

Sharing the Life-Changing Gospel of Jesus Christ

2019 was an eventful year at Square One World Media where we produced a variety of programs in different formats and languages, on different platforms, and for different age and interest groups. As a result, hundreds of thousands of people heard the Gospel message.

New in 2019 was the introduction of *A Scoop of Life*, hosted by Sherryl Koop. The story-based radio program aired every Sunday evening on three southern Manitoba radio stations. We are pleased to announce that it is now available in podcast format.

Ernesto Pinto celebrated 25 years of *Encuentro* radio ministry to a worldwide Spanish audience. Our Executive Director, Shoab Ebadi, marked 10 years of hosting *The Secret of Life*, a live Persian talk show produced in partnership with Operation Mobilization and under the technical direction of Grant Hoepfner.



Ernesto & Marina Pinto at the 25th Anniversary Event for *Encuentro* radio

In 2019, we published more books than usual. Irene Marsch's 3rd book, *God Gives Me the Privilege of Being a Woman* was well-received when it was printed in May, just in time for the Low German Awareness Day in Winkler. In June, Paul Boge launched his latest book, *The Sound of Hope: The Ernesto Pinto Story*. Proceeds from the book go to support Square One's Spanish ministry. Four chapter books based on the *Micah's Super Vlog* cartoon were released in 2019 in partnership with Hachette Book Group.

Andrey Chernomor of *The Bible Today-Ukraine* began growing a following on Instagram with daily posts of Scripture. His following grew so quickly that The Bible Today ministry is now recognized as a significant voice among young adults in Ukraine. In 2020, our partners there will build on their social media presence with weekly video messages and bi-monthly Instagram TV shows.

In July, the 3rd and final season of *Land of the Golden Sun* was completed by the studio in Moscow. Soon after, producers Garri Sergienko and Albina Nikitina arrived in Winnipeg to plan *Ella's Backyard Vlog*, the newest up-coming series for Russian-speaking children. We are pleased to announce that the Ella's Backyard YouTube channel passed 2 million views before the end of 2019!



Ella's Backyard producers, Garri Sergienko & Albina Nikitina

In the last half of 2019, ten episodes of our testimony-based Spanish TV show, *180 Grados*, were recorded live on Facebook. It was a reminder of our early days of the 1940s and 50s when *Gospel Light Hour* was recorded live in the studio. Whatever happened when the red "on air" light came on was what went out to the audience. While the medium has changed, the excitement remains the same.

Our long-running *Beautiful Unique Girl* ministry is in transition. Kaylyn Holmes, host and producer of our YouTube videos resigned in August, but the TV programs, YouTube videos and additional resources continue to be actively used. Reruns of the TV show continue to air on Faith TV, and are also now streamed on Castle. Curriculum to accompany the "Fruit of the Spirit" YouTube videos was released in September.

In Low German news, Irene Marsch's next book – *Tears and Grief* – is about to be published. Eduard and Heidi Giesbrecht continue producing *Ekj Ran* for YouTube out of their studio in Bolivia. And, after 24 years of leading the German and Low German ministry, Jacob Funk retired from Square One at the end of 2019. His thousands of radio programs will continue to be available to radio stations airing Low German programs.

It's exciting to review what we have accomplished. At the same time, there is more work to do. We can't stop! As we look to next steps, one immediate focus is to create the new *Ella's Backyard Vlog* studio in Winnipeg, and start the actual production. Other goals include exploring new ways to produce Christ-centred media, and attracting younger donors through social media and online campaigns.