

A Newsletter from **missionary ventures**

INVOLVE

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Reaching Non-Literate Peoples with the Gospel

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RUGGED TRIPS to the UNREACHED:

Distribute audio scriptures in villages

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Left to Right: Dr. Carl Moeller, President of Open Doors; John Ogden, Sr., Chairman of the Board of Christian Motorcyclists Association; Glen Dubois, President of MV; Chris McQuirk, Regional Representative of The Jesus Film Project.

Dear Friend of Missionary Ventures,

We are so excited to be **involved** in what God is doing around the world. My wife Linda and I just returned from a leadership conference in Zimbabwe which we hosted with our three ministry partners (Christian Motorcyclists Association, Open Doors, and the Jesus Film Project). After decades of relentless oppression and inflation, the economy of Zimbabwe has collapsed. Before their money was devalued, a loaf of bread cost 800 million Zimbabwe dollars. Our brothers and sisters in the Lord there are enduring the worst kind of suffering and hunger. Yet as all they see and experience in the natural is collapsing, their faith and trust in God is the strongest I've ever seen. One thing they have not lost is the freedom of worship. The church is strong and is making a difference in so many lives.

The global economic downturn has affected most of us reading this magazine today, yet God is calling us to continue to make a difference in lives around the world. I pray today as you read about how we are reaching non-literate people groups around the world, you will be reminded that life is not primarily about things that can be seen, but things that cannot be seen. *For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal* (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Thank you for your partnership, prayers and generosity; it is working mightily for Jesus.

Glen Dubois, President

P.S. Please check out our new website at www.mvi.org

GETTING THE SCRIPTURES

HEARD

By Jim and Jamie Loker, Regional Coordinators in Mexico

I'll never forget that day in 1992 when I walked into a storeroom in Oaxaca, Mexico. Dusty boxes of New Testaments filled row upon row. Many of those translations dated back to the 1960's. Decades had been invested in getting God's Word into the heart language of the people, yet it was still inaccessible. It was at that moment I realized that most of the indigenous people of Mexico would probably never receive the gospel through the printed page. Missionary Ventures would play an integral role in getting the message heard.

>>continued on next page



Scripture tells us that “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God....” This verse is especially true for 70% of the world’s population who are considered non-literate or oral learners. Most cannot read and have no desire to learn to read. Others simply have no evangelistic materials available in their own language. For non-literate people, hearing the Word of God is their only hope for coming to faith in Christ.

Missionary Ventures is actively addressing the plight of these non-literate people by cooperating in strategic partnerships with such groups as Wycliffe Bible Translators, Megavoice (providing audio Bibles), and Hosanna (audio recording ministry). Working together, we have been

able to get the scriptures out of the storeroom and into a form that the people can use. Since 2002, Missionary Ventures Mexico has produced audio recordings of the New Testament in almost 40 languages. Thousands of cassettes, CDs, and MP3 scripture portions have been distributed to date.

The scriptures are now being formatted on a small hand-held, solar-powered player enabling those living in the most remote areas of Mexico to have access to God’s Word in their own language. Farmers are able to hear God’s Word as they plow their fields with ox-driven plows. Women washing their clothes at the river’s edge are able to listen to the scriptures while they work. Inmates in prison are being

set free by the truth they hear in God’s Word. The lack of electricity, batteries, and cassette players are no longer a hindrance to getting the message heard.

Hearing and understanding the Bible for the very first time, people in Mexico are responding in faith. They are being healed dramatically and living victoriously. Broken relationships are being reconciled as people put into practice all they hear. Churches are being planted in hard to reach areas using non-printed materials, and

pastors are being trained to reach their own people using oral scriptures. In places where there are no church leaders, the audio Bibles are serving as temporary pastors.

It is inspiring to hear the enthusiastic response of non-literate people as they first hear the message in their heart language. One group of women voluntarily committed to listening to the audio Bible an hour each day. This amounts to hearing the entire New Testament twelve times in a year. For those of us whose shelves are filled with different English translations of the Bible, we are humbled by the examples set by these uneducated believers who are effortlessly absorbing and memorizing the New Testament.

After 20 years of transla-



Left page: Recording the Bible to Megavoice speakers. Below: Sound technician finishing the project. Mixe-speaking people receiving the audio Bible for the first time.



tion work, the written New Testament in the Mixe language was finally finished last year. Missionary Ventures sound technicians went to work and recorded this New Testament in just a few months. In October 2008, a short-term team from a church in Michigan helped to complete the task of getting the message heard by providing Megavoice players to 100 Mixe-speaking families. The team spent a week visiting various homes in this mountainous area, praying with people and distributing the audio Scriptures. Most of the

recipients heard God's Word in their own language for the very first time.

There is still much work to do. You can join the effort to reach the remaining unreached people groups of Mexico and beyond, by partnering with us financially, joining a short-term team, or helping us recruit young people to set up recording studios and scripture distribution centers around the world. Until all have heard...

For more information, contact Missionary Ventures Regional Coordinator, Jim Loker, jim@loker.us



A GOOD STORY *by Alec & Tammy Millen, Field Coordinators in Tanzania*

Research shows that two-thirds of the world's population are oral learners, either by necessity or by choice. What that means is that their preferred way of learning is not through reading, but through a good story! Historically, most communicators of the good news of Jesus Christ have come from highly literate cultures. They presented God's message as they preferred to learn—through literate means and Western style preaching.

Although many people have made decisions for Christ, there has been a lack of understanding what it really means to be a follower of Jesus.

Because the style of presenting God's message seemed strange to them, many have been cut off from really "hearing" the message of Jesus in a way that they can understand deep in their hearts.

