

the mission of the Church in the hardest places on earth

"Make disciples of all nations..."

Jesus as recorded in Matthew 28:19







Several BILLION people do not know the hope and purpose Jesus offers. They live in brokenness, darkness, depression...often under the burden of oppressive regimes.

As the world is increasingly media saturated, entertainment-driven and transformed by technology, it has only become more tribal, secular\*, radicalized\*\* and less free.\*\*\*



- \* In Islamic Iran, 31% of the population identifies as non-religious. In America, house of worship attendance dropped 20% in one generation (2000 to 2020).
- \*\* Islamic and Hindu radicalism are on the rise even after the defeat of ISIS.
- \*\*\* 80% of the world's population is losing religious freedom including in the West. This has gotten worse since the outbreak of COVID.

# Fractured Lives

threats face a new generation who don't have access to the Gospel.

Our world is...

# **SATURATED BY VISUAL MEDIA**

- People spend 5-10 hours per day consuming media.
- People encounter hundreds of secular messages every day.

## **DRIVEN BY ENTERTAINMENT**

• The gospel is unknown, or perceived as outdated or irrelevant.

## TRANSFORMED BY TECHNOLOGY

 People spend increasing amounts of time in digital worlds apart from meaningful relationships and become isolated, depressed and sometimes radicalized. This got much worse as a result of the COVID pandemic.



Visual Story Network accelerates the mission of the Church by equipping our generation to use media, story and innovation to make disciples in least-reached nations. We equip leaders to make disciples using...

**MEDIA...** so Christ-centered visual media is available to every person.

**STORY...** by following Christ's example of using story to get the attention of the unreached...and soften the hearts of the disillusioned, resistant and radicalized.

**TECHNOLOGY...** 

to reach people in their digital world with the right message at the right time leading to right relationships. This will help them grow in Christ and become followers who lead others to Jesus.

# Abdel, Facebook and Jesus

VSN trains leaders including the ones who developed and executed the strategy that reached Abdel.



### 2019

#### Mid-January



Abdel and Aisha live in the Middle East not far from former ISIS territory. Abdel, a Muslim, saw a Facebook ad asking if he wanted to learn about the sayings of Jesus. He clicked yes and got an automated response in Facebook Messenger with "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

## End of January



Each morning Abdel got a saying (Bible verse) on his phone followed by a question. Over 14 days, he completed a series of mini-Bible studies. After completing the studies, he received this message, "Would you like to have a visit from a follower of Isa (Jesus)?" "Yes, I would love this," he typed back.

## Mid-February



Ferhat, a Jesus-follower, traveled several hours by bus to Abdel's town to meet him. When Ferhat walked in the modest home, Abdel was waiting with Aisha, his father and two friends. Abdel had been telling them about the sayings of Jesus and they wanted to learn more as well.

#### End of June



Ferhat had traveled to Abdel's town four times to study the Bible. Abdel always has a group waiting in his home. Abdel and Aisha told Ferhat, "We are so excited to follow Jesus! We love telling our friends and family about him."

### July



Abdel and Aisha moved to a new town. Ferhat now meets with Abdel by phone. Ferhat is having Abdel and Aisha read passages about baptism. Ferhat is coaching Abdel to lead a Discovery Bible Group on his own in his new town as well as with his friends and family back home.

# Equip Our Generation

to use media, story and innovation to make disciples of least-reached nations.



# Train Leaders

VSN has trained **11,000 leaders from 610 organizations** to multiply their impact through the use of media, story and technology.

# Build Global Partnerships

VSN has created **6 worldwide partnerships** between likeminded ministries that have resulted in 100 gospel media initiatives.

# Produce Media & Equipping Resources

VSN has co-produced **210 films and 51 'best-practices' media training resources** being used by organizations and leaders worldwide.

# Train Leaders



10,000 ?

10,000 ?

7,500 4,158

2,500 2,383

1,113 320

2008-2010 2011-2013 2014-2016 2017-2019 2020-2022

Visual Story Network helped equip and guide iHOPE Ministries to expand its reach locally and globally. Thanks to VSN, iHOPE has strategically added new resources across multiple media channels, thereby raising global awareness for iHOPE's mission and a record number of people served by iHOPE's resources."

Renod Bejjani, President

"You are helping advance the state of world missions in a big way."

Keith Williams, missionary trainer



# Build Global Partnerships

"I've been in media for 26 years and have never experienced before the synergy of missions and media that the Visual Story Network creates."

Jeff Holder, ABC, Sony, Hanna-Barbera, Veggie Tales





MIDDLE EAST WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK









# **Two New World Changing Partnerships**

<u>Media to Movements.</u> In October, 2018 we began to gather the top 12 global leaders from six organizations involved in training others to use social media to lead to disciple-making movements. A disciple-making movement occurs when there is rapid multiplication of new believers in a given area. Using social media to ignite these movements is a new move of God's Spirit. *Since we began the partnership three years ago, the number of known "Media to Movement" efforts has expanded from 25 to 219.* 

<u>Empower Women Media</u>. We began this partnership in 2017 to train women to use media to accelerate their mission. In 2018, God opened up doors to become the leading global partnership and training women to be religious freedom advocates. Religious freedom research has that shown that 80% of the world has lost religious freedom in the last 10 years (including in Europe and North America). This greatly limits the environment where Christians are free to assemble, worship and share the Gospel. *This partnership has trained 860 women to use media as religious freedom advocates in the most restrictive parts of the world*.

