



MISSION 865

# Pressing On

SPRING 2023  
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





# Pressing On

SPRING 2023  
BIANNUAL REPORT

**Jesus Film Project®**  
A Cru Ministry

## Table of Contents

Propelling the Gospel	3
<i>Introduction</i>	
Accelerating the Reach	3
<i>2022 Statistics and Milestone</i>	
Persevering to Proclaim Christ	4-5
<i>Language: Ikota</i>	
Spotlight on Asia	
<i>Language: Confidential</i>	6
<i>Language: Confidential</i>	7

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



### 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.

*“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

— PHILIPPIANS 3:14, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION



# Propelling the Gospel

**D**espite any challenges God's church has endured throughout the ages, the body of Christ—fueled by the power of the Holy Spirit—continues to pursue the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Together we're committed to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to a world that desperately needs to hear it, striving to make the *JESUS* film available in every Mission 865™ (M865) heart language by the end of 2025.

In this report you'll see encouraging statistics and find stories about three M865 language groups affected by the power of prayer and persistence. Although the recording teams encountered difficulties, they pressed on in their efforts to make the *JESUS* film a reality.

Through your prayers and gifts, people around the world are encountering Christ and the power of His Word. Thank you for your contribution and for persevering with us in this initiative!

## Accelerating the Reach

**46 LANGUAGES  
WERE COMPLETED  
IN 2022,  
REPRESENTING  
10.4 MILLION  
SPEAKERS.**

*Breakdown of geographic  
location of the 46 languages:*

- **21** in sub-Saharan Africa
- **13** in Southeast Asia
- **7** in North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia
- **3** in South Asia
- **2** in Europe



**THIS BRINGS THE LANGUAGE TOTAL TO 612,  
WHICH REPRESENTS 297,584,582 SPEAKERS AND  
70.75% COMPLETION OF THE M865 LANGUAGES.**

*Of the 612 languages completed, 157 were produced by trained partner organizations.*

All statistics in this edition were reported on March 1, 2023.



In 2022 Jesus Film Project® celebrated the 2,000th language translation of the *JESUS* film! Speakers of Zo, an M865 language, are from Myanmar but live worldwide. As you enjoy this three-minute YouTube video detailing this milestone translation, praise God for His faithfulness and ask Him to give favor as His people continue pressing on through the challenging work of film translation.



**SCAN  
THIS QR  
CODE TO  
WATCH!**



# Persevering to Proclaim Christ



## Declaring the Glory of God

**F**ollowing a bumpy 11-hour drive to the Ikota *JESUS* film recording location, the recording team members woke up the next morning eager to begin their work. But the Ikota people outmatched their excitement! They had worked on the script translation for so long, and now they would finally be able to record the film in their language.

Once the voices were recorded and reviews completed to ensure the film's accuracy and quality, ministry workers conducted a big showing on the front lawn of one voice actor's home in the center of the Ikota village. The people started arriving at 3:30 p.m., well ahead of the evening film showing. Music, dancing and preaching began at 5. The ground shook with their movement and joy! The recording team sensed the presence of the Lord all around.

As the sun drifted down to switch places with the moon, more and more Ikota people crowded around the projector screen. Once the movie began the crowd fell silent, everyone completely engaged with the film before them. The movie made its way to the scene depicting the disciples in the boat with Jesus while He slept. As the storm raged on in the movie, real thunder clapped loud in everyone's ears, and lightning struck overhead! The recording team members bowed their heads and asked God to turn the storm away.

In the background the rhythm of women singing to their faithful Lord and praying for the rain to stop reverberated in the air. Raindrops began falling, and the team members worried they wouldn't be able to finish the showing. But just as Jesus calmed the storm in the film, God cleared the sky that night, and they saw the stars and moon overhead. All around them the storm raged on, but God placed a protective hand on the film showing.

As the showing continued, the Ikota felt all the emotions conveyed by the film—fear and sadness when they witnessed the portrayal of Jesus crucified and shouts of praise when He rose from the grave. Thomas, the Jesus voice actor, shared the gospel and invited anyone desiring a relationship with Christ to step forward. More than 600 Ikota people showed up and heard the message of Jesus that night—and 30 people indicated decisions to follow Him with their lives. What a beautiful thing to experience after pressing on in prayer and persevering through the weather!



### LANGUAGE

Ikota



### LOCATION

Gabon



### WORLD SPEAKERS

62,000



### DATE COMPLETED

August 19, 2022

*Remaining country  
languages to complete: 1*



# 01

## Prayer Point

Ask God to provide adequate transportation and other resources as ministry workers press on to share the *JESUS* film in every Ikota village. May God's spirit rest upon the men and women who labor for the sake of the gospel, giving them strength and joy for their task.

*“Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”*

— 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58,  
NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION



## Riding Everywhere to Share the Word

Jemuel—the dialogue coach and voice of Narrator—played a key role in translating the Ikota *JESUS* film script. A godly man, he pastors his village church and preaches all over the Ikota community. He always made the recording team laugh with his stories about falling off his motorcycle. When the team asked Jemuel what he'll do with the *JESUS* film, he said, **“I will ride my motorcycle from village to village until every Ikota hears the Word of God in their heart language.”**

A week after recording, Jemuel had already shown the film in one village and was preparing to show it again soon.

