

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. --Isaiah 9:2

When you imagine showing the JESUS film in Africa, you probably picture going to some remote village where there's no electricity or running water. And you probably imagine that you're most likely "the only show in town," and that there will be no problem rounding up an audience. I've done this in the middle of the Kalahari Desert, and that was exactly the case.

But what about showing *JESUS* in Africa's major cities? More and more of today's world is becoming urbanized—people are flooding to cities in search of jobs. And in ways, that's good. But in others, it can lead to new challenges for our film teams.



Last May in Sierra Leone, for example, our film team was working in partnership with the Wesleyan Church, and they were setting up to show the film in a city where the electrical power is inconsistent. When power is available to show the film in urbanized places like this, it also means people have power in their homes to watch television. Fewer people choose to leave their televised programs to come outside and watch *JESUS*. On this particular night, the film team workers were setting up in an open-air football [soccer] field. Since the electricity was working at that time, turnout for the film was looking very low at first because people were staying in their homes, watching their televisions. The team remained confident, however, that God would work even in the small number of people who showed up for the showing.

Suddenly, in the middle of the film, the city's power went out, and complete darkness engulfed the homes. Over the next 20 minutes, the crowd grew to fill the football field because the team's standby generator kept the film going. During the Crucifixion scene, the team paused the movie and challenged the villagers to receive Christ. At the end of the showing, many people gave their lives to the Lord, often expressing gratefulness for the power outage that led them to Him!

A young woman testified: *"I was very reluctant to come out and watch the JESUS film because I am a lover of television. But because of the power cut, something moved me to come out and watch the film [as] a way of amusement. However, this amusement turned out to be the entry point for my salvation. I was one of those who went up and gave my life to the Lord. Now I know Jesus Christ! I returned home with true peace in my heart."* Indeed, God works in marvelous ways. To Him be the glory!

David & Stephanie