

## “Jesus Film Project”

In the early 1990’s Paul and Marty Law had the privilege of working with Campus Crusades on the translation of the “**Jesus**” film into the Otetela language of Central Congo. The Atetela people number some  $\pm$  1,200,000 and qualified as a target group for the translation of the film into their language with the production of a lip synchronized version.

Funds were raised and a committee was put together to do the work on the film. It took months to work on a script that was **true to the Bible texts of the Gospel of Luke**, but that also met the criteria of the appropriate number of syllables. Once the script was developed, double checked and approved, a team of technicians came to Lodja to do the actual recording.

They brought state of the art equipment and technology to work with. A temporary studio was constructed, electrical power was supplied and all of the roosters who might crow were removed from the compound in order to eliminate any background sounds that might be picked up by the sensitive microphones and ruin the recording.

Local people were chosen and coached for the various voice parts and recording began. One important issue that had to be resolved was who would do the voice of Jesus, as it was the biggest part and the most critical to a quality production. After some discussion and trials **the committee asked Paul Law to be the voice for Jesus**. This raised some questions regarding the fidelity of pronunciation and intonations of someone not born an Otetela. The Otetela language is very complex and tonal in nature. It is not easy for someone to learn the language as an adult and master these nuances.

After much discussion, the committee members insisted that Paul was the best candidate for the role. It was a consensus that his pronunciation and general mastery of the Otetela language was the best. He had learned the language as a child and it was considered to be impossible to tell his Otetela from any other local speaker.

After the recording there was much excitement over the initial viewing of the finished product. The recording was taken back to Orlando, FL for final editing. Soon the first feature film ever done in the Otetela language was available for showing throughout the area and began to have a

tremendous impact. Tens of thousands of people saw the film and thousands indicated their desire to accept Jesus as their Lord and savior. The film made clear to many for the first time what **the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was like** to those who witnessed the events.

Often times crowds would grow very quiet and thoughtful and women would begin to weep as the crucifixion took place. Many would say with much emotion that they had, “**never understood what a cross really was before.**”

The desire in this project is to once again make this effective tool of evangelism available to the Central Congo area. Means are being sought to purchase the necessary equipment to show the film throughout the area where Paul and Marty Law are once again ministering. The plan is to use the film in conjunction with the other ministries that will take the Laws into the villages of the area, such as **Marty’s vaccination program** and **Paul’s projects to restore village churches.**

Campus Crusades makes the projector, screen, sound equipment, generator and 16 mm reel of the Otetela version available for \$5,200. With the additional costs of transportation to the Congo, the entire project needs \$5,650 to be fully funded.

**There is no way to estimate the potential fruit of this investment in souls that may be won for eternity in the years ahead.**