

THE
BATTLE
OF OUR AGE
FIGHTING
FOR THE HEARTS
AND MINDS
OF THE NEXT
GENERATION

by **Bob Hoskins**

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So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I have sent it.

— Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all the friends of OneHope who faithfully give and fervently pray — your passion for sharing the Good News with the next generation has brought hope to more than 900 million young people and, by God’s grace, will soon reach a billion! Thank you.

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INTRODUCTION

A VISION OF EVIL

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

— Romans 10:14 (NIV)

The vision that shaped my life at age 7 never left me — and in some ways it prepared me for another vision, which the Lord gave me in 1986. This was a vision of evil: in my mind I saw the children of the world, the next generation, viciously attacked by Satan with every wickedness you can imagine: AIDS and disease, poverty, famine, natural disasters, violence, gangs, war, drugs, addiction, immorality, impurity, sexual abuse, child abuse ... In my vision, the children were defenseless and caught in the grasp of all these horrors — a concerted attack by the enemy to trap them and keep them bound for hell. The message was so clear: if the devil could claim their souls while they were young, with every year they grew older they would be less and less likely to choose Christ as Savior. Attacking the most vulnerable in their formative years gave the devil his greatest advantage!

I was stunned and saddened. I cried out to God: “How can we stop this? What is the answer? How do we fight back against this terrible attack and win the next generation to Jesus?”

This burden was so great on me, the impact of what I had seen was so raw and painful to me, I asked my friends and family to pray, too, for God’s direction, for clarity as to what we could possibly do.

And God is faithful. His answer came. When I asked what I could do, He said:

“I want you to reach the next generation with my Word. And you’ll do it through leaders.”

His Word would be the answer. His Word would be our weapon, for fighting back, for winning the next generation. He promises in Isaiah 55:11 that His Word always accomplishes what He intends, and now we knew His Word would transform the next generation. “He sent out his word, and healed them; he rescued them from the grave,” says Psalm 107:20 (NIV). This is what the children needed! Healing and salvation from destruction! This is what we give them, when we give them God’s Word. Of course, Christ Himself is the Living Word (“In the beginning was the Word ...” John 1:1a, NIV). And the Scriptures testify of Him.

Now we had our answer! The vision of horror was to be met with the life-transforming Word of God. A new “vision” would respond to the frightening one — the new vision of “God’s Word. Every Child.” We knew that we would reach the young people of the world with the Word of God and somehow do it through leaders. We began reaching out to the governmental and educational leaders of various nations with gifts of Bibles — and soon God opened the door to reach every schoolchild in the entire nation of El Salvador with the Good News.

We developed the *Book of Hope*, a children’s Scripture book; the story of Jesus that shows His love and mercy and how they could have eternal and abundant life — but this was only the beginning. God opened more doors, grew the ministry, and today, we are currently at work in approximately 80 nations of the world, providing Scripture engagement programs in dozens of languages and versions and forms of media — film, the printed page, digital and web resources, and much more. With God’s help, and the prayers and gifts of His people, we’ve already presented God’s Word to more than 900 million young people all over the world — and we have a plan to reach them all by the year 2030!

The devil, however, hasn’t been idle since 1986 when God gave me this vision. If anything, he has been overactive, making those scenes of horror a reality, with child soldiers in Africa, Asia and Latin America, an AIDS epidemic in much of Africa, the march of radical Islam, the explosion of the child sex-trafficking trade, and more. In the past 25 to 30 years, there have also been other, more subtle and deceptive, yet equally devastating attacks on the next generation.

- ▶ The media has glorified pop stars and “idols” above real heroes who stand for truth and sacrifice.
- ▶ Homosexuality has become an accepted lifestyle choice — many of today’s young people don’t even see same-sex relationships and marriage as a moral issue at all.
- ▶ Young women are encouraged to sexually objectify *themselves* in the name of empowerment, as witnessed by the glut of essentially pornographic pop music videos and displays.
- ▶ Immorality and lawlessness that would have been rejected even by the average sinner in the street 25 years ago are now seen as ordinary and acceptable in much of North America and Western Europe.
- ▶ And the North American youth culture has exported this same twisted set of “values” all over the globe — wherever movies, television, and the Internet can take them. Cultural breakdown follows in the wake, as evidenced by things like Japan’s practice of *enjo kosai* or “paid dating” — where young girls prostitute themselves for money and gifts of designer clothes and electronics.

It’s clear that children and youth are at a crisis point — in desperate need of a radical change that can deliver them from evil!

Every form of wickedness that my vision foretold

FOREWORD

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

has been unleashed against children around the world, plus other attacks that I did not foresee. It's crucial that we push back against the darkness, fight back against the evil, and rescue the hearts and souls of these young people. The Word of God, implanted in the hearts of the next generation, can make all the difference for them, and for the future of the whole planet.

You see, we aren't talking about a battle only for the souls of churchgoing children, or the souls of English-speaking children, or the souls of Third World children — but a battle for the soul of every single child on earth, because each one is at risk, and God loves each one. This is why we work so hard to tailor our programs to speak directly and effectively to the heart-felt needs of each new culture, language, age group ... because our mission is to *affect destiny by providing God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world.*

This vision began more than 25 years ago — the first *Book of Hope* was developed in 1987, and I was already 50 years old then. I'm still going strong — I intend to stay connected and fruitful with the ministry of OneHope as long as God sees fit to leave me here on this earth. I even pray and believe I'll be here for the fulfillment of Vision 2030, our strategic initiative to reach every child and youth on earth by the year 2030. But this massive, global ministry requires the strength, energy, and vision of a younger leader, and I am so thankful that my son Rob has stepped up as OneHope President. He is a visionary, and God has anointed him tremendously for what I truly believe is end-time ministry. You'll see great evidence of that in the pages that follow. You'll find stories from the early years of OneHope ministry with the *Book of Hope*, and you'll read exciting stories of the new era, too — film, digital media, and more. God's hand is in this; His Spirit brought us here and will continue to guide us.

The battle is on for the next generation. We welcome your partnership in winning this war, by the power of God's Word, one child at a time.

Just a word to anyone who would say the battle for the next generation must be fought along practical lines — that the answer to hungry children is food, and the answer to sick children is medicine, and the answer to abused children is rescue. I agree. I support compassionate ministries, and OneHope partners with some excellent outreaches to accomplish these vital aims. We believe in social justice.

But, even more, we believe in *spiritual* justice. Let me show you what I mean, by introducing you to Tiffany.

This beautiful little girl was growing up in a rough slum outside Lima, Peru. We met her at her school when we visited with a local church that was delivering the *Book of Hope* to the students. The book tells the life story of Jesus and explains the plan of salvation. Tiffany loved her new book, and she invited us to come home with her and meet her family. She was like a bright flower in a dusty *barrio*. We went to her house ... and received a shock. We surprised her mortified mother as the workmen were repossessing the tin roof of their small shack. They were too far behind in the payments. Tiffany's father, an alcoholic who abused his wife and children, couldn't keep a job or provide for the family ... and Tiffany's mother worked as a maid. Her meager wages often failed to keep food on the table — let alone keep up the installment payments on the roof.

