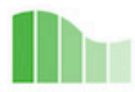




**"NOW THEY ATTEND CHURCH
AND FOLLOW CHRIST!"**

MEET TARA

GOD KNEW...

 **AudioScripture.org**
Ministries

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

HERE WE GO!

You've likely seen the statement, "The worst purchase I made in 2020 was a calendar day planner!" 2020 was, and 2021 is, a year of **surrender**—surrendering our routines, plans, and comforts. Trusting, adjusting, and planning for the unknown. Many of us are ready to go on vacation, go out to eat, go visit family and friends, and go back to "normal."



I praise the Lord that in the midst of everything ... travel bans, challenging financial circumstances, increasing Christian persecution, and other obstacles, **God has used you, your prayers and financial support to reach people around the world with the Good News of the Gospel through Audio Scripture Ministries (ASM)! Thank you! (View ASM's 2020 annual report at www.bit.ly/2020-ASM)**



Jesus' Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13) reminds us of the Good Seed of God's Word and the different soils upon which it's spread. Chad Vanden Bosch, ASM Africa Director, is living out that parable through New Harvest Farm (NHF) in Mozambique. Chad says building relationships and distributing good seed, literally, is positioning NHF as a conduit of blessing and discipleship in their community. Chad celebrates how **"something as simple as corn seed"** can lead to **growing seeds of faith**. Despite cyclones, political unrest, challenging insects, and all the rest, Chad listened to God's call to "go" as the hands and feet of Jesus

to address community food security issues, and this has opened new doors to sharing Jesus. His wife, Dara, is doing the same. She leads hundreds of hospice and palliative care visits, annually, with ASM's Compassionate Care Team.

God has used the obedience of Jim and Jamie Loker, ASM's Latin America Directors, to "go." Over the last two decades they've facilitated Bible recordings in nearly 100 languages, distributed God's Word in audio to thousands of people, and equipped hundreds of pastors to more effectively share Jesus.

I'm humbled and inspired by the commitment of the men and women God allows me to serve with, including ASM's team and the national leaders who have obeyed God's call to "go"—so that all may hear the Good News of Jesus.

I recently heard the song "Ready To Go" by Christian artist Charlie Rey. The song immediately resonated in me, bringing the anticipation of what God is going to do through all of us this year as we "go."

The song goes like this:

"There are days I wish You'd let me see
What's ahead and where You're taking me
A burning bush on fire
Or some writing in the sky
But that was never what You promised me
I have everything I need to see
As long as You are with me
I'm ready to go
Where You lead me, I will follow
Where we're going, I don't even have to know
No matter what's ahead, You're with me every step,
and that's all I need to know ... So, I'm ready to go"

yes!

Can you sense the anticipation, and the necessary surrender in this song? There's a lot of unknown still ahead, yet together we say "Yes!" to God's command (Matthew 28:19-20a, NIV) to "... *go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you ...*", through:



- **Audio Bible Recordings and Distributions**—working with national leaders on the continent of Africa, in South Asia, in Latin America and elsewhere to record and distribute God's Word in heart languages that need to hear it.
- **Bible Engagement**—Tara Rye, ASM's Bible Engagement Director, is developing ways to better equip people to *Be in the Word, Be with Jesus*, so that lives will *Be Transformed*.
- **Integral Mission**—launching the 2021 Container Project to support the Vanden Bosch's by filling a 40-foot shipping container (*more on that in this newsletter*).

Thank you for your prayers and generosity so that together we are "ready to go." ... **HERE WE GO!**



Naomi

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P.S. Scan to view ASM's
2020 Annual Report



"NOW THEY ATTEND CHURCH AND FOLLOW CHRIST!"

In many Oaxacan villages in Mexico, the TV and entertainment are not in the local language. So, an audio Bible in the village's language opens incredible doors for evangelism and discipleship, as people listen to the Good News in the words their heart can best understand.

Imagine: a knock on your door. It's one of those "church people." You're not interested, but before you close the door, Pastor Alfredo says, "Wait—I have something I want you to hear." He presses a button, and you hear someone speaking. *It's the Bible—and God is speaking your heart language, Isthmus Zapotec!* You're intrigued. As you listen, the Holy Spirit begins growing the seeds of God's Word in your heart. Pastor Alfredo invites you to a church gathering, and you begin to comprehend more about God who loves you enough to speak your language.



Pastor Alfredo and his wife, Miriam, delivering an audio Bible

In January, Jim and Jamie Loker (ASM's Latin America Directors) visited this area where previously there were no known believers. But pastors like Alfredo (pictured, above), along with lay evangelists, have been using audio Bibles—*provided by your gifts*—to share God's Word. After months of interactions similar to the scene above, a new church is springing up, with God's Word as the foundation.

Since so many people are fascinated to hear Bible stories in their own language, **it's a natural way for pastors and church members to share the Gospel.** "All we have to do is visit, pray with them and share an audio Bible ... and now so many of them are attending church and following Christ!"

