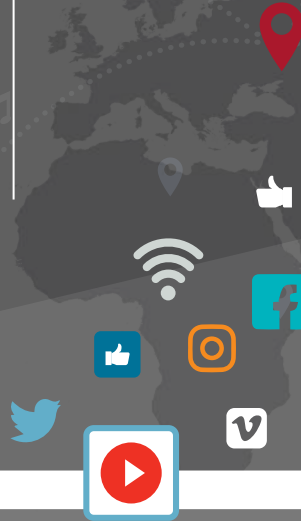


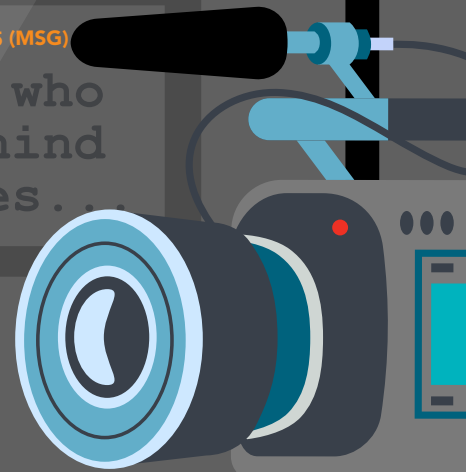
V+H MAGAZINE



REACHING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

Isaiah 45:15 (MSG)

...a God who works behind the scenes.



**REACH
BEYOND**
VOICE+HANDS, TOGETHER

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LETTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT

God's Story told through Visual Media

Dear friend of Reach Beyond,


A new year has begun. A global pandemic continues. And the work of Reach Beyond continues to reach the unreached, spreading the Gospel all over our world.

In this issue of *V+H Magazine*, we are exploring several unique ministries Reach Beyond missionaries are involved in, specifically related to video and digital media. Reach Beyond began nearly 90 years ago by leveraging radio—the newest technology at the time!—so that more people would hear about Jesus. Today, we continue that work with newer technologies and broadcasts that capitalize on visual imagery and digital distribution.

Considering the span of work we've had the blessing to be involved with, from audio to video, I can't help but notice how it correlates to our place in the Biblical narrative and timeline.

Back in 1931, when radio was the “latest and greatest,” people tuned in eagerly to hear and use their imaginations to “see” the stories told. Fast forward to today, and people can see exactly what was intended through the video medium.

Imagine what it was like to be an Israelite during the 400 years of silence of God's word from the time of Malachi to the birth of Jesus. These people had the recorded words of prophets and the stories of God's faithfulness to point and direct their imagination to what the coming King would be like. Today we have even more. We have the privilege of seeing the scope of what God did prior to Jesus' arrival, through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and now by how the church has grown since His ascension.



“We are living
in a time where we
get to see the
'video image' of God's
redemptive story!”

“He is the image of the invisible God...”

COLOSSIANS 1:15-17 (ESV)

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

We are living in a time where we get to see the “video image” of God’s redemptive story!

The stories of His words and life that are found in Scripture are pictures for us to see what God is really like. For millenia, God’s people could only wonder and hope and dream. Now we are able to see with clarity what He has done and what He stands ready to do.

Jesus allows us to see God where we couldn’t before.

As you read the stories found in this issue of *V+H Magazine*, I pray you will stand amazed with me at the privilege we have to see God working in such wonderful ways as we extend the voice and hands of Jesus across the world.



Daniel Enns
President



Voice + Hands Magazine is produced quarterly by Reach Beyond.

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P O BOX 39800
COLORADO SPRINGS | CO 80949-9800

TOLL FREE 1-800-873-4859


T: 719-590-9800 **F:** 719-590-9801


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GLOBAL SNAPSHOTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE MINISTRY

JAPAN

As COVID-19 continues to dictate what social life around the world looks like, Japan is no exception to having strict guidelines that are keeping most people in their homes. Staying at home can have its advantages when it comes to us sharing the Gospel with the Japanese. We currently have thousands of Japanese listeners tuning in to broadcast stations Reach Beyond has the privilege of partnering with. With over 124 million unreached people are estimated in the country. Let's continue to pray for Japan and trust God's work through these broadcasts.

