



MISSION  
**865**

BIANNUAL REPORT—SPRING 2018



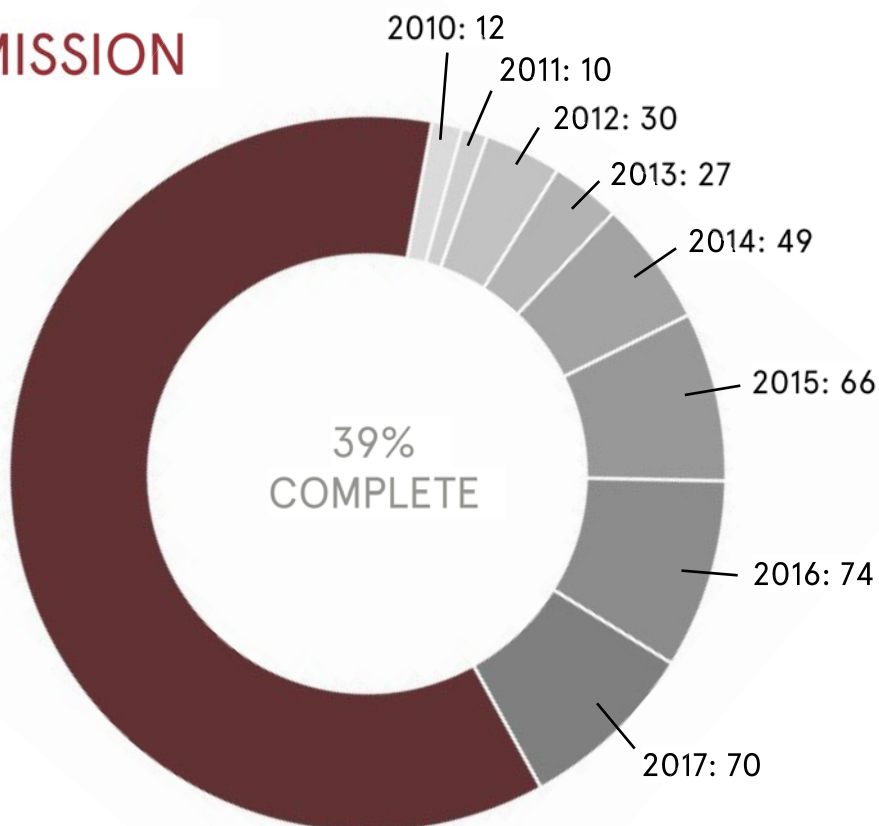


# MISSION865

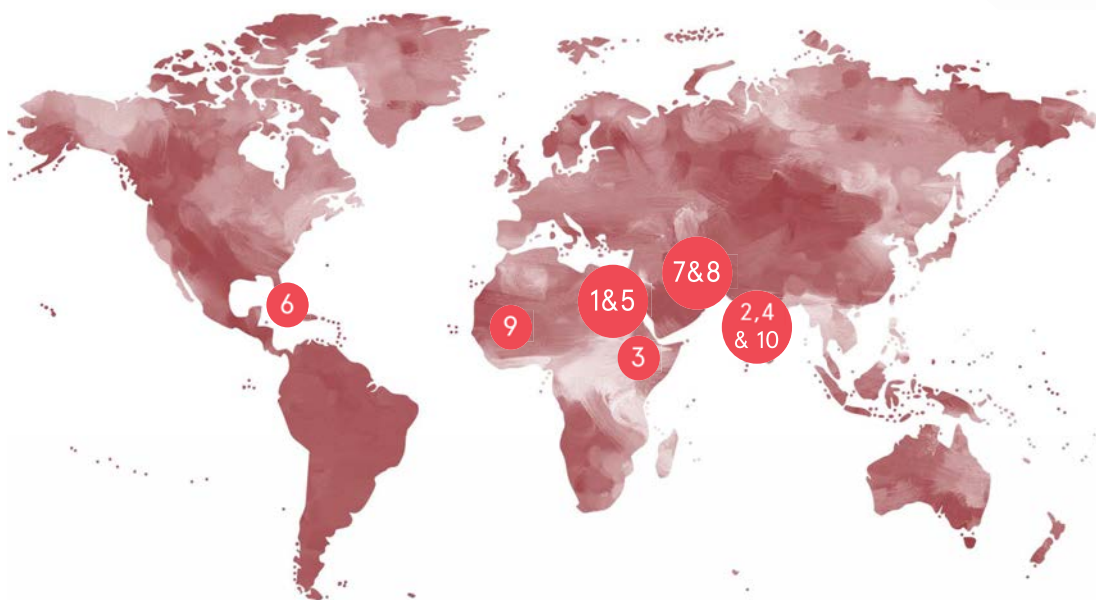
*In every language, to every people*

## ADVANCING THE MISSION

Since 2010, Mission 865 has made incredible progress. Through your partnership and God's provision, **347** versions of *JESUS* have been completed—reaching more than **204** million people with the story of Christ. From India to Nigeria to Costa Rica, *JESUS* and Mission 865 continue to help advance God's kingdom. Thank you for making this work possible!



