

CASE STATEMENT

**The Jim and
Kristi Byh Fund:**

UNTIL EVERY CHILD HAS HEARD





The late Jim Byh served as OneHope's regional director of Francophone Africa, pioneering the church-planting initiative, the *Lumière Project*. His wife, Kristi, championed missions activity and continues today to advocate for God's Word to be shared with the unreached. The *Jim and Kristi Byh Fund: Until Every Child Has Heard* will provide Scripture engagement programs and church-planting efforts in unreached areas. Join us in honoring the legacy and service of Jim and Kristi by participating in this opportunity.





The Jim and Kristi Byh Fund:

UNTIL EVERY CHILD HAS HEARD

Jim Byh was known to say, “*Hey man, I’m just a simple guy.*”

And perhaps, in some sense, he was. Certainly, he was laser-focused on sharing the Good News about Jesus with people who had never before heard the Gospel. It often seemed that if he wasn’t ministering or coordinating ministry, he was either in prayer or spending time with his beloved family: his wife, Kristi, and their children.

His vision and calling were simple and straightforward to him, and he didn’t care to waste time on much else. This is perhaps why his tremendous impact for the Kingdom seems so outsized for the short time that we had him on this earth. He was born on November 4, 1962, and passed away too soon on April 22, 2016. For 33 of his 53 years, Jim was engaged in full-time missions and evangelism.

As director for OneHope ministry in French-speaking Africa, Jim spent what were to be his final days creating the blueprint for a passion project that will impact those nations forever: the *Lumière Project* launched in 2015 with the twin goals of getting God’s Word in a relevant format to children and youth throughout the region and planting new churches.

Already more than 3,300 new churches have been planted, and more than 3 million young people reached with the Good News.

Jim would be thrilled by these numbers. We are also praising God for the success of the *Lumière Project* in places where Islam is the dominant faith. Churches in those regions are beacons of light that will impact young lives and change whole families and communities.

But we know for Jim, the mission won’t be complete until the unreached people of French-speaking Africa — and all unreached people everywhere — have access to the Gospel message in their own heart language, in a way they can understand and embrace, and a church where they can find fellowship and grow as disciples of Christ.

This is why we created *The Jim and Kristi Byh Fund*, which will provide for the development of Scripture engagement programs for young people and church-planting efforts among the unreached people of the world.

Establishing this fund means that in Jim and Kristi’s name new projects will be funded and new translations of Scripture engagement programs will be made available for the people groups that now have the least access to the Scriptures.



The Final Third

Because Jim had such a heart for getting God's Word to the unreached, we will focus the *Jim and Kristi Byh Fund* on getting the Gospel message to the unreached, the people who make up the Final Third of global population yet to receive the Good News. These underserved or overlooked communities are waiting for a relevant presentation of the Gospel. The Final Third represents the gap in access to Scripture or a Christian community that exists for one-third of children globally.

These are the people most in need of God's Word, and the ones Jim Byh would most want to reach with the Good News!

Indeed, this is what made Jim such a good fit for leadership in the OneHope ministry. OneHope is committed to the vision of *God's Word. Every Child.* Our innovative Scripture engagement programs are designed to speak to the heartfelt needs of children and youth, and tailored to the age, culture, and language of each segment of the population.

Reaching the unreached and going to the remote and difficult-to-reach places is in our DNA.

OneHope is committed to working with and through local churches and sister ministries to accomplish the vision of reaching every child and youth ... but this presents a problem when there is no local church and no known Gospel movement at all.

Evangelism and church planting are the key in these situations. And we've found through 35-plus years of OneHope ministry that when we reach children and youth with God's Word and invite them into relationship with Christ, it creates the perfect foundation for families to come to know the Lord and for new faith communities to be launched.

This is the foundation for how the *Jim and Kristi Byh Fund* will help fulfill the Great Commission and continue to honor the Byhs for their commitment and lifetime of service to reaching the unreached with the Good News.