RUSSIA

One of our radio station partners has formed a partnership with the local government, the Orthodox church, and Protestant believers to broadcast Christian messages to a city of more than 1 million people. Because of Reach Beyond's training and support to this station, this team is able to share the Gospel and they are expanding into digital broadcasts to further impact the Kingdom.

CENTRAL ASIA

A listener to a partner station in Asia shared a story of a recent family gathering that was affected by what they had listened to. They wanted to bring up a conversation about how they could work on their relationships and communication because these topics had recently been covered on a radio program they had listened to. This led to an in-depth conversation about how the family members could work through issues that they had faced.

By the end of the conversation, they actually discovered that all of the family members had recently listened to this exact broadcast on the radio station! They were all of the same mindset that they wanted to work on their relationships and problems together. This listener shared, "Right now, the family as a whole is a topical issue that Christians need to take seriously and work on."



NORTH AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST

Reach Beyond serves many people groups within what we call "creative access" countries. These are places where traditional missionary activities are illegal or banned by the government. Sharing the Gospel in these places is difficult and can even be incredibly dangerous for local believers and those working in these countries.

One of our radio partners in such a country shared a touching story of a listener (who we'll call Angel for this story) whose family is being drawn to God in a special way. Angel's youngest daughter was having visions of someone she called "Jesus." This family has never been to a Christian church and didn't know who to turn to in order to figure out what was going on. They wanted to explore who Jesus was since they believed these visions were given to their daughter for a purpose. They hoped this Christian radio station would have some answers for them.

The station was able to establish a relationship with them and introduce them to some Bible resources on the internet. The station reported that this family's attentiveness and curiosity about Christianity has been an inspiration to them. Would you join us in praying that God would continue to draw this family to Himself?



Top Left: We are thankful for the numerous opportunities we've had lately to train and empower broadcast stations through Africa to spread the Gospel. Top Right: We recently sent 300 solar powered radios to Togo that are being distributed through 3 Christian radio stations. Pray for the families that are receiving these devices and the biblical resources in them!

PHILIPPIANS 1:3 (NLT)

“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.”

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Reach Beyond has had the opportunity recently to be a blessing to many radio stations in Africa. Through partnerships with local stations and radio networks, we've been able to repair and replace equipment in several different parts of this region. With this equipment in place from our missionaries' work and your sacrificial giving, the message of Jesus continues to be broadcast.

For nearly a year, we've been praying and working to get a compact radio equipment sent to Cameroon in order to start a new radio station there. Throughout the global pandemic, the local staff there have been training and working to get ready for launching this station. We recently received word that the equipment is set to be delivered to them soon. Pray for this equipment's arrival and the staff's initial workings to begin ministering to the people there.

One of our partner radio stations working among the Yao, a large unreached people group in Malawi, has accomplished a lot recently. Their station has grown to have more listeners than the other 2 radio stations in their district combined! People are tuning in to the Message of Hope being broadcast.

They have also recently received all the necessary permissions to set up a new broadcasting station which will double the number of people they are able to reach.

They also received word that one of the listeners of their programming is going to start a Bible study in their village, likely the first for that group of people. Pray that this unreached people group would continue to tune in, hear the message of Jesus, and choose to follow him wholeheartedly.

In a West African country, we have been maintaining some old equipment for a local radio station so that they can share the hope of Christ with people in that area. Unfortunately, after 17 years of this maintenance, their transmitter was no longer worth keeping. It had to be replaced in order for them to continue ministering to these people.

Reach Beyond stepped in to replace this transmitter. It's one of four times in the past year that we've been able to provide better equipment for radio stations in this area.

