



## DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

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### ONESTORY

A global partnership managed by  
Campus Crusade for Christ,  
the International Mission Board,  
Trans World Radio,  
Wycliffe International  
Youth With A Mission,  
and partnering with many more

## BACKGROUND

Current estimates suggest that around two-thirds of the world's population processes new information by oral means. Some are oral communicators by necessity—they cannot process information by literate means. Others may have a degree of literacy for certain basic functions, but will not use literate means to process more complex information such as is in the Bible. For these oral communicators, life lessons are processed by observation, participation and oral communication—stories, proverbs, genealogies, drama, song, chants, dance, ceremonies, rites of passage, oral histories and epic.

Communication of the gospel by means of these same oral deliveries often has a greater effectiveness in largely oral societies than the literate methods that churches and mission agencies have long used. Based on grassroots initiatives in varied situations around the world, mother-tongue storytellers and cross-culture workers are reporting the effectiveness of these oral delivery strategies, in many cases among groups previously uninterested in or resistant to the gospel.

In recent years, a growing number of individuals and agencies have been periodically gathering for consultations on orality, networking on issues such as chronological Bible storying, as well as related oral and audiovisual expressions. At the 2004 Lausanne Forum, a permanent task force was formed to address various aspects of making disciples of oral learners. It has come to be known as the International Orality Network.

In a parallel development, Table 71, a regular gathering of mission-agency leaders that arose from the Amsterdam 2000 conference, adopted a cooperative strategy centered around orality and Bible storying.

An intersection of these different streams has resulted in OneStory (formerly called “Epic”), a partnership managed by the five largest global organizations involved in both. These agencies have a common motivation, goal and focus in reaching the least-reached people groups and Bibleless language groups of the world. Each organization brings a unique set of strengths to a partnership centered around Bible storying:

- CCC (Campus Crusade for Christ, International): evangelism, discipleship, partnering networks, production and distribution of audio and visual media for broad sowing of the gospel.
- IMB (International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention): church planting, discipleship, leadership development, orality research, experience in storying.
- TWR (Trans World Radio): global broadcasts and mass media network reaching the world for Christ.

- Wycliffe International: language and culture research, application of that research to heart-language translation of the scriptures.
- YWAM (Youth With A Mission): urgency for evangelism; training, discipleship and mobilization of large numbers of workers from a multiplicity of cultures and nationalities.

Besides these five managing agencies, OneStory partners with other compatible agencies, churches and individuals, and the partnership is open to many more. Current partnering agencies include

- FEBA
- Pioneers
- World Team

Other like minded agencies are welcomed to partner with OneStory regionally or globally. One of the five managing OneStory agencies serves as the advocate for managing and broadening these partnerships, and guiding their involvement and interaction within the OneStory partnership. Opportunities for periodic gatherings of the broad group of OneStory partnering agencies will be planning, e.g. as part of the consultations of the International Orality Network

## **MISSION**

OneStory exists to develop, initiate and facilitate oral strategies to communicate God's Word to oral peoples who are unreached or languages that are Bibleless, contributing to sustainable, indigenously led, reproducing church planting movements which transform lives and societies to reflect a biblical worldview.

## **VISION**

By 2020, OneStory seeks to spark a global revolution in the availability of God's Word to oral cultures, so that all unreached and Bibleless people groups will hear and respond to the gospel, resulting in healthy, indigenous, reproducing churches.

## CORE VALUES

The core values of OneStory reflect the partnership in general. Each of the individual agencies maintain their distinctive values, vision and mission both outside the framework of the partnership, and in their contribution to the partnership. Together they have embraced these core values:

- ♦ Proclaiming the gospel to **ALL peoples**
- ♦ Providing **God's Word** for every people and language
- ♦ Penetrating oral communities through chronological Bible **storying**
- ♦ **Partnering** with church and mission
- ♦ Paving the way for **church planting movements**

### All Peoples

A core value that pervades all other values is that of reaching ALL peoples. This means that the proclamation of God's Word will not be limited by the level of literacy of a people group, their geographic or sociopolitical context, the size of the group, or any other parameter. OneStory values EVERY unreached people group and desires to see a church planting movement addressing all segments of the society, including oral communicators, among EACH AND EVERY group.

