

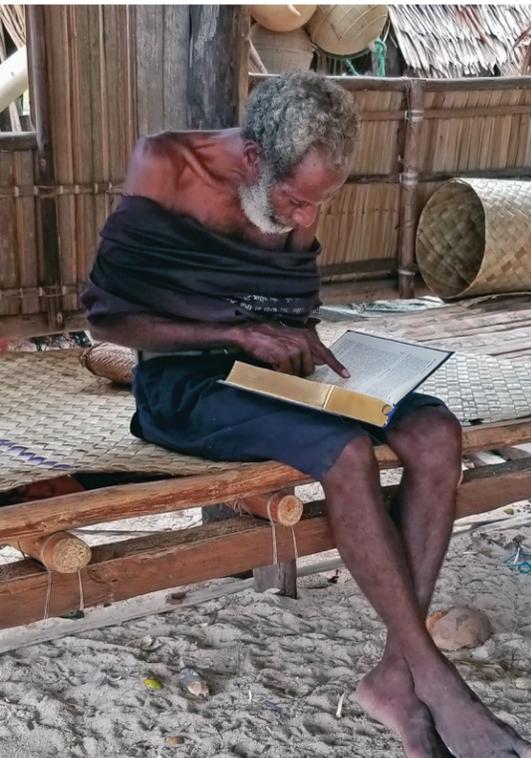


JAARS

TRANSPORTATION
TECHNOLOGY
MEDIA
TRAINING



**Making Bible
translation *possible*
in the most remote,
difficult places
on earth**



The people sat and listened as, for the first time in their valley's history, the ancient Hebrew words of David and Solomon were spoken in Ketengban. Many times the missionary felt too tired to continue, but the people forced him to keep reading late into the night. ...

They gathered every night after work, hungry to repeat the wonder of hearing the Word of God in the language that had a clear and unobstructed shot at their hearts.

—Nate Gordon, pilot



Top: Buido from Gumawana Island, Papua New Guinea, reads a New Testament just released in his language.

Above: Villagers gather for a Bible dedication in Indonesia in 2014.

Left: Cell phones are popular even in the most remote areas, and Scriptures can be shared via SD cards or custom apps created by our partners.



All God's people deserve to hear his Word in their own languages.

But more than 600 million people, speaking roughly 5,100 languages, still have less than a full New Testament in the language they value the most. Meanwhile, English speakers have more translations, study guides, and apps for the full Bible than we know what to do with.

In all our abundance, we risk forgetting what it's like to go *without*.

Can you imagine?

No chance to read the Gospels and realize the depth of God's love. No Psalms to comfort you; no Proverbs to guide you. Even if you're blessed to have a church, they only read the Bible in a trade language.

We won't accept that. And neither would our founder, William Cameron Townsend, who launched the modern Bible translation movement with the creation of SIL International and Wycliffe Bible Translators. Today more than 100 organizations are carrying out that vision—often in the most remote, difficult places on earth.

And that's where JAARS comes in.

As Bible translators headed deep into the Amazon rainforest, "Uncle Cam" quickly realized how exhausting and dangerous their trips could be. By 1946—just four years after starting Wycliffe—he was so concerned that he decided, "No more translators should go into the jungles of Peru until they can be assured of adequate transportation service." The next year he, along with his wife and baby girl, barely escaped the crash of a small aircraft flown by an inexperienced pilot.

That was the final straw. In 1948, Uncle Cam founded the "Jungle Aviation and Radio Service," now known simply as JAARS. What started as a small operation in Peru has grown over the last seven decades to serve Bible translation all over the world—through aviation and radios, yes, but also vehicles, boats, solar power, satellite internet, apps, and many other solutions that make it possible to answer Christ's call "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Our vision is that people's lives and communities are transformed as they experience God's Word in their own languages.

Our mission is to make Bible translation and language development possible, especially in the most remote and difficult places on earth. We do that by enabling locally appropriate and sustainable solutions in transportation, technology, media, and training.



Our founder, William Cameron Townsend, speaks by radio to a translation team in Peru, 1953.

Aviation

Many of the last language groups without God’s Word are the hardest to reach. Picture endless miles of rainforest and rugged mountains—with unpredictable weather, no support system, and airstrips carved out by hand.

