

# Annual Review 2024



**“And the word  
of God continued  
to increase, and  
the number of the  
disciples multiplied  
greatly ...”**

— Acts 6:7, *English Standard Version*



**Like a wildfire sparked in a dry grassland, the extraordinary story of Jesus spreads globally through believers compelled to multiply the efforts of reaching everyone, everywhere.**

We see God multiplying generations of believers, not just through ministry teams, but through everyday people equipped with Jesus Film Project® tools and strategies. We see God multiplying believers in a South Asian woman being moved to share God’s truth with other women in her community. We see it in a West African school administrator trusting Jesus to transform her student’s hearts. We see it through a tribe in Ecuador witnessing how God is uniquely calling them to a greater purpose.

God’s story of amazing love is connecting with people on a level that inspires them to share it with others.

**“And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.” – Matthew 4:19-20, ESV**

As a partner of Jesus Film Project, you’ve chosen to faithfully respond to Jesus’ call by investing in this multiplication of believers and churches. God has used that investment to lead more than 22.3 million people to follow Him in 2023 alone.

In this annual review, we’ll share some of the stories behind the statistics. You’ll learn how your generosity has played a role in changing lives, planting churches and empowering people to share the love of Christ. We will highlight the tools, media and strategies you’ve supported, as well as exciting new resources for reaching unreached people groups.

**If Jesus were on earth today, there is nowhere He wouldn’t go.**

We are all called to go into the world to share His story, and by God’s grace and through your support, we will continue to bridge geographic, language, cultural and religious gaps with the life-saving hope of Jesus in peoples’ heart languages.

Thank you. It is an honor to partner with you.

**Jesus Film Project® exists to see everyone, everywhere hear the life-changing story of Jesus—in their heart language.**

Since 1979 we’ve translated the *JESUS* film into more than 2,100 languages. Now with more films, digital ministry tools and strategies than ever before, we won’t stop equipping believers to share the gospel the world over.

Photo: L.I.F.E. Ministry Uganda

## Sayeda's Story

### Beginning With One, Sharing With All

For an entire year, a Magdalena City and Village Saturation project team member showed *Magdalena: Released From Shame* in a city in South Asia. A woman named Sayeda\* offered the ministry team an opportunity to show the film in her home. She admitted that prior to seeing the film, she had no interest in watching it or allowing it to be shown in her home.

However, one day she watched *Magdalena* in someone else's home. Her heart was moved by how the Lord used women to further His kingdom. This excited her, and she decided to use the film to proclaim the gospel to her family and friends, which is when she invited project team members to show *Magdalena* in her house. She asked other women in her neighborhood to attend.

Slowly, non-believing women and men from the area came to watch the film. But Sayeda didn't stop there! She began to invite even more women to come to other showings. She has a desire for every woman in her area to see *Magdalena* and has taken the initiative to help make that happen.

Day by day, the number of women who have seen the film has increased.

Most of those who have viewed it are arranging film showings within their spheres of influence. The Lord is certainly advancing His kingdom in the hearts of many throughout South Asia. Through God's work in the life of one woman, many women from other faiths are coming to know Christ!



## Chioma's Story

### A Light for the Next Generation

As a school administrator, Chioma\* struggled with disciplinary issues among her students. Disrespect, misconduct and even theft were common. Determined to make a change, she collaborated with Samuel, a trained ministry worker with The Timothy Initiative (TTI), one of the partner ministries with Jesus Film Project®. Chioma and Samuel decided to show the *JESUS* film at the school.

#### The impact of this decision surpassed their wildest dreams.

More than 340 students, teachers and community members gathered outside in the hot sun to watch the film. Many were visibly moved as they viewed a portrayal of the greatest story ever told. Sniffles were heard among the crowd as people wiped their eyes and noses with their uniforms.

When invited to follow Christ, 110 people responded! Nine teachers and 18 high school students took it a step further and joined TTI's training program.

According to Chioma, there was also an immediate and profound change within the student body. Cases of theft and disciplinary problems dramatically decreased, and parents

were thrilled to see drastic, positive changes in their children's behavior.

#### The school grounds had become a place of hope.

Samuel planted a church on the school premises. "The Spirit of the Lord was palpable," a TTI worker shared. An undeniable impact had been made on the lives of the next generation.

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'"

— Romans 10:14-15, ESV

\*Some identifying details have been changed for confidentiality.