### God's Word

Providing God's Word to unreached people groups and Bibleless language groups is at the core of OneStory. The availability and application of scripture in the heart languages of people groups unreached with the gospel is the foundation for a viable, sustainable and reproducing indigenously led churches. We desire for the gospel message found in God's Word to flow freely at the heart level of every individual, with everyone having the opportunity to receive it, understand it, respond to it and reproduce it within their own society.

### Storying

OneStory honors the communication style, preference and tradition of each distinct people group. God's Word is full of the stories God chose to reveal to us about His character, His plan of redemption, and His loving relationship with man. The Bible preserves these stories in a written record, but much of their original communication was oral, and the primary means of communicating them over the millennia was oral. A first generation of mother-tongue storyers telling a carefully crafted and carefully selected set of Bible stories and equipping others to tell them accurately provides for

effective, deeply understood evangelism, that results in indigenously led, reproducing churches.

### **Partnering**

Solid relationships are at the core of OneStory, and involve a willingness to forgive grow and persevere. The partners in OneStory are committed to trust, understand, support, serve and pray for each other. The partnership exists to utilize the strength and expertise of each partner organization in order to maximize its effectiveness in bearing lasting fruit. It exists to enable the church worldwide to reach the unreached and Bibleless, and plant reproducing churches where none yet exist. OneStory shares funding, personnel, other resources and responsibilities among its partners on OneStory projects. An effective multi-organizational cross-cultural partnership model will bear a witness of God's grace to the world and bring glory to God.

### **Church Planting Movements**

OneStory envisions the effective communication of God's Word resulting in evangelism and discipleship spreading broadly through every people group, deeply influencing lives. The result of this movement is the planting and growth of healthy churches that respond to the unique, God-given culture of each people group while at the same time staying firmly grounded in God's Word. As part of this movement, spiritual leaders are developed and equipped to pastor and spiritually nourish believers. This encourages the mutual building up of the body of Christ as individuals exercise their spiritual gifts, and to reproduce themselves by training more spiritual leaders. Church planting becomes a movement as the members of each local church plant new churches within their own people group and beyond.

### **PRIORITIES**

OneStory places priority on strategies for reaching the unengaged and least-reached people groups, and Bibleless language groups:

- Unengaged, unreached people groups over 100,000 population: 620 remaining groups where less than 2% of the population are evangelical Christians, as well as with little or no access to major evangelical print, audio, visual or human resources. [Source: Original Table 71 / Finishing the Task 637 priority people groups, from IMB Global Research Department, February 2006]
- Bibleless language groups: a total of 4,169, with 2,529 groups where no translation program has begun, and another 1,640 groups where a translation program has begun but is not yet to the stage where

adequate Scriptures are available. [Source: Wycliffe International, December 2005]

- Least-reached people groups: 5,876 people groups in which less than 2% of the population are evangelical Christians and where no known church has been planted within the past two years. [Source: IMB Global Research Department, February 2005]
- “Gateway” people groups and language groups: strategic groups for whom scripture translations already exist, in which there are churches, and which may have a sizeable literate population, but who may be crucial to reaching unreached people groups that relate to these gateway peoples.

## OUTCOMES

An initial outcome of the partnering effort is a three-part introductory set of around 40 to 50 chronological Bible stories developed to support a reproducing evangelism, discipleship and church life. There is no standard or universal story set being promoted. Rather, the particular set of stories varies for each people group—a redemptive panorama developed to best interact with each particular worldview and sociocultural setting. The three parts of the redemptive panorama generally consist of:

- A series of Old Testament stories covering the creation of the world, the nature of God and his love for people, their need for reconciliation with God, and His dealings with His people in preparing the way for the coming Savior.
- A series of stories from the Gospels, covering the birth, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and how His act brought about reconciliation between God and man.
- A series of stories from Acts and the Epistles that show people coming to a saving faith in Jesus Christ, the growth of the church, and the promise of Christ’s return.