The practical help we immediately wanted to give — to save the roof, or to rescue Tiffany from this abusive situation so she could have a better life, maybe go to a decent school — was beyond our means to give at that moment. We had to believe that what we *could* leave

with her, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, would somehow be enough to rescue her.

Turns out, by God's grace, it was.

Tiffany and her mother read through the *Book of Hope* that night, and decided to follow Jesus Christ. Our church partners in the area came alongside them, and soon Tiffany's older brother and sister also came to know Christ. Tiffany's father was not only surprised by the changes in his family, but very curious, too. He started coming to church with them ... and before long, he too chose to follow Christ. The abuse stopped.

Now happy for the first time in a long time, Tiffany's father was able to get, and keep, a steady job. The family began to prosper!

Tiffany continued to excel in school. As an adult, she made a good living. She had a comfortable life. But something tugged at her heart-strings. She still wanted something more. So she went back to school, received an education degree, and opened a preschool — right in the heart of her old neighborhood! "Little Stars of Love" is a place of joy and laughter for underprivileged children, a haven of hope for boys and girls where they receive a great preschool education and learn about the love of Jesus. Tiffany's "right-hand man" for the building and maintenance of her school? Her father.

Thank God we weren't able to whisk Tiffany away from that terrible situation we found her in, 15 years ago. Think of the children whose lives Tiffany is touching now ... where would they be without her?

We've discovered throughout the years of OneHope ministry that the answer to poverty, corruption and hopelessness cannot be found in political action or social justice, but must begin with the message of the Gospel which alone can transform hearts and minds.

And by His grace, it reproduces its positive results again and again ...

CHAPTER ONE

DRY BONES

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
— 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Is it really that simple? Reach a child with God's Word, and see the dramatic transformation of an entire family? It *is* that simple — and at the same time, it is quite a complex undertaking.

When we say we want to give God's Word to children, what we mean is that we want to give them the Gospel in a way that appeals to them, can be understood by them, and meets their most desperate heart-felt needs.

How does the ministry of OneHope try to ensure that we meet these criteria? *Research and testing*. This is one way that we've moved beyond the missions paradigms of the past. For many years, we were happy to report (and of course we still are!) how many children had been "reached with God's Word." Today, we push to know *how* these children's lives were changed — we want to know the actual *results*. This helps us to tailor the programs more closely to meet the needs of the children and young people we want to serve ... and it also generates a wealth of vital information for local churches and sister ministries as they endeavor to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to young people and see their lives transformed.

To this end, we mounted a *Spiritual State of the World's Children* research initiative — a multi-year, multi-nation project that involved the young people and their teachers. This showed us a baseline of the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors of young people in dozens of nations all over the world, including the United States.

The results of this study are helping us target the

most important heart-felt needs of the next generation with wisdom from God's Word, and show them how to follow Jesus Christ. Most importantly, it helps us ensure our programs bring about authentic spiritual transformation.

That's how it happened for a boy named François, in Madagascar ...

If you asked most people in Madagascar about their religion, they would say they are Christians. On the surface, it might look to you as if there's no need at all for us to "evangelize" in Madagascar, because they already have the Good News ... but then, if you dig deeper — as we did in our research — you'll discover a bizarre kind of syncretism and ancestor worship practiced alongside the Christianity of most Malagasy people. When François' father died and left him and his mother struggling to survive, the neighbors thought that the family must have offended the spirits in some way. The folk-religion practiced by most people in Madagascar suggested the solution was to dig up the bones of their ancestors, clean them up, bring them home to live in the house for a few days — maybe sleep in the same bed with them — and appease the spirits. Then all would be well, again.

This is the belief of those who follow the spirit-worship of the ancient tribal heritage of the Malagasy people. And it doesn't end with the cleansing of the bones. They have all kinds of strange customs: don't kick a wall or your grandma will die, be careful that ghosts don't follow you home from a funeral, and so on.

When we discovered this secret spiritual life, of course we wanted to be sure that our OneHope Scripture engagement programs were reaching the children of Madagascar with the full truth of the Gospel — the truth that the only One deserving of worship is our heavenly Father, and that only in Him alone do we really find abundant life! Otherwise, they might technically be "reached" with the Gospel, and yet continue to live in

bondage to ancestor worship ... a practice which has no power to help anyone in any circumstances. Certainly it didn't help François and his mother.

They struggled to survive on the minuscule amount of rice Mom could afford to buy, and the dregs of the vegetables she failed to sell each day. Some days, there was just no food at all. They were slowly starving. When François' uncle offered to take the boy home with him, his mother gratefully accepted. At least she could know that François was eating.

She was sadly mistaken, though.

François' uncle took him to another town, worked him like a slave, gave him very little to eat, and eventually made plans to *sell him* like a slave to another man.

At this point, François made a daring escape, and managed to get back home to his mother.

Times were still tough, but François joined his mother on her vegetable route, and together they tried to make enough money or find enough food to sustain themselves.

Like half of the children in Madagascar, François didn't go to school. He had attended before, in better days, but now his mother couldn't pay the fees. Nevertheless, when OneHope partnered with local churches in town to show our film, *The GodMan*, and give each child in local schools a copy of the *Book of Hope*, François was invited to come along with all of the young people who couldn't attend school.

He was amazed by what he saw in the film! Like most Malagasy children, he had seen crucifixes and heard the name of Jesus ... but he'd had no idea what the Gospel really was.

François knew that his neighbors and friends thought he and his mother should see a witchdoctor to try to dispel the curse they were living under — by digging up

the bones of their ancestors and praying to them — but after his encounter with Jesus through *The GodMan* film, he knew that what he and his mother needed instead was the gift of salvation!

Today, François and his mother are both following the one true God. Their local church family surrounded them and helped them survive. Now 19 years old, François works as a handyman at his church and, when he has time, travels with a team sharing *The GodMan* film and the *Book of Hope* with children and young people in other neighborhoods and cities. Our Scripture engagement programs helped him see the truth that spiritual power and the hope of eternity are found in Jesus Christ alone.

Our ministry team has conducted extensive research on the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors of Malagasy young people like François *after* their interaction with our Scripture programs — and we’ve found a dramatic, quantifiable difference in each category: young people are less likely to fear ghosts and believe in ancestor worship, and more likely to trust in God.

This is what we call “outcome-based” ministry. It is one of the core foundations of OneHope’s global outreach.

CHAPTER TWO

LEAVING ISLAM

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes ...
— Romans 1:16a (NIV)

Our OneHope mission: *to affect destiny by providing God’s eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world.*

What does this mean, though, and how do we know when we have truly “affected destiny” for a child?

