



No Impossible Mission Fields by Darlene Cunningham

Recently, our son David was in Kona, Hawaii on a whirlwind trip (sounds like his parents!) in the midst of getting his movie *To End All Wars* released (see www.toendallwars.com). TEAW had just won the Heartland Film Festival's grand prize and Crystal Heart Award (this year's theme was "Truly Moving Pictures"). He was here in Kona to teach for several days in the University of the Nations School of Digital Film. The final night, we hosted a barbecue for all the students and staff at our home.

During that evening, I had the privilege of interacting with these young people--future screen writers, directors, producers and who-knows-whatever-else. They were filled with vision and faith to influence both the Christian and non-Christian film world. Only God knows where they will end up!

As I was talking to these young visionaries, I could not help but think of some of the past UofN film students: one of the more dramatic stories was of Fideles from Nigeria. He had such a desire to come to the School of Digital Film. He applied three times, and each time, it did not work out for him to come, due to finances, visas or some other reason.

As he was continuing to pray about the school, He was using a Christian Growth Study Bible (produced by YWAM together with Zondervan). His regular reading was in Romans 12. He looked over at the little article on the same page on knowing God's will called "Holding on to our dreams" and began to read. It said:

"God gives skills, abilities and giftings to every person, and he wants us to develop them for his purposes. Unfortunately, life's obstacles cause many of us to give up on our career and ministry dreams before they ever produce the fruit God intended.

Willy faced a major obstacle while in film school in his native Argentina. He felt God was calling him to make Christian videos, but the institute's third-year project required him to work on a film that promoted homosexuality. To continue in school meant compromising his beliefs; to drop out entailed possibly losing his vision. Though he had no other prospects, Willy left film school. For two years he kept pursuing his goal by reading all that he could. Then he heard about a new video production school offered in Hawaii by Youth With A Mission's University of the Nations. God opened the way for Willy to go, and now he's living out his vision.

God honors those who remain faithful in their calling. Once God gives us a vision, he may call us to lay it down for a season, but we must never give up on it.

What occupational direction has God given you? What tests of faith and integrity have you had to endure in pursuing it?"



Willy, the man in the article, was now the leader of the UofN film school Fideles felt he was to go to! Nothing could have encouraged him more! As one of his acts of faith, Fideles sold his shoes. God provided his airfare, and he finally got to the School of Digital Film—the very one that ended up doing their internship on the film site of To End All Wars.

Fideles was a young man who worked whole-heartedly and readily shared his faith. He was loved by many, and soon everyone on the set knew his story. The actors and crew—many of them non-Christians—spontaneously took up a collection to cover his remaining school fees and provide him with spending money.

Fideles was recently hired to work on the set of a Bruce Willis movie where, once again, he lived-out his faith in a way that impacted many for the Kingdom. Seems like an unlikely mission field...but there are no impossible mission fields with God!

Darlene Cunningham is Co-Founder of YWAM.