

ERICK'S CORNER



I RECENTLY RECEIVED REPORTS on the last six translations of *JESUS* done in India as part of Mission 865. Not only is India the most populous country in the world, but also there are more Mission 865 languages in India than in any other country. Each time we do a new language, we call together local believers from area churches who want to immediately use the film to reach the people group that speaks this new translation. The six reports I received were from a richly diverse and colorful collection of people groups from around India, mostly in the under-evangelized north.

The believers we called together to use these new translations were so excited! "We were praying for something like this to happen," said one local Christian leader. "Most of the [400,000] people here are not educated and therefore cannot read and write. We need the film in our language so that every single person of our community may encounter Christ in his or her mother tongue." This quote came from a member of a Hindu people with only a few known believers.



High in the Himalaya mountains, bordering Tibet, where the people have no New Testament, another newly produced translation of the *JESUS* film will be used by area believers to make inroads into the strong local culture: "We'll use the film on Christmas and Easter—when no one can complain about proclaiming Jesus; we'll be able to show it in prisons, hospitals, and schools. Since it is our language, there is less chance of opposition."

Another Indian leader said the *JESUS* film we produced for an urban people group, which he is dedicated to reaching, would greatly accelerate his work among the unreached: "In this technological age, we can use CDs, mobile phones, TV, and memory chips as instruments for communicating the gospel through the *JESUS* film."

India is being reached... the whole world is being reached... with the good news of Jesus. And, working with local believers to help reach the unreached, we are a part of it through Mission 865. Glory be to God!

Financial Update

MISSION865 ministry partners now number over 1,300. They have committed the funding for 480 languages with the Finishers Grant Fund continuing to match each gift in equal amounts. As of December 2015, total donations to Mission 865 amount to over \$16 million. To God be the glory!

200 Languages Completed

Recently Completed Versions	Country
Ikizu	Tanzania
Kwaya	Tanzania
Gwere	Uganda
Okpella	Nigeria
Saluan	Indonesia
Naga, Angami	India
Ellomwe	Malawi
Csango	Romania
Golin	Papua New Guinea

Mission 865 is an initiative of

THE
JESUS
FILM PROJECT

Because Seeing Is Believing
<http://www.mission865.org/>



200 Languages Completed

BIANNUAL REPORT, WINTER 2016

"They who had no news of Him shall see, and they who have not heard shall understand" (Romans 15:21b, NASB).

THANK YOU for partnering with The *JESUS* Film Project® to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Komba of Northeastern Ghana. These 250,000 speakers of Likoonl now have the *JESUS* film as a means of seeing and hearing the good news. May the account of this joy-filled dedication ceremony and launching of the film encourage you and lead you to pray for the continued work among the Komba.

The crowd gathered in the dusty town square in Gbintiri, Ghana. Children in bare feet, women in brightly colored head wraps, even tribal chiefs and other religious leaders in striped, flowing robes—all gathered to dedicate the New Testament and the film *JESUS* in Likoonl (pronounced "Le-kwan"). With hushed excitement, murmurs of "our first book" and "first film in our language" rippled through the crowd. A regional politician stood up to address the assembly, saying: "I am speechless. I have never been in this type of atmosphere. I don't know what is in that book, but it must be amazing!"

The ceremony included speeches from many leaders and dignitaries, prayers of dedication, and recognition of the years of hard work invested in making the New Testament and *JESUS* film available to the Komba, the primary speakers of Likoonl. Almost everyone present wanted to own a copy of the Scriptures. Eventually the excitement could be contained no longer, and the Komba celebrated the best way they know how—with song and dance. They formed tight circles around tall drums and other homemade instruments and danced with fervor, kicking up dust and ringing bells strapped around their waists and ankles.

That evening, as the sun set over the rural farmland, more than 1,000 curious villagers were on hand to see the film! The projector came to life and the loudspeakers relayed the words of Jesus in the heart language of poor, illiterate farmers in Northeastern Ghana. It marked the first day the Komba could hear Jesus call them by name. More than 100 people walked forward to indicate a decision for Jesus.

"WOW, THIS TOUCHES MY HEART, I HAVE TEARS IN MY EYES FROM HEARING THIS ALL IN MY OWN LANGUAGE." —PAPUAN MALAY VIEWER (INDONESIA)



GBINTIRI, GHANA

SUE MCDANIEL Francophone JESUS Film® Production Manager



HEADING INTO MY final years of university, I knew that the Lord was calling me to full-time Christian work. Getting involved with Cru® dramatically changed my life as I began learning how to walk with the Lord on a

moment-by-moment basis. I knew that this is where I wanted to invest my life. I wanted God to use me to impact the lives of others the way mine had been.

Upon graduation from Portland State University with a degree in mathematics, I joined Cru staff in 1972. I began as field staff with our high school ministry. A short time later, I was asked to take a temporary position at our international headquarters.

Forty-one years later, I am still serving at headquarters. I began working with our high school and campus ministry national leaders and then with our international

human resources team.