We’ve discovered, in nations like Madagascar, that it isn’t always enough just to give a child the Scriptures — and with His help, we’ve also found that God’s Word can be presented in more ways than just the printed page. It can be contained in any medium that clearly presents the salvation story, the most critical component of God’s Word to communicate to children and youth who may have never heard the Gospel before. So our heartbeat, as a ministry, is to engage every young person with the Good News in a meaningful way. We began with the *Book of Hope*, expanded to *The GodMan* film, and today, we have dozens of other Scripture engagement programs in hundreds of languages, targeting all different age groups and cultures. The response, as measured by our research and testing, has been very positive — even in nations where it is incredibly difficult for Christians to share their faith.

Budi was a Muslim boy in a predominantly Muslim nation. In this nation, “Christian” and “Muslim” are traditional political labels applied to nearly everyone — when a new baby is born, the birth certificate specifies Christian or Muslim, and the child is generally stuck with that label for life. The government, though, is clearly a majority Muslim government, and Christians are often

persecuted and oppressed. Even the public schools draw a distinction between Christian and Muslim students.

That's why, when a team came from the local church with the *Book of Hope* for the students, they were only allowed to present the book to the "Christian" students.

The program sounded like so much fun that many Muslim young people pleaded to be a part of it. Which is how Budi received the *Book of Hope*, and first heard the truth about Jesus Christ. Budi was overwhelmed by the Good News. He began interacting with the local church team, to find out more about Jesus.

He soon chose to joyfully devote his life to Christ, but his Muslim family was appalled. In fact, Budi's dad even tossed him out of the house! Budi could only come home if he came back to Islam.

He was also kicked out of school. He would not be allowed to attend Muslim school, and because he was legally registered as a Muslim, he couldn't attend the Christian school either. Budi had been a very good student at his high school. This was a tremendous blow.

Budi's friends sought him out, and encouraged him to give up Christianity. *Just come back to Islam. Just come home.* His family would take him back, and he could go back to school. When he refused, his own Muslim friends assaulted and beat him so badly, he had to go to the hospital.

The local church took him in, to hide him — but then his father had someone try to burn the church down. The pastor of the church was so frightened that he asked Budi to not return to the church.

Yet through all this, Budi clung to his new-found faith in Christ, the Savior he had met through the pages of his *Book of Hope*.

This is what it means to "affect destiny," and this is one way we know that it *is* happening. God's Word transforms lives!

CHAPTER THREE IN YOUR HANDS

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;
I have come that they may have life, and have it
to the full.

— John 10:10 (NIV)

Alcoholism, drugs, domestic violence ... these were three incredible, evil forces decimating a huge segment of the youth population in Latin America.

Regional trends showed that an alarming number of children and young people in lower- and middle-class areas were growing up with fathers who abused them and abused alcohol. The children were being inducted into gangs and drugs at earlier and earlier ages. Boys and girls as young as eight and nine were being used as drug mules, running shipments in the neighborhoods.

How do you reach into the life of a hurting child or teenager who has known very little love from a biological father ... and is teetering on the brink of drug addiction? Our research also showed us that almost universally across Latin America (and around the world), the next generation is drawn to media.

They love to go to the movies.

OneHope is blessed to have the partnership of two creative geniuses, Brent Green and Jeff Goldberg, the co-founders of Toy Gun Films. They create powerful, high-quality short films that have impacted hundreds of thousands of young lives with the Good News. One of their latest efforts addresses the issues of child soldiers in Africa. Their previous film, *Paper Flower*, was created in response to the most critical heart-felt needs of Japan's next generation. Their first-ever film developed in conjunction with OneHope was *In Your Hands*, or *En Tus Manos*, in Spanish. It follows the true story of a young

man battered by domestic violence at home and pushed toward gang-life — and it shows how the Gospel rescued him and made a way for his future.

En Tus Manos makes a dramatic impact in Latin America — it has even become one of the *most watched films in Mexico*, after churches and ministries showed it to 2.4 million in Mexico. Colombia has also embraced the film — our partner churches have presented it to 800,000 young people ... and many have already responded to the Good News! One reason: the story on the screen is the “typical” story in many barrios of Colombia and elsewhere in Latin America, and young people can relate ...

Like a Colombian boy named Mateo. His father was an abusive alcoholic — Mateo doesn't remember much about him, because his father abandoned the family when Mateo was young ... but he does remember the beatings. And the fear.

And after his father left, Mateo remembers the hunger, too.

His mother struggled to provide for them, but she had to work many long hours, and Mateo raised himself on the streets. He was “jumped” into a gang as a young teenager. He had to let the other boys beat him, without fighting back, to prove he was tough enough and committed enough to be part of the tribe. After that, he began stealing cars, robbing people, and, of course, selling and using drugs.

It was a horrible life, brutal and painful ... but the drugs made all the pain go away, and Mateo found he would do anything to get enough money for his next fix.

He was just 16 years old, and horribly lost.

Then he saw a free showing of *En Tus Manos* — it was the Word of God, shared through an engaging film that held up a mirror to his own life — and showed him how Jesus Christ could change everything. Mateo felt like crying as he watched — but he couldn't cry! He had to be

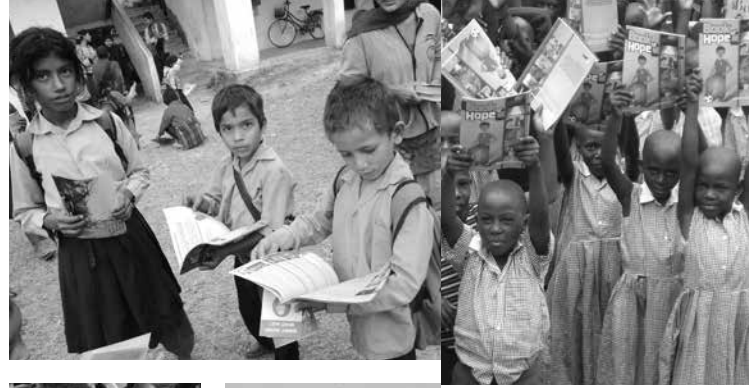
tough, he had to be in control ... and all the while, deep within his heart, he knew that if he continued along the path he was on, he would eventually end up dead or in prison. It was really just a matter of time.

This film showed him a glimpse of hope, a chance to be free. It was too much. After the film showing, he couldn't help himself. He ran to the pastor who had conducted the program. “I don't want to live this gang-life anymore!” he cried.

“Only Jesus can change you,” the pastor replied. And he prayed with Mateo to receive Christ as Savior.

Today, Mateo and his mother have moved to another city. He is free from drugs, has escaped the gang-life, and is growing in his faith — all because of a Gospel presentation that came in the form of a dramatic film ... a film that slipped past all mental and emotional barriers and deeply touched his heart.

This is how OneHope responds to evil forces like domestic violence, alcoholism, and drugs that plague a generation: with highly-targeted and powerfully-moving media that present the life-transforming truth of God's Word to those who most desperately need it. The results are amazing, whether we give a book to children, show a film to teenagers — or even share a bubble-gum card and a Bible story ... as you will see.



CHAPTER FOUR

VISION 2030

One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
— Psalm 145:4 (NIV)

Her hand was mangled — the doctors said it would have to be amputated.

