



Vernacular Video Mission International

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2019 ANNUAL REPORT – THE BIG PICTURE AFTER 20 YEARS

Dear Partner with VVMI,

It seems hard to believe, but VVMI was incorporated 20 years ago. Certainly, God has done so many things in that time we might, like the Apostle John at the end of his Gospel, also start to wonder how many books it would take to relate all the testimonies! Therefore, rather than providing a long history lesson, I want to share an evaluation of sorts about where we're at after 20 years. I think one piece of history, though, *is* foundational...

In 2009 – 10 years ago – our then newest ministry partner, Viña Association, and the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) held a Latin American Christian media conference in Panajachel, Guatemala. Representatives came from all over the Americas. I was invited to attend along with a Philippines ministry partner representative, VVM's Director Darwin Bayani. Certainly East met West there in Guatemala, and it began a new dimension in VVMI's partners partnering that has since produced many wonderful testimonies of God's continued working.

But something else happened there. One of the main session speakers, a Guatemalan pastor, stated a truth I'd never really heard before, but that is basic and essential to who we are, how we partner, and what our ministry partners are doing. He essentially said, "As Christian media producers and utilizers, we're not 'Para-Church;' we're all part of THE CHURCH!" How, then, are we doing after 20 years in being part of the Church? Is the Body of Christ expanding globally and being strengthened because VVMI exists? May the next few pages shed some light on the answers to those questions.

In Christ,

Colin J. Edwards
VVMI Executive Director

David and Goliath came to grips this year via the new Deditos production, "The Heart of the King," which debuted in August in the original Spanish. It will soon be translated and dubbed by many other language groups around the world!



THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE

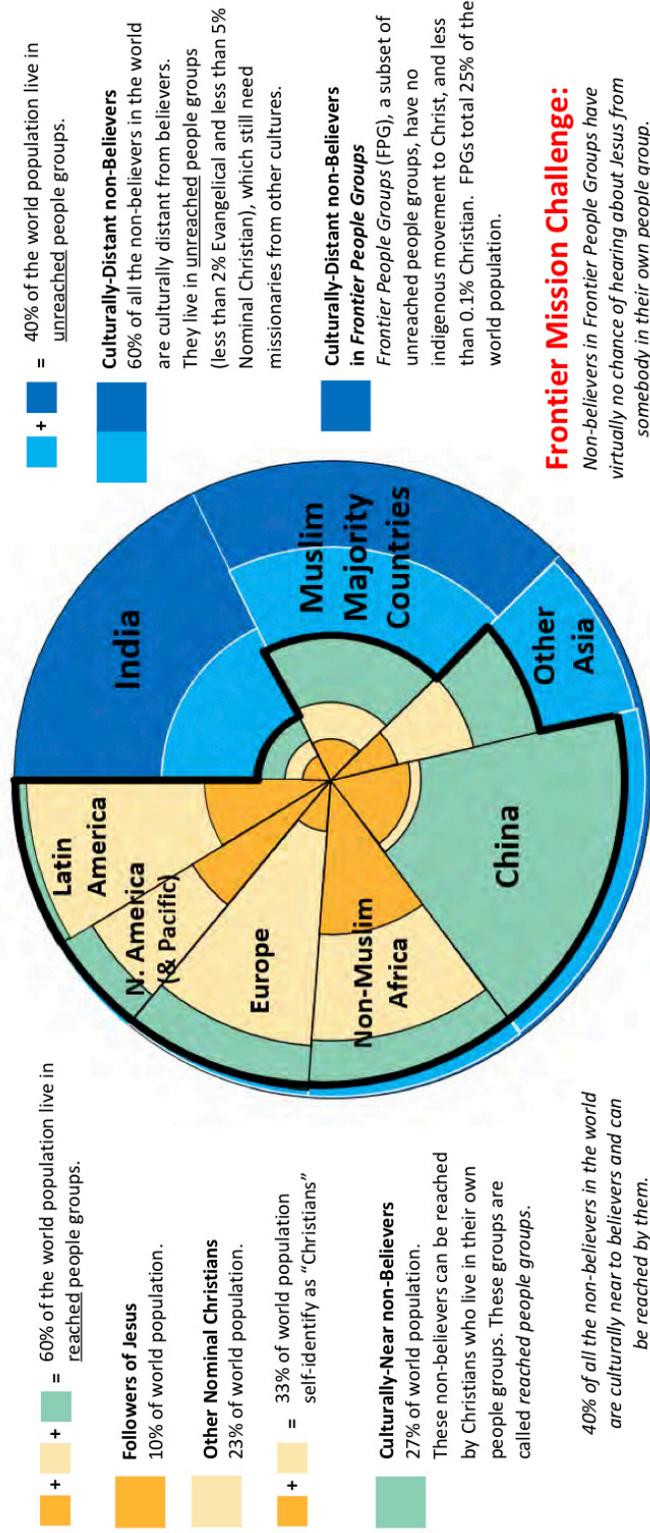
Scripture says that a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language will ultimately be present in God's Kingdom and give Him praise (Revelation 7:9). How many people groups will be represented there? The snapshot as of January 2020 (taken from the Joshua Project website, joshuaproject.net) says that when counting each group only once (without consideration of political boundaries) the world currently has nearly 7.7 billion people in 10,429 distinct people groups.

