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Latest: OneHope Founder Bob Hoskins Dies at 90 After Reaching 2 Billion Children With Scripture

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Peacefully entered his rest in Christ"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Bob Hoskins, the founder of the children's ministry OneHope, died at his home in Florida on Saturday 14 November 2026. He was 90. OneHope announced the news on LinkedIn the next day, saying he had "peacefully entered his rest in Christ" after a stage 4 lung cancer diagnosis that had been made public in April 2025. The ministry says Hoskins spent his life getting Scripture into the hands of children - and that, by its own count, the work has now reached more than 2 billion children and young people around the world.

It is a number so large it is hard to hold in the mind. Two billion is roughly one in every four people alive today. Hoskins never set out to build an empire. He started as a seven-year-old boy preaching in small American towns, and he ended his life leading one of the largest children's ministries on earth. The distance between those two points is the story of his life.

Hoskins was born on 15 April 1936 in Ponca City, Oklahoma. He began preaching around the age of seven, a child evangelist who travelled across the United States telling other children about Jesus. It was an unusual childhood, and it shaped everything that followed: he never lost the conviction that children were not the church of tomorrow, but the church of today.

Decades later, that conviction became an organisation. In 1987, Hoskins received an invitation from the education minister of El Salvador to provide Scripture to schoolchildren in the war-torn country. He said yes - and OneHope, originally called Book of Hope International, was born.

At the heart of the ministry was a small book Hoskins created himself: "El Libro de Vida", or The Book of Life. It was a single account of the life of Jesus, drawn from the four Gospels and written in language a child could understand. That book became the foundation of everything OneHope did, translated into language after language and carried into schools, refugee camps and villages across the world.

The scale of the work grew quietly, year after year, without the celebrity that follows other American evangelists. OneHope does not publish stadium crowds or television ratings. It counts children who have received a book. And by the ministry's count, that number passed two billion - a figure that, if true, makes Hoskins one of the most far-reaching evangelists of the modern era, even though most people in his own country could not have picked him out of a crowd.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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