Paul, the man who played an integral role in the formation of the early church, and Mark who wrote the first gospel would probably have no place in our Christian heritage had it not been for Barnabas.*

Barnabas—little-known and barely mentioned in the Bible—had the gift of identifying potential. Imagine the void in the Bible without Paul and John Mark. Paul wrote 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament—that is 31.57 percent of the New Testament, not counting Hebrews, that many believe he wrote. And John Mark authored Mark, the gospel that emphatically confirms the identity of Jesus as both Savior and man.

From the little we know of Barnabas, there are three characteristics that define him.

He was a philanthropist. Barnabas became a Christian on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. He was so convinced of the needs of the early church that he immediately returned home, sold his possessions, and gave everything to the fledgling church to advance the cause of Christ (Acts 4:36, 37).

He was a risk taker. When many doubted Paul’s dramatic conversion, Barnabas accepted Paul’s conversion as genuine and introduced him to the church of Jerusalem (Acts 9:27). Later when he went to Antioch, he was moved by the Holy Spirit to stay there and minister to the growing church, where the believers were first called Christians. When the cosmopolitan city needed both a scholar and an evangelist, Barnabas brought Paul to the job despite his past and his reputation (Acts 11:19-26).

He was a mentor. Barnabas and Paul set out on their first missionary journey. They then invited John Mark to join them. Young and unaccustomed to hardship, John Mark became discouraged and returned home. Paul was very disappointed with John Mark and refused to give him a second chance. The dispute grew so contentious that Paul and Barnabas parted ways. Barnabas, however, gave Mark a second chance and included him in his ministry. Years later when Paul was in a Roman jail, he reviewed his ministry and recognized a possible error in his judgment over John Mark. He wrote to Timothy saying Mark could be of useful service to him. When Barnabas spotted talent, he both encouraged and nurtured, never giving up on people (Acts 12:25; 15:37-39; 2 Tim 4:11).

Church leader, financier, indefatigable evangelist, mentor, Barnabas played a crucial role in the advancement of early Christianity. I believe there are many little-known people even today who, like Barnabas, are Hope Channel champions. You pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; you support Hope Channel with your finances; and you encourage others to watch. You see the potential of our media ministry; you are our Barnabas!

This issue of HopeLINK is filled with amazing reports of how God is expanding and using Hope Channel to reach millions. It is a “Barnabas Report.” Thanks for seeing potential and being a Barnabas!

Your friend,

Brad Thorp

What Viewers are Saying

I found Jesus through Hope Channel. I am the first Christian in my family. My parents, relatives, and community are not supportive of my choice to follow Jesus. Even my friends laugh at me. But even though I am going through a difficult time, what I am going through is just a little suffering compared to the joy I have found in Jesus. I live to share the joy I have in Jesus with others. May the Lord use Hope Channel to mend the lives of many.

— Anonymous

Hope Channel is changing my life and keeping me strong in the faith. It has given me hope in some of my darkest hours.

— Rosemary

I've started going to church again after 15 years because of Hope Channel. My eyes are now opened to God's saving grace. My life has turned around and my wife and I are so much happier than we have been in a long time.

— Tom

I don't get to church. So Hope Channel means the world to me. I just got a 1.5% raise at work and would like to pass that increase on to Hope Channel.

— Betty

Someone came into my bookstore because of something she saw on Hope Channel. Looking for books on health and the Bible, she said, “I need to get my life in order.” Praise God for the ministry of Hope Channel in New York City.

— Damion

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Do you have an encouraging Bible verse for those facing a tough week ahead?

Don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes. —Matthew 6:34

God is good, a hiding place in tough times. He recognizes and welcomes anyone looking for help, no matter how desperate the trouble. —Nahum 1:7

Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you. —Isaiah 41:10

I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. —Jeremiah 29:11

When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end. —Isaiah 43:2

Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me — watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. —Matthew 11:28

True, the grass withers and the wildflowers fade, but our God's Word stands firm and forever. —Isaiah 40:8

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. —Proverbs 3:5,6

Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am. —Philippians 4:13

Counting on God's Rule to prevail, I take heart and gain strength. I run like a deer. I feel like I'm king of the mountain. —Habakkuk 3:19

Call for help when you're in trouble. I'll help you, and you'll honor me. —Psalm 50:15

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. —Philippians 4:6
Hope is tangible and visible. You can see it in the eyes of a hungry child just as much as you can see it in the eyes of a desperate man gripping a lottery ticket. All of us live hoping for something better than what we have—for a job that gets us out of poverty, for healing from some deadly disease, for relief from injustice, for life after death. Hope keeps us motivated. It gets us through tough times. In fact, many feel it is an absolute necessity for survival. William Shakespeare thought so too when he said, “The miserable have no other medicine but only hope.”

