



MISSION 865

BIANNUAL REPORT

SPRING 2019



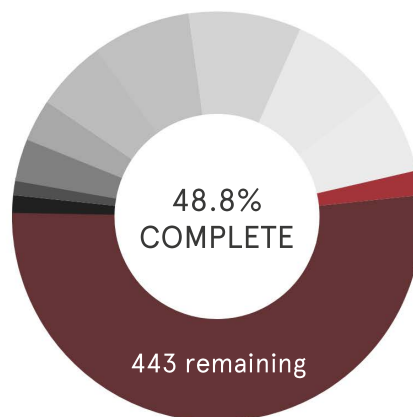


MISSION
865



STATISTICS

Since the beginning of Mission 865 in 2010, **442** language versions have been completed!*



- 2010 → 12
- 2011 → 10
- 2012 → 30
- 2013 → 27
- 2014 → 49
- 2015 → 66
- 2016 → 75
- 2017 → 70
- 2018 → 65
- 2019 → 16 and counting!

*As of March 2019.

DEDICATION & DETERMINATION

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”

—Acts 20:24,
New International
Version

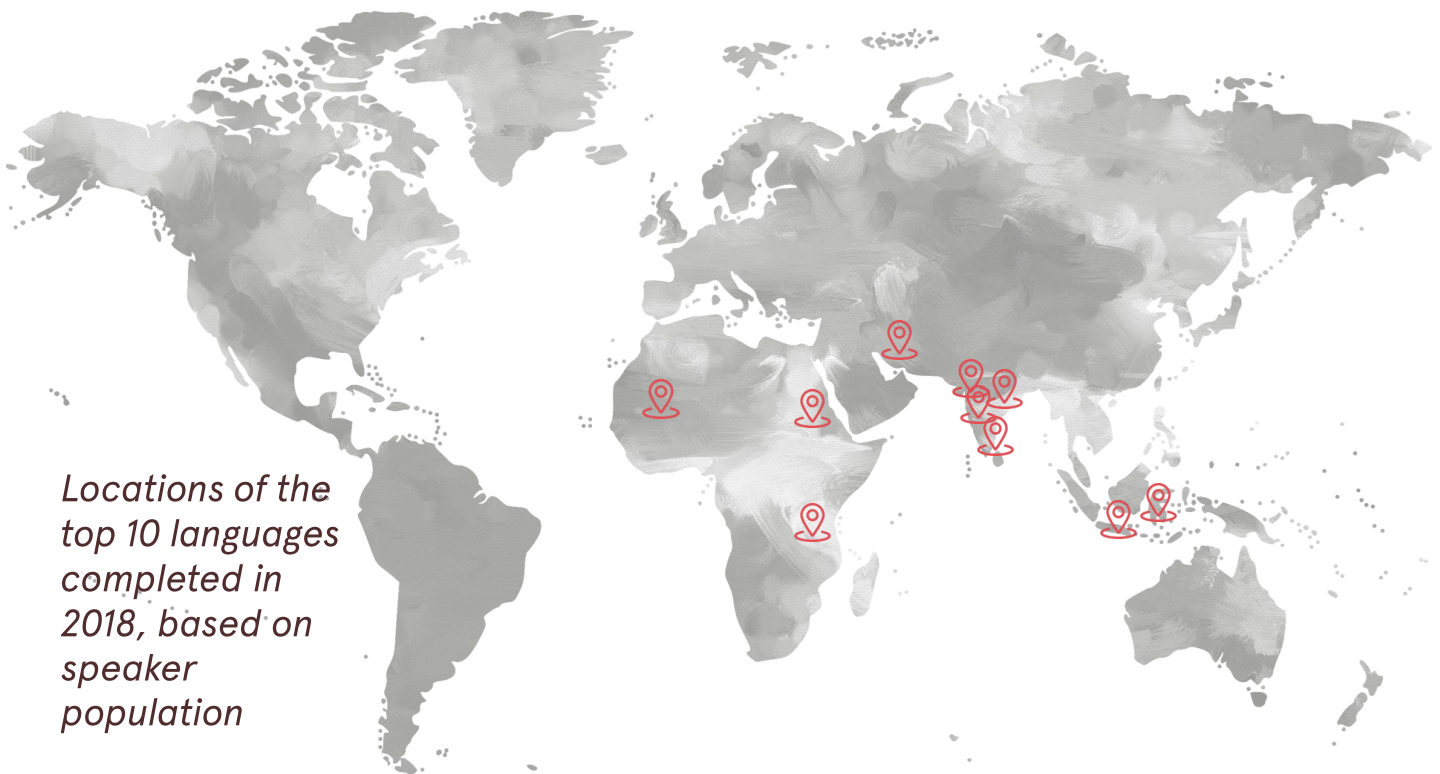
God is stirring His people to go where the gospel has never gone—no matter what it takes.

