Welcome to spotlight. I’m Collin Lowther. And I’m Liz Waid. Spotlight uses a special English method of broadcasting. It is easier for people to understand no matter where in the world they live.

Scientists say that the earliest humans came out of Africa around sixty thousand years ago, the theory is that humans migrated or moved from one area to another. They started in the country of Ethiopia. From there, humans spread to the rest of the world. Scientist have found ways to make a map that chose the path human walked during their migration.

Today, people do not need to walk across the world. They can fly in an airplane, ride on a boat or drive in a car to anywhere they want to go. But one man Paul Salopek is choosing to walk. He has begun a project to walk the ancient migration path. He is calling this walking project “Out of Eden”. He will walk almost 33 thousand 8 hundred kilometers. It will take him 7 years. Today’s Spotlight is on Paul Salopek and his walking trip around the world.

Salopek is a famous journalist. For many years, he reported on news from all around the world. He wrote stories about conflict, culture, the environment and science in more than sixty countries he won major awards for his writing. But after all this Salopek wanted to do something different. He wanted to go slowly. He told the News Organization NPR: “I traveled around the world as a foreign reporter. After flying in to tell stories driving into them, even helicoptering in I thought about what it would be like to walk between stories.

Salopek decided to travel the slowest possible way. Walking just like human ancestor did. Salopek wants to connect the ancient stories of our human ancestors with the matter stories of out time. He wants to look at development and progress. He wants to see what human long ago saw. He thinks this experience will help him find a different kind of stories. The story can show us more about what it means to be human and Salopek believes that he needs to find these stories slowly. He wrote on the website kickstarter: “I have come to recognize that the major stories of our time are connected. We can only see this connection when we slow down so I am trying to return to a more human speed of story time to dig deeper in to the important stories we do not see because we are always moving too fast to listen.

Salopek began his 7 year walk in January of 2013. He started in the beautiful Rift valley in Ethiopia. Since then, he has traveled up through Africa into the dessert of Saudi Arabia then he walked through Israel and Turkey. In 2015 Salopek began his walk across Asia. He will continue to walk through Russia where he will cross the Bering sea to the top of North America. The last part of his walk will take him down the coast of Northern and South America. Hopefully in 2022 he will end at Teara Wego the very bottom of South America. Salopek must traveled with only the things he needs. He traveled with a light laptop, a satellite telephone, a local cell telephone, a camera and a digital recorder. He also traveled with local guys and the language translated. While he traveled he writes stories about what he sees and experiences.

The science and the nature of magazine national geographic is helping to pay for his project. National Geographic published Salopek’s stories during his walk. And more than two hundreds schools and universities follow Paul Salopek’s stories on the Internet. They use that as a learning tool.

One of the first things Salopek wrote about was how technology is changing the world. He told NPR

I will be walking through what is probably the greatest change in human thoughts since the inventions of farming. The wiring of the world. Today’s about a third of humans are connected through information technology like the internet. By the time, I walk across my finish lines in 2020. That connection will be complete.

Salopek’s journey had let him see many different and interesting things, during his tricks Salopek saw if European tribes who survived by hunting. They did not drive cars or use computers. But they own cellphones.

Walking has also help him to see great natural beauty when Salopek travelled through the West Bank in Israel. He found beautiful golden hills and amazing trees. But he also heard the sound of gun fire in the distance. Violence conflict like this is another major issue Salopek writes about. The Earth physical beauty and the hard reality of war often do not seem to connect or make sense together. Because of war, Salopek also witnessed one of the biggest mass movements of people in modern history. In September of twenty fourteen. Salopek was near the Syrian border in Turkey. It’s just 72 hours he saw almost 100,000 thousands Kurdish Syrian fleets Syria. He told NPR

One of the defining parts of being a refugee is that you are reduced to being back on foot. The Turkish military forced these people to leave all their vehicles at the border and so they walk without power into this new lives dusty, hard and an-food. It was a very sad serious time.

During his walk, Salopek had also banned in dangerous situations. He almost died when crossing the mountains in Turkey. He and his guys were almost three thousand meters high in the mountains. The snow kept getting deeper and deeper then they fell through the snow. So they decided to find safety in a valley. But their feet were frozen. Marod the Turkish guy had to burn some of his own cloths to light a fire. Salopek was cold and afraid. But he and his guy finally find a way to safety.

Salopek was also afraid in Israel. He was traveling with a Palestinian guy. They thought everything was peaceful, but there was a protest that day. The Israeli military began firing robber bullets very near them. But Salopek and his guy managed to escape.

Through his travels, Salopek is telling the story he sees today. But he sees how these stories are all connected. They are all about humans. People as he slowly moves across the earth. He hopes to tell more and more stories.

The writer of this program was Gen Hokins. The producer was Michio Ozaki. The voices you heard was from the United Kingdom and the United States. All quotes were adapted for this program and voiced by spotlight. You can listen to this program again and read it on the Internet at [www.radioenglish.net](http://www.radioenglish.net/)

This program is called “Out of Eden – the 7 year walk”. We hope you can join us again for the next spotlight program. Goodbye.