This was the “moment of truth” for Mikaili. She had chosen to follow Jesus at the Kids’ Club where she received the story cards of *God’s Big Story*, a OneHope Scripture engagement program utilized by churches across Africa. But she had never told her parents about her new faith.

She came from a Muslim family. Her father was an important government official in a strongly Islamic nation. Mikaili knew her parents wouldn’t let her go to church or pray to Jesus. Maybe they would even disown her.

Now her hand had been crushed in a terrible accident and the doctors wanted to amputate her hand. She pleaded with her father to allow the club leader to come and pray for her healing. Her father finally gave his permission. The club leader prayed ... and God miraculously healed Mikaili’s injured hand!

Mikaili’s miracle story comes out of the heart of Africa, a region known as the *Sahel*, where the Holy Spirit is doing an amazing work through our church partners and OneHope Scripture engagement programs. In this area, which runs west to east from the horn of Africa to the Red Sea, Islam is coming down from the north, while Christianity comes up from the south — creating a dangerous and volatile environment for us to share the Gospel. But thank God for believers in this region. They

are committed to reaching the next generation, and they have proven OneHope Scripture engagement programs can help them do it and plant many new churches.

Stories like Mikaili’s (and Budi’s from Chapter Two) show us that the Holy Spirit can go anywhere, even where missionaries cannot go. Because our OneHope mission is “to affect destiny by providing God’s eternal Word to *all* the children and youth of the world,” this is especially important — to be able to reach into areas where there’s resistance to the Good News, and to take the Gospel to places that are difficult to reach for other reasons: language barriers, geographical challenges, political or social discord, etc.

With our emphasis on testing, research, and outcomes, we realized it was important that our ministry’s vision to reach *all the children and youth* did three imperative things:

- ▶ Avoided “re-seeding” where other ministries and churches were already reaching the children and young people.
- ▶ Tracked which segments of the youth population had been reached, and which were still waiting to hear about the love of Christ.
- ▶ Provided a means for every new child coming into the world to receive a presentation of the Gospel at some point before the age of 14.

Our God-given initiative, called *Vision 2030*, accomplishes all of this. It is the blueprint for presenting God’s life-transforming Word to every child and youth on the earth by the year 2030, and then continually reaching each succeeding generation in seven-year waves. As we’re able to accomplish it — through the faithful prayers and partnership of friends like you and God’s continued guidance and blessing — it literally means the fulfillment of the Great Commission!

The initiative was developed as we researched and

contacted as many global ministries and churches as we could find, to see where work was already being done and where our help was needed. We factored into the plan areas where local churches and sister missions were already reaching the children and young people, so as not to duplicate our effort and waste resources. We are coming alongside the local faith communities where Scripture engagement programs are needed to help them begin this work or enhance it for more effective outcome-based outreach.

You can find out more about *Vision 2030* and even see an executive summary with the logistics of this massive, multi-year strategic initiative, on our OneHope website: onehope.net/vision-2030. You will discover how you, personally, can be a part of a dynamic move of God among the children and youth of the world, and how your prayers and partnership can help present His Word to every young person on the earth by the year 2030!

If the Lord allows it, I will be here, at age 94, when the ministry of OneHope accomplishes “mission fulfillment” in 2030 (and starts all over again to reach the *next* generation)! I will be rejoicing with you in what He has done with our willingness to obey and commitment to winning the next generation. What a day that will be!

CHAPTER FIVE

GOD'S BIG STORY

... He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

— Mark 10:14b (NIV)

Of course, we feel strongly about our *Book of Hope* and its various special editions, such as the *Champions* book with a soccer theme for Africa and Latin America where *futbol* is king, the *Pathway to Hope* book that helps Christian children in peer-to-peer evangelism and many others. But there are many places in the world where a printed book simply can't work, because the children can't read. This was true in some areas of Ghana, where our church partners were desperate for a Scripture program that would engage children with the most important themes of God's Word, speak to non-readers or pre-readers, and keep them interested in coming back to Sunday School or a Bible club so they could receive and internalize the Good News.

So our team developed a program called *God's Big Story*, which works on all these levels. (It's the Scripture tool that introduced Mikaili to Jesus, back in Chapter Four.) It's made up of 16 illustrated cards, like bubble-gum cards, with each illustration corresponding to an important Bible story. Each time the Sunday School class or club convenes, each child receives one of the cards, and the day's lesson focuses on the story. Storyteller Scripts for the teachers enable them to tell each story in a dynamic way, then engage children in understanding the theme from the story, as they learn to re-tell it themselves. We found that every week, almost every child returned to get their card, and almost no cards were lost! Most of the children who came week-after-week were

also able to tell each story and explain its lesson.

When all 16 cards are turned over and placed together, they form one larger illustration of the overarching biblical meta-narrative of redemption. By the time the children have learned all 17 stories (including the Gospel message), they have also come to glimpse the love of God and understand the plan of salvation as illustrated in the Bible. This program has now been exported to many nations of Africa and is in development for other nations around the world as well. Wherever it is used, it brings hope to children like Morani.

This little Muslim boy in Kenya had been “forced” by his friends to come to a Vacation Bible School program during a school break — they were all going, so if he didn’t go, he wouldn’t have anyone to play with! He went, but he went complaining! What could a Christian camp possibly have to teach them?

Then he began learning the stories from *God’s Big Story*, and he was enthralled!

Long before Vacation Bible School ended, Morani had chosen to follow the Lord Jesus as his Savior. Today, he can flawlessly tell every story in his pack of cards, and explain the plan of salvation, too. In fact, Morani uses his *God’s Big Story* cards to witness to his friends and family, and share his faith.

Across his country, we have found the same positive response to this unusual presentation of God’s Word. Our research on *God’s Big Story* in Kenya shows that in rural settings, attendance at Sunday School or a Bible club, when the program is in use, averages 90%, and overall attendance averages 81%. Children make marked improvement in identifying individual Bible stories and the overall meta-narrative of the Bible — and many children, like Morani, are able to re-tell the stories and share the Good News. What a great illustration of the power of God’s Word — even when there are no printed words at all!

CHAPTER SIX

CATALYZING A MOVEMENT

I do all this for the sake of the Gospel, that I may
share in its blessings.
— 1 Corinthians 9:23 (NIV)

In the missions world, OneHope is a catalyst.

We provide materials that are fueling a movement to reach the next generation — but it’s mainly our local church partners and sister ministries in each individual country who carry out the work. We simply come alongside them and resource them with the Scripture engagement programs they need to impact the children and youth they seek to serve.

Vera’s story is a case in point.

She was one of the “Romany,” people known as gypsies, in Russia. They’re people without a country, condemned as “low-lives,” often unwanted and oppressed. In 2010, France expelled some 11,000 Romany.

Vera felt this ostracism keenly. She lived with her parents in an encampment outside a city. Her father was an alcoholic, her mother a fortune-teller. Vera felt isolated, hopeless. She was living in poverty, and never went to school.

The only people who were ever nice to her, it seemed, were the Christians from a nearby church. Vera could easily see that they treated her, and all of the gypsies, with much greater respect and kindness than anyone else ever did.