With a redemptive panorama consisting of these sorts of stories, then, primary outcomes for an OneStory project include:

- A first generation of mother-tongue storyers telling the stories within their people group—engaged in evangelism, discipleship, and planting and leading churches that reproduce themselves.
- High quality audio recordings of the stories to ensure a mutually approved standard that can be referred to and archived, with distribution in broad sowing as appropriate to the local situation. The recordings are copyrighted and archived by CCC-OneStory, with unrestricted access and

use by OneStory partners and other local partners specified in the covenant document.

- Archived documentation of the project consisting of notes from worldview observation; a written backtranslation of the stories with notes on key biblical terms used; notes from a consultant review of biblical integrity and naturalness; and a description of the project results for evangelism, discipleship, church planting movements or other spiritual movements.
- Planning by the local church and regional ministry network for subsequent ministry phases.

## **PROJECT MODELS**

The OneStory partnership provides three project models for achieving these outcomes:

### **Quest**

In a Quest project, a Managing Partner engages in a two year storying project with a people group by assigning a new team. The two year Quest team normally consists of two or three members formed from among various sources: national Christians called to cross-cultural ministry, short-term expatriate teams mobilized through a partnering agency, members of advocate churches, and believers from among the receptor people group. Trainers, mentors and consultants support these teams in reaching the outcomes of the project.

New teams mobilized by one of the partner agencies will normally be assigned to a field entity of the same agency where that field entity is functioning as Managing Partner for a OneStory project. In some situations, new Quest storying facilitators can be seconded to a different partner agency managing a Quest project.

Quest teams participate in a two year training and consulting cycle which involves training sessions and onsite mentoring at intervals of approximately every three months. Regular debrief periods, spiritual retreats and vacation times are planned for the Quest teams as part of the two year term. A final debrief completes the two year term, during which the project recordings and documents are archived. This debrief overlaps with a new Quest cycle, with the outgoing teams sharing their experiences with the new teams and helping to train them.

### **Venture**

In a Venture project, a church, agency or individual team has an established work among a particular people group, and sees the need for a well rounded

chronological storying approach. The partnership provides the assistance which the long term team may need, each partner doing this from their areas of expertise, experience and strength, usually around the time frame of an existing OneStory training and consulting cycle. That is, the long term team members will participate in those aspects of a training and consulting cycle that enable them to achieve OneStory project outcomes.

The term “Venture” is used for this type of project in the sense of a “business venture,” i.e., an enterprise or undertaking where “investors” (in this case the OneStory agencies) come alongside a Managing Partner to enable the undertaking to succeed.

In some Venture projects where the long term team already has training in multiple areas covered in the training cycle, or where there are significant available resources in place, the project outcomes may be attainable in a short time period—perhaps two or three months. In other cases, the Venture project may take a much longer time frame to achieve its goals, if the long term team needs to participate in most of a training and consulting cycle, or is engaging the project as only one aspect of a broader ministry.

### **Journey**

A Journey project involves a church or agency engaging in an outreach of two weeks to two months or more with a people group. Journey projects may involve early engagements with the people group, such as prayer walks, man-of-peace encounters, or familiarization with a people-group context, all moving toward a OneStory engagement with the people group. A later stage Journey project may involve short term broad sowing outreaches where the local situation allows for it, using the audio recordings of the chronological Bible stories resulting from a Venture or Quest project in regions of the people group area where the stories may not yet have been heard. This later stage Journeys outreach involves team members equipped with a tool (the audio recording) which presents the gospel in the heart language of the people group, addressing their worldview with a compelling story that can lead to faith in Jesus Christ.

