

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

**THE ORIGINAL LIST** of Mission 865 languages consisting of at least 50,000 speakers has now grown to 977 as ongoing research provides additional information. Funding for these languages continues to grow as ministry partners seek to participate in this amazing endeavor. As of mid-December, full funding or commitments to fund have come in for 555 of the original 865 languages! Reaching the goal of completing 865 languages by the end of 2025 will require that at a minimum 67 languages be completed each year. In 2016 this prerequisite was exceeded and 75 languages were completed. We stand in amazement at how abundantly God has blessed Mission 865. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to each of the more than 1,600 ministry partners who are participating with us.

## JESUS Film Speaks “Straightly”

**PASTOR FELIX**, a pastor with the Reformed Church, sometimes feels alone in his task. For four years, he’s been the only pastor in the area, leading 10 churches. But, that lonely feeling began to change the first time he saw *JESUS* at a local Lutheran church.

About 400 people attended, including representatives from Wycliffe Bible Translators, Malagasy leaders for Campus Crusade for Christ®, Lutheran Church leaders, and Jesus Film® recording team members. Before the film ended, the electricity went out. Many people left. However, of the people who waited for the film to resume, 20 gave their lives to Christ.

“I praise the Lord for this project with Jesus Film,” said Pastor Felix. “I would like to show *JESUS* in every small village and town to build churches and prayer groups for gathering new believers—the fruit of ministry.”

Nathan is the headmaster of a high school. He said that the Antesaka people don’t like conflict. “If you talk to them about God, they [give the impression of agreeing] with you. But in reality, they [reject Him].”

That makes evangelism difficult. But with *JESUS* in Antesaka, it “speaks to them straightly and the Lord can use it mightily to change their lives.”

Nathan saw the transformational power of the gospel in the life of the actor who spoke the role of Jesus. He also saw it at the premiere of *JESUS* when 20 people gave their lives to Christ. Pastor Felix sees it with the eyes of faith—looking for those who will join with him to build the church in Madagascar. When they hear and see Jesus speak the language closest to their hearts, the people understand, and they surrender their lives to Christ.

## 271 Languages Completed

Recently Completed Versions	Country
Confidential	Afghanistan
Idaasha	Benin
Naxi	China
Cabecar	Costa Rica
Saho	Eritrea
Tsogo	Gabon
Tehit	Indonesia
Vaiphei	India
Soninke	Mali
Ekpari	Nigeria
Toposa	South Sudan
Shanjo	Zambia

### EQUIPMENT SET AVAILABLE

**THIS YEAR**, Jesus Film began offering free solar-powered equipment sets to partner teams ready to show the *JESUS* film in the recently translated 865 versions. At least two sets of equipment were provided for each new language. In one country, every partner wanting to use a new translation got a set of equipment. We discovered that providing equipment sets at least doubled the interest of partners wanting to evangelize using the film.

Mission 865 is an initiative of



Give them one minute with *JESUS* and see what God does.

<http://www.mission865.org/>



271 Languages Completed

# BIANNUAL REPORT, FEBRUARY 2017

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

**IT HAS BEEN SIMPLY INCREDIBLE** to see God working worldwide through Jesus Film® products and people. During 2016, 75 new Mission 865 (M865) language translations were completed from our prioritized list of 865. We are greatly encouraged as we seek to give every person a chance to see Jesus.

### CATCHING UP IN NIGERIA

**ACTIVITIES OF THE TERRORIST GROUP BOKO HARAM** severely limited the areas in Nigeria where we could record new language translations. However, Bible translators continued working on translations of Luke and, currently, we are fully caught up with new recordings in Nigeria.

### PARTNER GROUPS USING M865 JESUS TRANSLATIONS

**PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS** utilize newly recorded M865 languages to evangelize and plant churches. For example, when a new M865 language was recently completed in Tanzania, a partnership gathering was scheduled in order to introduce the new translation and ascertain which groups are ready to use it. Unfortunately, we discovered in African settings, it is hard to motivate many partnership teams to make plans ahead of time for using the new language recordings until they are completed and ready for distribution. When the recent M865 language was finished in Tanzania, nine different denominations and organizations came for training on how to use the film and also to be part of its premiere showing. Assemblies of God, Anglicans, Baptists, Mennonites, Pentecostals and four local churches all wanted the new *JESUS*.

### JESUS FILM RECORDINGS BY PARTNERS

**ONE OF OUR PARTNERS IN INDIA**, Snapdragon, is using a new system of recording Mission 865 languages which has enabled them to record 60 new M865 languages in three years! The work they do through their partnership with us allows Jesus Film to pursue its priority goal of completing 865 languages while responding to requests for *Magdalena*, *Walking With Jesus*, and other Jesus Film products.

**“I WENT WITH A GUN TO CAUSE HAVOC. DURING THE MOVIE, I HAD NO PEACE. AT THE END, I RECEIVED CHRIST. NOW I HELP TO PLANT CHURCHES.”**  
—AN AFRICAN BELIEVER



**JESUS film showing in Nigeria**



# CONNECTING LIPO WITH “JESUS” by Hannah Weiland

**“SING TO THE LORD; praise His name. Each day proclaim the good news that He saves. Publish His glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things He does. Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be feared above all gods”** (Psalm 96:2-4, New Living Translation).