The believers even invited Vera to come to Sunday

School, and she was so happy to be included that she began attending regularly. She loved Sunday School, and she loved studying the *Book of Hope* with the other children, even though she couldn't read. She thought Jesus was magical, and she enjoyed all the stories about Him. In fact, when she saw *The GodMan* film, Vera finally realized that Jesus didn't do magic — He was the Son of God, and He had come to take away her sins and give her eternal hope for today and for the future!

Vera's church family prayed with her to make Jesus the Lord of her life, then they began to visit her and the other gypsy families in the camp. They came alongside Vera's mom, and she began attending church with her daughter — soon she, too, came to place her faith in Christ; she gave up fortune-telling and the occult. Their new Christian friends supported Vera and her mom in their walk with Christ, and helped Vera get enrolled in school, so she could learn how to read. Today, she's able to read her own *Book of Hope*, and she's excited about this great accomplishment.

This is the power of OneHope Scripture engagement programs as our partner churches and sister ministries use them to reach out to the next generation with the Gospel. The vast majority of our programs are carried out by local believers, pastors, churches, and ministries who understand the heart-felt needs of the children and young people they serve and have a passion to bring them hope. These are the very best possible missionaries to the next generation, and we are placing into their hands the very best possible Scripture engagement programs to connect with children and youth.

Vera and her mom are living proof to the power of this partnership.

CHAPTER SEVEN INVALUABLE

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

— Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)

Haiti has been so impoverished for so long, it's almost beyond describing.

When the 2010 earthquake revealed Haiti's desperation to the world, millions of dollars and tons of compassionate and humanitarian aid poured into the stricken nation ... yet today, the poverty still remains. A fundamental change in the hearts and motivations of Haiti's leaders and population must take place before the perennial misery of Haiti will begin to dissipate. Just look at what happened to Elienne, when she was only a child, because of Haiti's poverty and distorted sense of values ... Her own parents sold her to a grown man when she was only nine years old, to be his 'wife.' It is common practice among the poorest people to sell their children to work for others. She felt like this was just too much for her to bear.

Elienne finally worked up the courage to run away. She made her way back to her parents — but when she returned, her parents were angry. They considered her another mouth to feed. They told her she had been a bad girl to run away!

Elienne was heartbroken — her own parents didn't even want her. And after what that man had done to her, she felt dirty and unlovable.

It was all the more unbearable when her parents kicked her out.

A kindly neighbor allowed Elienne to stay with her, but the woman was poor. She couldn't feed Elienne, or even herself. Elienne had been dreaming of returning to school, but now she knew she had to make money somehow. And she knew of only one way to do it. She began to sell her body to make enough money for food and for school fees.

What a nightmare her life had become! Elienne's only bright hope was that, if she could stay in school, she might get the education that would open the door for a better job ... but this possibility seemed remote, and every day her self-esteem sank deeper as her body was brutalized.

Elienne fell fast into utter despair and desperation. But the message of God's love and forgiveness arrived just in time. A team from the local church came to her school, and they performed a little drama that showed how important we are to God: the skit compared the worth of a dollar, dropped on the ground and trampled upon, with the worth of a lollipop dropped in the dirt. No one wanted the lollipop after it was smothered with grime, but everyone still wanted the dollar. The intrinsic value of the dollar couldn't be touched by the filth it had been dropped in. Which is exactly how God feels about us — our value to Him can never be diminished, no matter what dirt and grime this life has pressed on us.

Elienne was amazed! Could it really be that God still held her in such high regard? Could Jesus really love her? *The Book of Hope* that the church team gave to every student helped convince Elienne that Jesus did love her, no matter what — so much that He had sacrificed His own life to save her.

This is how transformation can come to the people of Haiti; one child at a time encountering the power of God's Word: when the future generation of mothers and fathers, teachers and doctors, pastors and politicians come to understand a new way of living that focuses on Jesus and His love. Elienne's story shows how it can happen, one life at a time. Hope can be restored!

CHAPTER EIGHT DECIDE/INSIDE

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
— John 8:36 (NIV)

From the ends of the earth ... to the kids next door. OneHope's vision for reaching every child and youth on earth with the Word of God means that we're concerned with reaching not only unreached people groups — but also First World boys and girls in North America, Western Europe, Asia and Latin America. Here in the United States, one segment of the population often unreached by local churches and ministries is the incarcerated youth population.

- ▶ The United States accounts for about 5% of the world's population — but 25% of the world's *prison* population.
- ▶ An astounding one out of every 24 people in our nation is, or has been, in prison.
- ▶ Two million young people have spent some time in juvenile detention.

What a desperately needy mission field!

When our North American team began to discover the facts about young people in prison, and young people with parents in prison, they immediately began to formulate plans for OneHope to help local churches reach out to these young men and women with God's love and eternal hope for their future. The passion to reach into prisons and juvenile detention centers with the Good News introduced us to a young man named Andrew. Tragically, Andrew's story was typical for a boy in juvey.

Andrew didn't know his father. His mother was a mess. She kept moving boyfriends into their home, and she invariably hooked up with violent men who abused her and her children. They'd stay until the abuse became too horrible for her to bear, then they'd flee to the next town, the next man, the next narrow escape.

Eventually, Andrew's mom got the help she needed, found a steady job, and moved her son and daughter into a stable home with no trashy boyfriend. But it was too late for Andrew. The damage had already been done. He failed in school; his only friends were other misfits like him — who introduced him to abusing methamphetamines and huffing spray paint. It wasn't long before he graduated to prescription drug abuse — and then to stealing for drug money.

Three arrests and convictions later, 16-year-old Andrew was sentenced to two years in a lockdown drug unit — where he became horribly sick as his body withdrew from the meth.

Andrew was truly at the end of his rope; haunted by the despair in the faces of his mother and little sister as he'd been sentenced, disgusted by the mess he'd made of his life ... The only thing that gave him any hope at all was the idea that he could commit suicide and bring an end to the pain.

But by God's grace, a team from OneHope and our local church partner arrived, with the initial testing of *Decide/Inside*, a ministry program for incarcerated juveniles. It features videos, activities, a Bible study, and more. The first session was led by a man who had grown up fatherless, just like Andrew, and had been in prison — he was able to tell the boys in Andrew's unit how the Gospel had changed his life. The team continued to visit, twice a week, for several weeks. They talked with the boys about life-choices, personal responsibility, and character. They gave Andrew and the others a special Freedom Edition *Book of Hope*, and left other DVDs and CDs for

them to absorb between visits.

The personal connection with the team, their authentic concern and love for the boys, broke through all of Andrew's defenses and helped him truly see — there was hope for his future! Suicide was not the way out.

Andrew made a commitment to live for Jesus. His behavior on the "inside" improved so dramatically, he is slated for an early release. He has plans to attend vocational school and learn a trade — because he wants to be able to support himself, and help his mom and little sister, too. He'll still have a record when he gets out, and many challenges to staying on the right path; but with the help of a local church family and the life-transforming love of Jesus Christ, we believe Andrew will continue to experience transformation.