# Produce Media & Equipping Resources

"I know of no one other than VSN who is specifically committed to encouraging and actively supporting the growing the full range of small new media – short video, smart phone, social media, etc. Understanding these media and being able to effectively integrate them is critical for any Kingdom strategy."

Phill Butler, Founder of Intercristo & visionSynergy













# **Shohrat's Story Told Throughout Central Asia**

As a boy, Shohrat was terrified of the Sirat Bridge, the bridge that Islam teaches must be crossed to reach paradise. It is as thin as a razor and suspended over the fires of hell. Within three years of the fall of communism, his brother-in-law came to Christ and had Shohrat watch the JESUS Film. Through the film, Shohrat understood Jesus was the bridge to paradise. He began to share his newfound faith and planted churches in his village as well as in others. He is one of the fathers of the modern Turkmen church.

"From Darkness to Light" (Tümlükden Nura) is a 13-minute film that tells his story. It is the first-ever evangelistic film featuring Turkmen people. The film is translated into five languages and is being broadcast into Central Asia via satellite as well distributed through social media, mobile phones, a dedicated app. Turkmenistan, in Central Asia, is one of the most repressive countries in the world with only 1,500 known Christians.

Initiatives    Source   Phases   Explore   Launch   Source   Phases   Explore   Launch   Coloring   Coloring								
Initiatives	Ž.	Islal Story Network Mobile Mitist	Ardun Pathers' Middle Middle 2011-2013	ild Mother's Leader Media	erted virtual Reality. We dia to	edia stainin'		
	2005-2007	2008-2010	2011-2013	2014-2016	2017-2019	2020-2022		
Phases	Explore	Launch	Global Reach	Network of Networks	Train Leaders	Accelerate		
	God begins to stir the waters. Exploratory meetings.	Launch new 501c3, begin collaboration, establish second network.	International initiatives accelerate.	Fourth network established. MMU training platform begun.	Focus on training leaders. Launch 5th & 6 <sup>th</sup> networks.	Multiply impact through training leaders who will train leaders.		
Leaders Trained		320	1113	2383	4158	10,000?		
Organizations involved (cumulative)		128	218	338	551	1,000?		
Partnership Projects		32	54	162	254	350?		
Trained Women Religious Freedom Advocates				<b>→</b>	→ 341	500?		
Emphasis		Cata	alyze, Connect, Collab	orate	Train Leaders, Build Globa	al Networks, Produce Media		

# 2020 - 2022 Goals



- Train 10,000 leaders to use media, story and innovation to make disciples of all nations.
  - 2,500 in 2020
  - 3,500 in 2021
  - 4,000 in 2022

- Result: 1863 leaders trained.
- YTD Result: 1499 leaders trained.
- Lead a cutting-edge partnership to expand the number of teams using media for disciplemaking movements from 25 to 250 worldwide.
  - 50 new teams in 2020 Result: **48** new teams. Cumulative total: **73**.
  - 75 new teams in 2021 YTD Result: **146** new teams. Cumulative total: **219**.
  - 100 new teams in 2022
- Turn the tide on the decay of religious freedom worldwide by training 500 female religious freedom advocates.
  - 100 women in 2020. Result: **141** women trained.
  - 150 women in 2021 YTD Result: **375** women trained.
  - 250 women in 2022

These media leaders will reach 30,000,000 people with the Good News of Christ.

# Will You Be a FINISHING PARTNER?

You are among a select group of partners invited to resource a FINISHING PARTNER fund of \$25,000. Will you consider assisting us with completing the vision to train 10,000 leaders to reach 30 million people in this last phase of our 2020-2022 strategy?

We are trusting God for \$400,000 above regular giving for the 2022 Strategy as follows...

- \$300,000 through foundation and partner grants.
- \$50,000 matching fund pledged by November 15.
- \$25,000 from Lead Partner gifts (to be doubled by the matching fund)
- \$25,000 in Finishing Partner gifts (to be doubled by the matching fund)

At this time, will you prayerfully consider being a Lead Partner by investing in our 2022 Strategy to train leaders to use media, story and innovation to make disciples of least-reached nations?

Clyde : Shirin

# Budget

<b>Budgeted Expenses</b>	2020	2021	2022
Train Leaders			
Freedom to Flourish (Religious Freedom)	40,000	52,500	65,000
Mission Media U	40,000	45,000	50,000
Build Global Partnerships			
Frontier Breakthroughs (Media to Movements)	80,000	125,000	150,000
Empower Women Media	15,000	15,000	15,000
Middle East Women	20,000	25,000	30,000
Mobile Ministry Forum	15,000	15,000	15,000
Augmented & Virtual Reality	10,000	15,000	20,000
Produce Media			
Unreached People Films	15,000	10,000	10,000
Operations			
Staff	200,000	210,000	225,000
Administration	30,000	35,000	40,000
Total Expenses	\$465,000	\$547,500	\$620,000

# Our Partners Include...









































# About Us

## **Board of Directors**

## Brian Bird

Writer/Producer, Case for Christ, When Calls The Heart



## Chris Hite

Principal, Coreland Companies



## Honnie Korngold

Founder at CineVantage Productions



## Luke McCollum

VP Walmart, US Navy Vice Admiral (retired)



## Clyde Taber

Executive Director, Visual Story Network





Visual Story Network: www.visualstory.org

Mobile Ministry Forum: www.mobmin.org

Middle East Women's Network: www.mideastwomen.org

Mission Media U: www.missionmediau.org

Empower Women Media: www.empowerwomen.media

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