In 2018 your giving helped Jesus Film Project® and its partners complete a record **129** language versions of the *JESUS* film. More than half of these translations, **65** in all, were in Mission 865 languages.

Many of these languages represent people groups with limited or no access to the gospel. But with your help, more than **12,382,410** people now have the chance to hear the story of Christ in their heart language.

Because of your dedication, determined missionaries have received funding to spread the good news of Christ around the world.

Your partnership with Jesus Film Project has Mission 865 on track for completion in 2025 . At the current pace, every known people group of 50,000 or more will have access to *JESUS* in their heart language within the next seven years.



DEVOTION BEYOND A DECADE

location
East Asia 

language
Tenzen 

speakers
63,000 

religion
70% Buddhism,
30% Ethnic Religions 

Determined to see God's Word reach the East Asian region of Tenzen*, Yao* would stop at nothing to deliver *JESUS* to its people.

As a Jesus Film Project® Bible-translating partner, Yao learned the people in Tenzen spoke a unique dialect of the regional tongue. This dialect had grown distinct enough to become a separate language known as Bolin*.

When Yao started his ministry, he was the only Christian working with the Tenzen people, who mostly followed the area's dominant religion. They had no Christian materials in their language. Among tens of thousands, there were only two Christians, and they had to learn about Christ while abroad.

No books in Bolin existed to teach Yao the people's language. He needed to visit the region, but it was long closed to foreigners.

In 2005 the Lord produced a miracle for Yao: the first ever permit for an outsider to visit the region! Every year since, Yao traveled to Tenzen to further develop his understanding of Bolin. Soon he translated the Bible into the language himself.

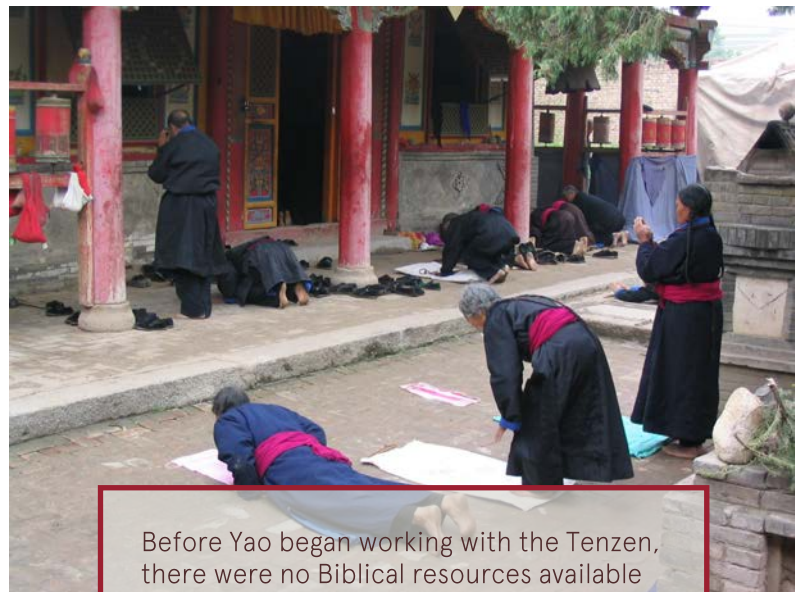
Bible translations can take years for groups of scholars, and much longer for one person alone. Yao knew he had to optimize what he translated if he wanted the Tenzen people to hear the good news.