Today the *Decide/Inside* program is available from OneHope as a "juvenile-center ministry in a box" for any church willing to invest in the lives of some of America's most desperate young people. *Decide/Inside* includes DVDs, copies of the *Book of Hope*, and lesson plans for a series of bi-weekly visits (or a correspondence program if the facility is too far to visit every other week). By empowering churches like yours to bring hope to young people like Andrew, we're truly fulfilling the mission of "affecting destiny" for every child and youth — not just those "outside."

CHAPTER NINE

CHILD SOLDIER

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
— Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NIV)

I'm grateful to be able to introduce you to young people like Tiffany, Morani, Elienne, and Andrew. But as joyful as I am to see their life-transformations, my eyes fill with tears when I think about the millions who haven't yet had the opportunity to hear the Gospel and make their own choice to follow Jesus. An astounding 4.2 billion young people who still need to hear the Good News — and this is the number which will pass through the 4/14 Window (between the ages of 4 and 14, which is the time people are most receptive to the Gospel) over the next 20 years. Children and teenagers, who are under attack right now by all of our enemy's worst schemes: poverty, abuse, violence, sexual abuse, war, drug addiction, alcoholism, AIDS and other devastating illness, and natural and manmade disasters.

Consider a boy like Dennis ... a child who experienced in just a few short years, multiple lifetimes of devastation, horror, and tragedy.

He lived in northern Uganda, where the LRA — armed rebels — have terrorized the region for over two decades. They're known for kidnapping children and conscripting them into service as child soldiers or sex slaves. The little ones are tortured, forced to commit horrible atrocities in order to sever them from all hopes of returning home — sometimes they're also force-fed drugs to make them

subservient to their new captains and to abolish their revulsion at committing such crimes. Young minds are shattered, young bodies are decimated.

It happened to Dennis. As a small boy, he was kidnapped and forced to work as a child soldier.

I know this idea is abhorrent to you. If you're a parent or grandparent, it's almost inconceivable. And another revolting twist to the story: if child soldiers are rescued and reunited with their families, life often *remains* a nightmare: local people fear or hate the former child soldier because of the horrifying crimes he's been forced to commit.

And then there is the horror show of his own memories.

Dennis lived two long, brutal years as a child soldier, at the mercy of his demented captors, before he managed to escape. When he limped into a *World Vision Center*, he still had the bullet in his arm, an open wound from where he'd been shot during a firefight. He also had a headful of horrendous memories from those awful days with the LRA.

Though Dennis' body had been healed, and he had been reunited with his family, his heart remained dark and hopeless. He was filled with rage over what had happened to him. He feared his dreams at night — feared his own memories. He couldn't forgive those who had robbed him of his childhood, and he couldn't forgive himself for what he had done.

What future did he have, this young boy who had been devastated by such a cruel attack of the devil?

But God still had a plan for Dennis.

One day, a team from the local church brought the *Book of Hope* to his school. They told the children about the love of Jesus that they would be reading about in the book ... and somehow, one word slipped past Dennis' defenses: *forgiveness*. Jesus came to bring forgiveness.

The light began to dawn in Dennis' darkness: there just might be peace, and hope, for him.

Dennis chose to follow Christ as Savior. His church family stood by him, and helped him understand what it means to walk with Christ. Today, this precious little boy can say:

"It's no longer important for me to keep thinking on those other things that happened to me in the bush. I have forgiven those people ... now I have received Christ, and I know that God has forgiven me."

This is an amazing leap forward for Dennis. But he is only one among thousands of child soldiers, and former child soldiers, across Africa, Latin America, and Asia today.

And child soldiers aren't the only ones under attack by the evil one. Children are the most vulnerable segment of the population, the ones who suffer the worst in every disaster, the least able to defend themselves.

Yet, we know, they're also the most likely to choose Christ as Savior. This is why it is so critical to reach the next generation, to reach children and youth, with the life-transforming Word of God.

As I write these words, OneHope has, by God's grace and through the prayers and support of friends like you, already assisted our local church and ministry partners in presenting the Gospel to more than 900 million young people and we are closing in on one billion! We give God the glory for making it all possible, and we look forward to the future when every child and youth on earth has the opportunity to make an informed decision to follow Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER TEN

A NEW RUSSIA

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."
— Mark 1:17 (NIV)

Russia was seemingly "closed" to the Gospel for an entire generation. Churches were boarded up or destroyed; believers scattered. The Orthodox Church survived under the communist regime, but its prestige and influence waned greatly, and Protestant churches were driven underground. By the prayers of God's people, and because of His love for the Russian people, the Iron Curtain eventually fell. Many evangelical churches and ministries were able to get a foothold in Russia ... but the ravages of 70 years without an active witness to the Christian faith left its mark on the people. While the Russian Orthodox Church again became revered as a sort of "national religion," the life-transforming power of Christianity was not in evidence.

Today ...

- ▶ 75% of Russians say they are Christians ... but only 7% of them pray.
- ▶ Every year, 100,000 Russians die from drug abuse ... and the toll of alcoholism is even higher.
- ▶ 50,000 Russian children run away from home every year, usually because of abuse and domestic violence.
- ▶ There are roughly 158,000 cities, towns, and villages in Russia; 29,000 have been abandoned, and 25,000 have a church or Christian witness — leaving 104,000 active cities, towns, and villages with no churches at all.

Against this backdrop, OneHope first began reaching out to children and youth in Russia back in 1992. At that moment, many doors were open as *glasnost* and *perestroika* first united the East and West in remarkable ways. Although we did not have many Russian partner churches (simply because so few existed), we did have some, and they worked hard in partnership with American volunteers to begin reaching the next generation.

Dima was one of those boys who received God's Word back then. He was the son and grandson of alcoholics. He was coming of age just as the former Soviet Union was dissolving. He and his friends had been pulled into a "glittering new world" where more than just vodka could take over your life (as it had done to Dima's father and grandfather); new drugs like heroin and cocaine were becoming more and more readily available.

"I'd say 70% of my group of friends would use any kind of alcohol or drug," says Dima, who was 17 back in 1992. "It was very serious. We had no hope, no direction."

Like most boys of his age in Russia, Dima had thought very little about God. The only "god-like" person he could imagine was Lenin, who was revered, whose good name and good works had been "sold" to Russia's children for 70 years.

Then all of a sudden, everything changed. "Our teacher at school told us some Americans were there," Dima remembers. "We were so excited, it was like the circus came to town." He listened closely to all that these American Christians had to say. "They shared about their personal lives, how maybe there was something bad, and it changed to a better life."

The Americans had been sent by the ministry of OneHope. They were volunteers, members of various churches in the United States, who had heeded the call to come to this newly opened city in Siberia and put God's Word into the hands of Russian children and youth.

Dima received his own copy of the *Book of Hope* and was amazed to read about the life of Jesus Christ, His miracles, and teachings, even His death on the cross and joyful resurrection.

