



Vernacular Video Mission International

PO Box 22394 • Minneapolis MN 55422 USA

Web Site: www.vvmi.org

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Partner with VVMI,

In Isaiah 55:8-9, the Lord states, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (ESV) Many years ago, the founder of VVMI pointed out that these verses are nestled in a context about God’s mission, purpose, and power. What’s more, the Lord provides us in Isaiah 55 His promises, hope, and “marching orders.” This does not mean there won’t be challenges and difficulties in the process.

The past year, as in 2020, the global pandemic and the reactions to it have indeed presented some challenges. However, 2021 also presented many interesting opportunities and evidences of the Lord’s power and active working as VVMI’s ministry partners went “out in joy” and were “led forth in peace” (Isa. 55:12) to share the Word of God that will certainly accomplish His purpose (Isa. 55:10-11). In spite of (and in some cases because of) difficulties, we are confident God’s Word and Kingdom *will* advance!

We serve a mighty God!

Colin J. Edwards
VVMI Executive Director



Outreach, Bible Studies, Baptisms, and Joy

Travel restrictions, lockdowns, special permits, check points, shipping delays, having to do things differently, and more, seem to have been the norm for many people around the globe during 2021. None of these things stopped the Lord from doing His work. VVMI and its ministry partners were privileged to see Him in action.

For instance, some VVMI partner ministry staff and church planting teams traveled to unreached and sometimes hostile areas to share. Whether on-line or in person, the Word of God was taught and preached. Media tools they had created or adapted assisted them in these efforts, and God’s Word worked, as promised! Hundreds of people asked to “know more about this God,” be in Bible studies, follow Jesus, be baptized, and joined local churches. Who knows, too, how many viewed *Deditos* Bible story videos on television or the Web, and responded to the Spirit’s nudge to follow the one true God?

Many Brothers in the Philippines said they had never before seen God drawing people to Himself as He did in 2021. One pastor shared the following. He said that his church started the year with 145 members. Home Bible studies in 2021 numbered 198, with 1517 people attending. By the end of the year, 131 new believers had been baptized and joined the church. That pastor ended the year requesting another 1000+ Bibles!

Jaime Almeida, AE-ILMAV Executive Director, stated that it seems as if God is drawing people groups into the “ark” of His Church similar to the time animals came to Noah before the Flood. Like VVMI and its other ministry partners, AE-ILMAV is challenged but excited to be part of what the Lord is doing. All glory and praise to Him!



Photos (top middle and clockwise): “Deditos” Bible story videos being shared in a previously unreached tribal mountain village in the Philippines ♦ Bible studies increased; sometimes via online means out of necessity ♦ One of hundreds of baptisms in 2021 in the Philippines ♦ Tears of joy following the baptism shown above

Print Bibles Provided as Never Before!

In 2021, donations and expenses for vernacular print Bibles for the Philippines reached all-time highs, at \$46,259 and \$42,453, respectively. Bible distribution during the year amounted to 3,413 copies in 8 Filipino languages. We thank the Lord the many bottlenecks to printing and shipping that were a problem in 2020 due to the pandemic were removed this year.

When the Tagalog language “Children’s Bible” became available early in the year (a regular full Bible with some pictures and study helps), many of the churches partnered with VVM-CMI requested copies to use in combination with *Deditos* children’s ministry that had bloomed. The Bible and *Deditos* – a great combo for making disciples and giving hope to a new generation!



Photos (above, left to right): Dedication in November of 810 Bibles requested for distribution to prisoners in the northern Philippines in conjunction with Bible studies held by pastors partnered with the VVM-CMI ♦ The year brought the new Tagalog language “Children’s Bible”

Deditos Advances Continue!

Deditos are produced by VVMI ministry partner Viña Association in Guatemala. This resource is having an increasing role in local churches and language groups around the world. Last year *Deditos* dubbing and use went forward not only in more Latin American languages, but also in countries like India, Bangladesh, and the Russian Federation. Be certain to check: www.deditos.org.