Flying safely in these environments is one of the toughest jobs on earth, and it’s at the core of what God has called JAARS to do. Today we play many different roles, sharing our decades of expertise with other mission aviation organizations around the world. We offer:

- **Aircraft** funding, procurement, outfitting, shipping, and repairs
- **Specialized training** for pilots and mechanics, including pre-field and recurrent training in sub-optimal conditions and on mountain runways
- **Aviation technical support** ranging from getting a new location off the ground to troubleshooting, special parts and equipment orders, insurance, and on-site inspections and maintenance
- **Custom part design and fabrication** such as our classic life-saving seats, cargo pods, and on-demand parts from our 3D printer
- **Pilots and mechanics on loan** to keep partners staffed with technical people
- **Subsidies** for flight and operational costs
- **Many special projects**, such as conferences, commissioned research, and recently spearheading the FAA certification process for a commercial autopilot system to be used in Pilatus PC-6s



We can’t do what we do here without JAARS support. This is a very hard country to work in. ... We rely on JAARS to provide the major infrastructure for our flight department and continuous assistance for maintenance and other aircraft-related issues, flight training, and audits of our operations. JAARS is that steady, foundational partner for us.

—Brandon Penkoff, pilot, SIL Cameroon



Right: After a pilot broke his back during a crash landing, JAARS engineers crafted this innovative S-frame seat that is FAA-approved and now available to all mission fleets.



Land Transportation

In many places, flights aren’t an option—but Bible translators still need a safe, reliable way to reach villages that might be spread across hundreds of miles. Just imagine what our brothers and sisters in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are up against: 98% of their country’s roads are unpaved, and rainy season lasts for half the year.

Tough as it is, translation simply can’t happen without travel. Visiting the *whole* community is the best way to get input, test drafts, help churches, and start literacy classes. That’s why we work to give our partners crucial tools like:

- **Motorbikes** for individual Bible translators and pastors
- **4WD vehicles** for larger teams
- **Safety equipment** such as helmets, winches, and tow bars
- **Off-road driving and maintenance training**, both in the field and at our headquarters



Thanks to this motorbike and training, I am now equipped to ride with confidence over long distances to meet with churches and help them understand how to know and obey the Scriptures.

—Samuel Ngeh, pastor and Scripture engagement specialist in Cameroon

Maritime

In some places, especially the Pacific, parts of Africa, and the rainforests of South America, boats are the best or *only* way to reach a remote village. But the trip can be harrowing: crowding onto rundown boats, often with no safety equipment, and plying rough waters far from any hope of help if something goes wrong.

We’re privileged to serve partners around the world with:

- **Specialized vessels**, including outfitting, delivery, and repair
- **Logistical and financial support** for boat programs
- **Safety gear** such as life jackets, marine radios, shark bags, signaling devices, and emergency satellite beacons that we continuously manage
- **Water safety training**, both on location and at our headquarters

[When our small boat capsized,] the life jackets provided by JAARS were truly put to the test and proved to be lifesavers, especially for the children.

—Sissie D’Jernes, Bible translator in Papua New Guinea



Partnering Around the World



The JAARS Center Waxhaw, NC

Our core mission operations at the JAARS Center—with more than 500 people, 572 acres, 43 buildings, 4 runways, and a 4WD course—make it possible for us to serve Bible translation partners all over the world.

Come see for yourself!
Take a tour, attend an event, explore our museums, and more. Learn more at jaars.org/visit.

An Asas de Socorro flight instructor trains with a JAARS instructor.



What JAARS does from day to day keeps us going. And what we do from day to day, in the end, helps every tribe, tongue, and nation to hear the Word of life.

—Jeremiah Diedrich, pilot, SIL Brazil

Mountain Week [at JAARS] gave us the chance to land on challenging grass runways, practice ridge crossings, and learn to safely operate in the mountains. One of my favorite runways was Strawberry Ridge, a 1,000'-long, 16% sloped runway atop a ridge with a beautiful view of Mt. Mitchell. I've never landed on anything like that before!

—Josh Eicholtz, SIL Papua New Guinea

Americas

- Arctic Barnabas, U.S.
- Asas de Socorro, Brazil
- Ethnos360, Brazil
- Hope Center, Costa Rica
- LeTourneau University, U.S.
- Liberty University School of Aviation, U.S.
- Moody Aviation, U.S.
- Paradise Bound Ministries, Guatemala
- Parkwater Aviation, U.S.
- Proclaim Aviation Ministries, U.S.
- School of Missionary Aviation Technology, U.S.
- SCORE International, South America
- SOAR (Service Oriented Aviation Readiness), U.S.
- SIL Brazil
- SIL Colombia
- SIL Mexico
- SIL Peru
- South America Mission, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru



