

TOKYO 2010

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Story RunnersTM

Telling the Greatest Story

“Oral Story Bible”

A Breakthrough Strategy in Scripture Access

Zero Access to the Gospel





The Challenge of Scripture Access in the 21st Century

We'll examine the need briefly in three different ways:

1. How many groups don't have access
2. Where they live
3. Who they are

How many groups do not have access?

- 6,900 languages on earth
- 2,252 languages have zero Scripture today
- Hundreds of Languages have just a few chapters of Scripture in their language

How many groups do not have access?

- 2 billion people need access to the Old Testament to build bridges of understanding to Jesus. (These are primarily Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhists)
- 350 million people with zero access to the gospel.

Basic Assumptions

- ✓ **People respond better to the Gospel at a heart level when the Gospel is shared in their mother tongue (heart language).**

Basic Assumptions

- ✓ **All Gospel messages should be based on God's Word (printed materials, audio, radio, film) because God's Word is the basis of our faith.**

Basic Assumptions

- ✓ **With zero access to God's Word in their local language, it is very difficult to see people won to Christ and disciplined and multiply into healthy groups.**

Basic Assumptions

**Each of us in this room
owes a great debt to
Bible Translators**

Basic Assumptions

- ✓ **Because of the sacrifice of Bible translators, the church worldwide is seeing amazing progress in hundreds of languages in recent decades.**

Basic Assumptions

- ✓ We dream together of God's Word available to every language, tribe, and people group ...
in our generation.



Who They Are . . .

Where They Live

A Breakthrough Strategy for Rapid Response Teams

000000000 – ZERO ACCESS to the Gospel

In partnership with Bible Translators and church planters, we set out on a prayerful journey to seek a breakthrough to the challenge of:

- Unreached people groups with zero Scripture
- Zero Gospel resources
- Zero Believers
- Zero Indigenous Churches

The Process

- A team of two people will go for two years from near culture or across borders.
- They are trained in a step by step learning process.
- They search for local believers or a “person of peace” to work with.

The Process

➤ During their first training, they begin to learn Old Testament stories, how to tell the stories naturally, and discuss how story telling is done in their target culture.



The Process



While learning the local language and culture, they begin telling Old Testament stories through their language helper or local translator, sharing stories in the order that they happened in history.

The Process

➡ Each team will be coached in developing a set of Bible stories from Creation to Christ to the early church in Acts – usually 30-40 stories.



Old Testament

- 1 Creation
- 2 Disobedience
- 3 Flood
- 4 Abraham
- 5 Sarah
- 6 Abraham and Issac
- 7 David King
- 8 Joseph
- 9 Promise (Isaiah 53)

New Testament

- 14 Birth
- 15 Jesus' Baptism
- 16 Possessed Man
- 17 Woman at the Well
- 18 Woman with Blood
- 19 Jesus Feeds 5,000
- 20 Jealous Religious Leaders
- 21 Conspiracy and Last Supper
- 22 Jesus Betrayed
- 23 Jesus' Trial
- 24 Jesus Crucified
- 25 Resurrection
- 26 God's Spirit
- 27 African
- 28 Paul meets Jesus
- 29 Philippian Jailer
- 30 Return

The Process

↪ Each team develops a redemptive theme and adds stories to address the local beliefs (worldview).



The Process


- Teams are encouraged to start story groups of non-believers who want to hear the stories.



The Process

- ↪ These story groups provide a way to test for understanding and re-telling of the stories.
- ↪ Teams are trained in word choices, Bible terms, and some basic translation issues.

The Process

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- Teams are trained in leading story sessions which include:
- Telling the story
 - Rehearsing the story
 - See if someone can re-tell the story (corrections are made)
 - Discussion of the story (the discovery process which is so powerful to experience)
 - Re-tell the story once more after discussion to keep it fresh

Discussion



Stories

- The stories are recorded on a simple device.
- They are tested and checked for accuracy, comprehension, and word choice by a translation consultant.
- Changes are made to the stories, as needed and a final recording is made of the story set (these recordings provide an “oral text” of Scripture).

Stories

- The stories are passed on person to person



Stories

- Digital and audio players can be used, as well as radio (e.g. Story on Proclaimer)



Stories

- The new believers form house churches. They often use Bible stories for worship, drama, evangelism, discipleship.



Outcomes



↪ A first generation of story tellers sharing the stories in the local language

Outcomes

↪ Small story groups formed



Outcomes

- Audio recordings of the stories that are consultant-checked “oral text”
- Digital players for broad sowing
- Story sets with Bible stories from Creation to Christ’s return

The Need

- In just two to three short years, a people group living today with zero access to the Gospel could begin hearing the Gospel for the first time in history.
- There are Oral Story Teams in 40+ countries, but they are just a beginning – each group needs to be reached in 180 countries.

The Need

- Teams from each people group or nearby cultures who will commit two years to begin work among an unreached people group.
- Prayer and intercession for each group
- Local coordinators and facilitators
- Funding partners

The Need



It's easy to get overwhelmed with 2,252 groups, but just consider your impact on 1 or 5 or 10 of these people groups.

Final Thoughts

- Finishing a task only happens if we start the task. We believe the Great Commission begins and ends with God's Word!



Final Thoughts

- Could our generation be the first one to give every language, tribe, and people group access to the Greatest Story Ever told?

Final Thoughts

They're still waiting to hear....





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