## Irfan's Story

### The Power of a Multiplying Disciple

Irfan\* sat at home, watching *JESUS* on television. At the bottom of the screen, a message prompted viewers to visit Facebook for more information. Irfan was intrigued by this film, but had questions, so he decided to check out the Facebook page and was quickly connected with a member of the ministry team.

Irfan asked, “Can Jesus really take away sin?” The team member assured Irfan that Jesus gave His own life to atone for the world’s sins. He also offered to connect Irfan with someone local so they could dive deeper into the topic. Interested in further discussion, he gave the team member his cell phone number.

The next day a believer named Hadi texted Irfan to see if he was interested in talking further about Jesus. Irfan, his wife, and Hadi met and studied the Scriptures together. Irfan asked Jesus to take away his sin, committed his life to Christ, and was baptized.

Irfan began to share his new faith with friends in his village and several expressed interest. Hadi helped Irfan guide his friends through the same scripture passages he had studied, and several came to faith.

Irfan also began to share with people he knew in other villages. Within a short time, three study groups were formed. **The groups quickly multiplied, as each one started another group.** Some people gave their lives to Jesus and were baptized, and others continue to study the Bible.

Hadi meets with Irfan weekly and communicates by phone and text almost every day to help Irfan grow in his faith. He also shares with Irfan simple scripture studies that the Bible groups can use to advance their own spiritual growth, in keeping with the apostle Paul’s message to the missionary Timothy:

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“... and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

— 2 Timothy 2:2, ESV

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*\*Some identifying details have been changed for confidentiality.*

# YEAR IN REVIEW

Seeing growth through multiplication in 2023

## 767,711,625

people viewed Jesus Film Project® media

### 369,999,277

online

### 218,375,125

broadcast

### 179,337,223

in person

### 22,357,788

people indicated decisions for Christ

### 223,578

new churches were established

In 2023 you sent **3,418** sets of showing equipment, **2,551** audio players and NewLifeBox kits, and **14,522** SD Cards to **95** countries around the globe.



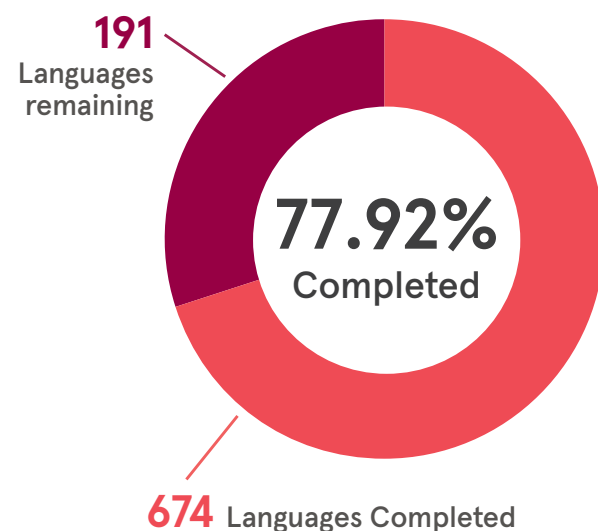
Leveraging technology so that everyone, everywhere has the opportunity to meet Jesus.

You have supported the translation of the *JESUS* film into over 2,100 languages. Wondering which language was the 2,100th? Go to page 14!

## Mission 865™

Aims to translate the *JESUS* film into every heart language with 50,000 or more speakers, representing 99% of the world.

As of August 21, 2024



## 79 countries

broadcast *JESUS* on television in

## 46 languages

during Easter 2024



## 2 million

subscribers to our YouTube channel.

As of November 17, 2023

## 127 countries

broadcast *The Story of Jesus for Children* on television in **10 languages** on International Children's Day 2024 (June 1), garnering **14.3 million** views

# Encountering the One, True God



## What Does Hope Sound Like?

The digital team regularly receives comments from people previously considered unreachable:



“I feel so blessed... there was some kind of load on my heart ... now I am feeling so light. Jesus loves me. I feel like I am pure.”



“I’ve been a sinner far too long. I want to repent and turn to Jesus. I am an ex-Satanist.”



“I just finished praying and now I am sharing with my friend! She is atheist but looks so interested in Jesus!”



“I feel light and relieved—like [I have] a purpose to keep living. Knowing that God is on my side, it can make me unbelievably strong. I’m reborn, brother!”