There is no story more prominent of a person with reason to despair than that of Job. God allows the devil to take away from Job all of life’s blessing—his livestock, his wealth, his children, his own health. Commenting on the injustice being inflicted on Job, a friend asks, “Should not your piety be your confidence and your blameless ways your hope?” And Job answers, “Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him.” Job’s response reflects his belief that hope comes from something outside of himself—that it is anchored in the power of God and not in the things of this world. An anchor is not dropped in the hold of a ship; it is let down outside the ship to reach way down and touch what is firm and solid. In the same way, our hope must be anchored to something outside of ourselves—in God.

Hebrews 6:18 gives us reasons why we can have full confidence in God—“By two utterly immutable things, the word of God and the oath of God, who cannot lie, we who are refugees from this dying world might have a source of strength, and might grasp the hope that He holds out to us” (J. B. Phillips).

The Word of God. When God speaks, His words are a guarantee. When God speaks, things happen and people change. On the other hand, our words are often far removed and very different from our actions. All around us, beginning with ourselves, are many examples of this: advertisements that are but a vague shadow of the product; politicians who promise and never deliver; relationships that begin strong but shatter under the weight of broken promises.

God’s Oath. When we take an oath, we call upon God, a higher, more dependable source and promise we will do our best to be honest and truthful. But God’s words are such an immutable guarantee that He need give us nothing more than His word. His reputation of steadfastness precedes even the creation of this earth. If fact, there is no reason for God to take an oath; we have ample evidence that He can be trusted. Yet God, in His infinite mercy, takes an oath so we may understand Him in the most human way possible that the hope He offers us is real and endures forever.

Surely, through God’s words and His oath, we have all the reasons we need to trust Him. And “since we have such a hope, we are [to be] very bold” (2 Corinthians 3:12). Without hesitancy and with confidence, we should share with others what God has done for us.

This is what Hope Channel is all about! It shares God’s news for a better life today and for eternity. Through its programs it offers a biblical perspective on our personal lives and on the happenings around us. Through its Bible-based approach, Hope Channel points to Jesus as the solution to all of life’s problems.

If you are a Hope Channel viewer, tell someone about Hope Channel and share your story of hope in Jesus. “No one whose hope is in [God] will ever be put to shame” (Psalm 25:3).

Ben Schoun, Vice Chair, Hope Channel, Inc.; Vice President, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
The gospel to me has always been about changed lives. As a young man I prayed one day with a preacher on my TV, and at that moment my life was forever changed. I’m not saying things just got better; I’m saying everything changed. I got off the floor that night as changed as I could possibly be. I never realized how free a person could be until Jesus set me free in front of my TV at 3 a.m. that morning.

That is, until one day in Nigeria a few years later.

As a Hope Channel employee, I have the blessed opportunity to travel to various places where Hope Channel is making a real difference in people’s lives. Since I began working at Hope Channel in 2003, I have been to many places and seen many things, but that day in that Nigerian prison blew me away!

More than a hundred inmates, incarcerated under very trying and difficult circumstances, were collectively singing and praising God with an unimaginable joy. Their conviction was undeniably genuine and their individual transformation was miraculous. They may have been locked in a prison behind high walls and barbed wire, but their hearts were freer that any free man I’d known. Their enthusiasm for Christ and their desire to share it were at least equal (and probably superior) to any Christian I’d known.

Things had not just gotten better for them; everything had changed for them. Their experiences were their personal versions of the Prodigal Son. To me and to others there, their stories have been shared and retold over the years—of how God can change lives forever.

Why were these men (and the women in an adjoining compound) so changed? Because they had personally encountered their Creator and accepted His promise of forgiveness. They were living proof that, “if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36, NIV). Standing there, in the company of some very hardcore criminals, I understood the meaning of true freedom. I understood how man could imprison the body, but God can free the soul!

How had these inmates heard the liberating message of the gospel? Because some weeks earlier Hope Channel came into the prison. A single TV in the middle of a common area was airing Hope Channel, and the inmates, first out of curiosity and then out of conviction, were spending hours every day listening to programs about God’s love. Where God’s message is, His power also is.