"This was my first experience of the Word of God," Dima says. "The only hero we had was Lenin. I felt like I was going to have to choose: do I want to be a good person like Lenin, or do I want to be like Jesus?"

He attended a OneHope-sponsored HopeFest Celebration, and chose to follow Jesus.

A few nights later, Dima dreamed of Jesus.

"I looked at Him, and He was calling me. I felt it so strong, I was crying. I felt like I was saying goodbye to my life. I felt like, 'That's it. My life is not for me. It's for Jesus.' This brought so much joy to my heart.

"OneHope came just in time in my life ... I am so glad this OneHope ministry helps children. Sometimes, as adults, we care about things like our own responsibilities and tasks that must be done. But I believe God cares about so many other things ... like children who never had a chance to get some hope."

Today, Dima is a pastor and has already planted three churches. His encounter with God's Word when he was just 17 years old completely transformed his destiny. In Russia, his heredity and his environment had him marked out for alcoholism and hopelessness. But God had a different plan.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

HOPE FOR KIDS

In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify
your Father in heaven.
— Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

He was the boy least likely to become a missionary.

Jojo, at age 13, was into all the wrong things — gambling, cussing, stealing, cheating, and more. His mom had been only 14 years old when she gave birth to Jojo — his father had never been a part of his life. He was growing up on the streets in his hometown of Maguiguana, Mozambique. His mother and grandmother both tried to straighten him out ... but he was too wild.

Then *Hope for Kids* came along. In partnership with Kids' Evangelism Explosion, this program is organized to help present the Gospel to children, and then help Christian children share their faith with their peers. The program uses *The GodMan* film and a special-edition *Book of Hope* called *Pathway to Hope*. Over the next two years, we expect two million Christian young people to present the Gospel to 20 million of their friends, using these and other OneHope programs.

Wherever OneHope Scripture programs are reaching children, we find that young people naturally share their faith — by God's grace, even in areas that are traditionally Muslim and in other sensitive regions where it is difficult to share the Gospel. God honors the faith of the children as they see their friends come to know Christ, too.

At first, Jojo wasn't interested in *Hope for Kids*. He thought only spoiled, rich boys went to church. But then a friend told him at *Hope for Kids* they sang songs, played

games, and got a free book to keep for themselves!

Kids' Evangelism Explosion specializes in helping churches train their children to share their faith, and it works. Jojo was drawn in. He attended the last day of the program, saw *The GodMan* film, and received his *Book of Hope*.

Other friends went with him to the program — because Jojo is a natural leader — and soon they began studying through the *Book of Hope* together. Then they decided to go to church to find out more. Jojo committed his life to Christ, then began sharing the Good News with other young people ... and even convinced his local church to organize a sports and recreation program to reach more children and youth.

Today, Jojo and his pals are active in leading the sports program — and still sharing the Good News with their friends!

This is an exciting example of how OneHope Scripture engagement programs help turn children into missionaries to their peers. And it's not an isolated example. We've known for quite some time that each *Book of Hope* is read by more people than just the child who receives it. We've seen many examples of new believers sharing their faith with friends and family, and inviting them to come to faith in the Savior, too.

Another example: A young girl named Naomi was among the first children in her church in Cameroon to receive the special edition *Book of Hope* called *Pathway to Hope* as part of the Kids' Evangelism Explosion program. She began praying for her friend, Ameda, to come to Christ — and she gave Ameda her own copy of *Pathway to Hope*.

Today, Ameda is following Jesus, too! Ameda's behavior was so dramatically changed, her mother took note and came to visit the leader of the program at church — and now Mom is a believer, as well!

CHAPTER TWELVE

FULL CIRCLE

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

— Matthew 9:37-38 (NIV)

Now you’ve seen the OneHope plan for the future — Vision 2030, reaching every child on earth with the life-transforming Word of God. And I trust, through these pages, you’ve also sensed our commitment to making sure each connection to the Word is made in the most relevant and effective way.

I believe the global Church is undergoing a paradigm shift in 21st Century missiology. We’re moving from the “pioneer” missions of old to a collaborative movement as one Church, reaching out together. We don’t always concentrate on scattering seed in large campaigns as we once did; instead we want to resource specialized ministries which focus on meeting specific needs in the child and youth population.

When we first founded OneHope, we were excited about “distributing books,” and of course, this is still a passion; but today we’re more inspired by the thought of changing lives and being a transformative force within cultures. We want to make sure those books we distribute are read and understood, and that they motivate life-transformation and impact society. It’s a move from *output-based* ministry to *outcome-based* ministry, and God is honoring it!

I have come to believe that we have God’s blessing not only because we’ve heeded His call, but also because we pray two simple prayers every day. First, we ask God

to keep our hearts and motives pure — because if we lose that, we lose everything: we lose God’s Spirit. Secondly, we pray for the laborers in the harvest fields: we pray for the people whom God has also called to be a part of this vision, those He has led to walk alongside us to reach every child and youth in the world with His Word.

We see Him answering these two prayers every day, as He brings more and more churches, sister ministries, and individuals into partnership with OneHope. And the impact is astounding ... especially so today, because we are seeing boys and girls who were reached years ago by OneHope Scripture engagement programs now grown up and devoting themselves to reaching even more children and youth with the Good News! They’re young people like Alexander, from Russia ...

A team of believers from a local church came to his school, along with volunteers from the United States. They brought the *Book of Hope* for every child in the school. Alexander doesn’t even remember what the team said in his class — what he remembers is the silence of his classmates. Normally, these third-graders in Perm, Russia, were rowdy and boisterous — but that day, they were mesmerized. They’d never seen Americans before! Who were these people?

“This was my first introduction to God, the first seed,” Alexander says today. He didn’t immediately respond to the call to receive Christ as Savior, but he read the book ... and the seed took root. A couple years later, when his mother began attending church, Alexander went, too, and committed his life to Christ.

“I didn’t have a very deep relationship with God,” he remembers. “I wasn’t really open about it with my friends. I was afraid they would reject me.”

He drifted away from God as a teenager, but all the time the Word was still in his heart, and he knew he was doing wrong.

He tried to fill his life with friends, computer games, and other things that teenagers cling to — but it didn't work. He felt alone, unloved ... and even considered suicide ... but even in his darkest hour, the Word of God still spoke to him.

At home, he began reading the New Testament ... and rededicated his heart to Jesus Christ.

Today, at age 25, Alexander is a volunteer missionary as part of the “One Year for Jesus” initiative of our partner churches in Russia. And he's training to become a pastor and church planter!

The fellowship Alexander belongs to, the Russian Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith, is one of our largest partners in the world, and the largest in Russia. Their leader, Bishop Edward Grabovenko, has been a OneHope supporter for many years — and has incorporated OneHope programs into the “One Year for Jesus” initiative as well as the “Hosanna Plan,” designed to plant a church in every city of Russia over the next ten years.

This is how we catalyze a movement, come alongside our national brothers and sisters who are already fulfilling the Great Commission, and help them reach the next generation. How exciting to be alive, and to be a part of this great move of God, in the 21st Century!

