



The Knox News

from Mike & Sheryl serving with Cru

February 27, 2017

Dear Friend,

Do you know what the word “indigitous” means? It is actually a combination of the words “indigenous” and “digital.” Indigitous fits within Digital Strategies, one of Cru’s four components critical to our mission as “a caring community passionate about connecting people to Jesus Christ.” As Sheryl and I work within the Office of the President across the room from several vice presidents, we are encouraged as we hear and see what God is doing through their teams here in the USA and across the world.

Indigitous was created by Cru so that Christians worldwide can connect and collaborate. It’s a new idea to create digital tools, resources and strategies to make disciples of all nations and ethnicities. Think of what Jesus did. He spent His life making disciples. He told us to do the same. To do this, He used tools to help people know Him in a manner they could understand: “fish & loaves,” parables, or asking challenging questions.



Today, billions of people are turning to digital pages. One joke among our “digital strategists” comes from Habakkuk 2:2 where it says “Write the vision; make it plain on “tablets.” Yet, it is not a joke when you consider how God has been moving in recent years, as in China, where missiologists estimate the impact there to be 4X of the fruitfulness experienced in the Book of Acts! With technology now, we’re trusting God for even more: “10 million multiplying disciples by 2020.” The line between online ministry and everyday life has been blurred by the smart phone. Smart phones are more available to some than a toothbrush. We are now within devices’ reach of what Habakkuk 2: 14 describes as “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

One recent study indicates that 49% of people in the world do not know of a true follower of Jesus. Now, think of the sum of Jesus’ whole ministry if it could be summed up in a 10-word tweet: “Love God. Love people. Follow me. Make disciples. Back soon.” What is the job in missions of the digital strategist? First, it is to go where people are. Where are the people? They’re “mobile.” Second, it is to create apps, social media engagement, and mobile device resourcing.

If you find yourself curious of this digital strategies of missions, take a look at indigitous.org or search YouTube for: “what is indigitous”, “why indigitous”, or “what is digital maturity.” You just might get fired up!

Thankful for your partnership,

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Mike + Sheryl

HERE IS A STORY FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT WRITTEN BY MY ETHIOPIAN FRIEND, MIHERET, AN EXAMPLE OF USING DIGITAL TOOLS IN THE USA. I FIRST MET MIHERET IN NAIROBI, KENYA. HE NOW WORKS 22 STEPS FROM MY DESK AND WE ATTEND THE SAME CHURCH IN ORLANDO. HE IS A DIGITAL STRATEGIST WITH CRU.

It's hot and sunny while I sit in the busy Greyhound station in Wichita, Kansas. As I wait for my bus, I see a man standing by the vending machine struggling to get the machine to work. His name is Kibrom, and he came to the U.S. from Ethiopia about a month ago. He's surprised to meet me, a fellow Ethiopian. I'm surprised because Kibrom is from one of the most rural and unreached people groups in northern Ethiopia where the number of evangelical believers is less than 0.1%. There are no known churches where he is from in Africa.

"I haven't had a drink or food for almost 24 hours," Kibrom says. Because he doesn't yet have a credit card, he isn't able to use the machine so I buy him snacks and water. Kibrom came to the U.S. legally, expecting to live the American dream. Kansas was just a stop on a long bus trip from Las Vegas to Iowa. He is traveling to find a better contact in Iowa because his sponsor family in Las Vegas failed to help him. He didn't know the U.S. was so big that the bus ride would take him two days.



We talk about life in America while we sit in the bus station. Kibrom tells me about his one-year-old daughter in Ethiopia. He says he misses his family. After we board the bus, we sit together in blue leather seats. Kibrom asks me to help him configure his new Android phone. As I help, I ask him if I can show him the JESUS Film in his own language. He seems surprised by my question. "Have you heard of the [Four Spiritual Laws](#)?" I ask. "No," he says, and seems eager to hear from me.

I share the gospel using my phone. When we reach the prayer section to invite Jesus as his Lord and Savior, he pauses and asks me the meaning of "accepting." I explain to him from John 1:12 what it means and summarize the gospel for him again. In the Ethiopian language, Jesus' name means "World Savior." He wonders what I mean by inviting Jesus to be his personal Savior. I compare it to headache medicine, which is good for everyone. Once you take it, you experience it for yourself.

Again I ask him if he is willing to pray the prayer to follow Jesus Christ. This time Kibrom says yes and prays with me on the bus. For about two minutes, he speaks in his own tribal language joyfully. I'm just listening. After he shares, I say, "Now tell me in a language I understand." He laughs and tells me.

I didn't expect to meet someone from one of Ethiopia's unreached people groups on a bus ride in the U.S. I'm grateful for this divine appointment. Kibrom is very happy to get the [JESUS Film App](#) and [GodTools App](#) on his mobile phone in a language he can understand. I pray that the gospel will bear fruit in his life.

FROM MIKE & SHERYL, IF YOU ARE NOT READING THIS ONLINE AND CANNOT CLICK ON THE THREE LINKS ABOVE, YOU CAN SEARCH, GO TO YOUR APP STORE, OR TYPE IN THESE LINKS BELOW:

<https://www.cru.org/digitalministry/apps-tools.html>

Four Spiritual Laws:

<https://www.cru.org/how-to-know-god/would-you-like-to-know-god-personally.html>

Suggestions on how to use the Four Spiritual Laws:

<https://www.cru.org/content/dam/cru/legacy/2012/01/thefourlaws.pdf>