field.

A sampling of storytellers in various versions of The HOPE, *The Story of God's Promise for All People*

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| English (Global) | | English with African Storytellers (Africa) | |
| Spanish (Global) | | Khmer (Cambodia) | |
| French (France) | | Romanian (Romania) | |
| Japanese (Japan) | | Telugu (India) | |
| Swahili (Sub-Sahara Africa) | | German (Germany) | |
| Thai (Thailand) | | Mandarin (China) | |
| Arabic (Middle East) | | Russian (Russia) | |
| Creole (Haiti) | | Tagalog (Philippines) | |



Our storyteller searched far and wide for Truth. To listen to his original song, “The Song of the Wanderer,” while you read the story, [click here](#).



A Case Study in Cultural Relevance with The HOPE

Deep in Western China lies the region of Tibet. Predominantly Buddhist, it is home to 86 unreached people groups. The Tibetan version of The HOPE exemplifies our willingness to work with partners to create culturally relevant versions of The HOPE for the unreached oral peoples of the world. Our three lead partners in this project—a missionary, an ethnomusicologist and a filmmaker—felt 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, our partners created new film footage depicting a storyteller who, in typical Buddhist tradition, travels around sharing his story and worldview with villagers.

The man tells how he traveled far and wide searching for truth, and ultimately found an elder who had 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

His search led to an old man who had a book that tells the story of the world.

Thangka. Our Thangkas were created especially to illustrate the 36 Biblical events portrayed in The HOPE. As the plot develops, the story goes back and forth from The HOPE to scenes of the storyteller’s account of his search for truth.

The use of the traditional artwork, a Tibetan soundtrack and native dances resulted in a powerful, culturally relevant media tool used by many to share the Gospel in that part of the world. A recent article in the International Orality Network Journal explained that creating a HOPE adaptation like the Tibetan version provides a way for people from all cultures to see that Christ did not only come as a Deliverer for other people – but for them too!

One of our earliest blessings from this project was a Buddhist monk who came to Christ after viewing The Tibetan HOPE. Since the original Tibetan HOPE, three more Tibetan dialects have been created using the same footage.

In other HOPE adaptations, partners have created unique footage and new introductions to share the Gospel in impactful ways. The HOPE is a living project, designed to be adapted to your specific people’s culture and language.

Ethnomusicologist, Ian Collinge, and Tibetan colleague working on soundtrack



Storyteller pointing to one of four Thangkas created to parallel the 36 Biblical events in The HOPE



Thangkas from The Tibetan HOPE



The 1st Thangka depicts creation and the fall of man.
The seeker is in the lower left corner.



The 2nd Thangka shows how the promise of a Deliverer
was kept alive through the events of the Old Testament.



The 3rd Thangka chronicles the key events of the life
of Christ that are shown in The HOPE.



The 4th Thangka illustrates future events, including the
return of Christ and the gathering of the nations.

Sign Language Spoken Here

One of the early HOPE adaptation projects was a sign language version for the deaf people of Uruguay. It seemed like a splendid idea . . . just place signers over the images in the same way that speaking storytellers were used in other versions of The HOPE. Indeed, it was exciting to see the response of the deaf community to a film project that was made especially for them. Many of the deaf in Uruguay understood the



Signing how God's love and justice intersected at the cross

Gospel for the first time; and they responded. But we also learned a valuable lesson. People cannot visually concentrate on two things at the same time. Future sign versions of The HOPE need to be lengthened, opening up the movie's timeline to position signers in places that don't conflict with critical background images. This is the plan for all new sign versions of The HOPE.



Some in this deaf community came to Christ after viewing The HOPE. All expressed their gratitude to have such a tool!



Steps to Create a New Adaptation of The HOPE

- **Contact Mars Hill** - Simply let us know if you are interested in a translation of The HOPE. A Mars Hill partnering director will answer any questions and help get things moving.
- **Assess** - Are you ready to start now? If not, then when? What relationships and resources are available to you? What obstacles and challenges do you face? We'd like to help.
- **Partner** - Determine who is in the project partnership, i.e., other ministries, churches, etc.
- **Plan, Schedule & Budget** - Do you need a version with or without on-screen storytellers? Do you need a new introduction? Map out the project and the projected cost.
- **Funding** - In most adaptation projects our partners cover the majority of the cost. However, Mars Hill has been, and is, willing to fundraise to address the cost of a project. We have found that where God guides in a project, He also provides.
- **Translate & Back-translate** - Typically, best practices require a written translation and back-translation. In groups without a written language, a voice-to-voice method will suffice.
- **Production & Post-Production** - Mars Hill is building a global network of production partners. Nearly every version of The HOPE has been recorded and mixed by one of these partners.
- **Delivery** - Solar powered video projection systems, downloads to mobile devices, DVDs, SD cards and more. . . Get The HOPE to your people in the most appropriate method.

Opposite: A field recordist in a make-shift sound studio on the Amazon with an indigenous speaker working on the Wayampi version of The HOPE



Final Thoughts

The power of The HOPE is its message; God's grand redemptive story, the Gospel, the power of God for salvation. The HOPE is just the vehicle for the message. And as such, many elements of The HOPE (i.e., storytellers, music and video) can be changed to make this tool what you need it to be. In fact, work is now underway to update many of the images in The HOPE, and also to create a version that connects with indigenous tribal cultures. As we say, The HOPE is a living project. In a sense, it is more like a software program than a conventional motion picture. It was designed to be updated.

As stewards of The HOPE, we desire to guard the integrity of the message, and to preserve the rights we've received for footage used in The HOPE. Beyond this, we do not want to hold this resource tightly. Rather, we want to offer it to the worldwide Body of Christ, so that it may become His tool. Our highest goal with The HOPE is to help you make it what it needs to be, so He can use it in your hands to reach those who do not yet know of His love.

And so what is the next step? Prayer is always the next step. Then, if you would like to learn more, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would love to have a conversation, if only to explore the possibilities. And please know that we are used to dealing with security sensitive situations.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider this invitation.





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