While Scripture says, “You shall not covet (Exodus 20:17, NIV),” I don’t think I am sinning by coveting their relationship with God. While I was both humbled and

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.

—Matthew 25:36
amazed by God’s power in that Nigerian prison, I quickly discovered that the situation there was not a fluke. Since then I have traveled to other places and witnessed similar results. In a Romanian prison, for example, I sat for more than an hour, listening to the warden tell of the wonderful things that were happening in his prison since the introduction of SperantaTV (Hope Channel Romania).

What I saw in all those prisons in Africa and Europe is why I am doubly excited about a new project Hope Channel has begun for American prisons. I am convicted and convinced that the same miraculous events I saw in Africa and Europe can also happen here in the United States. World governments and cultures may vary, but the needs of the human heart are universal. It is solely to meet these heart-felt needs that Hope Channel exists.

Just as in other nations, the incarcerated in America need to hear God’s message of transformation. They need to discover how, in a sudden, miraculous way, their lives can be changed and redeemed by Grace.

The first step in this initiative took place in a miraculous way. Without our asking, a large television network with a presence in thousands of prisons across the United States has allowed Hope Channel to “piggy-back” on their prison TV system. This means wherever they have a channel in a prison, Hope Channel can use their racks, wires, and distribution system without charge. All Hope Channel will need to fund is the equipment specific to Hope Channel, such as the satellite receiver. This offer cuts costs to a fraction. But, there’s more! In prisons where this network does not have a presence, Hope Channel has access to the company that supplies the expertise and experience this network uses to get into prisons. Praise God for his abundant blessings!

What an incredible opportunity for Hope Channel to very directly fulfill Jesus’ desire that we live our Christianity (Matthew 25:36). But to be successful, we need to work together. Would you like to take Hope Channel to a prison in your community? Email or write us about it, and be a part of changing the lives of many who desperately need to hear that God can indeed transform and free the hearts of the imprisoned. For God does not just make things better, He changes everything for the better!

Joe Sloan, Director of Distribution and Cable Carriage, Hope Channel, Inc.

Contact us about getting Hope Channel in a prison:
PO Box 4000, Silver Spring, MD 20914
info@hopetv.org

AS OF 2012 THERE WERE

1.35 million in state prisons
217,800 in federal prisons
44,500 in local jails

You can change these numbers by partnering with Hope Channel
THE CREATION
THE EARTH IS A WITNESS

Witness our magnificent planet designed by a loving Creator

DareToBelieve.com
Premieres Friday, September 26, 7 p.m., E.T. and P.T.

Discover the breathtaking beauty and variety of life in the sea, in the air, and on land in this cinematic representation of Creation as described in the book of Genesis. Filmed on location in five continents, The Creation highlights the finest cinematography of filmmaker Henry Stober and includes an original soundtrack performed by an orchestra from Prague, Czech Republic.

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**Now you can customize your schedule by day, week, and month, plus you can still print monthly schedules in both Excel and PDF files.**
Most of the experts interviewed by Dr. McKibben on Go Healthy for Good are presenters at the American College of Lifestyle Medicine Convention. At the 2014 Convention, Dr. McKibben will interview more notable physicians for the next season.

The convention is open to the public! If you want to fully immerse yourself in fantastic presentations on healthy living, come for a day or for the entire convention. Join Hope Channel and Go Healthy for Good in San Diego, October 19-22.

American College of Lifestyle Medicine
lifestylemedicine2014.org

ON THE ROAD THIS SUMMER

This summer you will find Hope Channel represented at various meetings. Additionally Hope Channel will be participating in the following two events:

Oshkosh, Wisconsin | August 11-16

Over 40,000 are expected to attend this international event where children ages 10-15 will meet for a week of worship, activities, and lots of fun. Based on the life of Daniel, the Old Testament prophet, the focus of this camporee will be on how to live in this world without conforming to it.

Hope Channel will be producing various segments for the event and broadcasting some of the presentations live to churches and communities whose children are not able to attend the event in person.

Geneva, Switzerland | July 7-12

The second of its kind, this conference will draw upon the research of experts from all over the world to focus on the subject of non-communicable diseases.

Hope Channel Germany will lead in the video production of this event and Dr. Nerida McKibben, Host of Go Healthy for Good, will both present as well as interview over a dozen guests that will later be aired on the show.