Jesus Film Project® seeks to reach everyone, everywhere. One strategy that has significantly opened the door to many closed places is social media outreach with Jesus Film resources. The Jesus Film Project Digital Movement Innovation (DMI) team uses Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp to connect with people who are seeking truth about Christ—especially those in unreached and sensitive areas where it’s dangerous to follow Him.

Their social media ads about Christ resonate. Those who click on the ads are connected to a trained digital team member who is part of an online group that works intently to answer questions, share the gospel and provide personalized follow-up, digital discipleship lessons, and other Jesus Film tools.

Since 2021 over 22,000 people have received the gospel as a live direct message in their inbox and 926 people have decided to follow Christ.

A great harvest is waiting among people in closed and difficult-to-reach places. They are seeking hope and truth but don’t know where to find it. Many go online to find the answers and thanks to those on the Digital Movement Innovation team, there is a follower of Jesus waiting to respond to them. Let’s rejoice over God’s heart to reach everyone, everywhere!

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” – Galatians 6:9, ESV

# Anna’s Story

## Refugee Reaching Refugees

Anna\* was forced to flee from her home within her war-torn country. She settled in a new city and began to attend meetings with others who had been uprooted and were seeking a sense of community. During the meetings, the group watched short films from Jesus Film Project’s library of media. Anna loved watching the films because she saw similarities with her own life.

One of the films the group watched was *Marea*, the harrowing story of a young man who lost his life as he saved the lives of five others.

“I felt like those people who were saved by a brave man ...” Anna said. “I thank God that He saved me from all the horrors of war and saved my immortal soul ...”

After watching *Marea*, Anna received news that the high-rise building from which she had fled ... had been hit by a rocket. “My apartment was destroyed ... all my property was burned,” Anna said. “But thank God that I have salvation. There is the Lord!”

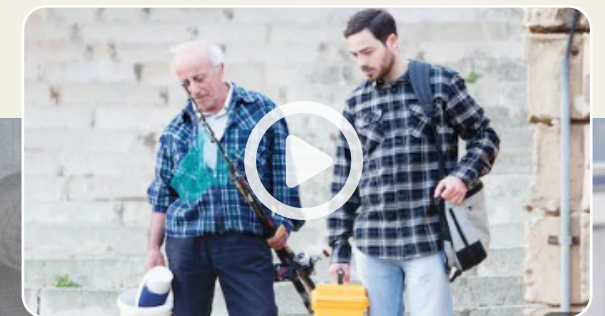
Through *Marea*, God had prepared Anna’s heart for the tragic news, giving her the confidence to trust He would be with her always.

As a result, Anna dedicated her life to Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She is now an active disciple at Bible meetings and continues to share the love of Jesus with others seeking wisdom and comfort.

“... and the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” – Acts 2:47, ESV

*\*Some identifying details have been changed for confidentiality.*

Scan to watch *Marea*





# The Story Continues

It's a story that began with a calling to reach Ecuador's Waorani people in the Amazon rainforest in the early 1950s; one that appeared to finish tragically with the deaths of missionaries Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Ed McCully, Peter Fleming and Roger Youderian in 1956. But 68 years later, God's work is being revealed.

## The tragedy was not the end of the story.

It's reported that among the 2,000-3,000 Waorani, there are 100-200 who follow Jesus. Thanks to a generous donor interested in sharing the *JESUS* film with the Waorani people, Jesus Film Project® staff humbly approached tribal leaders about developing a Waorani translation of the film, so they could watch *JESUS* in their own language. The leaders responded with excitement, and soon production began.

## *JESUS* in the Waorani language would become translation number 2,100.

Production of the film was challenging work. Neptali—the ministry partner on the ground—and several Waorani volunteers faced hardships throughout filming, including an ongoing struggle to find and keep a voice actor for Jesus, the death of a voice actor and the hospitalization of Neptali due to illness. But, when the review committee watched the first cut of the film, they were visibly moved.

## The beauty and promise of God's plan would soon be on full display.

There has been a great need for resources that not only share the gospel in the heart language of the Waorani,

but also help believers deepen their faith and reach out to others and multiply. To address this, Neptali requested the translation of *Knowing Jesus*, Jesus Film Project's discipleship church-planting tool. This curriculum seeks to grow believers who become multiplying disciples, with lessons that correlate to each of the 61 segments of *JESUS*. This was the first time the *JESUS* film and *Knowing Jesus* were translated at the same time for a small, indigenous language.