Photos at Left (upper left and clockwise): The Urdu language “Deditos” arrived in Pakistan! ♦ Sunday school teachers in the Philippines received training and resource manuals with “Deditos” DVDs and lessons ♦ “Deditos” use during a vacation Bible school, Masbate Island, Philippines ♦ “Deditos” became an online resource used by churches and parents in Latin America during the pandemic



Audio Bibles Report – As with print Bibles, the largest number of audio Bibles in VVMI’s history were purchased by VVMI for distribution by VVM-CMI in the Philippines during 2021: 291 units in 6 languages. Unfortunately, during the last quarter of the year, 126 of those units were hung up during the shipping process for various reasons. Please be praying that during 2022 these units will get to those who are hungering for God’s Word.



“The Need for Vernacular Scriptures” Video Project

People understand God’s Word in the language they understand best: their own. So, an exciting development this year was both the full funding of this project and AE-ILMAV’s starting work on it. Two Bible hang-ups for many minority language peoples are: confusion about Scripture’s origin; and the fact that their language – and even they themselves – have value. They often have difficulty believing their lowly language is acceptable to a holy God. Lord willing, the master for this video will be completed in 2022 and become available for adaptation by language groups *around the world*. Please pray!

What’s Going on with Vernacular Media Ministry (VMN) in the southern Philippines?

In short, the agreement covering VVMI’s partnership with VMN ended early in 2021. VVMI has been waiting for VMN to work through various organizational issues internally, as well as with the Philippine government, before beginning any formal discussions. Please pray that VMN and VVMI will have wisdom in this process.

Viña's Audio Studio Equipment Upgrade – A Testimony of God's Awesomeness and Grace!

Viña Association's *Deditos* Bible story video productions are having a profound impact for the Kingdom of God *globally*. The stories are non-threatening and share important aspects about the Creator God, man, Satan, and God's plan for redemption. God is using *Deditos* to speak not only to children, but to people of all ages.

A key aspect of good video production is being able to record good audio to go with it. However, in 2020, the global pandemic and ensuing shutdowns put a hold on Viña's hopes and plans to get their audio studio equipment and facility upgraded. Their equipment was over 15 years old and largely non-functioning, not to mention incompatible with newer technology. Although the Lord had provided funds for the renovation, the production and shipping problems related to the pandemic, along with local labor and movement restrictions in Guatemala, meant the necessary equipment orders planned for 2020 had to be put on hold. The delay meant *Deditos* production was probably going to be slowed and possibly suffer.

In the meantime, Viña did their best to proceed with production work by utilizing the working equipment they had on hand. They put more productions together as best they could, some staff contributing to the efforts using laptop computers in their homes. At the same time, some staff were able to work individually or in small groups to do facility preparations in anticipation that at some point in the future the hoped-for equipment would arrive.

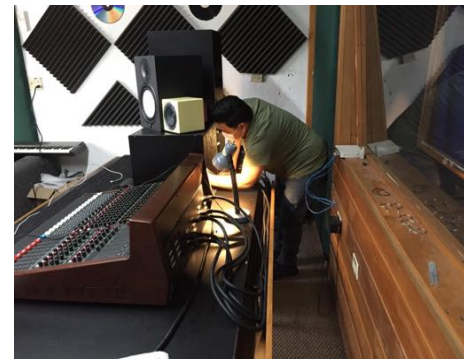
In February of 2021, it seemed the pandemic was easing and equipment purchases might be possible. To that end, Viña put together detailed orders, only to find out that some of the originally-proposed equipment was no longer available, and worse, prices had gone up markedly. Viña's audio engineer immediately redesigned the system for the available technology, while trying at the same time to keep the project within the previous budget, which turned out to be an impossibility. One more COVID-caused complication!