ATTENTION DIRECTV VIEWERS

As of July 16, Hope Channel will move to a new satellite. Although Hope Channel is a standard definition channel and will still be on Channel 368, it will be available only to customers who have DIRECTV HD equipment and are subscribed to Advanced Receiver Service — HD.

To upgrade to HD, order an HD-capable receiver online or call us at 1-800-531-5000. DIRECTV customer support team is available from 8 AM to 1 AM ET every day.

AN AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENT IN BRAZIL

Novo Tempo TV (Hope Channel Brazil) is now on NET, the largest cable TV provider in Brazil, with 5.6 million subscribers and a potential audience of about 18 million. We give praise for this miraculous happening and are excited about the many, many more opportunities this gives us to share the message of Jesus’ love and grace.
Several partners in ministry came together to create the Biblical Village—a 10-day event in the heart of Bucharest. While most of the logistic and financial support for this event came from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the project was organized by the AMiCUS Student Association and the Association “Pathfinders for the Future,” the Federation of Hebrew Communities in Romania, the Romanian Archery Federation, ADRA Romania, and the Mihai Ionescu High School in Bucharest. Sprawled over a city block, the hands-on exhibit included authentic representations of Bible times. There were traditional houses, shops, and even “residents” wearing traditional clothing. Each piece of clothing was handmade just as they were in Jesus’ time. Activities for both adults and children drew many to the event. Among the daily visitors was also Hopey who offered photo opportunities with a great big smile.

Recent developments in the African television industry are presenting Hope Channel with amazing opportunities. With their move from analog to digital broadcast, the governments of all African countries will be distributing national channels by DTT (digital-terrestrial-transmission) and making set-top boxes available for a nominal fee. This will allow everyone with a box free access to the new digital platform using analog televisions. This will also allow channels with local programming such as Hope Channel to be carried alongside the national channel and gain coverage throughout the countries. Kenya has led the continent in this digital rollout and Hope Channel International has been included on their digital platform. Malawi and Tanzania will be next, with many other countries joining them.

Requirements vary from country to country in regards to the percentage of local content required. Development of local content is a strength of Hope Channel as we have always encouraged the concept of thinking global, but living local. Additionally, Hope Channel International provides a 24/7 feed of programming with the flexibility of inserting as much local content as wanted. This opportunity for Hope Channel to be on the African digital platforms is time-sensitive. With the likelihood of many local TV channels competing for the same platform, it is essential for Hope Channel to secure its place in every country in Africa as quickly as possible.

April 17 Hope Channel Tanzania inaugurated their new channel in Kiswahili. Over 10,000 were in attendance.
A new television studio opened in Malawi for programming in Chichewa. The official launch of Hope Channel Malawi is scheduled for late June.

Also noteworthy is the birthday celebration of seven-year-old Speranta TV, aka Hope Channel Romania! Both real and virtual cake were had by all across the network of more than 25 Hope Channels worldwide!
**Cash Gifts**
Your cash gift can make an immediate impact. Within days, these resources are placed into service to create and broadcast Christ-centered, life-changing television programs in North America and around the world.

**Personal Property**
Call us today to see if your collection of art, antiques, jewelry, coins, stamps, aircrafts, boats, and other property can be used by Hope Channel to advance the gospel. Tax deductions are often available for these types of gifts, depending on the situation.

**Retirement Plan Assets**
One frequently overlooked way you can make a charitable contribution is by using your individual retirement account, qualified retirement plan assets, or commercial annuities. In some cases this is an extremely efficient way to save on income and estate taxes.

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**Ways to Give**

To make a gift, visit [www.hopetv.org/donate](http://www.hopetv.org/donate) or call Hope Channel today at 888-4-HOPE-TV (888-446-7388).

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**Stocks**
Support Hope Channel’s television broadcast ministry with gifts of securities. Many people choose to make gifts using long-term, appreciated stocks and mutual funds because of the attractive tax advantages. Many people avoid capital gains taxes while receiving a tax deduction for the full market value of the gift.

**Real Estate**
In some cases, gifts of real estate such as houses, farms, land, and commercial property provide considerable savings in capital gain and personal income taxes for the donor, and a sizable infusion of funds for Hope Channel.

**Life Insurance**
Do you have a life insurance policy you no longer need? Giving it to Hope Channel may be a way to combine a gift to Hope Channel with serious tax advantages. You can also designate Hope Channel, in addition to your loved ones, as a beneficiary.