## In March 2024, the *JESUS* film in Waorani was set to premiere in Shell, Ecuador.

The city of Shell is home to approximately 150 Waorani, so the Jesus Film team was hopeful those nearby would attend. Right before the premiere, the film team learned a different Christian ministry was sponsoring a conference for the Waorani at the same time as the *JESUS* premiere. They were even paying for travel, food and lodging! Although the team was happy for the Waorani people to be blessed with that opportunity, it meant the projected attendance for the *JESUS* film premiere would be low.

## What looked like a mistake was actually the hand of God working a better plan.

Jesus Film staff offered the Waorani version of *JESUS* for the conference to share, and the conference graciously agreed to show the film. As a result of the combined viewership between the conference and the *JESUS* film premiere, approximately 400 Waorani saw the life-changing story of Jesus in their own language for the first time. That's 15-20% of the entire Waorani population!

Now the Waorani have both the *JESUS* film and *Knowing Jesus* in their language. These tools give local believers and churches the resources to share the gospel with other Waorani so they can help grow disciples with hearts to multiply.

## God's providence and relentless love is amazing.

The chain of events that began with five missionaries nearly 70 years ago continues to unfold today. It's with amazement and prayerful anticipation that we watch to see how God will continue to move in the lives of the Waorani people throughout generations to come.



"This experience helped me understand God's love and forgiveness on a deeper level."

— Waorani voice actor

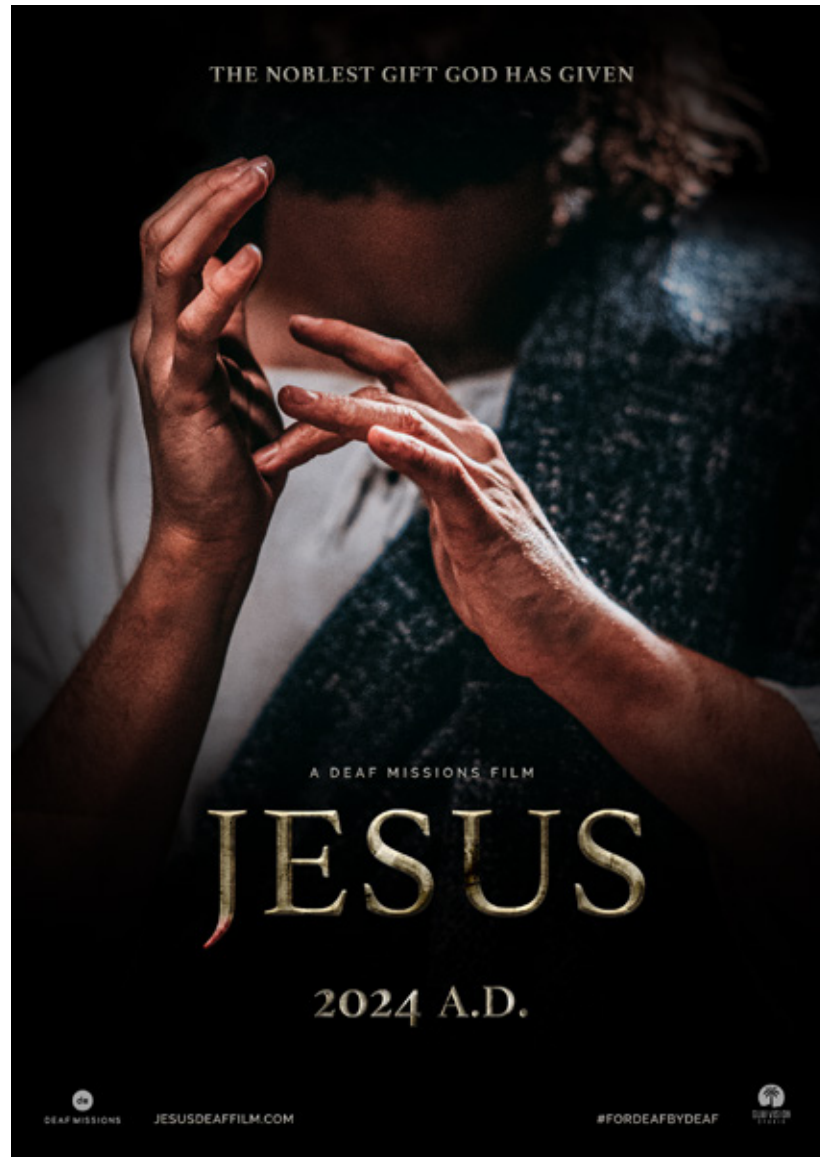
Scan to watch a video about the Waorani of Ecuador





# JESUS: A Deaf Missions Film

When picturing the least reached in the world, minds often go to the most remote villages and geographically isolated people groups. Yet there's one segment of the population that has historically, consistently been sidelined around the globe—the Deaf. Fewer than 2% of Deaf people worldwide are Jesus followers.