Your prayers and support are bearing incredible fruit in Mexico. But Pastor Alfredo points out that in another village further down the road, Christ still needs to be proclaimed. "There are no believers there, yet," he says. The unspoken questions hang in the air ... *When can we go? And, how many audio Bibles can we bring, so they too can hear God's Word?*



One audio Bible is \$40, yet can impact a whole community.
Will you help share God's Word?



Another national pastor reports that 8 families from non-church backgrounds started coming to listen to the Scripture together. As they listened to the Bible in Zapotec, the Holy Spirit began His work, and now many are following Jesus. Jim and Jamie were able to deliver a personal audio Bible for each family forming this new church so they can also listen at home, and continue growing in the Lord.



For the average family in central Mozambique, it has been a painful start to 2021. Two back-to-back cyclones in January brought 10-15 inches of sudden rain. Because 90% of the community are subsistence farmers, living off whatever they can grow in an acre or so, this was devastating.



As Chad Vanden Bosch surveyed the loss by visiting people in the community, he saw again how crucial New Harvest Farm (NHF)'s work is to building long-term impact through relationships. "You're here, you see us ... You know what we need!" he heard, time and again. This

kind of trust opens the door for Gospel Seeds to be planted deeply, nurturing ongoing outreach and discipleship!

In the midst of difficulty, our team was able to celebrate how the quality corn seed that NHF provided to many in the local community (through the generosity of our friends at Meredith Drive Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa) **recovered noticeably better from cyclone damage**. This demonstrated how even **just one investment** in providing good seed can **make a significant difference in so many lives**.



This year Chad and the NHF Team have launched an Agricultural Extension Program. They are going into the community and training others, in their own fields, to use new techniques and helpful tools already tested at NHF over the last two years.

This program is building long-term relationships in the community, to bring lasting food security and discipleship. By equipping people to "Farm with God," the ASM Team at New Harvest Farm is sowing "Good Seed"—for a spiritual and physical harvest—one family and one field at a time.



GOD KNEW...

"Not a day goes by that we don't use something that came in the last container," is a statement often said by Chad and Dara Vanden Bosch. Only God knew how crucial the 2019 Container would be for the Vanden Bosch's continued ministry in Mozambique, as the pandemic shut down regional borders and travel for much of 2020.

Now your help is needed for the 2021 Mozambique Container Project! ASM, in partnership with RCA Global Mission, local churches, and many individuals, is sending a 40-foot shipping container to Mozambique this year. The Container will include much-needed equipment in support of New Harvest Farm, supplies for our Compassionate Care Team's vital ministry, and equipment for the two ASM Recording Studios.



You, your family, church, or Christian Education class can invest in Mozambique with resources that will provide significant ministry impact in the coming years. **Pray, sponsor (or donate) items on the list below, crochet or knit hats, organize and crate items, and more!**

God can use you to help share His Word in Mozambique.

Needs include 1,000 knitted hats, 3 treadle-style Singer sewing machines, plows, discs, corn shellers, scoop shovels ... and more!

Full list at www.audioscripture.org/container

Turn over to see specific prayer items. →

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PRAY: MOZAMBIQUE CONTAINER

- That God would provide:
 - needed supplies and equipment
 - funding for the contents, and for shipping the Container
 - volunteers in the U.S. to help with logistics
- Safe loading and timely delivery of the Container and its contents to Mozambique
- Increased opportunities via the Container for the New Harvest Farm and Compassionate Care teams to be the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing lasting help and the hope of the Gospel to Mozambique
- Open doors to use the updated audio recording equipment to record God's Word in even more languages on the continent of Africa
- Strength and perseverance for Chad and Dara, their family, and each ASM Mozambique team member and their families



Loading the 2019 Container



Dedicating the 2019 Container

The most current list of needs is available at www.audioscripture.org/container. Or, just scan this QR code →



MEET TARA



Tara Rye began serving with ASM in December 2020 as Bible Engagement Director. She holds a doctorate in Educational Ministry and has served in many contexts, from her own home in Nebraska to international training seminars. Along with her husband Greg and their two adult children, **Tara loves to share the joy of God's Word.**

Tara first came to know Jesus as a young teen attending a revival meeting with her family, but it was after some poor choices in college that she began to really dig deep into the Word of God. Tara says she became rooted in the glorious truth of God's character and her own identity in Jesus. As God continued transforming Tara's heart, she began leading Bible studies. It was during this time that she realized **the importance of Bible storytelling**. She found that by using stories, students became more interested and engaged, and could later recount and apply more of the lesson than before.



Tara leads regular discovery Bible studies via Zoom

Moved by what God has done in her own life, Tara is dedicated to helping others engage the Bible in a way that equips them with the Bible stories and tools to also teach others. Her desire is for everyone to **BE IN THE WORD, BE WITH JESUS, and BE TRANSFORMED!**

Learn about other ASM team members by visiting www.audioscripture.org/about