

VISUAL STORY NETWORK

Clash of Kingdoms

On Friday, November 13, 2015 I received this frantic text from my mother, "Can u verify that Elena is not near violence in Paris near stadium?" We tried calling, but could only text our daughter Elena. Ensuing texts included, "Are you near the shootings?" "Yes I am near, send prayers." "R u in the concert hall?" "No, I am hiding out in a safe area."



Elena & Tessa one hour before the Paris attacks.

We texted for hours while Elena and her friend Tessa were locked down in a concert venue. Multiple ISIS attacks took place less than a mile away that killed 130 people. The day before, ISIS suicide bombers killed 43 people six miles from our son Quinn's apartment in Beirut. That Friday night I told our small group, "I think violence like this will be the new normal for our kid's generation."

When Shirin and I first went to serve Christ in the Middle East in 1987, I had a strong sense that the ultimate clash of kingdoms would be between the reign of Jesus and the rule of Islam. Thirty years later this is truer than ever. Islam has expanded and become more violent. Yet the light of Jesus shines brightest in the darkest places. Today, thousands of Muslim refugees are coming to Christ and the fastest growing church in the world is in Iran! While the work of VSN is not only focused on the Muslim world, much of our reach is among those who only know the law of Islam.

The Kingdom Comes in New Ways

People everywhere are affected by the rise of media, the role of entertainment and rapid technology advances. This is why the Visual Story Network equips the mission arm of the Church to innovate through visual media, story and new technology. Since 2007, VSN has...

- helped 338 organizations be more effective in their mission through media, story and mobile phones.
- enabled 2.8 million people to encounter Christ through 195 products, projects and partnerships.

Plans for 2017

- Produce a 13-part television series on trauma healing to be broadcast into Iran.
- Expand the Mission Media U online learning platform to include our fourth course, "Using Mobiles in Your Ministry."
- Launch a network to promote "Virtual/Augmented Reality" in ministry.
- Release "Social Media Ministry Made Easy," a training guide for missionaries worldwide.

Kyle and Jessica are a young missionary couple in the Middle East working among the Kurds. In February, they were in our "Foundations in Media Strategy" course as part of the launch of Mission Media U. As a result, they developed a social media campaign that asked "Do you want to know what the Bible has to say about your dreams?" The response was overwhelming. 800 people said "yes" and they are now following them up.



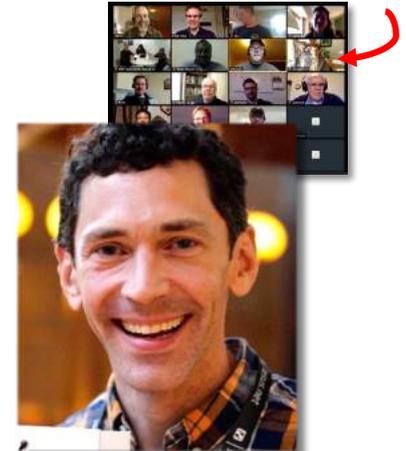
Kurdish women.

- Distribute “Portions,” a film produced through the Middle East Women’s Leadership Network,
- Host our 6th International Mobile Ministry Forum (April 7-8 in Holland for 100 leaders).
- Produce “Shohrat’s Story, “ an evangelistic film for the unreached people of Turkmenistan.
- Equip women in the Middle East to produce 10 new projects.

2017 Goals

By God’s grace, VSN strategies will result in the following...

- Catalyze 50 ministries to use visual media in their mission by
 - Influencing 1000 leaders monthly through our e-communiqué.
 - Matching 50 leaders to potential visual story partners.
 - The Mission Media U “Foundations in Media Strategy” courses.
- Train 250 leaders in 15 countries in to use story in their mission through...
 - Mission Media U “Story in Ministry” courses.
 - Story workshops.
 - the Middle East Women’s Leadership Network Tunisia Media Summit.
- Equip 400 leaders in 25 nations to develop ministry strategies using mobile phones through
 - the Mobile Ministry Forum Consultation in Holland.
 - the Mission Media U course on mobiles in ministry.
 - Mobile Ministry Forum curriculums.
- Offer 250,000 people new life in Christ.



Chris Gammill is the Director of International Operations for CBN, one of largest Christian broadcasters in the world. He took our Mission Media U “Foundations in Media Strategy” course in the winter of 2016. He wanted to see if the training would be valuable for his staff responsible for media strategy around the world. Chris loved the course and has had 20 CBN staff in 8 countries take the course. As a result, one team in the Middle East developed a strategy that generated 1.4 million Facebook likes. More importantly, 3600 indicated they put their trust in Christ.