### Highest-Reaching Languages Completed in 2017



*Language names not published due to confidentiality.*

## PLAY IT BACK AGAIN

Rahul studied the lines once more.

This project was unlike any other he had been involved in. Acting as the narrator for the new *JESUS* film in Kangri, Rahul felt as though he had learned a great deal from this script. This was his very own language. Each line had a deeper meaning than if it was in Hindi or Urdu.

As they wrapped up recording, he stood there contemplating the words he was saying. He had learned so much from this process and these people. He knew in his heart what he wanted to do.

"Can you play the loop back again?" he asked.

"Which loop?" the recording technician asked. "We have everything we need. It sounds great!"

"Loop 449."

"The salvation prayer?"

"Yes," Rahul said confidently. "I want to read it again. But this time, for myself."

So in the recording booth, Rahul stood, heard the prayer to Jesus in Kangri and then repeated it back.

This time he spoke not as the narrator but as Rahul.

He had encountered the powerful story of Jesus in his own language, and he became one of the first people to follow Christ after experiencing the *JESUS* film in Kangri.

"I want to read it again. But this time, for myself."



Thank you for believing in this partnership. You are making it possible to share the powerful story of Jesus with people worldwide. People just like Rahul are meeting Christ every day as they encounter the *JESUS* film in their Mission 865 language. You are making an eternal difference.





Reverend Joseph trains new leaders to use film premiere equipment.

Reverend Joseph has faithfully served with Jesus Film Project® in Nigeria since 1991. He has played a significant role in the completion of 74 versions of the JESUS film, 46 of which have been Mission 865 languages.

Rev. Joseph wears several hats in his role as Recording Coordinator. He is involved throughout the entire process of completing a version of the JESUS film. After he selects which language to record, Rev. Joseph trains script translators, recruits voice actors and works out the logistics of the recording process.

When the new version is complete, Rev. Joseph assists with strategy trainings and coordinates film premieres. Some of these events take place in areas threatened by violent extremist groups. Even with the knowledge of the ever-present threats, he continues to go into the difficult places.

When a village selected for a JESUS film premiere was wracked by violent unrest, many questioned whether it was safe to enter. Rev. Joseph responded with fearless conviction.

"Yes, we are going," he said. "They still need the JESUS film out there, because we believe that the Lord is going to use the JESUS film to bring many into His kingdom."

Because of his team's dauntless faith, the JESUS film premiered successfully in that village.

In early 2018 Rev. Joseph visited Jesus Film® headquarters in Orlando, Florida.

Though just a few days long, his visit was packed start to finish. He caught up with old friends he'd met through recording in Nigeria and met the many teams that help in the recording and production of films.

Among the people Rev. Joseph visited on his trip to Orlando was Anne, a Language Production

Manager with Jesus Film Project. Anne produced 43 of the 46 Mission 865 language versions Rev. Joseph has helped premiere in Nigeria.

Rev. Joseph already has big plans for 2018. He is preparing for multiple film premieres as well as the recording of 10 new JESUS film versions, five of which are for Mission 865 languages.

"The Lord is with us," he said. "He promised to be with us."

"We thank God for [the donors'] faithfulness. We believe that lots and lots of people will go to heaven as a result of their sacrificial love."  
-Reverend Joseph

## LISTENING FROM THE OUTSIDE

Stepping out of their vehicle, Chinwe and his team introduced themselves to the village leaders—their hosts for the next few days. Surveying and preparing a Northern Nigerian village for the *JESUS* film premiere is an important task, and the small team was excited to see how the people in this community would respond to the film.

After a long day of travel and inspecting the area, the team asked their hosts where they would be staying that night. Usually teams stayed with one of the local Christians, but this time the village leaders insisted they leave the area rather than stay in the village. The team left to find a place for the night, not wanting to cause trouble.