Africa

- ACATBA (Association Centrafricaine pour la Traduction de la Bible et l'Alphabétisation), Central African Republic
- ACOTBA-SUBO (l'Association Congolaise pour la Traduction de la Bible et l'Alphabétisation), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- ACTB (Association Congolaise de Traduction Biblique), DRC
- AIM AIR, multiple countries
- Association of Baptists for Worldwide Evangelism, Togo
- Aviation Médicale de Bongolo, Gabon
- CABTAL (Cameroon Association for Bible Translation and Literacy)
- CEBCE (Communauté des Églises Baptistes du Congo), DRC
- CITBA (Centre Interconfessionnel de Traduction de la Bible d'Alphabétisation), DRC
- Flying Mission, Botswana, Zambia
- GILLBT (Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation)
- Mercy Air, Southern Africa
- Serving Missions Globally
- SIL Burkina Faso
- SIL Cameroon
- SIL Chad
- SIL Congo, Republic of the Congo
- SIL Eastern Congo Group, DRC
- SIL Nigeria
- SIL Tanzania
- Wycliffe Benin



We are all grateful to JAARS to provide funding that allows us to respond to critical technology issues. Without their support, Bible translation would come to a halt!

—Bill Mayes, SIL Africa IT Services Coordinator



Worldwide

- Christar
- CRU
- Faith Comes By Hearing
- Mission Aviation Fellowship
- MMS Aviation
- Samaritan's Purse
- Scripture website partner working in sensitive areas
- SIL International
- SIM
- TEAM
- The Seed Company
- World Team
- Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Youth With a Mission

I am grateful about [the Ludadirri Scripture]. Because once it has been translated into our own language, it becomes very easy for us to understand. Even the children can understand it. Once we do, we shall have Christianity in our communities because it has been translated into our local languages [that] we understand best.

—Boniface, a villager in Uganda, where JAARS provided laptops and other equipment for an oral Bible translation project by Faith Comes By Hearing

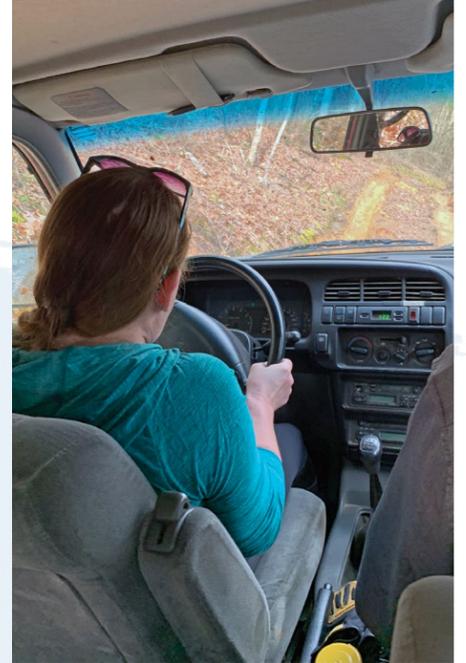


Europe

Wycliffe România

I was anxious and scared for sure. ... Now, not only do I have the skills to drive these vehicles, I feel more confident going into a new culture because of what I have seen God do in and through me.

—Young woman who took our 4WD training and Intercultural Communications Course



Asia

South Asian partners working in sensitive areas
YAJASI, Indonesia



Pacific

- Bible Translation Association, Papua New Guinea (PNG)
- Living Water Mission, PNG
- Pacific Mission Aviation, South Pacific
- Samaritan Aviation, PNG
- SIL Papua New Guinea
- SIL Vanuatu
- That They May Know, PNG

We are all pilots and mechanics who received training from JAARS for overseas service. Aside from being the main source for personnel, JAARS has been involved in purchasing, modifying, repairing, shipping, and supporting all of the aircraft that we use here. Without the support of JAARS, we would not be doing what we are doing.

—Gavin Jones, pilot, SIL Papua New Guinea



Technology

When we first got started, Bible translators kept their notes on index cards in shoeboxes. But we've been quick to explore how each new wave of technology can make their work easier—from prototyping personal computers with a team from Cornell University in the 1970s to setting up “electronic mail” at translation centers in the early 1990s.

Today we work with dozens of partners to make sure translators have the tools they need to work *anywhere* on earth. We provide:

- **Key equipment** such as laptops, solar power, and satellite internet
- **Technology infrastructure** for regional translation centers, focusing on reliable power, internet, and office networks
- **Ongoing support for local IT teams**, including staff and equipment to serve more than 70 translation projects in South Asia
- **Annual training** to help IT staff throughout Africa sharpen their skills
- **Mission transportation software** with an initial focus on FlightSpan, an iPad app that helps mission pilots plan routes, track changing runway conditions, monitor flights, track cargo, and more



Pilots use FlightSpan in the cockpit.