## **ONESTORY AND CHURCHES**

OneStory recognizes that it is the task of the church—that is, each local church—to fulfill the Great Commission, making disciples of all peoples. OneStory provides manageable, efficient assistance to the local church in directly and effectively fulfilling this task, particularly in the two-thirds of the world comprised of oral communicators.

Churches with existing, well developed involvement in a people group ministry or in proximity to a Bibleless or unreached people group can become Managing Partners for an OneStory project among that people group. They can equip their own members by participation in a OneStory training and consulting cycle. OneStory serves in a support role to the church by providing specialized expertise a single local church may lack. Through the training and consulting cycle, OneStory can help churches improve their skills in cross-cultural and cross-language evangelism, discipleship and church planting among oral communicators. Whether that church is next door to the receptor people group or across a border or ocean, it can manage its own plan to reach the people group, using the strength of the OneStory partnership to fill the gaps and equip it to take the ministry forward to subsequent phases.

Similarly, churches that do not yet have a developed people-group ministry can work toward fulfilling their mission task with the support of the partnership. There are several paths by which this might happen, but to give one example, a church may contact OneStory to get a coordinated response on behalf of the partners. The church may become a prayer advocate for a particular people group, researching ministry strategies and possibly being involved in prayer walks, man-of-peace encounters, or familiarization with the context of the people-group. The church might consider mobilizing one or two of its members to participate in a two-year Quest project through any of the partner agencies or another compatible agency or if it has a well developed missions staffing mechanism, through its own processes. The church periodically sends teams to visit its Quest team and the people group.

When audio recordings of the redemptive panorama are completed toward the end of the two year program, the church may organize short term outreaches to do broad sowing evangelism by playing the stories on MP3 players—i.e. a Journeys project. As the two year program moves toward completion, the church is involved with the emerging church in the people group to develop a plan for subsequent ministry phases, so as to bring the entire counsel of God to the heart language of the people, resulting in effective reproducing evangelism, discipleship, leadership development and church life. The emerging church among the people group, together with the advocate church that has sent and nurtured their Quest team, and others involved in a regional ministry network, plan their involvement in the ongoing ministry.

## **PLANNING FOR SUBSEQUENT MINISTRY PHASES**

Upon completion of the outcomes of a OneStory project, the partners are committed to subsequent phases of ministry championed by the local churches within the people groups. This involves more complete proclamation of God's Word for discipleship, church planting and leadership development, in story

form and in other media —whether it be audio, radio, audiovisual or print. The ultimate goal is to provide the entire counsel of God in the heart language of every person in effective distribution formats accessible to all.

OneStory has set a goal of 40% of Quest project participants serving long term with a OneStory-related ministry—continuing with the same people group project, or continuing with one of the agencies or a like-minded people group ministry. OneStory has set a goal of 10% of the total project participants, particularly Quest participants, continuing as trainers and mentors for future OneStory programs, with a particular focus on building capacity for training people from the church of the Southern and Eastern hemispheres.

## **TRAINING AND CONSULTING CYCLES**

To enable the outcomes of an OneStory project, the partnership jointly manages training and consulting cycles in various locations. Training is in a predominantly oral, narrative format, where the storying processes to be implemented are modeled, discussed, practiced and debriefed. There are Quest Training and Consulting cycles which begin in March / April and October / November each year. For some regions the cycles begin at other times. A separate document (OneStory Training Schedule) lists the dates and venues for upcoming sessions.

For Quest cycles, after an initial one month training session, the subsequent cycle of training and mentoring involves “just-in-time” training interspersed with periods of observation, research and implementation of the OneStory project. A separate document (Quest Training and Consulting Cycle) gives the structure of this two year period of training and consulting, spread out over the implementation of the project itself. There are major training events and spiritual retreats at each sixth month interval, with further shorter training sessions or onsite consultations at the mid point between each of the major six month events. With this structure, the teams have a significant face-to-face contact with mentors, trainers, and other participants in OneStory projects every three months.

The agencies hosting these teams are also encouraged to provide opportunity for at least two weeks of vacation time per year.