Of those, about 3.2 billion people belonging to 4,605 people groups (or 42.6% of the total groups) are considered "Unreached." By the Joshua Project's definition, ***"An unreached or least-reached people is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance."***

The "Clarifying the Remaining Mission Task" exhibit on Page 2 of this report provides further enlightenment on the need for missions by expanding upon the definition of the "Unreached." It also illuminates the inequities between ministry among the reached "Followers of Jesus" (■) and those who currently have **minimal or no access to the Gospel**, the "Culturally Distant non-Believers" (■) and the further subset known as the "Frontier Peoples" (■).

The scant people and financial resources being directed to these latter two groups, especially to "Frontier Peoples," is a sad commentary on the overall state of "missions" today. So how are VVMI and its ministry partners doing?

Clarifying the Remaining Mission Task



Watch a short video explaining this pie chart at: <https://joshua-project.net/frontier>

Mobilization Challenge: For every 30 missionaries that go to the reached people groups of the world ... **30 to 1** roughly ONE missionary goes to the unreached people groups, including the frontier groups.

Perspective	Non-Frontier People Groups	Frontier People Groups (the neediest subset of Unreached People Groups)
Where Christians live	9,999 out of 10,000 (99.99%)	1 out of 10,000 (0.01%)
Christians to non-Christians	4,000 Christians for every 10,000 non-Christians	1 Christian for every 10,000 non-Christians
Where cross-cultural missionaries serve	Greater than 99%	Less than 1%
Cross-cultural missionaries to non-Christians	1 worker for every 8,500 non-Christians	1 worker for every 7,000,000 non-Christians

Sources: Joshua Project, Operation World, IFM 35:4 Winter 2018

SOME THOUGHTS ON PHILOSOPHY AND OPERATIONS

VVMI is intentional about equipping and encouraging *nationals* to utilize vernacular (common language) media as a tool along with vernacular Scripture (if available) for making disciples. For years we’ve operated under the principle “the ministry drives the mission.” In other words, we value building relationships and listening to our partners and working together with them as equals in the Kingdom. Besides, our ministry partners are “in the trenches” and typically know much better than we do what’s needed and what works in the field.

Another aspect in our vision and practice is attempting to energize churches for mission, wherever they may be located, which includes the Church both in the States and overseas.

In relation to the exhibit on Page 2, it should make sense that VVMI is primarily investing in Christian organizations and churches in the “reached Followers” realm (■) so that, by God’s grace, ministry in the field can proceed to other groups. In fact, VVMI’s partner ministries are all investing in the missional Church (■), both so it will be better equipped, and so nominal Christians (■) might also become energized followers of Jesus. But, their work doesn’t stop there. “Culturally near non-Believers” are in their sights (■) as well as the truly unreached (■ and ■), since the missional Church per Acts 1:8 simply cannot be static or focus on only one demographic.

