



MISSION 865

Take Heart

FALL 2021
BIANNUAL REPORT



Reaching Everyone, Everywhere

This report provides updates on the Mission 865™ initiative you've funded through Jesus Film Project®. Celebrate what God has done through your generosity!

Jesus Film Project®
A Cru Ministry

Fall 2021 Biannual Report

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What Is Mission 865?

Mission 865™ is a Jesus Film Project® initiative to translate the *JESUS* film into the heart language of each people group with 50,000 or more speakers and smaller languages as determined.

Some identifying details may have been changed throughout the report for confidentiality.



Hearts Made Whole in a Broken World

We live in a broken world. As a result, those sharing the powerful story of Jesus encounter unique challenges in sharing their faith—from persecution and cultural resistance to illiteracy and inaccessible locations. Despite the risk, God’s commission for us to share the hope and love of His truth still stands. Thankfully, He does not call us to do so on our own. He is in the midst of the challenges we face—no matter where we are in the world.

This issue of the biannual Mission 865™ (M865) report celebrates how God is moving in those sensitive, challenging and sometimes dangerous areas of the world. In this report, you’ll find encouraging statistics, updates on this initiative’s overall progress and stories of how God turned hearts toward Himself in secure countries and regions through M865 translations of the *JESUS* film.

Thank you for your connection to this initiative. The investment of your time, treasure and talent is making an impact all over this broken world—including in places where progress sometimes feels impossible. However, with God all things are possible. Thank you for trusting Him alongside us and being a part of how He is moving hearts.

“I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

— JOHN 16:33,
NEW INTERNATIONAL
VERSION

Celebrating Progress



532
languages completed



333
translations remain

PROGRESS
MADE OVER
THE LAST
SEVERAL YEARS

2018
66
languages
completed

2019
59
languages
completed

2020
39
languages
completed

2021
28
languages completed
AND COUNTING!

All numbers were reported on August 25, 2021.
(Some statistics were impacted by COVID-19 and global travel restrictions.)

Seeing Light in the Darkness

M865 languages represent people worldwide. As a result, some of the M865 language translations serve people in countries considered highly secure or highly sensitive regarding ministry. **The M865 languages in those countries make up 62.5% of the overall M865 list.** Yet God’s light still shines with hope through these obstacles. Within those countries alone, **354** M865 versions are complete! Please pray for the **187** that remain.



Prayer Point

Praise God for the significant M865 progress in highly secure countries and people groups. Pray that God will continue to make a way for more translation work and also provide further opportunities to share the film in ministry.



Translators from countries in conflict—connected by the transformational love of Christ—worked together to complete the script for this secure language.

Changing Hearts

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Prayer Point

Pray for all who serve in ministry in places of great risk. Ask the Lord to encourage them and protect them—reminding them they can genuinely “take heart” because of the victory and security they have in Christ.

LANGUAGE

Secure Language

LOCATION

Central Asia

WORLD SPEAKERS

100,000

DATE COMPLETED

April 2021

Right Before Our Eyes

The road to completing the 1,900th translation of the *JESUS* film was a bumpy one—but well worth it. Connecting with the right people to start translating this language was not an easy task. Partner organization Operation Snap Dragon works closely with Jesus Film Project® to complete these challenging translations and recordings. Ali, Operation Snap Dragon’s team leader for this Central Asian nation, visited several cities before finding mother-tongue speakers willing to be trained. But just as Ali made connections, COVID-19 reached the country. With travel options restricted, work on the project stopped.

During this time, Ali kept in touch with the mother-tongue translators. In this time of waiting, fear of persecution weighed heavily on the team—the members believed their involvement with Operation Snap Dragon and Jesus Film® would put their lives in danger.

“At first, both men were unwilling to work with us,” Ali shared. “Later, they changed their minds, agreeing to help. We thought a long delay in the project would change their minds again. But it did not. When we called them, they were ready to work.”

Months later Ali and the team had the opportunity to travel outside of their country to train for their translation work. Experienced members from a team in a nearby nation met the men despite political tensions between their countries.

Ali recounted: “Officials delayed us for eight hours at the airport Other passengers continued. But we were

humiliated and told not to contact anyone.” Eventually, God provided the solution. He answered their prayers, and the officials let them enter the country.

Brothers in Christ from both countries taught the two mother-tongue translators the oral translation principles, as well as how to use the translation software. Both of these men followed their country’s majority religion, but throughout their training, they continued asking questions about Jesus.

“God was working, slowly changing the hearts of these men,” Ali said.

The experienced trainers used every opportunity, mentoring their cross-border colleagues. Now these two men are well trained to repeat the process for other language communities.

Once they were safely back in their own country, the men reviewed the oral script with a translation consultant and members from their community. The team recruited voice actors and started the final voice recording in January 2021.

Some of the men who provided voices for the film were the same men who had previously refused Ali’s request for help—including the man playing Jesus. But as they started recording, the voice actors asked questions about Christ. “The man playing Jesus asked for Bibles—one for him and one for the narrator!” Ali said. “God was changing their hearts right before our eyes.”

The 1,900th Translation of *JESUS*!

The *JESUS* film is the most translated film of all time because we want everyone, everywhere, to have access to the powerful story of Jesus. **We celebrate that this secure language in Central Asia marks the 1,900th translation overall!** Trained nationals coordinated and recorded this translation.



Prayer Point

Praise God for all of the new translations of the *JESUS* film! With over 1,900 languages and counting, more people have access to the powerful story of Christ every day.



Changing Hearts

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

— MARK 11:24, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

LANGUAGE

Secure Language

LOCATION

Southeast Asia

WORLD SPEAKERS

300,000

DATE COMPLETED

December 2020

Praying to Jesus

The recording team could not find any mother-tongue voice actors who followed Christ at the recording location. But God can use all circumstances and people for His glory. During their work, team members witnessed several people encountering the Holy Spirit's guidance in remarkable ways while auditioning.

First, there was Irfan. Irfan saw the opportunity to work as a voice actor on this project, but a large crowd gathered to audition. So, he prayed. But instead of praying to his god, he prayed to Jesus, saying, "Jesus, give me the fluency in speaking so I can participate in the recording." God answered his prayer, and the recording team cast him as the voice for Annas.

Next, there was Rahman. The COVID-19 pandemic left many unemployed—Rahman included. He felt the pressure of needing to provide for his family. To his surprise, the team asked him to voice the role of Jesus. Grateful, he shared with the team that he felt his involvement was from God! The local church is praying he will accept Jesus as Lord.

Before auditioning for the film, one young man told the team he had tried to kill himself. He believed his life wasn't worth living. Before this man could go through with it, he said he heard a gentle voice whisper, "You are mine." He asked everyone he knew, thinking someone would know who the voice belonged to. Not one answer satisfied him until he spoke to a priest. The priest said, "Pray—ask God for the answer." So he prayed. Afterward he knew that Jesus was the voice he'd heard! Now he follows Christ, knowing he belongs to the Heavenly Father. Even though he wasn't selected to be a voice actor in the film recording, he's now aware of this new Jesus Film Project® tool in his language, and he's praying others in his village will find their ways to Jesus too.

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Prayer Point

Ask the Lord to continue working in the hearts of those who have a sparked interest in following Him but haven't fully made that commitment. Pray for people like the mother-tongue translators and voice actors of these secure languages to step into all that God has for them—lives of everlasting hope, love and truth.





Thank You

Praise the Lord for how He has moved through you. Your willingness to trust God with your investment—knowing the work being done sometimes comes at a great risk—is an incredible blessing. You truly are making an eternal impact in the hearts of people worldwide.



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