

& Every Tribe TOUCHSCREEN

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JESUS Comes to Hearts in the Jungle

Hosting famous celebrities like Olivia Newton-John, Owen Wilson, Jennifer Lopez and John Voight is normal for Brazilian business woman Gloria Reynolds. Her company (Amazon Eco Sight) offers Amazon experience tours that attract hundreds of guests.

But in 2003, the Lord directed Gloria to start a ministry to villages along the Amazon River. She called it Raio de Esperanca na Amazonia (Ray of Hope, Amazon).

The first visit was to one family who had financial needs. But the next weekend they returned to find 120 villagers looking for help and hope.

Since then, Ray of Hope (ROH) has impacted as many as 950 communities and tribes by offering humanitarian aid and the *JESUS* film. They reach approximately 60 communities and isolated villages in the Amazon Basin each year.

Ten years ago, Gloria married Patrick. Together, based in Manaus, they recruit for and lead mission trips to families in the jungle's interior.

In 2018, ROH began using the *JESUS* film in multiple locations as part of its strategy. When people see the film, they ultimately decide to follow Christ.

Gloria says, "The atmosphere the film provides is one of family and community ... an awesome tool for bringing people together to hear the gospel."

For the past several years, Mountain Springs Church of Colorado Springs has partnered with ROH to reach Brazilians. This summer Pastor Chris Steenmeyer, along with several church members—including Jesus Film Project® missionary Tez Brooks—traveled to Brazil.



"When people see the film, they ultimately decide to follow Christ."

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Living on a riverboat and sleeping in hammocks covered with mosquito nets, the church traveled with Patrick, Gloria, and several members of their team to show *JESUS* and *Magdalena* in Portuguese, share the gospel, and build a large community chicken coop.

“Their mission is to bring Jesus to the forgotten,” says Tez. “I love seeing how partners use our tools in creative and strategic ways—going to places we can’t.”

ROH’s volunteers include doctors, nurses, dentists, social workers, lawyers, psychologists and lay ministers. Together they assist communities and remote indigenous Indians needing various levels of care.

Gloria explains, “We offer prayer, Bibles, counseling, discipling, medicine, food, clothing, school supplies, eyeglasses and more. We even have a project for special-needs kids.”

This year, ROH visited 11-year-old Maria*, who was diagnosed with a bacteria of the liver and lying in a vegetative state. With no cure, the doctors had sent her home to die.

The team prayed for her and a few months later they returned to find she was healed with medical tests confirming it. The doctors were surprised at the miracle. Later, the whole family accepted Jesus.

Ray of Hope is one of more than a dozen of partners who are not only using versions of *JESUS* throughout the Amazon Basin, but also in the work of scripting and recording new languages to reach hundreds of additional tribal people groups. A few months ago ROH celebrated 16 years of ministry. To celebrate, Mountain Springs Church presented them with solar-powered film equipment so they can continue sharing *JESUS* everywhere they go. To learn more about partnering with ROH, go to rayofhopeamazon.org/.

*name changed for privacy

PRAYER POINT: Pray for the people of Brazil and for Ray of Hope as they partner with us to reach the Amazon.

Please pray for the work of partners, especially Renew World Outreach and Youth With a Mission (YWAM). ■



The Bridge to Life

Anna* led her young son toward the bridge, where she believed her final act in life would be an act of mercy. Without hope for a future for herself and her son, there seemed no choice but to end his life, and hers.

Anna's desperation was no doubt born of an overwhelming set of circumstances. In the weeks prior, she'd tried what she could to provide for herself and her son in the midwestern city where they lived. But, her resources were exhausted. Her landlord would soon turn her out. She could no longer provide a roof over her son's head, if she could not pay rent by his deadline.

Eviction! Anna felt utterly alone.

In search of someone who might help, Anna dialed the phone, even calling people she did not know, grasping at straws. One of those calls was to a local pregnancy resource center. They called her back and asked her to come in. But by then—the circumstances, the setbacks, the loneliness had taken their toll. She lost hope. Gathering her son, she made her way toward the bridge.

