

TIM & KATHY

In 2004, Tim and Kathy were in the Middle East visiting friends who had lived in a major city for several years, yet had seen very little response to the Christian message. “All the training we’ve had didn’t prepare us to really connect with these people.” Our conversation wandered over the next several days as we talked about the different learning styles of people. On that trip, God planted a seed.



Mark 4:33-34 says that Jesus always taught and disciplined with parables. 90% of what we have written in our Bibles that Jesus said is indeed some sort of story, image, metaphor, word picture. The reasons are many, but the bottom line is simple...humans are storytellers, *homo narrans* according to Walter Fisher. We listen to, learn from, relate to, remember, and easily pass on stories, much easier than lists and outlines. Stories are natural. What if we did more ministry the way the Jesus did?

In 2005 Tim and Kathy began coaching native church planters and pastors in hard to reach places. Most of the places they go to are remote locations with little education or no written language, so they show believers how to communicate and teach the villagers about God in the ways they best learn, the ways their fathers and grandfathers learned. In some of the places they go, being a follower of Christ is illegal or at a minimum brings persecution. By teaching believers in these areas how to share the Bible’s stories in the natural places of life—sitting around a fire, or walking to the market, or drinking tea—resistant walls are lowered and people talk about Jesus.

Since 2005 Tim and Kathy have worked with native believers in 22 countries. They live in the US, but burn through passports pretty quickly. Tim earned his PhD researching how illiterate Maasai bushmen in Kenya started 200 churches among remote tribal and Muslim nomadic tribes. They are starting a church in their city that is using creative communication to teach people living in our post-Christian culture. They have four children late-teens and early-twenties.

For security reasons, Tim and Kathy do not publish their last names.