PHILIPPINES MINISTRY PARTNERS

VVMI has two ministry partners in the Philippines. Vernacular Video Ministry – Church Mobilization Initiative (VVM-CMI) and Vernacular Media Network (VMN). These are VVMI’s longest standing ministry partners, and over the past 20 years we’ve seen several unreached peoples and the “emerging” Church move into the category of the sending Church, where indigenous missionaries are not only reaching out to their own people but also to other language groups and, in some cases, even traveling beyond the Philippines to unreached groups. The missionaries going outside the Philippines are being influenced (and sometimes supported by) VVMI’s ministry partners, but are not being directly assisted by any VVMI partnership projects. It is, however, encouraging to see the impact of the Gospel in motivating tribal peoples to also want to reach the nations.

Today, VVM-CMI is known to be **impacting at least 39 language groups**, of which **7** are considered by the Joshua Project to be unreached, and **3** of those are considered “Frontier Peoples” (■). The latter are largely located in areas dominated by Islam. VMN is known to be **working with 18 language groups**, **2** of which are considered unreached.



Photos (upper left and clockwise): VVM-CMI providing training to a new CMI team in the use of projection equipment ■ VVMI Exec Edwards encouraging and praying over a newly commissioned CMI team ■ A pastor partnering with the CMI who is very happy to receive a shipment of Bibles. VVMI’s Filipino partner print Bible need is still around 500,000 copies ■ A newly “mobilized” team made up of members from various churches in southern Samar in the eastern Philippines



AEILMAV (BASED IN LIMA, PERU)

AEILMAV (Strategic Association ILMAV, until 2019 known only as ILMAV or Impacting Minority Languages with Audiovisuals) has a vision and desire to reach the nations globally. As a relatively young, indigenous organization, it is currently focusing on Latin America in order to energize and equip the Church (■) for utilizing media and Scripture to reach people in the nominal Christian (■) and Culturally-Near non-Believer (■) groups. Part of AEILMAV’s challenge in reaching the remaining unreached and frontier peoples of Latin America should be committed to prayer: many governments have regulations designed to protect tribal groups from outside influences. So far, this has made contact with those groups seemingly impossible. Our God, however, specializes in opening doors that no man can shut. Please be praying for access.

Note on Page 6 of this report that during 2019, AEILMAV had no active partnership projects with VVMI. We attribute this to three things:

- (1) AEILMAV was dealing with changes to its name and incorporation in Peru that will enable it more freedom of operation *globally*. Thank the Lord the “red tape” has now been cleared and AEILMAV can move forward!
- (2) AEILMAV has been very focused on “Jesus” film projects, and the investment is paying off. Although the work takes much time and travel, it has been with people groups AEILMAV had not previously impacted, thus expanding AEILMAV’s “reach.”
- (3) The Church in Latin American is taking on more and more of the responsibility (physically and financially) for reaching the people groups there. Praise God!



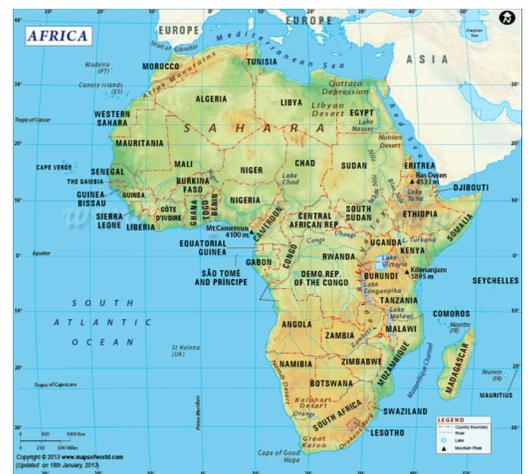
Latin America

OC (ONE CHALLENGE) AFRICA (BASED IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA)

OCA is VVMI’s most recent ministry partnership, which began in 2015. OCA is building and encouraging the Church through partnerships with nationals and is seeing growth all over the African continent, in the Indian Ocean islands, and is even beginning to have some impact in the Middle East.