In addition to regional Quest cycles, in some situations where there is a viable regional cluster of teams ready to engage Venture projects and move along on the same timetable, a special Venture cycle may be arranged. Venture cycles may begin whenever the cluster of teams is ready and whenever OneStory

trainers are available to sustain the cycle. Venture cycles may also move at a different pace than the two-year Quest cycles, and involve only those parts of the cycle which the teams have not already been trained for.

Each of the five agencies managing the OneStory partnership provide aspects of training or consulting in these cycles. For this training each partner works from competencies they have developed for the trainees and for the trainers in their areas of responsibility – competencies which are vetted by the OneStory Executive Team. (See separate documents for OneStory team member competencies and OneStory trainer competencies.)

Quest team members may be asked to begin assisting with training at their 18 and 24 month sessions. Venture team members may be asked to assist at similar points in their project cycles.

For each regional Training and Consulting Cycle there is a Regional Coordinator who works in coordination with his or her agency's representative on the OneStory Executive Team and with the OneStory Coordinator for Training to staff the training sessions with trainers who meet OneStory competencies, and to develop regional trainers with these competencies. (See separate documents for OneStory team member competencies and OneStory trainer competencies.) The Regional Coordinator is a champion and communications clearing point for potential partners in the region. The Regional Coordinator may likely be a part of the “lead agency” in the region—the one championing the initiation of a cycle and/or the one managing the greatest number of OneStory projects in a region.

## **MOBILIZATION**

Local entities, sections or affiliates of one of the managing agencies of OneStory, or compatible mission agencies or churches wanting to mobilize workers to engage in OneStory project coordinate with a member of the OneStory Executive Team or designee. Other agencies are welcome to partner with OneStory in mobilizing Quest and Venture teams—mother tongue team members, national cross culture workers, and expatriates.

The mobilizing agency recruits, screens, orients and assigns its candidates according to its normal processes. The agency may assign the candidate to a OneStory project managed by its own field entity or affiliate. Or the mobilizing agency may work with a partner agency to cross-assign the candidate. Cross-agency teams are common—for example, a team composed a single Wycliffe team member and a single Pioneers team member working in an IMB-managed project.

## MANAGING PARTNERS

An agency, church or team may engage an OneStory project among a people group by entering into a covenant with the OneStory partnership indicating:

- (a) agreement with OneStory vision and values;
- (b) commitment to participate in the relevant aspects of a OneStory training cycle;
- (c) submission of a plan and budget specifying how the outcomes of the OneStory project are to be achieved and how the Managing Partner will fund the budget; and
- (d) commitment to document and archive the project results with OneStory by means of high-quality recordings of the stories, written back-translation of the stories, notes from an authorized review of biblical integrity and naturalness, documentation of worldview observations and key biblical terms, and a description of the results of evangelism, discipleship, church planting or spiritual movement.

A separate document (OneStory Project Registration and Covenant) fleshes out the details of this covenant.

An agency, church or team may propose a OneStory project for which it serves as Managing Partner. If the Managing Partner is not one of the five managing OneStory agencies, then one of those five serves as the advocate agency for the project. The Managing Partner may invite other agencies or individuals to partner with the project locally in order to achieve the outcomes that qualify the project as an OneStory project.

Proposed covenants for engaging an OneStory project are evaluated and approved by any one of the five OneStory partner agencies. A OneStory Executive Team member (or designee) may approve an OneStory project from that member's own agency, or be the advocate for approval from a like-minded partnering agency, church or individual. This Executive Team member or designee relates to the other partner agency Executive Team members whose agencies are proposed to be involved in the project implementation, consulting, or any local training beyond what is involved in pre-existing cycles. These Executive Team members will also interact with their local affiliates with existing involvement with the people group toward promoting local networking among existing teams or entities potentially affected by the proposed OneStory project.

Covenants are distributed to each of the five managing OneStory agencies and archived centrally by the CCC OneStory office and the appropriate Regional Coordinator for the Training and Consulting Cycle.

