



Digital Bible Project Proposal

Awakening the Amazon to the Word of God

December 11, 2022



Background on Target Groups

There are billions of oral learners across the globe who do not benefit from traditional Bible reading/study methods. Among these individuals are illiterates; non-readers; and the blind and visually impaired. Technology has given missionaries a variety of tools so now they can be equipped with more than just a paper Bibles as they go out to disciple the nations and fulfill the Great Commission.

The Amazon Jungle is home to hundreds of different ethnic groups throughout nine countries; spanning over two million square miles and crossed by thousands of rivers. According to the Peruvian government, there are over 50 distinct people groups (about 400,000 people) living among those systems in Peru. The highest concentration of these communities are in the three provinces (counties) where we work on the western border. (See the cover photo for a visual reference. Each color represents a different tribe/language group.)

Even though Catholicism is the stated national religion, most tribal groups adhere to traditional animistic beliefs and practices. Information from *The Joshua Project* indicates only four of these groups are more than 2% evangelical and five groups do not have any part of scripture in their native languages.

While our team has focused on Shawi (0.4%) and Kandozi (0.2%), our desire is to make contacts with other nations as well—we recently erected a church building in our first Achuar (2.0%) community and a hand full of leaders have started attending the trainings from both Achuar and Awajún. The new testament is available in audio format for each of these three groups through Faith Comes by Hearing. The Shawi recently published a written copy of the old testament; the majority of it is available in Kandozi but the translation is still in progress for Achuar.

Current Experience

There is a desire among our jungle pastors to have Bibles and Bible study resources to help them in their spiritual growth. Printed Bibles can be useful for a small minority (some who can read have Spanish versions) but the reality is the vast majority do not know how to read.

Using an oral Bible story telling method to train Kandozi pastors has been highly effective and fits well within their culture. We hold week-long trainings three times a year and cover approximately 32 Bible stories during each. Over 50 men *and women* have been in attendance for the last three trainings.

Through the discussions, pastors are getting a clearer understanding of God's word. After each training, we add audio files of the stories to a flash drive for the pastors to take with them. Furthermore, in response to a request from national leadership, senior personal have proposed an orality curriculum for the national bible school which will be implemented country-wide.

Additionally, we train a group of Spanish speaking jungle pastors using materials based on Global University's Berean courses. These trainings are focused on developing pastors to become multipliers and there are typically more than 25 leaders in attendance. We plan to incorporate these materials into our initiative.

Goal

To train and equip jungle pastors to take the Gospel message into the Peruvian Amazon so that true indigenous churches develop among these tribal nations.

Objectives

- Acquire various devices (*hardware*) to begin using among both Spanish and non-Spanish (tribal) speakers;
- Identify and provide training to key leaders on how to effectively use these devices;
- Evaluate effectiveness through feedback and observation;

Project Outline

This project is designed to get the spoken Word into the hearts and minds of these nations. However, it's not just about giving someone a device so they can watch or listen—It's about training and equipping our jungle pastors to effectively use these devices in order to help their communities grow spiritually and make disciples who make disciples.

Acquire Equipment and Materials

We've spoken with representatives of *The Jesus Film Project* and *MegaVoice* to get a good understanding on what equipment other missionaries are using on the field and what products fit our particular needs, such as durability, portability, economy and ability to customize. Since this would be our first step into using technology among our pastors, our team plans to evaluate a variety of devices to see what works in our area. General devices are listed in the section on *Hardware*.

Along with the stories our team has developed, we are researching other materials (like those written for *The Jesus Film Project*) already available to incorporate into our trainings and use on the devices once we have them on hand. Part of this includes translating materials that are not currently available in tribal languages.

Identify and Train Local Leadership

It is important to include local leadership in the selection and use of the equipment and materials. Some of the equipment requires more than just a brief explanation. It is our desire to identify national leaders who are technologically inclined and committed to discipleship and provide training on how to use the devices and materials. Several of these companies offer on-site training as well.

Evaluate for Effectiveness

The most important thing is follow-up to understand which devices or methods are working well and which are not. With some of the devices, there are internal tracking mechanisms; however, many of them will be evaluated through direct feed-back and personal observation.

BUDGET

Hardware

There are several different audio and video based devices available. Because not every people group will respond the same to the methods used, our goal is to acquire a variety of devices so we can use them effectively in the field. The following is a starting list.

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Cost
Megavoice Solar Audio Bibles Envoy 2E Series (audio)	350	\$32	\$11,200
Micro SD cards 32GB (audio)	150	\$8	\$1,200
Megavoice Envision durable tablet (video)	5	\$140	\$700
Megavoice WayPoint Secure Intranet	TBD	TBD	
Renew World Outreach Lightstream WIFI (video/audio)	5	\$140	\$700
Portable projector; screen and bluetooth speakers	2	\$550	\$1,102
Total			\$14,902

MegaVoice

EMBER

This is a small personal device about the size of a flip-phone that can hang on a lanyard. It's water-proof and the lithium battery has a 10-year life expectancy.



We can load each one with an audio bible and other customized material on a mini SD card. A special feature on one model is the ability to record directly (we would only purchase a few of these models).

ENVISION



The envision is a durable touch tablet that can be loaded with audio and video content on MicroSD cards. It has two powerful built in speakers. The tablet allows 6 hours of playtime and should last for many years.

Renew World Outreach

LIGHTSTREAM

This is a stand alone hotspot device we can load with audio, video and documents. It is designed to give cellphone users access to media via WiFi, MicroSD cards and Bluetooth.

We would use this device on river trips and possibly leave in predetermined communities for short periods of time.



PORTABLE PROJECTOR

We want to purchase at least two portable projectors along with two screens and bluetooth speakers along with a solar charger. We will use these to show movies or videos when we travel to communities.