



# MINISTRY THROUGH MEDIA

April 2008

Dear Friend,

We at Mars Hill pray that this letter finds you doing well in His amazing grace!

Here we are, already in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2008. One thing we did not do in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter is flood your mailbox with ministry updates. This wasn't because we haven't had anything to report. Actually God has continued to amaze us with all He is doing in and through The HOPE.

The Internet ministry of The HOPE continues to grow reaching thousands of people around the world every day. If you Google'd *the hope* you would get results for about 100 million websites. Of all these results the top two would be the websites on which we have partnered to show the English version of The HOPE online. Nearly every day at least one person comes to Christ or asks to know more about how to have a relationship with God through Christ as a result of this Internet ministry!

On March 17 the Spanish HOPE website was launched making The HOPE accessible to the third largest language population on the Internet. The work that was done on the Spanish HOPE site has resulted in a template that will make it easier to add new languages to The HOPE Internet ministry. You can visit the new Spanish HOPE website at [www.proyectolaesperanza.com](http://www.proyectolaesperanza.com).



The dots represent the locations of visitors to the English and Spanish HOPE websites on a typical day.



In this game from the HOPE ESL Program players race the clock to match the scenes with their descriptions.

The HOPE ESL Interactive Software Curriculum is now available! Because so many people in the world want to learn English, missionaries worldwide understand the effectiveness of teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) as a means to share the Gospel. With lots of interactive lessons and games, all built around God's redemptive story as dramatized in The HOPE, this resource takes ESL to a new level. It is already getting great reviews from missionaries who use ESL.

The HOPE ESL Program is basically the result of a partnership between Mars Hill and a missionary who had a vision for the project. It was created to be freely copied and given away by missionaries on the field.

The Mandarin version of The HOPE is starting to work its way into mainland China. One exciting example involves a ministry in Hong Kong that is working with a bookstore in an undisclosed region of China. The bookstore is making arrangements now to duplicate 5,000 DVDs and VCDs. Most of these discs will be taken back to Hong Kong and then distributed to summer mission teams that are going into China for

ministry. When I asked why they didn't just duplicate in Hong Kong, I was informed that they couldn't beat the duplication prices in China. It is indeed an interesting world!

In Japan, one mission organization is planning this summer to build on a strategy they used last summer. They brought in about two hundred volunteers from outside of Japan. As any tourist might do, these short term missionaries engaged Japanese citizens in conversation whenever possible. And when the opportunity was right, they handed out postcards that explained how a person could mail in the postcard and receive a free copy of the Japanese Hope.

When I asked our contact how it went last summer, he was almost apologetic explaining that Japan is very cold to the Gospel. He said they knew of 30 people who came to Christ from the effort. "But that is good for Japan." he added. This summer they are bringing in 400 workers.

With 18 languages completed and 24 in process, there are other stories like the ones I shared above. But in closing I'd like to share one story that is very special to me. About a month ago I represented Mars Hill at a missions weekend hosted by a church that supports our work with The HOPE. In an early service that met in their main sanctuary, they had managed to patch in calls from some of their missionaries around the world who could not be present that weekend.

During one call to a missionary couple in Tibet, the moderator asked the wife if she could explain what she was finding to be effective in reaching Tibetans for Christ. Without missing a beat she said, "Well, there is this movie called The HOPE . . ." It was totally unplanned, and I was so very blessed as she went on to explain how the Tibetan HOPE was so effective in reaching the people she loved for Christ.

I hope that you are blessed by this story, and by the other stories I have shared. One thing is certain, The HOPE is much bigger than any one person or any one group of people. These things would not be possible without the prayers and support of people such as you. The HOPE is truly a story of God working through the body of Christ. And what a privilege it is to join Him in that work!



The front of the postcard used in Japan last summer.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fred Carpenter  
President