CONCLUSION

BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME

“Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

— Luke 8:8 (NIV)

You've seen a bit of the depth and breadth of OneHope ministry all over the world. Everywhere the devil is fighting to doom children to hell, we're fighting for their souls and their future.

It's a battle we've actively engaged since 1987, when the Minister of Education for the nation of El Salvador asked for God's Word for every schoolchild in that country. We developed our original Scripture book, the *Book of Hope*, and connected with Salvadoran churches and believers to send teams into every school across the nation.

God arranged things so that many school teachers and principals asked the local believers to explain the *Book of Hope* and share their own stories — and a tremendous move of the Holy Spirit took place ... just from sharing books in schools. For several years, this is how OneHope grew, whenever and wherever local Christians would take the book into the schools. True to my calling, I saw greater possibilities, and encouraged Rob and our ministry team to investigate new ways of defining and delivering “God's Word” to children and young people who can't or don't read. And today, there's much more to the ministry than books. There are summer camps and soccer programs, *The GodMan* film, short films like *En Tus Manos* and Paper Flower, creative arts camps

and classes, programs like *God's Big Story*, an interactive website for primary-aged children called *Bible Islands*, and much more ...

But we never forget that all our outreach begins and ends with the life-transforming power of God's Word. This is the answer God gave me when I asked how to fight for the children, and it's the key to all we do today.

It was this life-transformative Word of God that reached Blanca, all those years ago. She was one of the children who received the original *Book of Hope*, back in 1987, in El Salvador. Her country at that time had been devastated by civil war. Blanca herself was devastated, too. Her father was dead, and her mother struggled to provide for six children on her own. Blanca's memories from that time are painful: hunger, loneliness, fear ...

When the team came from the local church to give the *Book of Hope* to the students at Blanca's school, Blanca was amazed by how joyful these believers seemed to be ... but she didn't trust it. "They would never be so happy if they had a life like mine," she thought. "Their lives must be perfect."

She took home the *Book of Hope*, but she didn't trust it, either. As she read about the love of Jesus, she rejected it — angrily demanding of the Lord, "If You are a loving God, why did You take my father? Why is our family trapped in such poverty? Why is there so much injustice?"

This went on for 10 years. But all that time, Blanca held onto her *Book of Hope*. It wouldn't let her go. Somehow the Holy Spirit spoke to her through that children's Scripture book, and convinced her that it was, indeed, possible for her to have the kind of joy she had seen in the faces of those believers — no matter what her circumstances.

"My life changed because that seed remained planted in my heart," Blanca says.

She chose to follow Jesus, and shared His message

with others in her life.

Blanca grew up and got married, had a baby boy — and her little son read that same *Book of Hope* that Blanca had received so many years before. Next, her daughter read it.

Today, every member of Blanca's family is following Jesus, and they still prize that ancient, tattered copy of the *Book of Hope*!

This is the power of God's Word to transform lives! This is the living illustration of God's promise from Scripture: "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11, NIV). His Word will always accomplish what He intends ... because it is filled with transformative power! "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart," says Hebrews 4:12 (NIV). The Word is filled with power — and to the children and youth we serve, it brings hope! "My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word" (Psalm 119:81, NIV).

We're excited about the potential to present the living hope of God's Word to every child and youth on earth — and the plan God has given us to do it by the year 2030. Through research and highly-targeted and specialized outcome-based programs, in partnership with local churches and sister ministries, the Word of God can transform the next generation — and the world! And we would love for you to be a part of it.

Please find out more about OneHope, and the role you can play, today. Check us out at **www.OneHope.net**. I think you'll be amazed and delighted, and I pray you will feel compelled by the Lord to join with us for the sake of the next generation. Thank you!

Challenge — *Are you ready to join the battle?*

Find out more! www.OneHope.net



- ▶ Investigate Vision 2030, the strategic plan to reach every child and youth on earth with God's Word by the year 2030.
- ▶ Discover resources available to you, your family, and your church.
- ▶ Find prayer needs to join with us in praying for the next generation.
- ▶ Get the facts about the *Spiritual State of the World's Children* research initiative.
- ▶ See more dramatic stories of life-transformation.
- ▶ Peruse a global ministry map that shows you where OneHope is currently impacting young lives.
- ▶ Get involved with *Every Church*, the innovative program that connects your church to an international partner church to help reach the next generation together.
- ▶ Stay updated by signing up for monthly e-newsletters.
- ▶ Give online — and reach three children and youth with God's Word for every dollar you give!

Visit www.OneHope.net today!
Or find us at www.facebook.com/affectdestiny

*Some photos used in this publication are representative of the people whose stories are told. In some cases, names and location details have been changed to protect those involved.

Founded in 1987, OneHope is an international ministry that is changing lives by sharing Scripture with young people around the world. Each Scripture program is age specific and customized based on research OneHope conducts among children and youth, leaders and educators in the countries it works. In collaboration with churches and ministries — and working with local governments, schools and non-governmental organizations — OneHope has reached nearly a billion young people in more than 125 countries with a relevant Gospel message. www.OneHope.net

Take a global missions journey...

from the Andes Mountains to the Muslim world; from bustling Russia to devastated Haiti — and beyond ...



Bob Hoskins founded the global ministry of OneHope, which has presented the Word of God to nearly a billion young people worldwide!



Discover how OneHope is catalyzing a movement to touch the life of every child and youth



on earth with God's life-transforming Word!

Bob Hoskins' stories of transformed lives, and the power of Scripture to impact the next generation, will fill you with joy ... and inspire you to play a personal role, alongside

OneHope, in fulfilling the Great Commission.



I know of no other ministry that is bringing God's Word in such a unique and diverse way into every corner of the world.

— **Joe Champion**
Celebration Church, Austin, Texas

OneHope is one of the most powerful and strategic ministries in the world bringing the Word of God into the hands of the next generation. If your local church is looking for a strong partner in global impact for the Kingdom of God, look no further than OneHope.

— **Stovall Weems**
Celebration Church, Jacksonville, Florida

Without reservation, the story, vision, and purpose of OneHope is one of the most compelling I have ever encountered of any Christian organization. It is my extreme privilege to continue to endorse unreserved involvement, collaboration and cooperation with this ministry led by Rob Hoskins.

OneHope continues to build and expand in extraordinary ways upon the vision of founder Bob Hoskins. Children everywhere need what OneHope has to offer.

— **Freddy Boswell**
CEO and Executive Director
SIL International

OneHope is the most strategic thinking missions organization I know in the world today. No one can top their passion, research, and network of partners around the world. Simply put, I have confidence as a Senior Pastor that every dollar we give to OneHope is going to be an incredible Kingdom investment with huge returns.

— **Scott Wilson**
The Oaks, Red Oak, Texas

OneHope is an organization which provides the necessary tools for evangelization to the local church. They have the commitment to provide the Gospel to every corner of the world, especially in Argentina where I could prove the impact that magazines and movies made, letting us reach millions of kids in our country.

— **Pastor Osvaldo Carnival**
Argentina

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