Here's a letter we got from a very thankful director of one of those stations:

“I take the opportunity to sincerely thank our God for all that He does through you for the good of our communities in the light of the Gospel through our radio. Since we received the new transmitter, the station has become more efficient and better listened to than all the nearby radio stations in our town and the surroundings. This encourages us to do better for the glory of our God. Receive our best regards in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

GET INVOLVED IN THESE MINISTRIES

REACHBEYOND.ORG/GIVE

REACHING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE



Television might not be the first ministry that comes to mind when you think about how Reach Beyond is sharing the Gospel around the world, but it is a medium that the mission has been using in various forms for over 60 years. Mario & Suzi are Reach Beyond missionaries who are leading efforts to reach the people of Croatia through online and broadcast television programming.

One of the most exciting opportunities came because of governmental regulations of television in the area. There has been a growing trend of broadcasters repurposing content from other countries for their broadcast, which isn't necessarily bad. But in order to promote and encourage the creation of local content, the government mandated that 10% of all programming originate from Croatian groups.

Stations found themselves with an abundance of submissions from local producers looking to get featured because of this new rule. But God had a plan to use this to glorify Himself. Mario witnessed as God showcased His orchestration of over 20 years of professional relationships with local television stations as well as Mario's professional career in that space to get his team's videos chosen for local broadcast on secular stations.

"At that time, we had started producing Christian programming including testimonies, talk shows, and more. We only cared about these shows being showcased to as many people as possible. So we went to the stations to say that we would give them these programs for free to broadcast. That way, they could meet their needs for what the government requires, and they would do it



Local partnerships are critical for the videos produced to be relevant and engaging. Churches and local celebrities with personal testimonies have been a part of the process since the beginning.



COLOSSIANS 3:17 (ESV)

“...do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus...”

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

as cheaply as possible. And we would be able to see more people hear the Gospel through these programs than before.”

This partnership enables Gospel-centered programming to be brought to potentially 7 million people in Croatia and the surrounding area. Because Croatia is 0.18% Evangelical Christian, Mario says, “We need a lot of people who can witness with their whole life. Only then can we see fruitful witnesses and fruitful disciples.”

Mario, Suzi, and their team got started in video production by filming local celebrities who are Christians and had them tell their story of coming to faith in Jesus. They posted these videos on YouTube and very quickly developed a following of local people who were interested in exploring what life with God looked like.

From there, they pioneered a talk show including some of the guests they had done features on. In this show, they ask

more in-depth questions about guests’ stories of coming to know Christ and how knowing Him has changed their life.

“We currently have 12 different stations that are showing our programs across the country. They all broadcast online as well. As we started working with them, we realized we had opened Pandora’s box. Our content was out there, and we were excited that it would reach more people than we could’ve imagined.”

AS TRAVEL DWINDLES, VIEWERSHIP SOARS

The complications of COVID-19 have meant many peoples’ lifestyles have had to change as well. There is far less travel than there used to be, and that means people mostly stay at home. “What do people do when they can’t go anywhere or do anything? They turn on the TV.”

“Social life in Croatia is very important, but there have been strict guidelines that have made that not possible.” So people turn to what is available on television to pass the time. This has caused many to tune in to such shows and hear the Gospel who may not have otherwise done so.

Reaching people right where they’re at is something Reach Beyond missionaries around the world do in many different contexts. The digital media landscape provides ample opportunity for videos and viewership to continue to rise as people remain in their homes looking for more content. Mario sees these new technologies and spaces as a place for them to empower the next generation.

(continued on next page)



Each filming requires the efforts of many team members. Together, they are creating shows that present the Gospel throughout Croatia and beyond.

JOHN 13:35 (ESV)

“By this all people will know...”

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

“The question for me has become, ‘How can I not be an obstacle but empower the youngest generation? Kids today are able to use technology that is way beyond their elders. We need to allow them to do the best they can with it.’”