After processing of the proposed covenant, the agency, church or individual becomes Managing Partner for the OneStory project. The Managing Partner manages, staffs and funds the project according to the covenant.

For new Quest teams, the Managing Partner normally relates to them in the following ways, prior to commencement of the project:

- relates to the Quest team regarding prospective assignment and training session venue and date
- orients Quest teams in advance of the project as to how the project relates to OneStory priorities
- introduces a Quest team as early as possible (e.g. by email) to existing workers focusing on the people group or related groups
- interacts with the Quest team in advance about platform issues (including obtaining a visa for expatriate members of the team) and how best to present their presence among the people and communicate with donors and prayer partners
- orients the Quest team to financial considerations of the project, including what items are covered by a project budget and how to submit for reimbursements, and what items the team members cover from their own support of salary

## **BUDGET AND FUNDING**

The Managing Partner may establish a level of budget and funding that is appropriate to the local situation and achieves the outcomes. The norm is for the participation of invited partners to be funded through this budget, unless a mutual agreement is worked out by which funding can be expected to be available so as not to hinder the achievement of project outcomes. A separate Excel work sheet (OneStory Budget Template) provides a starting point for budget considerations, and also indicates required allocation levels for each category of OneStory project. A separate document (OneStory Budgeting and Funding) describes the mechanics of how the partnership manages its financial aspects.

For per-project budgeting, agencies that serve as Managing Partner and funding lead for a particular project will normally develop budgets that reflect actual projected costs on their normal fiscal year scheduling. Managing partners seek project funding through their agency's or church's normal mechanisms.

## INITIATION OF NEW REGIONAL CYCLES AND PROJECTS

Any OneStory agency, group of agencies or compatible agencies may propose the initiation of a Quest or Venture Cycle in consultation with a member of the OneStory Executive Team. Normally a minimum of four internationally funded projects will make for a viable cycle at the levels indicated in the budget templates. Clusters with greater numbers of projects generally have lower per-project costs. Where there may be less than four Quest or Venture projects participating, the costs will be greater than these template levels. In some cases, if only one or two OneStory projects are being initiated in a new region, it may be more viable for the Managing Partners to budget to send the teams to a different region where Quest or Venture cycles are already operating.

The lead agency or agencies proposing initiation of new regional Quest or Venture cycle will normally engage in the following activities, sometime by means of designating a “champion” from one of the agencies:

- networking with potential partners
- proposing an initiation date and venue for the cycle of training
- tracking project proposals (emerging covenants) and budgeting matters to ensure viability of the initial cycle
- identifying someone to manage the local logistics of training sessions
- coordinating via a member on the OneStory Executive Team (and that member with the OneStory Training Coordinator and other agencies providing training) for OneStory trainers for the initial Quest or Venture cycles
- identifying potential regional trainers to assist and be mentored in the initial cycles, so that the in future cycles training can be locally managed to OneStory criteria and expanded to serve broader regional demand

At beginning stages OneStory will provide trainers from other regions to enable initiation of a cycle. From the first cycle, interested participants in the region may be trained and mentored to become trainers in future cycles by participating in the training and engaging a OneStory project.

The regional champion or someone from the lead agency becomes the Regional Coordinator for the Training and Consulting Cycle.

## CONTACT ONESTORY:

Churches, individuals, mission agencies or those involved in ministry among a people group are invited to get more information or get involved with OneStory by contacting OneStory.org or a representative:

<b>Campus Crusade for Christ</b>	Todd Norvell	todd.norvell@ccci.org	(407) 826-2884
<b>International Mission Board</b>	Debbie Duffer	dduffer@imb.org	1-800-999-3113, ext. 1359
<b>Trans World Radio</b>	Rachel Davidsaver	rdavidsaver@twr.org	(817) 249-6135
<b>Wycliffe International</b>	Steve Rowan	steve_rowan@wycliffe.org	(616) 464-5987
<b>YWAM</b>	Ed Powers	ed.powers@ywamonestory.org	(903) 509-5374