When a translator carries his laptop into my office with a computer problem, for that translator, for that language, Bible translation has stopped. It's my job to get it started again.

—Steve Pence, IT manager for SIL Tanzania, after JAARS helped with rewiring the translation office

Media

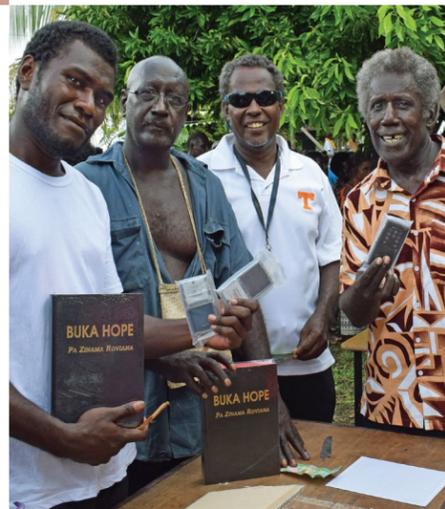
More than 70% of the world's population are oral learners—which means even if the Bible is translated into their language, they aren't likely to pick up the book. Audio and video Scriptures are the answer, and we've seen time and again how they can draw people of all ages right into God's story. We help our partners get:

- **Recording studios** where teams can create high-quality audio Scriptures, videos, worship songs, and more
- **Portable equipment** to use right in remote villages
- **Scripture websites and apps** to make the translated Word accessible even when a language group is persecuted or scattered geographically
- **Audio Scripture players** built to last in rugged environments



Our friends in the outside world can now read the Word of God, even if it's not in their hands. We can say that if it is illegal to bring the Word of God through immigration, now through the internet, they can open their computers or their cellphones and read the Word of God.

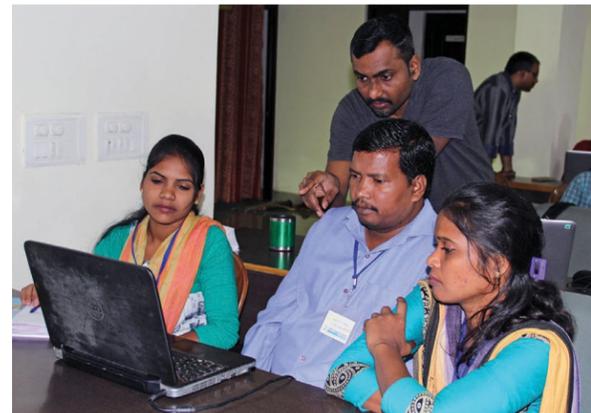
—Local pastor and Bible translator, referring to his language's new Scripture website



Training

More important than any tool are the *people* God has called to be his hands and feet on this earth. We help them prepare for ministry in challenging environments through our:

- **Technical training** in aviation, off-road driving, water safety, and IT
- **Intercultural Communications Course**, a month-long course that equips new missionaries to serve the Lord in multicultural, multigenerational teams, whether overseas or stateside
- **Learning that LASTS**, a virtual course designed to train those in Christian ministry with skills that enhance learners' retention and application of content
- **Team development workshops and spiritual vitality retreats** for our mission partners around the world, offered on location or remotely



As SIL considers doing more of its training and mentoring virtually, I'd highly recommend participating in a virtual Learning that LASTS. It will up everyone's game, which will ultimately lead to better equipped partners and higher quality Bible translations.

—Recent participant

Missionary Care

Life overseas can be complicated and exhausting—from learning a new language and culture, to living in rustic conditions, to coping without your family, friends, and church back home.

At our center in North Carolina, we try to ease the transition for missionaries who are either heading to or coming from the field. We offer comfortable housing, counseling, health care, child care, and shipping, as well as a deeply supportive community.

We also send teams overseas through our Refuge 139 program, which supports missionary families by uplifting and ministering to their children.

We greatly appreciate the crew at JAARS. Their hard work in supporting mission workers all over the world often goes unnoticed, but they are heroes in the eyes of us on the receiving end.

—Johnny Reeves, pilot, after JAARS shipped his family's belongings and motorbike to their new home in Papua New Guinea



Full Circle

The best part of my flying career with JAARS was taking the first 500 copies of the Isnag New Testament back to the airstrip I helped build when I was 12 years old.