## The Deaf community is one of the largest unreached people groups in the world.

That's why we were overjoyed to partner with Deaf Missions, and many generous individuals like you, to make the first movie ever that would share the gospel message entirely in American Sign Language (ASL). *JESUS: A Deaf Missions Film* features all Deaf or hard of hearing producers and actors using ASL for the dialogue. There are no spoken words in the film; however, there is a soundtrack and English subtitles for people who do not know sign language.

*JESUS: A Deaf Missions Film* brings the story of Jesus to Deaf audiences, immersing them in His love and teachings using ASL. We pray this film will help Deaf people have a personal encounter with Jesus as their Lord and Savior, igniting a wave of Deaf gospel communities. Deaf Missions' goal is to translate the film into the hundreds of sign languages that exist worldwide.

# Animated *JESUS* for New Generations

It's a fact: half the world's population is under the age of 30. That's why Jesus Film Project® prayerfully began exploring animation as a ministry tool to take the gospel to the young and unreached.

For generations, animation has been a visual, oral medium that entertains, engages and informs viewers of all ages through bright, captivating content making complex stories easy to understand. It's a time-tested, beloved format that has the potential to break through ethnic, cultural, age and literacy barriers.

**By God's grace, we are now developing *JESUS*, a 90-minute, theater-quality, animated feature film.**

The vision is to create a film that is scripturally faithful and historically accurate, with leading industry animators, award-winning storytellers and cutting-edge technology to give everyone, everywhere a face-to-face encounter with Jesus. The plan is for a global theatrical release in 30 languages; the film will also be available to stream on digital platforms and will eventually be free to all through the Jesus Film Project app.

Leveraging 2,100+ translations, along with our 1,800 partnering organizations, this new family film will be a powerful global tool for sharing the good news and discipling future generations.



# 300+

U.S. theaters showed *JESUS: A Deaf Missions Film* in June 2024

Scan to watch the trailer of *JESUS: A Deaf Missions Film*



## Dear Friend,

This year, God has created breakthroughs to reach people in remarkable, historic ways. You are right at the heart of closing the gap for those without access to the gospel, and it is our privilege to share with you how your partnership is changing lives and multiplying generations of believers.

It is stunning that we live in an age when large pockets of people still do not have access to the gospel. But that can change when we work arm in arm with partners across the body of Christ.

This focus brought the 2,100th translation of the *JESUS* film to life for the Waorani tribe. Almost 70 years ago the tribe was thrust into news headlines when a handful of tribe members attacked and killed five missionaries. Now they have a powerful tool to engage with the story of Jesus in their own language.

This past year, you also helped bring access to the Deaf—one of the largest unreached people groups on Earth. It's estimated that there are nearly 580 sign languages, and until this year, none of them had a film from the Gospels with Deaf actors. That changed in April with the release of "*JESUS: A Deaf*

*Missions Film*," a movie produced for, and by, the Deaf in American Sign Language.

The impact doesn't stop there. Thanks to your partnership, we are seeing a rising wave of evangelism throughout the world. New strategies are forming online, where over 1 million people *every day* engage with the *JESUS* film or our other Jesus-centered films on YouTube™, along with other social media platforms. Through digital strategies, you have helped create innovative technology that can connect each and every person who is seeking Jesus to a partner who can lead them as they grow in their new faith.

Our focus on reaching the lost through preaching Jesus echoes the apostle Paul's focus nearly 2,000 years ago: "For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power." (1 Corinthians 1:17, ESV). Our call is clear: to simply share the story of Jesus with everyone, everywhere. I hope you are as encouraged as I am by these stories that demonstrate the breakthrough power of the Cross.



*Josh Newell*

Josh Newell  
Executive Director  
Jesus Film Project





## Share Jesus Wherever You Are

You can easily share your faith and multiply believers.

The Jesus Film Project® app is a full digital library of more than 200 resources, including full-length movies, mini-series, and short films. Everything on the app is free to watch, download and share. Carry free, Jesus-focused video content with you, wherever you go.



Scan to download the  
Jesus Film Project® app

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb....”

— Revelation 7:9, NIV



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