Yao decided to focus on translating the Gospel of Luke so *JESUS* could speak directly to the Tenzen people. Thanks to friendships he forged through many visits to Tenzen, Yao was able to recruit a cast of voice actors.

In September 2016 the years of hard work bore fruit with the Bolin premiere of *JESUS*. Yao gave 2,000 DVDs to his friends to distribute, ensuring all Tenzen who wished to see *JESUS* had the chance.

Although Yao's journey to introduce the gospel to the Tenzen region has been long and difficult, God has rewarded Yao's faith—and yours. The Lord has multiplied the harvest in Tenzen and around the world through Mission 865.

Thanks to your partnership to produce *JESUS* in languages such as Bolin, millions have had the chance to begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You've ensured God's Word reaches some of the most remote people on earth.



Before Yao began working with the Tenzen, there were no Biblical resources available in their heart language. Now, they have the chance to know Christ through *JESUS*.

**Some names and/or locations have been changed for confidentiality.*

Rev. Silas and his team struggled to find a venue for this film premiere. One location required hired security. Another venue was already booked. Though the team finally found a location, many feared potential attacks from nearby cults. But Rev. Silas, who has overseen countless premieres, testified to God's providence in his work with Jesus Film Project®. He calmed the group's fears and said,

"We believe the Lord will protect everyone who is coming to ... watch the JESUS film."



FROM JEERS TO CHEERS

"Come!"

the voice boomed from the speakers.

"Come and you will see and hear Jesus speak Gokana!"

People standing nearby laughed. *What is this man going on about?* They'd never heard of the JESUS film.

Rev. Silas and his premiere team continued setting up equipment for the screening, trusting God would move among the Gokana people. After starting the film, the team stood back and watched as more and more people arrived in the open lot.

Those who'd snickered at the loudspeaker invitation now watched, mesmerized. Several passing by on their way home from the market joined the crowd. Even people partying and dancing in the street nearby stopped to see what was happening.

Before long more than 200 men, women and children had gathered around the screen, captivated by the good news of Jesus.

At the scene of Jesus being crucified, a former scoffer wept. "I'm so sorry, Lord," he cried. Several other audience members cried alongside him.

God's love touched many hearts that night. By the end of the film, 214 people heard His message of hope in their heart language. Sixty-nine people indicated a decision to follow Jesus.

"They truly could hear Jesus speaking their language," Rev. Silas said.

location
Nigeria 

language
Gokana 

speakers
163,000 

religion
98% Christianity, 
2% Ethnic Religions

NO TREK TOO FAR

Exhausted from his travels and suffering from shoulder pain, Jaime did not want to hold the *JESUS* premiere that weekend. He needed to rest, not drive over 12 hours to the Wanca community.

Dreading the rough roads, he considered telling the Wanca people the premiere would have to be rescheduled. But he knew how excited they were to finally have the *JESUS* film in their language.

Jaime knew he and his team had to go.

Wanting to get his vehicle checked before the trip, Jaime stopped by the mechanic on his way to the office. After the mechanic approved the vehicle for the long drive, Jaime jumped back in his Jeep. He hurried to his office to grab the supplies the team would need for the premiere.

A block away, Jaime stopped at a red light and looked down to check his phone. *Crash!* Jaime looked behind him to see an older man's car had hit a tree—just feet from the back of his Jeep.

The man and everyone nearby was okay, and Jaime praised God for protecting them. He knew the team wouldn't have been able to hold the premiere if the man had hit him.

After picking up the supplies from the office, Jaime drove home to rest before the team's early departure.

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“But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.”