Social media, YouTube, and other online methods are clear opportunities for the unreached to hear, choose, and follow the Good News of Jesus. Video is one of the most used and accessible forms of media on the internet. And with a little repurposing and reformatting, the same content for traditional broadcasts is ripe for a wider audience online.

In Mario’s eyes, the opportunity to leverage technology for the sake of the Gospel is one that shouldn’t be taken lightly. “We have the knowledge of salvation and the Gospel. We have the most important message in the world. We can’t afford to be behind when it comes to using technology.”

THE TEAM BEHIND THE IMAGE

The life of a production team can be demanding. Planning out filming, capturing exactly the right visual shots, and the infamously time-consuming editing process are the kinds of work that no one sees and yet create every moment that people experience while watching a video. But though they are some of the best-in-class in the area for production talents, Mario says that’s not the most important part of what they do.

“What we do in making these shows and videos is not really about how well we produce or how expensive our equipment is. It’s not about that at all. It’s about what kind

of testimonies and interpersonal relationships are bringing into the story. Are we being witnesses for Jesus or not?”

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35 (ESV)

Mario takes this distinction from Jesus to heart when leading his team in their production duties.

GREATER THAN WE CAN ASK, THINK, OR IMAGINE

Today, the work that Mario and his team are doing is impacting lives across Croatia and surrounding countries—far greater than he had hoped for while in school.

“Back when I was studying communications at Moody, my idea was to go back to one town in Croatia and help local Christians to establish Christian media. The aim was to be nationally present. Today, our team covers Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, and across the world through the internet. It’s pretty incredible what God has done and continues to do.”

Do you remember in Matthew 14:18 when Jesus beckoned His disciples “Bring [what you have] to me,” when faced with a great need of over 5,000 people to feed? There’s a great reminder here that when we are faced with a larger-than-life need, God stands ready to use us to do the impossible. And as we learn to trust Him by bringing what we have, whether that’s our time, talent, or treasure, we will see Him do more through us than we ever could have done on our own.



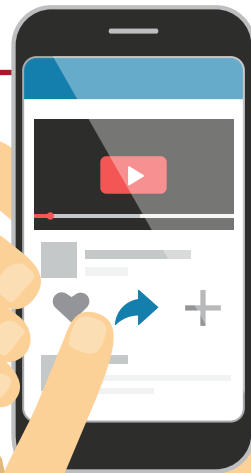
The broadcasting of these programs require many relationships throughout the country. Mario counts it an honor to work with a great team that focuses on reaching out to others.

“When God does things, He does it greater than what our vision is. I continue to bring just a little faith, and He expands it and uses it to do much larger than I think is possible.”

The people of Croatia are different today because of God’s work through Mario, Suzi, and their team. Through your partnership, we will continue to help the Gospel spread throughout Eastern Europe and beyond.

“It’s not about you. It’s about Him.” ■

“...God stands ready to use us to do the impossible...”



+partner

THANKS to our +partners,

Mario and his team are reaching Croatia and its surrounding countries with the message of the Gospel through visual media.

Would you consider joining Reach Beyond with a monthly gift of \$50-100 so that together we can

SHARE THE GOSPEL

with more unreached people
all over the world?

BEGIN PARTNERING WITH US TODAY. VISIT
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ABOUT
MARIO & SUZI'S
MINISTRY

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SUPERBIBLE



Reach Beyond equips missionaries all over the world with equipment that allows them to share the SuperBible with unreached people groups. It's a powerful tool for storytelling and conversations.

HEROIC STORIES COME TO LIFE

When working with unreached people groups in developing parts of the world, illiteracy is a real issue. Solely releasing products that are written can neglect a significant part of a country's population depending on where you are. Although global literacy rates have increased significantly in the past 10 years, there's still an estimated 13% of the world's population that cannot read on a functional level.*

Pictures and imagery can speak to all people. And the team behind the SuperBible app uses these resources to reach people globally in their native languages.