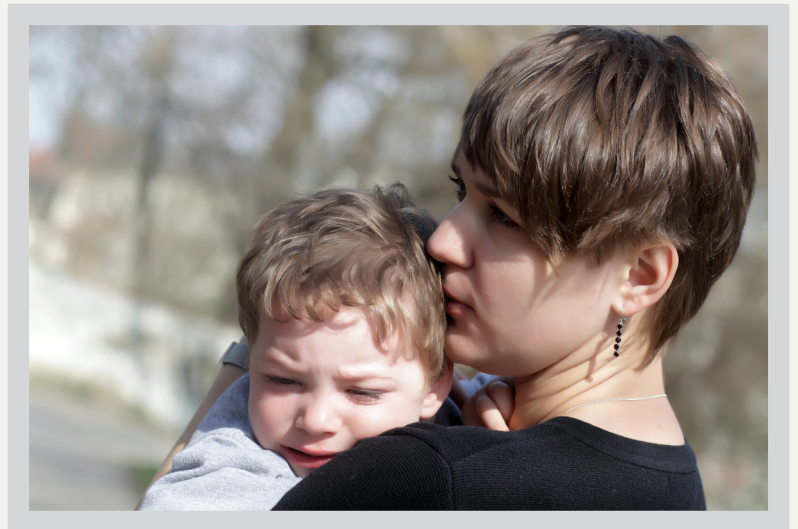
On a whim, instead, Anna turned toward the entrance of that pregnancy resource center. She shared a bit of her story with them. The center's director ushered her to a quiet area where Anna viewed portions of the *Magdalena* film.

The young mother emerged a different person. Moments before, she saw no alternative but to take her own life and that of her son. But the message of the movie gave her hope that God would carry her through, despite the circumstances.

Magdalena: Through Her Eyes portrays Jesus's compassion for women and historical accounts of His interactions with them. The film's companion Bible study is a key part of this pregnancy center's outreach for providing hope and help to women. What a difference it made in Anna's life.

With the help of a partnering church, the pregnancy resource center was able to help Anna with her rent payment and she was not evicted from her apartment. The Lord directed Anna away from the bridge of despair and death toward Christ, the Bridge to the Father.

*Name changed for privacy



PRAYER POINT: Pray for young mothers in the USA to see Jesus as their hope and salvation. ■

Toward the Finish Line

Jesus Film Project® has created script adaptation workshops to advance Mission 865® (M865) strategy. These workshops take place globally to train small groups of local speakers how to translate *JESUS* for people groups who have no written language.

Training translators in each country provides opportunities for them to share the gospel in their heart language, cultivate a vision for Christ, and grow the kingdom of God. For the M865 goal, only six languages remained in one region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). So staff member Mark Lloyd and his team flew to train local speakers in the method of adapting *JESUS*.

With the excitement of translating these languages, spurring them on, Mark and five partners traveled to the DRC, loaded down with training equipment. Several mother-tongue translators met them there.

Due to the lack of electricity and an unreliable generator, solar power became their primary power source but the script translation workshop continued. They spent two weeks training each local speaker how to translate *JESUS* from French into their heart languages. Through computer software, the help of an experienced translator, and the Lord's provision, the speakers—because there is no written language—skipped the written process entirely and were trained in script adaptation. Six weeks later, the team returned to work with the translators on clarity, fitting, and accuracy.

Hitches in the plan were not unexpected. Mark distinctly remembers a spiritual darkness attacking the project before and during training, but the Lord resolved each issue quickly.

Reminiscing on the ups and downs of travel and training, Mark said, “The reason these translations have taken so long to finish is because the people are hard to access.” The need for script-adaptation workshops is evident, despite their difficult and challenging nature.

The goal to reach as many as possible never changed, even after a week of travel and numerous spiritual attacks. Through adaptation workshops, Christ is being proclaimed and His children are working together across the globe.