I passed over the coconut grove and the tiny hut where I was born, then lined up for the approach I couldn't miss. JAARS trained me right—I put the Helio Courier down right in the spot where I was supposed to land.

My wife and little boy got out, and I went around back and unloaded the first box of New Testaments. And as I grabbed the second box, Isnags came running up to the airplane. I went to set the second box down, and I saw a woman had already picked up the first box and placed it on her head.

I looked and it was my oldest sister, Emma. I hollered at her and said, “*Manang*”—that means older sister—“do you know what you're carrying?”

And she said, “It's just a box. I have to move it out of the way.”

I said, “*Manang*, those are New Testaments in our language.”

I wish I had a camera to capture that moment. She grabbed hold of that box, brought it down off her head and hugged it with all her strength. And she said, “Are you serious? I'm going to have a copy of my very own New Testament in *our* language?” Deep inside, my heart was about ready to burst. I thought, *Oh God, what if? What if the missionaries hadn't come all those years ago?*

But you know, God knew from the beginning that one day my older sister would pick up that first box of New Testaments.

And God knew the Isnags. That's why I'm so passionate about what we do at JAARS—because I saw in my own life, my own family, what happens when God's Word is given to people in the language they understand best.

—**Nard Pugyao** is a first generation Christian from the Isnag language group in the Philippines. He went on to serve as a JAARS pilot for 39 years to help other villages like his own. Watch and read more of his story at jaars.org/nard.



Join what God is doing!

The story of Bible translation—and the unique role that JAARS plays—is far from over. We head to work every day knowing that *thousands* of communities and *millions* of people are still waiting to hear God in the languages they value most. And they depend on ordinary people like us to make that a reality. Below are a few ways *you* can make a difference.

PRAY

First and foremost, please join us in asking for God's provision, protection, and wisdom for JAARS and our partners working at the ends of the earth. For the latest requests, and to subscribe to our prayer calendar, visit jaars.org/pray.

SERVE

Roll up your sleeves and work alongside hundreds of your brothers and sisters in Christ to make Bible translation *possible*. We'll help you find the best fit for your skill set and availability. You can even serve part-time from home as an official JAARS Advocate. Or bring your church group for a summer mission trip! Learn more at jaars.org/serve.

GIVE

Everything we do relies on the generosity of God's people. If you sense God nudging you to invest in this work, visit jaars.org/give.

We can't thank you enough!

VISIT

Enjoy a day at our headquarters in Waxhaw, North Carolina. Take a tour, visit our museums to learn about Bible translation and the world's alphabets, and chat over lunch with missionaries who've served all over the world. Learn more at jaars.org/visit.

ATTEND AN EVENT

We offer many ways for your family to connect with overseas missions—from Saturday open houses at our headquarters to regional fly-ins, children's events, and an exciting night at our museum. Groups can spend anywhere from a few hours to a week in our simulated remote village. And young adults can enjoy private vision flights, aviation camp, or time on the coast learning about maritime missions. Learn more at jaars.org/events.

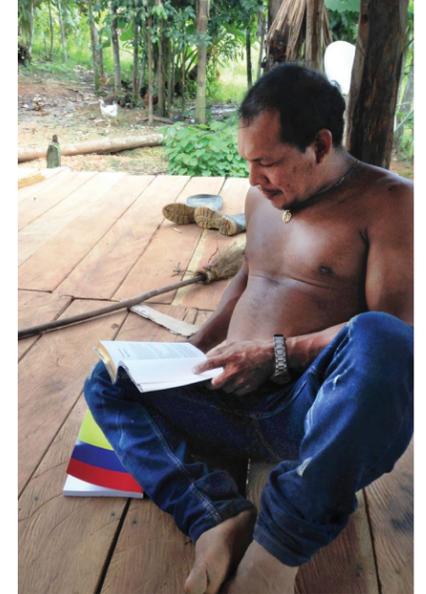
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Most of the time I can read and understand the Portuguese Bible, the English Bible, and even a little of the Greek Bible. But the way I understand it is somehow only on a superficial level. ... When I read it in Makhuwa, it's like I'm naked before God.

—Bonifácio Paulo, Bible translation consultant in Mozambique





JAARS

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JAARS is committed to serving the ministry of Bible translation with the unique calling and gifts God has entrusted to us. We invite you to join with us so that people from every tribe, nation, and language can know and worship the Lord Jesus fully.

—Woody McLendon, president of JAARS, was a graduate of Duke University and a software engineer for NASA before answering God’s call to missions—first as a language surveyor and later in IT leadership.