Bob Arend is part of the Reach Beyond team in New Zealand working on the technology for this project. "The app will find your native language and then only show the Bible stories in that language or the options of your area. We have around 27 different languages represented now."

These different languages represented mean that people who speak Maori, Swahili, Syrian Turkmen, and more can learn about Bible stories in a creative way. Artists who

II CORINTHIANS 1:13-14 (ESV)

“...you will come to understand fully...”

“For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that, as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.”



*Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/literacy>

previously worked with DC Comics, Marvel Comics, and Disney create captivating imagery that is used in printed comics as well as video versions with audio narratives.

Missionaries from Reach Beyond and other partners use this resource as a tool when ministering in different regions of the world. Reach Beyond New Zealand has created a unique device that even allows for the app to be distributed in villages that don't have access to the internet. They call this device a Sheep Station, and it carries with it all the latest material provided in the SuperBible app as well as a way to transmit the images and videos to peoples' digital devices in the village.

"We're doing a joint project with Theovision, a long time partner of Reach Beyond, in Ghana. They have been putting solar light panels in remote villages, and on those poles are our Sheep Stations. So the people in the village can charge their phones and other electronic devices on this solar light panel, and then they can also access the SuperBible and other Bible teaching programs. They even have loudspeakers on the poles that play radio programs throughout the day."

Reaching children on their level through the SuperBible app is just one of many incredible ways that we're able to reach the unreached, help them understand the Gospel, and choose to follow Jesus. ■



Use your coding skills for the Lord

Reach Beyond NZ and Wandering Sheep Productions are looking to fill the following position(s)

Part-time/Full-time person to help develop mobile apps.

Knowledge of PHP and Javascript needed.

Will train the right person for additional skills in Android Studio and Swift programming for apps.

CONTACT:

Lindsey

mobilization@reachbeyond.org

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PSALM 96v3 (NIV)

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URGENT

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

CENTRAL ASIA AND MIDDLE EAST

English Language Educator

Use your accredited TESOL skills to engage and work among unreached peoples as part of a local Reach Beyond Team in a creative access country.

CENTRAL ASIA

K-12 Accredited School Teachers

We have immediate needs for several experienced teachers to help provide comprehensive English-language instruction to children of expatriate workers.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Project Coordinator

Oversee all aspects of Reach Beyond projects with local media partners in the region, including procuring equipment and resources, documentation, communication and coordinating activity.

ONLINE ENGLISH CHAT

Media Support

Use your digital media skills to produce fresh and exciting visual and audio content to engage and help reach people online using conversational English.

We're also looking for community development workers, medical professionals, engineers, and more.

If any of these opportunities speak to you, let's talk!
Go to the website below, and click "Contact Us" to get started.



Do you know someone who has a heart to share the Gospel and skills that would match these opportunities? Take a picture, and text or email it to them.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES AT
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MENTORING IN VISUAL MEDIA

“Some think in terms of good, Christian television. I'm more motivated by the idea of Christians...making good television. And that's not to say we compromise our priorities. It's what was modeled to me in high school, watching HCJB (now Reach Beyond) musicians and teachers who worked to honor God through their craft, their professions. It was not a place for substandard work.”

John Gowan has spent the majority of his life as a missionary creating videos to engage hearts with the Gospel. As the teenage son of Reach Beyond missionaries, he participated in some of the mission's earliest television productions.

“A lot of the missionaries were involved with programming. And seeing what they did was my first taste of it. I knew I wanted more.”

After graduating from Biola University and then teaching college theater for 6 years, John and his wife Sharon began serving with Reach Beyond in Quito, Ecuador. John was quickly immersed in writing, directing, and editing TV projects as well as translating for U.S.-based ministries including Charles Stanley and Adrian Rogers.