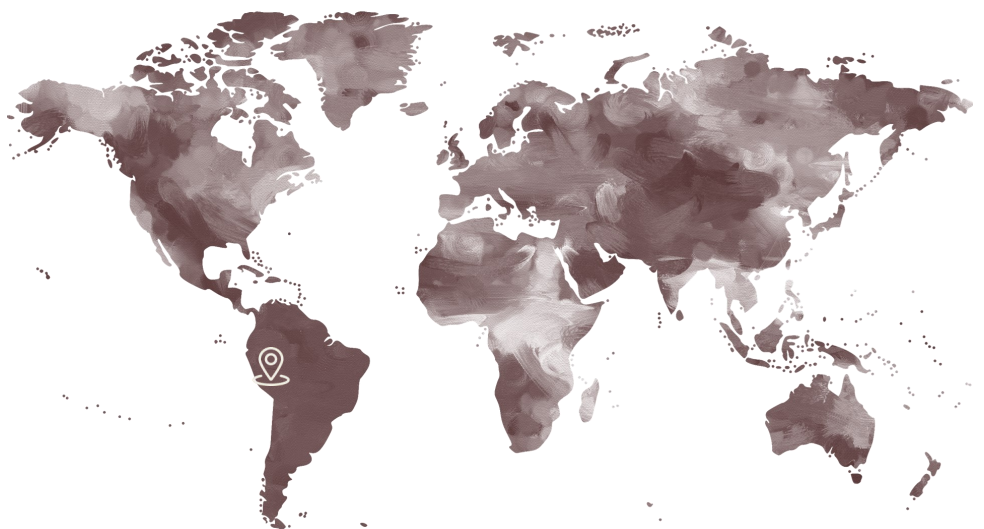
-2 Thessalonians 3:3, New International Version

location 
Peru

language 
Idioma Wanca 

speakers 
303,000

religion 
99% Roman Catholic,
1% Ethnic Religions



Jaime jolted awake. Outside his home, a woman's screams pierced the quiet night. It was still dark out, but Jaime jumped out of bed to look out the window.

Even though he was a few stories up, Jaime could see what'd happened. The screen for the *JESUS* film premiere had been stolen off the top of his Jeep.

The next morning, without a screen and despite the spiritual warfare surrounding this premiere, Jaime and his team set out on their journey. They were determined as ever to show the film to the Wanca people.

After two days of driving, Jaime and his team arrived at the Wanca village in the late afternoon. The community pastor greeted them with a smile and led the team to be introduced to the rest of the village.

Some of the villagers had prepared a celebration for the film team's arrival. Wanca music groups sang worship songs while village children put on a theater performance. The commotion overflowed into the entire village, piquing the interest of many other villagers. What started as a group of 100 people grew into a gathering of 300.

Just as the sun tucked itself behind the mountains, Jaime's team played the *JESUS* film. When the film ended, 30 people indicated decisions to follow Christ.

Tired but thankful for the successful premiere, the film team began their 12-hour journey home. Forty minutes away from their destination, something felt wrong with the Jeep.

Jaime pulled over, hoping the engine just needed a short rest. But when they got back on the road and started driving, the vehicle's brakes stopped working.

Terrified, Jaime mashed the brake pedal, trying to slow the Jeep down. He was barely able to get the car under control.

After a good deal of prayer, the team continued their journey. They returned home safely, thankful for the Lord's provision and protection on their trip.





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Despite the perils shared in this report, missionaries are persevering to show *JESUS* to unreached people groups.

Around the world, millions yearn for salvation. Your partnership has advanced Mission 865's progress in giving them the saving story of Christ in their heart languages.

Thank you for accepting God's call to help everyone, everywhere know His story.

HOW YOU CAN PRAY

- »» Praise God for the 65 Mission 865 translations of the *JESUS* film in 2018! Pray for the completion of 69 projected versions in 2019.
- »» Thank God for devoted missionaries like Yao, and pray he leads many more Tenzen people to Christ.
- »» Pray for Reverend Silas and other champions of the *JESUS* film. Ask the Lord protect and work through them in every situation.
- »» Pray for the Wanca and other peoples receiving *JESUS* in their heart languages. Ask God to use the film to deepen their understanding of Him.
- »» Pray for Mission 865 as this decade ends and the next begins. Ask God to sustain His workers as they strive to complete Mission 865 by 2025.

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