The first video production equipment partnership project was supported and delivered last year, but the partnership continues to progress slowly for various reasons. However, the potential for Kingdom growth is large as literally hundreds of *unreached* people groups (per the Joshua Project) reside in OCA’s sphere of influence: in Eastern and Southern Africa (including Madagascar and the Indian Ocean islands near Africa), 349; in Western and Central Africa, 502; in North Africa and the Middle East, 385. Many of these people groups are also considered “Frontier Peoples” (■ – see Page 2) since they are predominantly followers of Islam.

VVMI has always felt God opened the door for the OCA partnership, and that He will do great things in His time. When will He choose to give freedom and provision for moving further ahead? We don’t know, but we ask you to pray for us to be sensitive to *His* leading, and that *He* orchestrates ministry growth and opportunities as *He* wills.



The African Continent, with the Indian Ocean to the right and the Middle East in the upper right

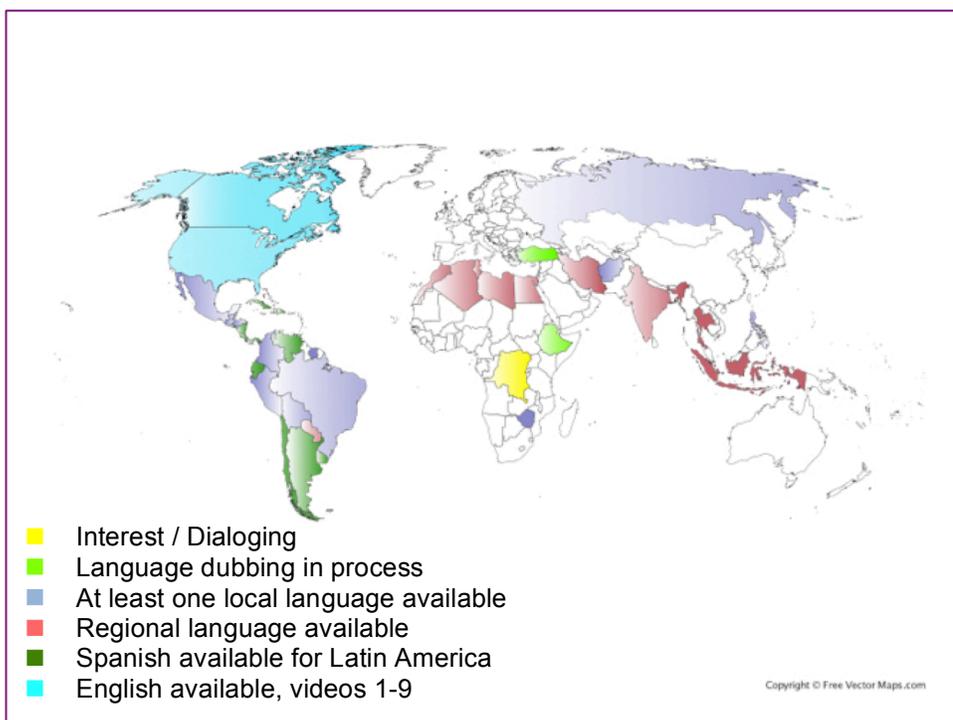
VIÑA ASSOCIATION (BASED IN SOLOLÁ, GUATEMALA)

Viña Association's Deditos Bible story video and lesson series may at first seem trivial and weak in the effort to reach the nations and grow the Church. But Scripture says God uses things that are (by the world's standards) foolish, weak, and insignificant to confound the wisdom of this world and show His own wisdom, love, and power (1 Corinthians 1:27-31). Also, recall the story of David and Goliath ("photos" on Page 1) found in 1 Samuel 17...

Why, then, are *Deditos* such a strategic partnership project and an advancing David in taking on the global unreachness Goliath? **First of all**, no Christian (and often no other) resources are available for most ethnic minority language groups, especially for children. **Secondly, perhaps up to 80% of unreached people groups are "oral cultures,"** meaning they primarily learn and transfer information via the spoken word and not through literate means. **Thirdly**, many of these same unreached cultures have **limited or no access to Scripture**. This is either because no translation has ever been done, no audio Bible version has ever been recorded, the personal expense to buy any type of Bible is too great, persecution, or simply because of no availability in those locations. **Fourthly**, *Deditos* can be dubbed into other languages. Often the very churches that want to utilize *Deditos* for their language group are involved with the dubbing work. *Deditos'* being dub-able also makes it a relatively economical media and teaching resource. **Finally**, the stories being shared by *Deditos* communicate a payload of easy-to-comprehend Biblical truth that can and is being delivered through the vehicle of various media tools (tablets, computers, film showings, TV, etc.), often in combination with the local Church's teaching and preaching ministries.