The early 2000's found the mission regrouping and refocusing their media strategies. An opportunity opened for John to go to Guatemala to teach and mentor younger video producers and assist various Christian video ministries in the region.

One of those, *Deditos* (*Small Fingers* in English), came to him for training. He ended up joining their team full-time

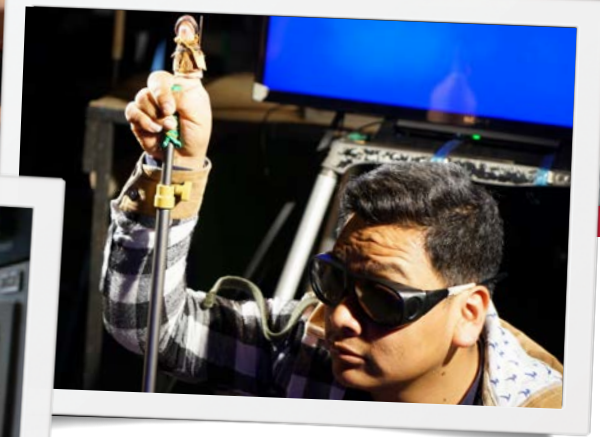
1 PETER 4:10 (ESV)

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another...”

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace”

as both a mentor and dramatic director. *Deditos* is a series of engaging videos that retell foundational Old Testament stories with personified human fingers. It's clever, fun, and appeals to kids as well as adults.

“There's such a void of good Biblical material for children around the world. That's one of the big appeals of *Deditos*. Another is that, by design, it works just as well when translated into other languages.” *Deditos* has been translated into several major and tribal languages and is being used in churches around the world. John's eye for upholding international best practices in video production and helping younger visionaries to embrace them to be better at their craft is something he's come to be known and respected for. COVID-19's impact has reduced his travel but has also opened the door to teach virtually in international seminar settings.



Top: Deditos uses fun finger puppets to introduce kids to Bible stories in a unique way. Far left: John is an asset to any production team, eager to give direction and feedback to build up the next generation of filmmakers.

“You could not have imagined, years ago when God inspired you to produce this incredibly valuable material, that God would use it for a time such as this...”

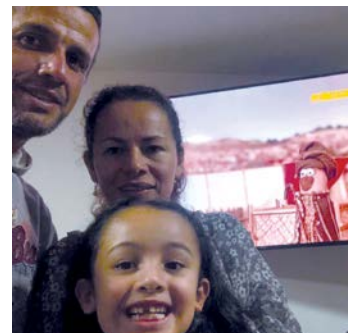
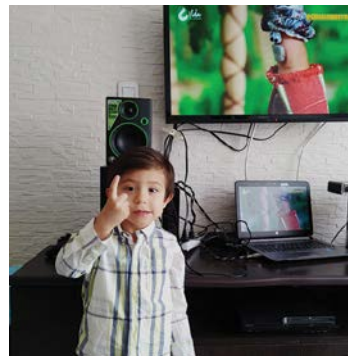
This year, John heads back to Ecuador to work shoulder-to-shoulder with Radio HCJB's Ecuadorian production staff, including a former student of his who is producing dramatic feature films with purpose for theaters. "The films present what it can look like to follow God's way, and they work hard to avoid falling back on formulaic Christian cliches or simplistic answers. The vision is to present Christianity and life with God in a faithful way by engaging and moving wide audiences with quality, visual storytelling."

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Amidst the COVID-19 lockdowns, churches worldwide have been working to figure out how to minister to families who may not be able or allowed to come to their church building. Cruzada Christiana is a church in Bogotá, Columbia that started using *Deditos* as a core way to equip families in their homes through their YouTube channel.

The pastor of the church sent a letter to the producers saying, "You could not have imagined, years ago when God inspired you to produce this incredibly valuable material, that God would use it for a time such as this..."

Around 700-1,000 children are watching *Deditos* each week, especially throughout North and South America. ■



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