*One of the translators prays with two voice actors who have chosen to follow Christ. God moved among those who worked on the Ikota *JESUS* film even before it was finished!*



# Spotlight on Asia

## Committed to the Cause

**A**fter substantial barriers to finding voice actors for this sensitive *JESUS* film recording, a man named Arif became part of the project in an unusual way. The recording team members had already chosen the voice actor for John the Baptist, but a day before his scheduled recording date, they saw that their reminder message to him hadn't been read—and they couldn't call him—so they began looking for another actor. That's when they found Arif, a follower of the regional majority religion who worked as a security guard at their hotel and recording location. They explained that they were recording some voices for a Christian film in the local language and asked if he could be one of the actors. "No problem," he said.

Something about John the Baptist connected with Arif. During one scene in the film, two of Jesus' disciples visit John in prison. John says to them: "Ask Him (Jesus). Say, 'Are You the one John said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

After voicing that line, Arif stopped and told the recording team he felt the same as John the Baptist—wondering if Jesus was the Messiah. He said, "I feel he (John the Baptist) is me in the prison." Arif unsurprisingly delivered his lines with authentic emotion.

Watching Arif, recording team members saw the importance of persevering through obstacles to find the voice actors God would lead them to. This was an especially important lesson for this team, as its members are local ministry workers training as recordists who have each committed five years to recording Jesus Film Project® resources for their country.

Ministry workers from different mission groups and a local church plan to use this film version among followers of the predominant religion in the area, as well as to reach another group of people who speak a dialect of the language and practice ancestor worship. May God give these laborers in the gospel the endurance they need to continue striving toward fulfilling the Great Commission.

# 02

## Prayer Point

Pray for unity of purpose and commitment among the mission groups that have collaborated to show the *JESUS* film among the speakers of this Southeast Asian language. May God pour out His favor on their efforts!



### LANGUAGE

Confidential



### LOCATION

Country in  
Southeast Asia



### WORLD

**SPEAKERS**

3,227,000



### DATE

**COMPLETED**

February 8, 2022

*Remaining country  
languages to complete: 2*



## A Holy Atmosphere

**H**aving traveled to the *JESUS* film dubbing location, team members built a recording booth and set up the equipment, but finding voice actors for this sensitive language proved challenging. Even after selecting the best-quality voices, almost every voice actor had trouble clearly pronouncing some of the words. The recordist needed multiple retakes to get the best delivery. A woman named Sunita made the retakes and enunciation problems easier to handle.

Sunita constantly persevered in prayer, seeking the Lord about this recording. She prayed for each voice actor to deliver his or her part accurately so the gospel message wouldn't be hindered. Her positivity and inspiration encouraged everyone, especially during difficult sections of dialogue. She urged all the participants to stop and pray when the work got too hard.

Asking for God's help changed the atmosphere of the recording. Instead of a control room and recording booth, these areas became spiritual battlegrounds in prayer. God was present, and everyone in the room knew Jesus had answered their prayers for victory!

After recording the last portion, the actors and translators cheered, confident that people from this language group would soon hear the words of Jesus in their heart language. As they pressed on in the process, a final review confirmed the clarity of the message, and those present cried tears of joy.

They voiced their collective sentiment: "Now we can share our hope with our friends!"

*Prior to recording, project team members commit their efforts—and those of the voice actors—to the Lord. Over and over again they stopped to ask God for His solutions to difficult matters.*



# 03

### Prayer Point

Pray that the hearts of those who speak this language will open wide to the message of eternal hope as they hear the words of Christ spoken in the *JESUS* film. Pray they'll experience the unspeakable joy of knowing Jesus in all His fullness.



**LANGUAGE**  
Confidential



**LOCATION**  
Country in  
South Asia



**WORLD  
SPEAKERS**  
100,000



**DATE  
COMPLETED**  
January 20, 2022

*Remaining country  
languages to complete: 5*

**THIS PARTICULAR  
COUNTRY IN  
SOUTH ASIA HAS  
THE MOST M865  
LANGUAGES (127).**

**PRAISE GOD  
THAT ONLY FIVE  
REMAIN TO BE  
COMPLETED!**



# Thank You



*You've had a hand in making an eternal difference in the lives of millions in places like Gabon, Southeast Asia and South Asia—and extending throughout the world. As we collectively press on, persevering toward completing the Mission 865™ initiative in the power of the Holy Spirit, we remain compelled to share Jesus with everyone, everywhere until the Great Commission is fulfilled. Thank you for your investment and heart for this mission.*



100 Lake Hart Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32832  
800-432-1997  
info@jesusfilm.org

Connect with us



[jesusfilm.org](http://jesusfilm.org)

Duplicating, emailing or posting this information on the internet may result in believers being persecuted or even killed. The safety of many depends on your discretion.

Published May 2023. Produced by Donor Reporting.