PRAYER POINT: Ask God to provide funding for translations for the remaining languages in the Democratic Republic of Congo. ■



“The reason these translations have taken so long to finish is because the people are hard to access.”

Casting the Nets Widely

In Luke's fifth chapter, Simon Peter was skeptical when Jesus told him to cast his nets into the sea, but God delivered an awe-inspiring miracle.

Similarly, understanding the potential for radio and television strategies can be challenging, but God is moving in awe-inspiring ways. Broadcast is a reach strategy—like casting nets. And like Peter, Jesus Film Project® has been trusting God for the lives touched.

Broadcasting the powerful story of Jesus is made possible through multiple, instrumental partners—those who help Jesus Film Project reach everyone, everywhere.

One such partner is Trans World Radio (TWR). “Even with a program broadcast every day, it takes time to engage an audience to the point that they will interact with you,” TWR representative Brandon Neal shared. “However, with the *JESUS* film audio drama, we found that a one-time broadcast engaged thousands around the world. This demonstrates the effectiveness of radio to engage an audience—and also the impact of quality content.”

Some of the responses were:

- “I have studied [my country's religion] and discovered that it is not the truth. I was looking for truth when I found the TWR Arabic Radio Programs. I'm scared to believe in Jesus, but I know that Jesus brings comfort and peace. I will call unto Him and ask Him to clear my heart from any fear.”
- “I'm a blind person. Your programs are irreplaceable to me. The soundtrack of this *JESUS* movie is the most precious gift.”
- “I listened to the broadcast with my relatives and it gave me the opportunity to share with them about salvation. Thank you.”

The significant reach doesn't stop at radio. As of November 2019, over 70,116,000 people watched the *JESUS* film on television in 47 countries.

Jesus Film Project's broadcast specialist Tom Terry said: “Many people groups, especially in risky areas of the world, need to hear the gospel multiple times before making a decision to follow Christ. This is because it entails great risk to their family, livelihood, or life. Broadcasts of *JESUS* help people come to a decision. Without broadcast, we would see fewer people come to Christ.”

PRAYER POINT: Ask the Lord for more open doors to broadcast *JESUS* in other countries so all can hear the gospel. ■



Behind the Screens

Mark & Lori Lloyd

Mark Lloyd has traveled to the Acts 1:8 “ends of the earth” or “uttermost part” several times as manager of Script Translation Strategies with Jesus Film Project®. Mark oversees onsite workshops to translate *JESUS* film scripts into local languages. He lines up the logistics, translators, Bible consultant and equipment to create the individual film scripts, up to eight languages per workshop.

“Most of these people have never seen a Bible,” Mark says. “With our *JESUS* film translations, now these difficult-to-reach communities can hear the gospel in their own language. That really turns my crank.”

Mark’s crank has been full throttle for sharing the gospel for decades. He came to know Jesus through the Cru® ministry as a college freshman in 1973. He served three years in Uganda with Community Health Evangelism and joined Cru staff in 1984. Mark married Lori in 1988 and they adopted two sons, one from Romania, in the early ‘90s.




Mark served in a number of roles from office administration to graphic design before transitioning to Jesus Film Project in May 2016. A month earlier, Lori became an assistant to Judy Douglass’, the wife of Cru president Steve Douglass. Lori manages social media for Prayer for Prodigals and Pray for Europe and intercedes for Mark when he heads overseas for weeks at a time, averaging half a dozen trips a year.

“It would be hard for me to let Mark travel to these remote places,” Lori shares, “if I didn’t see this as our ministry together.”

In 2019, Mark’s trips included the Solomon Islands, Benin, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. “A lot of these places have not heard the gospel yet. They are the most spiritually oppressed,” Mark explains.

Knowing this keeps Mark cranking to help complete the goal of *JESUS* film translations for the most difficult locations, nearly 200 language translations in Africa alone. We are grateful for the Lloyds’ passion for the lost and dedicated service to the Lord.

Mark and Lori are financially supported by people like you. To personalize your giving and help one of the 200+ missionaries at Jesus Film Project, please call (407) 854-1494. 

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