**Memorial and Honorary Gifts**
Making a gift in honor of a family member, friend, or life event is a generous way to memorialize the individual’s life, accomplishments, or special occasion.

**Real Estate**
In some cases, gifts of real estate such as houses, farms, land, and commercial property provide considerable savings in capital gain and personal income taxes for the donor, and a sizable infusion of funds for Hope Channel.
Resources to Grow and Share Your Faith

**Flight: The Genius of Birds**
Filmed in North America, England, Peru, Greenland, and Antarctica, Flight probes the mysteries and mechanisms of a bird’s anatomy, instincts, and embryology to reveal stunning provisions essential for life in the skies.

*DVD #425875 $19.95*

**Unhooked**
A series focusing on addictions and unhealthy behaviors. Hear survivors tell their stories, clinical experts explain behaviors and treatment options, and pastors point to Jesus who brings emotional and spiritual strength.

*DVD Set #500555 $39.95*

**The Adventists**
Directed by Martin Doblmeier
A documentary on the Seventh-day Adventists that explores the history and contemporary story of the faith-group whose members are some of the healthiest and longest-living people. Aired on PBS stations and a best-seller on Amazon.

*DVD #416512 $19.95*

**Revelation’s Great Themes**
While full of imagery and prophecy, the book of Revelation can be synthesized into five major themes. In this series Mark Finley unveils these overarching themes and reveals the timelessness of their message even after thousands of years.

*DVD #458035 $19.95*

**Patriarchs and Prophets**
by Ellen G White
A sweeping panoramic overview of human history from the creation of Earth to the reign of Israel’s King David. With unusual insights, the author describes the role of our planet in the cosmic conflict between right and wrong, truth and error.

*Book #147586 $8.95*

**Grand Old Gospel CD**
by Kelly Mower w/Jimmy Rhodes
Pianists Kelly Mower and Jimmy Rhodes play treasured old Gospel songs, including In My Heart There Rings a Melody, Mansion Over the Hilltop, Amazing Grace, It Is No Secret, Victory in Jesus, Just a Closer Walk with Thee, In the Garden, Jesus and Me, The Lily of the Valley, and more. Total run time: 57:51.

*CD #425798 $4.95*

**Creation Health**
by Mark Finley
Mark Finley’s 8 motivating sessions from the Creation Health/Healthy 100 event. Four DVDs teach how to strengthen your body, mind, and spirit to live long with power, passion, and purpose.

*8 DVD Set #425897 $39.99*

**The Appearing**
by Shawn Boonstra
Shawn Boonstra takes a closer look at ancient Bible prophecies and pieces together a startling but undeniable picture of last-day events. He utilizes the precision of Bible prophecy to present a hope-filled and encouraging biblical view about the Second Coming of Christ.

*BOOK #417555 $9.95*

**God?**
by David Asscherick
David Asscherick unravels the mystery and questions about God. Using contemporary events and writings, he explains simply and logically topics such as the importance of church, the relevance of the Bible, and the role God plays in our lives.

*DVD #458015 $49.95*

**Evolution: The Grand Experiment**
Directed by New Leaf Press
Filmed over 12 years on three continents and seven countries, including many active dig sites, museums, and universities, this DVD critically examines the viability of Darwin’s theory. (Subtitled in English, Spanish, and German.)

*DVD #425790 $19.95*

**Metamorphosis**
The extraordinary process of metamorphosis, and the inability of “natural selection” to explain it, is the topic of this spectacular 1-hr DVD.

*DVD #425870 $14.95*

**Resources to Grow and Share Your Faith**

Order by Phone or Online Today!
888-4-HOPE-TV (888-446-7388)
www.hopetv.org/store
Shipping and handling apply to each purchase.

**FREE Hope Channel Magnets** Use them as your evangelistic tool.
Place it at gas pumps, toll booths, public transit, laundromats, in outbound mail, etc. Minimum order: 50 magnets.
Everyone needs a will

Hope Channel makes it easy for you:

- Go to hopetvgift.org
- Watch the helpful videos
- Click “Create a New Account” and follow the prompts
- Print out your completed form and take it to your attorney or select one from our network

All your information is secure, confidential, and password-protected.

Thank you for considering Hope Channel as a beneficiary of your estate plan.

Call 888-4-HOPE-TV or email info@hopetv.org