



# MISSION865

BIANNUAL REPORT—FALL 2018



## The Mission Endures

*"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."*  
—2 Corinthians 9:12, New International Version

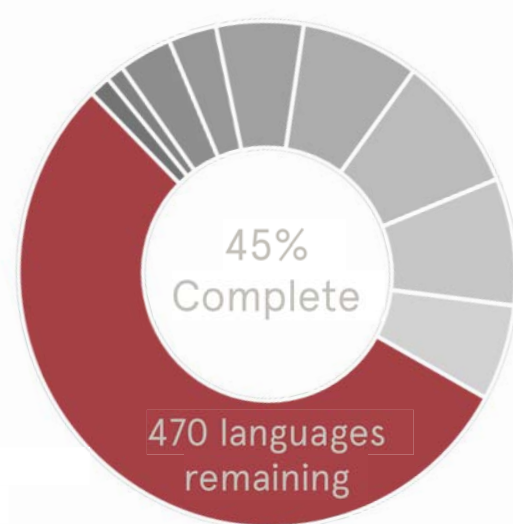
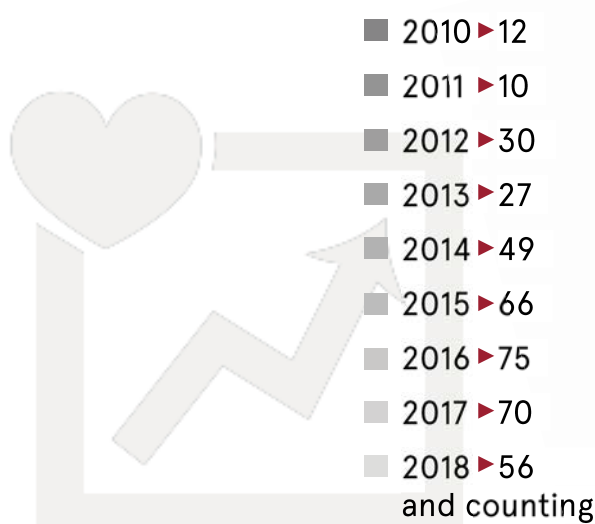
God is working through Mission 865 and Jesus Film Project® in incredible ways. Of the **110** versions of the *JESUS* film translated so far in 2018, more than half have been Mission 865 languages.

Your giving has funded **56** translations of *JESUS* this year with a projected **12** more to come. These languages represent more than **14 million** people and have the potential to touch each of their hearts with the story of Christ.

The mission has not been an easy one. Those sharing the good news face hardship around the world. But in spite of war, crime and persecution, Mission 865 continues to reach countless people with *JESUS*. Your partnership and God's provision continue to take the love of Christ to every language and every people, no matter the cost.

May you be blessed in reading these true stories of God's love in the face of adversity—and the effects of your generosity around the world.

## Nine Years of Progress







## Not Afraid of the Gang

-  Kannada Kurumba
-  180,000 speakers
-  >99% Hindu; <1% Christian

*"The LORD Himself goes before you  
and will be with you; He will never  
leave you nor forsake you. Do not be  
afraid; do not be discouraged."*  
—Deuteronomy 31:8, NIV

Even the locals avoided them.

The local church leaders cautioned their students. "They may [curse] and mock you," one pastor warned.

But the students were determined to reach the gang, no matter the cost.



*"We will never be discouraged and will not be afraid,"*  
the students said to the pastor.  
*"We will face any problems for the sake of Christ."*

Their boldness surprised and encouraged the pastor. He decided to go with the group of young people to the gang's neighborhood—a rough area known as a haven for drug addicts and criminals.

Soon enough the believers encountered the gang. The students, speaking with kindness, quickly invited the gang to watch the Kurumba translation of the *JESUS* film. They agreed.

Each gang member watched the film intently to the very end. The students could tell some of them were immediately convicted of their actions.

"We want to change," several of the gang members said. After witnessing the redeeming power of Christ on film, they all asked the students to return and help them break free of their former ways.

# Counting All as Loss

 Ndola<sup>1</sup>

 62,520 speakers

 60% Christian; 40% Ethnic Religions



Mary's\* head hung low as she stepped into the training facility, her heart troubled by the situation back home. One of the only Christians in the area, she'd endured a great deal of persecution as of late—even from her own family. Regardless, she wanted to attend this training and learn to use the new Ndola *JESUS* film in her community.

A few months earlier, Mary had come up with a plan to send her 10 children to school. She would raise 40 goats and a dozen chickens to help pay for her children's education.

But when she walked out to her farm one day to check on the animals, Mary discovered them all dead.

They had been poisoned.

While no one admitted to the crime, Mary had a strong feeling about who the culprits were: her family. They'd made it known time and time again they didn't like her being a Christian. They knew killing her animals and postponing her children's education would hurt Mary deeply.

<sup>1</sup> Also known as Ndoola

Mary knew God called His people to forgive others, but was this crime too much? Could she really forgive them?

Weeks later at the training event, Nigerian Jesus Film Project® coordinator Rev. Joseph and his team showed *Walking With Jesus* to Mary and the other attendees. The five-episode series uses portrayals of African life and culture to teach viewers how to grow in their relationship with Christ. In the second episode, a village chief learns about forgiveness.