**ANTICIPATION GREW** at the thought of finally receiving the *JESUS* DVDs. Having the film in Eastern Lipo meant connecting the Lipo people with the story of Jesus like they had never had before. After reviewing the first copy following the recording, everyone on the review committee downloaded it onto their computers—eager to share *JESUS* with their friends and keenly awaiting the final version on DVD.

Now, the Lipo people have *JESUS* in their language and can see Christ’s story unfold onscreen. Partnership has brought the Lipo this powerful tool in their language. Praise God for how He has already used this film in Eastern Lipo and for how He will use it in the future.

–“*JESUS* film in the Lipo language may bring a revival to the lukewarm Lipo churches.”– Alan, Jesus Film® partner

## Leading with *JESUS*

Church leaders from multiple Lipo villages watched in awe as they clearly understood the words from Jesus’ mouth. They watched as Jesus Christ’s story came to life in their language and smiles spread across their faces. This was a tool they could lead with. This was a tool they could show their congregations. They would spread this tool throughout their villages and see the gospel spark life in their people.

While the majority of Lipo call themselves Christians, church leaders are concerned about the stagnant state of congregations’ faith. They each agreed that reconnecting their people to the powerful story of Jesus through a tool like the *JESUS* film could revive their churches. The film will bring a better understanding of their faith and spur evangelism. Strongly believing this, they requested 10,000 DVDs to distribute throughout different villages.

These leaders have now distributed all 10,000 copies—meaning they have connected almost 10 percent of Eastern Lipo speakers with *JESUS* in just two years.

## Transforming Faith with *JESUS*

Jian pulled out his computer. “I have to make sure I get a copy of this,” he thought. Eagerly, Jian took the *JESUS* film in his language and downloaded it so he could take it with him—and he knew just where he could share it first.

The next workday, Jian, a construction worker, pulled up *JESUS* on his computer as soon as he got a chance. He called a couple of friends over—unfazed by noise and bustle around him. These co-workers, a married Lipo couple, watched the film intently. They were Christians, but when they saw the life of Jesus on screen and heard him speak Eastern Lipo, they understood God’s great love for them.

Gripped by the love of God, this couple committed to going to church again and asked to be baptized. God used *JESUS* in Eastern Lipo to transform their faith in Jesus Christ and draw them to Himself.

## How You Can Pray for Eastern Lipo

- **PRAY** for continued successful distribution of this film and for the excitement to see *JESUS* to increase among the Lipo people.
- **PRAISE GOD** for the revival and transformation He has already brought to many Lipo people and churches.
- **PRAY** for Lipo church leaders as they use this new tool, paired with their New Testament in Lipo, to lead their congregations in spiritual development, as well as to share Christ in their communities.

# ERICK’S CORNER Jesus Film® Executive Director

**RECENTLY I HAD** the opportunity to visit some of our church-planting teams in the Tamil Nadu region of India to see how they are using the *JESUS* film and other Jesus Film® tools to reach unreached villages. Two of the most exciting experiences I had involved multi-church partnerships that have been formed to evangelize using two new Mission 865 languages: Kurumba and Sourashtra.

The Korumba people are a hill country tribe known for their uncouth appearance, their poverty and for their practice of Hindu sorcery, which makes them feared by neighboring people groups. Most of their villages are unreached by the good news of Jesus Christ. In a Nazarene church outside the city of Dharmapuri, I met with 25 pastors and church planters from several different denominations who plan to use the Korumba *JESUS* film to plant churches. Among them was Tamilselvan, a young man who was one of the voice actors in the film. He shared with enthusiasm about tribal traditions and with joy about the privilege of being among the first to reach the Korumba people for



**Me with Maria, her daughter and Pastor John and visiting workers weaving silk in a Sourashtra neighborhood in Vellore**

Jesus. This group meets monthly to share stories and encourage one another in what they call the “Kourumba Project.”

The next day, in the city of Vellore, I met with Pastor John Joseph, leader of the newly formed “Sourashtra Project.” Pastor John’s father was also a pastor, and years ago he led a few Sourashtra people to

Christ, including Maria, shown with me in the photo on the left. Pastor John’s father prayed for years for this highly respected group of a million immigrants from northern India, known for weaving the finest silk. However, he was never successful in launching a ministry among them. John Joseph calls the dubbing of the Sourashtra *JESUS* film the answer to his father’s prayers! At last a multi-denominational outreach, using the *JESUS* film to plant churches among the Sourashtra people, has been initiated. I returned home with a burden to pray for this tribe of weavers—and a beautiful sari for my beautiful wife, who was in another part of India teaching at a women’s conference.

As I travel, I realize that every people group has its distinctive culture, and its unique story. But God’s plan is that every one of them be represented around His throne, giving glory, honor and praise to the Lamb who is the King! What a joy it is know that we—Jesus Film Project®, through our Mission 865—have a part to play in the destiny of the peoples of the earth!