In the global war against spiritual darkness, this weapon not only matters, it's effective. VVMI knows from the testimonies of its partners in the Philippines and in Latin America that *Deditos* is helping advance God's Kingdom because it's helping provide the CHURCH with a great cross-generational evangelism and disciple-making tool. Bible studies and even churches are being started because of the interest triggered by *Deditos*. VVMI is even hearing about *Deditos* being used in prisons in the Philippines as an evangelism and teaching tool for adults!

The exhibit below gives glimpse of the current expanse of *Deditos* globally. When compared with the information on Page 2, one can see the significance of *Deditos* in relation to those that still need to be reached in Muslim Africa, the Middle East, and Indonesia, and in the Eastern religion areas of South Asia. What may not be so obvious but worth highlighting, is the fact that several major "gateway" languages besides Spanish now have some or all the existing *Deditos* available (i.e. English, Hindi, Tagalog). From these, many minority ethnic language *Deditos* can be translated and dubbed. Consider **India** alone, where the potential that many of the **3,679 unreached groups there** – most of which are "Frontier Peoples" (■) – may soon hear about the one true God through *Deditos*! Please continue to pray fervently for this effort and support it as God leads.



Children at a Deditos film showing & teaching time in the Philippines

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT SUMMARY

The tables below summarize the type and number of VVMI partnership *projects* supported by VVMI donors in 2019, and the outflow of those and earlier donations during the calendar year for specific project purposes. Please see the “VVMI 2019 Annual Financial Report for Donors” for total VVMI income and expenditures. Note that VVMI operates on a cash basis, so income does not typically match expenses during a calendar year. For example, in 2019 gifts given for Viña’s audio studio equipment improvement project show up in the first table (*), but since those gifts will not go to work until calendar year 2020 they are not shown in the second table.

BREAKDOWN BY PARTNER ORGANIZATION OF GIFTS GOING TOWARDS PROJECTS

Organization	Fully	Partially	Ongoing	Un-sponsored	Project Giving in 2019
VVMI	1		2	2	\$10,264
VVM-CMI	4	1	7	2	\$53,550
VMN	1		1		\$1,800
Viña (*)	2	1	1		\$29,241
AEILMAV				1	\$0
OC AFRICA		1		1	\$600
TOTAL	8	3	11	6	\$95,455

NUMBER AND TYPE OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY DESIGNATED & UNDESIGNATED GIFTS

Project Monies Expended by Type	VVM-CMI	VMN	Viña	AEILMAV	OC AFRICA	Expenditures
Productions	1		4			\$17,242
Production Equipment					1	\$186
Projection Related	7	1				\$11,780
Training Nationals						\$0
Facility/Studios	1		1			\$8,836
Print Bibles	1	1				\$20,774
Audio Bibles	1					\$3,745
Ministry Expansion	1					\$4,260
Ministry Field Staff & Oper's	2					\$13,985



Photos (left to right): Viña field test of Deditos with Mayan children in Guatemala ♦ Viña Executive Director José Abel de la Cruz with his wife, Blanqui, sharing about Deditos with a congregation in the States in October ♦ One of many Deditos film showings by local churches in small island villages in the Philippines during 2019

WANT MORE INFORMATION ON VVMI OR DETAILS ABOUT A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT?

Please visit our website at www.vvmi.org; or, if you have questions or would like to get hard copies of VVMI informational resources, please contact Colin Edwards by email at cjedwards@vvmi.org; by mail at VVMI (address at the top of this report); or by phone at 309-338-1367. **WANT TO BE A PRAYER PARTNER?** Colin will be happy to email or mail you VVMI’s bi-weekly prayer bulletin, “The VVMI Phalanx,” upon request.

VVMI’s 2019 Annual Financial Report for Donors follows as the final sheet of this report.