God has been leading us to bring His message to one of the least reached people groups in the heart of Tanzania, East Africa. These people are primarily oral learners, so we are seeking to communicate the gospel in ways that 'mirror' their culturally established way of teaching. As we have listened for His guidance, we have received confirmation that telling God's story of re-

demption using the narrative (i.e. stories) of the Bible is the best method to evangelize and disciple them.

Alongside the oral proclamation of the gospel, we are looking for opportunities to spread the influence of the kingdom of God through acts of mercy. This includes development projects focused on sanitation, hygiene, water, and nutrition. Please pray for this Muslim people group to come to know the God of love, as they hear of and experience the love of God found in Christ.



PROJECTS



Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. It is working! The MV projects in this *Involve* newsletter play a strategic role in helping us to reach entire people groups with the gospel. It is such a joy to see the extent that the Lord uses your partnership to further His kingdom. Listed below are last quarter's Involve projects:

LAST MONTH'S PROJECTS COST UPDATE

- Construct a church in Guatemala \$25,000
We still need a sponsor.
- Build 40 latrines in Haiti \$720 each
*15 sponsors. Praise God!
25 more to finish this project.*

- Put a roof on five new churches in Gracias, Honduras \$1,200 each

2 funded and built. Praise God!

3 still to be funded and built.

- Sponsor MV's baby milk formula program in Zambia \$1,200 a year

Fully funded. Praise God!

All of these projects and His provision are miracles of God, and we are very grateful. Here are some new projects to prayerfully consider sponsoring.

AUDIO BIBLE

Provide the Audio Bible to non-literate people groups who have no access to the Scriptures. These portable, hand-held, solar powered players contain the recorded New Testament of an Indian language. They allow the Scriptures to be heard by people who live in isolated mountainous regions of Southern Mexico. They are ideal for individual or family listening. The players are protected so that the listener cannot alter the audio. **Cost \$32 each.**

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JESUS FILM PRODUCTION

The Jesus film, dubbed into an Indian language, is needed in many communities of Mexico. The people don't understand Spanish, so the message must be communicated in their mother tongue. Help us to provide this vital instrument to people who have never heard the gospel message. After the script is translated into the target language, we recruit 12 different native speakers to record the various voices in the movie. People are amazed when they hear Jesus speaking their language. This is a tremendous evangelistic and teaching tool. **Cost \$3000 per language.**

PORTABLE PROJECTION SYSTEM

This video projector system comes complete with screen, speakers, and all the equipment necessary to project the Jesus film to an audience of 1000 people. The amazing thing is that all of this equipment can be transported in a single backpack. The system is powered by rechargeable batteries and has a solar panel for recharging in remote locations. The backpack unit can easily be transported down river into the jungle or up into the mountains. **Cost \$3200.**

MINI RECORDING STUDIO

There are many recording needs around the world. The New Testament is translated and printed, but people are still waiting to hear the Word of God. We would like to set up and equip mini-recording studios in various locations of Mexico and around the world. The equipment is totally portable, and allows a team to do recordings in very remote locations. The team would also have duplication equipment, enabling them to quickly duplicate and distribute the materials to the people. **Cost \$5000.**

Teams

Join a short-term mission trip

Mexico

Even with all of today's technological advances, including audio scriptures and the Jesus film in the language of a people, many areas of Mexico are still considered unreached with the gospel. Before people can become believers and establish a church, preliminary groundbreaking needs to be done to penetrate an area with the gospel. There are strongholds of the enemy, the devil, which need to be systematically torn down. The only way this is possible is through warfare level prayer. We are seeking teams of mature, dedicated believers of all ages who are willing to engage in battle on behalf of the hearts of future believers in Oaxaca, Mexico. Some book reading and lots of prayer support will be required before attempting this type of venture. Not all applicants will be accepted.



Mexico

Your team will travel to a remote village location where you will minister with local believers to distribute Audio Bibles to Indian families. Most of these people are unable to read, so the Audio Bible will provide them access to God's Word. For many, this will be the first opportunity to hear the message of Jesus Christ in their own language. The team will experience the rugged side of Oaxaca, Mexico where tour buses never frequent, eating the local foods, staying with local families, and walking the mountainous trails to deliver God's Word. The team will also be asked to provide the funds to purchase at least 100 Audio Bibles and hand carry them to Mexico.

More teams on back cover or check out www.mvi.org

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Argentina

Pastor David Saint has a vibrant church in Cordoba, Argentina. We are taking a construction team to assist him in adding three Sun-

day school classrooms and two bathrooms. This project will cost \$7,000. The main requirement of each team member is to come with a heart full of love. This is going to be an amazing short-term missions experience.

Mexico Medical/Dental Team

What can be done when the ministry door is closed? The people are unreached, and don't want to hear the message of Jesus. Missionary Ventures has found Medical and Dental outreaches to be stra-

tegic door openers for establishing relationships with village leaders. As the medical team cares for local patients, they show the love of Christ in action and help to open the door for future ministry in the community. We need medical personnel and other interested people to conduct clinics in remote communities where health care is sporadic. These are rugged, adventurous trips. The team will walk the local trails, visit people in their homes, and live in the community during their time in Oaxaca.

Mexico Church Construction Team

We are seeking individuals who are willing to use their abilities to assist local believers to build a church in a remote village. This will not be just another church building in the community. In many cases, this is the first and only church in the surrounding area. The team members will live with the people and experience village life during the project. We are not only looking for skilled folks, but any willing workers can apply. Some heavy lifting may be required.