It was soon decided that all necessary parts of the system with the exception of the new audio computer could be covered by the original budget and could be ordered right away. Ordering as soon as possible was essential due to component availability and production concerns. Some of the items were expected to take months to fabricate and ship. It was at that critical time, in February of 2021, just three days before VVMi's Board meeting, that a proposal was sent to VVMi by Viña requesting additional support for the audio computer (a \$7,000 project by itself) with the question whether the project would be considered and funded. So, that very day, the project proposal was reviewed and forwarded to the Board for their information and prayer ahead of their meeting. Since no funds were then available, and it is not VVMi's practice to promise any, the matter was committed to the Lord's will and timing.

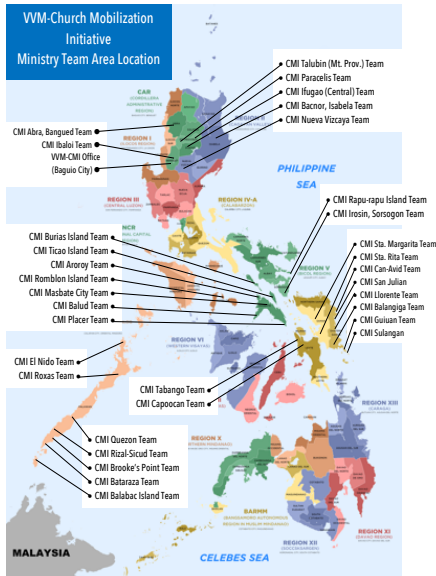
As was evidenced so often in 2021, God was already at work! The next day, the VVMi Bookkeeper communicated that a gift had arrived designated for a *Deditos*'-furthering project. It was meant to arrive in December, but had been sent to the wrong address. That gift provided for almost a third of the project. The next day (now the first day of the Board meeting), a call was received from a VVMi supporter asking what "hot project" could be supported immediately since their retirement account required them to give away some funds. That gift provided another third of the need. Then, it was realized other "undesignated" gifts had arrived at VVMi that could fully cover the project. By the time the VVMi Board officially reviewed and voted on the project – whether it would be approved for official promotion and support – two-thirds of the needed funds were already in hand, and the other third was on its way!

To add to this interesting sequence of events, Viña had asked VVMi to order the computer and have it sent to a ministry in the USA that would be shipping almost all of the other audio studio upgrade equipment together in a container to Guatemala. We were pleasantly surprised that the computer expenses were less than expected, which meant the "undesignated" gifts we had thought would be required could be used for other project needs!

By August, most of the audio equipment had made it to Viña, but because of a renewed outbreak of COVID, the audio engineer was unable to travel to Guatemala to install it. That was another "What now?!" moment in 2021 – not just for Viña, but also for VVMi and other donors to the project. The forthcoming solution was for Viña staff to perform the installation with the audio engineer helping remotely via online means. But when all the wires and connections were put together – and there were many – the system did not function. The audio engineer from his remote location was unable to ascertain what was causing the problem, and advised Viña Executive Director José Abel de la Cruz to contact the manufacturer. What followed next was José's functioning somewhat like a layman practicing brain surgery. He told the VVMi Board (during a Zoom conference in November) that he had opened the "black box" as he'd been instructed by the manufacturer, and with much prayer and trembling, visually inspected all of the connections, saw nothing out of order, and closed it back up. The fact that the system suddenly began working thereafter – not due to anything José had done – was a "God-sighting." The newly upgraded audio studio is now functioning as intended, and Viña's production work is going forward. What a great testimony of God's provision, awesomeness, and grace. We praise the Lord for the audio studio story, and for how He's using Viña!



Photos (above left and clockwise):
The bulk of the audio equipment arrived in Guatemala in July; here it's being loaded into a "carry all" vehicle for transport to Viña's studio in Sololá ♦ **Unloading the equipment at Viña's studio** ♦ **Viña staff person working on the equipment's installation** ♦ **Note the multitude of wires and connections!**



↑ Vernacular Video Ministry – Church Mobilization Initiative (VVM-CMI): 33 "mobilized" teams at the end of 2021!