Fund Projects

The Lumière Project

Because Jim was instrumental in the creation of this church-planting project for French-speaking Africa, it will, of course, be one of the primary recipients of funding so the children and youth of Francophone Africa have access to the Scriptures and a clear Gospel message, as well as a church where they can grow in their faith.

Church Planting

One in every four people on earth lives in a community without access to a church. To reach every child, we must advocate for church planting. OneHope is a "networker of networks," with partnerships among a diverse collection of denominations and will promote collaborations among various church bodies to reach the unreached. The *Lumière Project* is ongoing in Africa, and the *Jim and Kristi Byh Fund* will fund these collaborative church-planting movements among unreached people groups elsewhere.

Fund Projects Continued

Translation of Scripture Engagement Programs

Scripture programs for children and youth are essential for OneHope evangelism and church-planting outreaches. For unreached people groups, this means adaptation and translation of programs into new languages and formats for new cultures. We've found that three foundational programs are key in sharing the Good News in places where there are few or no Christians and no awareness of the Gospel message:



God's Big Story

This is a series of illustrated cards from 16 major Bible stories that children collect as they attend Bible club meetings where they hear each story, learn its message, and learn how to tell the story themselves.

After collecting all 16 cards, the child has learned the overarching metanarrative of the Bible and received an invitation to follow Jesus — and the collected cards can be placed together like a puzzle to illustrate the message of redemption.

Because there is no text component of the program, it's perfect for nonreaders and oral societies. The “translation” of this program will mainly be updating the illustrations to mesh with local culture and creating the teaching manual in each new language.



The GodMan film

This computer-generated animation version of the life of Christ tells the story of Jesus and invites young people to choose to follow Him. It is contextualized to new cultures with a live-action introduction and conclusion that feature a story of young people in a situation that would be common to viewers in the particular area.

The translation component of the film will include dubbing the animation portions in the new language and filming the live-action wraps. The film is also a good tool for evangelism among those who can't read and may never learn to read.

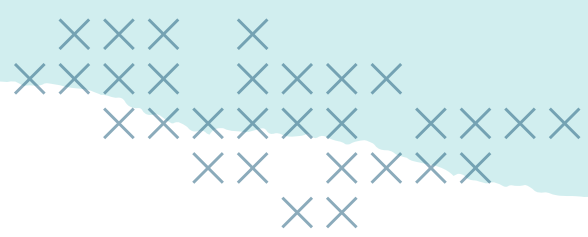


Children's Animated Edition Book of Hope

This is a Scripture book that makes use of illustrations from *The GodMan* film, so it works as a companion to the film or a stand-alone book for those who can read. The text tells the life story of Jesus in the form of harmonized Gospels so that nothing is repeated or left out and includes an invitation to follow Jesus.

These are the primary programs we envision funding for translation and adaptation through the *Jim and Kristi Byh Fund*, and others will be added as needed. OneHope offers dozens of versions of the *Book of Hope*, along with youth films and digital programs as well.





The Jim and Kristi Byh Fund

UNTIL EVERY CHILD HAS HEARD

Jim and Kristi Byh are beloved by their family, their church, their co-laborers in mission, their many friends in Africa, North America, and around the world. We believe many of these friends and ministry partners will want to be part of the *Jim and Kristi Byh Fund* to honor Jim's memory and build upon his vision.

Friends have already stepped forward to donate \$1 million goal, making the endowment a viable source of ministry funding for years to come.

Since we had such a generous response toward our original goal for the *Jim and Kristi Byh Fund*, we are extending the goal to advance this Kingdom initiative further to reach the unreached.

Join us in the effort to expand this fund with an additional \$1 million in 2024.

Jim's life verse was Romans 15:20: *"It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation"* (NIV).

He accomplished this goal, packing an astounding amount of life-changing evangelism and missions into the short years he was granted on this earth. He claimed to be a simple guy ... and embraced a simple vision: sharing Christ where Christ was not known. We can build on this foundation with the *Jim and Kristi Byh Fund*. Please pray about your role in this mission, and honor Jim's memory by making your contribution or your faith promise today. If you have questions, please contact Jeni Matthews by email at jenimatthews@onehope.net or call 954-600-6548.