My passion has always been that those who have never heard the gospel would have an opportunity to do so. When I was invited to join the JESUS Film® team and work as a language production manager in Francophone Africa 15 years ago, I knew that this would be a fun, challenging and rewarding role.

I love it. Over the past 15 years I have had the incredible privilege of helping to bring the gospel to over 150 people groups who have never heard of Jesus. There is no better vocation I could pursue than that!

PREMIERE REPORT Jordanian – Arabic Sign Language Premiere

FORTY-TWO YEARS AGO, our son was born. At birth he had several physical issues—one being his ears. He lived only 15 days and during this time it was impossible to determine if his hearing was affected. When the opportunity to fund the Jordanian-Arabic translation of JESUS came, we prayed about it and decided that our gift would be a way to honor our son, Jonathan.

The production took about one and a half years and, on November 27, the premiere was held in Amman, Jordan, at a school for the deaf. It was

so encouraging to see the excitement of those involved and of the deaf students towards this version of JESUS.

Bishop Loai shared that, *“Jesus gave the command to go into all the world but now, 2,000 years later, the gospel is coming back to this part of the world to reach the deaf through this film JESUS.”* Then the bishop opened his arms wide as Jesus did when He said, *“Come, come to Me.”*

Brother Andrew, a Jordanian minister, founded two schools for the deaf in Amman. He related to us that there were 60,000 deaf

in Jordan and that, through his connections, this version of JESUS has the potential to reach 1 million deaf in the Middle East!

We left Jordan with incredible excitement, feeling highly encouraged and even more enthusiastic to be involved in other ways with “Mission 865,” which is working to translate the JESUS film for every people group with 50,000 or more speakers. This premiere experience had a real “WOW” impact on our lives.

FIELD STORIES Written by MaryBeth Berry and Katherine Wells

France: Flora’s Story

JULIETTE,* a volunteer partner with Agapé France, met Flora, a young girl living in a nearby gypsy camp. She began sharing the gospel with Flora and gave her a Bible in her heart language, Romanian.

After a time, Flora decided to return to Romania. The night before she left, she and Juliette watched JESUS in Romanian. Flora burst into tears when she realized the injustice that Jesus suffered for us, and she simply gave her life to Him. Flora then asked Juliette to bring the JESUS DVD to her sister, Mirella, and her family—all living in the camp—so they could come to know Jesus, too.

Juliette related: *“They were thrilled by the movie and watched it several times. They understood the message and were very moved by the love of Jesus for them. They invited 10 or so people to watch the film with them, and their little shack was bursting at the seams. Mirella, her husband, George, and their daughter, Raluka, gave their lives to Jesus. They asked us to give them more materials in Romanian for the other people in the camp. We found Bibles, brochures to share the gospel and more DVDs—all of which they distributed!”*

Mirella and her family eventually returned to Romania. Juliette gratefully remarked: *“We want to thank all those serving the Lord at Agapé [France] who by their ministry have greatly contributed to bringing this family to faith in Christ! May they be the light of Christ in their home country.”*

*Name changed for confidentiality

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Finding Christ When Least Expected*

AS DUSK APPROACHED in Yolo Sud, a suburb of Kinshasa in Western Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cecile†, a “woman of the night,” wandered the streets, aimlessly. She could not help but notice a large crowd forming and went to investigate. People were gathering in a field where a large, white screen was set up.

Cecile was drawn to the movie that began to tell the story of Jesus. She learned about His life and ministry, His death and resurrection, and what that could possibly mean to her. On bended knee, she began to weep over her sins. And when the invitation was given, she stood up to receive Jesus as her Savior.

The Lord has worked mightily in her life since that night. Cecile became involved with a local church and attends weekly Bible classes. She’s even engaged to be married!

“People can see the radical change that has transformed her life from a sad and miserable one, captured by the devil, to a joyful one of freedom with the Owner and Giver of life, the Lord Jesus Christ,” explains Leta Kupa, MAF’s manager of finance for the West DRC program in Kinshasa. The JESUS Film® ministry is Leta’s passion. On weekends, when his official MAF work is over, Leta loads MAF’s projection equipment into the ministry’s four-wheel-drive vehicle and heads to outlying areas.

Leta says the JESUS film works in a unique way. *“With the film, you have people who encounter the Lord while they are wandering, not even sure they could meet the Lord, as it was in the case of this lady. These people decide to come to Jesus by themselves through what they have seen and heard of the gospel.”*

One weekend Leta organized showings in two different villages to audiences totaling about 3,500 people. All told, some 600 people indicated decisions for Christ that weekend!

*Used with permission from Mission Aviation Fellowship, World Traveler Boarding Pass E-newsletter, April 2014, “Finding Christ When Least Expected” by Jenn Wolf.

†Name changed for confidentiality

Benin: JESUS in Fongbe

FOLLOWING A LONG DAY’S WORK on their farms and in their homes, more than 80 residents of a Benin village gathered to watch the JESUS film in their heart language of Fongbe. Many were affected by the miracles of Jesus and stunned by His crucifixion. A film team member shared: *“Thirty people gave their lives to Christ! They were invited to come to church and be disciplined. God has done great things through the JESUS film in Benin! Thank you.”*