New Option for Giving to VVMI as of September 2021

VVMI now has a mechanism for those desiring to give gifts of securities or mutual funds. If you desire to support the work of VVMI and its ministry partners in this way, you can send gifts via Edwards Jones Account Number 61521421; DTC #0057 for "Vernacular Video Mission International." Questions, requests for additional information, to designate such gifts for specific needs, to receive alternate routing information (via postal mail, wire, etc.), or to get a copy of VVMI's "Gift Acceptance Policy," please contact Colin at cjedwards@vvmi.org or at 309-338-1367.



December 29, 2021

Dear friends at VVMI,

I'm so grateful for all your prayers during many years for our family. After 16 years of marriage, God responded by giving us Antonia Eliette. Eliette means "God responded." Now our beautiful daughter is 3 years old. She is a gift to us. On January 6, I have to drive 7 hours to Huancayo to get our passport and get the visa for Antonia, because our plans are to visit the USA in 2022.

I am so impressed how God is providing for many projects to bless many languages in my country. So, thank you very much for all your friendship and support of our ministry. God is faithful and our loving Father.

God bless you and bless your country. He is our Light.

*Jaime Almeida (Executive Director of AE-ILMAV, based in Lima, Peru) **

**Thank the Lord that Jaime and his family's trip to Huancayo was successful. Please be praying for their health, ministry projects recording audio Scriptures, dubbing Deditos and the "Jesus" film; and their travel plans. God is using VVMI and AE-ILMAV for his glory throughout Latin America. PTL!*

2021 PROJECT SUPPORT SUMMARY

The tables below summarize the type and number of VVMi and partnership *projects* supported by VVMi donors in 2021, and the outflow of those and earlier donations during the calendar year for specific project purposes. Please see the “VVMi 2021 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 given calendar year. Some gifts received in 2021 show up in the first table, but since those gifts will not go to work until calendar year 2022, they are not shown as 2021 expenditures in the second table. Similarly, which is the case for Audio Bible expenses, gifts received in 2020 were predominantly used for the 2021 purchases.

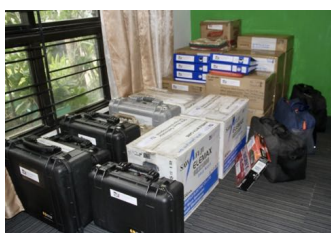
PROJECT GIVING BREAKDOWN BY MINISTRY ORGANIZATION

Organization*	Fully Supported	Partial	Ongoing	Un-sponsored	Project Giving in 2021
VVM-CMI	10		5	1	\$97,166
Viña	10	1	1	1	\$40,675
AE-ILMAV	2	1			\$21,350
OC AFRICA				2	\$0
VVMi			2		\$4,791
TOTAL	22	2	8	4	\$163,982

NUMBER AND TYPE OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY DESIGNATED & UNDESIGNATED GIFTS

Project Monies Expended by Type	VVM-CMI	VMN*	Viña	AE-ILMAV	OC AFRICA	VVMi	Expenditures during 2021
Productions	1		5	2			\$36,626
Production Equipment	1		6	1			\$43,238
Projection Related	7						\$17,997
Training Nationals							\$0
Facility	1		1				\$5,113
Print Bibles	1						\$42,453
Audio Bibles (provided to VVM-CMI)						1	\$13,319
Ministry Expansion	1						\$5,513
Ministry Partner Field Staff & Op's	1						\$13,565
Ministry Transportation Related	2						\$2,100

*No projects with VMN were possible in 2021. See text of this report for further details.



Photos (left to right): Projection equipment, Bibles, and “Deditos” resource binders ready for delivery to VVM-CMI ministry partners in the central Philippines in November 2021 ♦ Dedication of projection equipment for the newly mobilized VVM-CMI Rapu-Rapu Island Team ♦ The new audio studio equipment at Viña is operational! ♦ Audio Bible recording at AE-ILMAV utilizing computers, microphones, etc., provided through a VVMi partnership project

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

Please visit our updated 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 monthly prayer bulletin, “The VVMi Phalanx,” upon request.

VVMi's 2021 Annual Financial Report for Donors follows as the final sheet of this report.