Seeing the episode helped Mary realize her own need to let go. At the end of the day, she stood in front of the entire group of trainees and told them how God was helping her forgive her family.

Through the Jesus Film Project training and her own decision to forgive, Mary's relationship with God has deepened. She's discovered a longing to serve him more by sharing His Word with others. In a recent update to Rev. Joseph, Mary reported she has started the church-planting process in two villages by showing the *JESUS* film in Ndola.



Reverend Joseph, featured in the Spring 2018 report, continues to work tirelessly alongside Mission 865. After completing a new translation of *JESUS*, Rev. Joseph helps organize multiple trainings for local Christians like Mary. The trainings span several days and incorporate other Jesus Film Project® materials such as *Walking With Jesus*. The weeklong event leads up to a premiere showing of *JESUS* in the local language put on by the trainees.



A close-up photograph of a group of African children, mostly boys, smiling and looking towards the camera. They are dressed in casual clothing, including a grey shirt, a brown shirt, an orange shirt, and a maroon shirt. The background shows green grass and a person in a dark shirt.

*"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"*

*—Romans 10:14, NIV*



## Set Apart for God

 Zanaki

 100,000 speakers

 80% Christian; 20% Ethnic Religions

  
TANZANIA

Akida waded through a river near the border with two other Tanzanian soldiers. Suddenly one of his feet lodged under the root of a tree, trapping him. As he bent down to remove the obstruction, gunfire whizzed overhead. When he looked up, he saw his fellow soldiers lying dead near the shore.

If he'd been standing a second earlier, he would have been shot. God had spared Akida's life.



As day turned to night, Ugandan soldiers passed over him, unaware of Akida hiding beneath the dead bodies. Finally—amazingly—Akida's brother approached with his troop. Akida recognized his brother's voice and climbed out from his hiding spot among the dead. He embraced his brother, overjoyed and thankful to be alive.

\* \* \*

Before his involvement in the Tanzania-Uganda war in the 1970s, Akida grew up in Tanzania. He spoke Zanaki as his first language. After leaving the military, Akida attended secondary school, where he

learned English. He went on to receive a degree in theology and now works as a Bible translator.

Most recently Akida helped translate and record the Zanaki *JESUS* film as part of Mission 865.

There are many denominations among the Zanaki in Tanzania. But Akida says the majority of Zanakis who follow Christ hold on to indigenous beliefs such as animism and idol worship.

Akida believes the need is great for *JESUS* in Zanaki, and he is thankful God spared his life so he could help bring it to them. Through this film Akida is confident his countrymen and women will see the Bible—and the true Jesus—come to life in their heart language.



# MISSION 865

*TOP 5 IMPACTED NATIONS—2018*

## #1 INDIA

14 LANGUAGES COMPLETED IN 2018, ALLOWING 4,743,200 PEOPLE TO SEE AND HEAR THE GOSPEL IN THEIR HEART LANGUAGE.

## #2 IRAN

1 LANGUAGE COMPLETED IN 2018, ALLOWING 3,270,000 PEOPLE TO SEE AND HEAR THE GOSPEL IN THEIR HEART LANGUAGE.

## #3 INDONESIA

10 LANGUAGES COMPLETED IN 2018, ALLOWING 1,712,800 PEOPLE TO SEE AND HEAR THE GOSPEL IN THEIR HEART LANGUAGE.

## #4 SUDAN

2 LANGUAGES COMPLETED IN 2018, ALLOWING 1,266,000 PEOPLE TO SEE AND HEAR THE GOSPEL IN THEIR HEART LANGUAGE.

## #5 MALI

2 LANGUAGES COMPLETED IN 2018, ALLOWING 770,610 PEOPLE TO SEE AND HEAR THE GOSPEL IN THEIR HEART LANGUAGE.

IN 2018, THROUGH YOUR PARTNERSHIP  
WITH MISSION 865, 13,638,500 PEOPLE  
FROM 19 DIFFERENT NATIONS NOW HAVE  
JESUS IN THEIR HEART LANGUAGE.



# How You Can Pray

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Jesus

- »» **Praise** God for the 56 new Mission 865 translations of the *JESUS* film! **Pray** ministry workers complete the remaining 12 projected for this year.
- »» **Ask** God to strengthen and protect Mary as she takes the Ndola *JESUS* film to Nigerian villages.
- »» **Pray** God continues to embolden students in India to reach their communities for Christ.
- »» **Thank** God for protecting Akida during wartime, and ask for continued guidance as he shares the *JESUS* film with his people.
- »» **Pray** for Mission 865 in 2019, that every person involved may press on toward the goal of reaching the remaining speakers with *JESUS* in their heart language.

Mission 865 continues to share hope and peace through the powerful story of Christ. Around the world, unreached people struggling with grief and hardship can find comfort as they experience *JESUS* in their heart language. God is honoring your faithful prayers and giving, and the message of forgiveness and eternal life is going out to the nations.

**You are helping take God's plan of salvation to everyone, everywhere. Thank you.**