Within minutes of their departure, a religious extremist group invaded the village, killing the police officers providing security for the area.

Weeks later the team returned to the village for the premiere. Having only just escaped danger last time, they were keenly aware of the risks they faced. Showing the film outside after dark could be dangerous for the audience as the religious majority in the area opposed the message the team had brought.

Instead the team decided to set up the equipment inside a small church. In the heat of the day, over 200 Christians huddled inside the security of the building, waiting to experience a film about their Savior in their heart language.

Outside, members of the area's dominant religion gathered around the perimeter of the church compound.

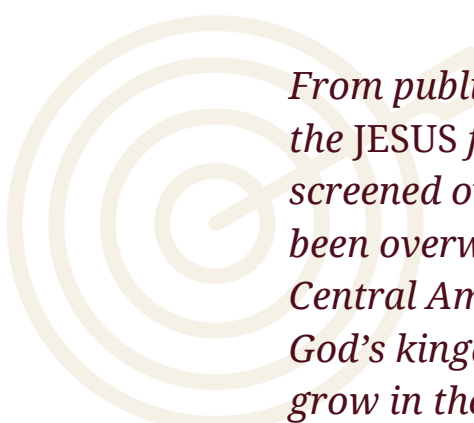
Knowing these people would be curious about a film in their language but unable to enter the church out of fear, the team played *JESUS* on loudspeakers as they showed the film to the group inside. The speakers allowed the people outside to hear the film without putting themselves in danger.

Because of the ever-present threat of persecution in Northern Nigeria, few people publicly accepted Christ that night. Fear continues to blanket the region.

The team has had to postpone many premieres of the *JESUS* film for different languages in the area. However, they are not giving up. They continue to pray God would provide the opportunities they need.







*From public showings in open fields to private screenings in huts, the JESUS film in one Central American indigenous language has screened over 40 times since its initial premiere. The response has been overwhelming. Through your giving, ministry workers in Central America now have a powerful resource to help grow God's kingdom, sharing the good news and helping new believers grow in their faith.*

## FROM WARY TO WELCOMING

Tired from a long day's journey, David grudgingly walked into the hut, greeted by unwelcoming faces. He'd been here a few times before, trying with little success to find a person of peace among the village. While his church-planting team stood outside in the rain, David pleaded with the villagers to let them stay the night.

With a string of reasons to persuade the team to leave, the village leaders finally stated they didn't have enough coffee to serve them. David explained he and his team only needed a place to stay after their long journey.

..... *But the leaders wouldn't budge—until David mentioned having a film in their language they could show that night.* .....

The sour mood in the hut became excitement. The villagers were thrilled with the idea. They had to make plans. Who would they invite? Where would they show it?

They ushered the team inside and served them hot coffee—coffee the village seemed to be out of just moments before.

A group gathered and watched *JESUS* that night. The next morning, as the team prepared to leave for the next village, their host asked when they would be back.

..... *He wanted to see the film again.* .....

The team visited four villages on their trip, several of which previously had not allowed them in. This time, each community welcomed them and encouraged the team to show the film. While no one has given their lives to Christ yet, the team sees the Lord opening doors to communities previously resistant to the good news of Jesus.



You are opening the door for everyone, everywhere to know God's story. Mission 865 continues to accelerate kingdom impact for the unreached. People who cannot read God's Word in their language can now hear Jesus speak it through His story in film. Through your prayers and giving, you continue to spread the good news of hope and peace found in Christ. Thank you.





*“...As it is written,  
‘Those who have  
never been told of  
Him will see, and  
those who have  
never heard will  
understand.’”*

*–Romans 15:21,  
English Standard  
Version*





## HOW YOU CAN PRAY

**Praise** God for the **70** Mission 865 language groups that now have *JESUS* as a result of your faith in 2017!

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**Praise** God for people like Rahul who have discovered the love of God through *JESUS*. **Pray** more people encounter this love and open their hearts to God's truth.

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**Pray** for Reverend Joseph and his co-laborers as they continue delivering *JESUS* to the most difficult regions of Nigeria.

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**Pray** for the **146** Mission 865 translations projected for 2018. As people experience *JESUS* for the first time, **ask** God to use the films to help expand His kingdom.

Jesus

*Cover photo courtesy of Peter Beckman,  
Ph.D., OneWay Ministries.*

Jesus Film Project®, 100 Lake Hart Drive,  
Orlando, FL 32832 | (800) 432-1997 |  
info@jesufilm.org | www.jesufilm.org