

# President's Letter



Dear Friend,

One of the most important lessons I've learned in 30 years of ministry is to practice thankfulness to God, especially during terrible situations. Invariably, when my wife and I have faced pain and frustration, God showed us something bigger he was doing in the situation, the ministry, and in our lives.

The writer of Hebrews says it well, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it" (Hebrews 12:11). The key to experiencing that harvest is gratitude.

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Looking back on 2020 and its challenges—a global pandemic that is still ongoing, racial and ethnic tensions that flared violently, a contentious election, economic hardship, and more—it's hard to be thankful. I get it. However, this is when gratitude is most important.

In this season, I am so thankful to have God's Word in my own language, in both written and audio forms. When I lacked the energy to read, I could listen. The truths sustained and encouraged me as I trust they did you. And the Holy Spirit works in our lives to reveal more of God's character as we follow Jesus.

Your partnership with JAARS is another area for which I am very thankful. Your generous support throughout this season has truly made an impact. While we faced constraints, God enabled us to respond creatively as you'll read in this report. Thank you for making these ministry outcomes possible, but more importantly, thank you for being friends with us in God's mission.

Many more areas come to mind, more than I can recount here. I hope and pray that you also are experiencing joy through thanksgiving. Let's continue to pray and serve together to see that those who don't yet have God's Word in their own languages will soon!

Yours for God's glory,

Woody McLendon  
*President*

*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.*

**JAARS**  
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# Ministry Accomplishments

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**Restored and relaunched a boat in Papua New Guinea**, working in collaboration with an established local ministry. The *Kwadima II*, which we first sent in 2008, is now poised for even greater support of Bible translation and other ministry on remote islands.

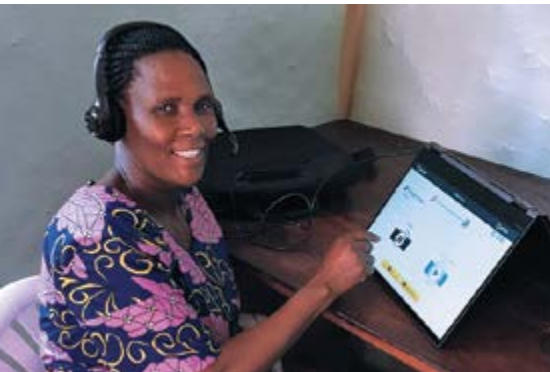
**Launched a new Mission Transportation Software program** to make travel safer and more efficient in off-the-grid environments. To start, we're supporting FlightSpan—an iPad app that helps mission pilots plan routes, track changing runway conditions, monitor flights, calculate weight and balance, track cargo, and more.



**Acquired and began overhauling a Cessna 206 for ministry.** The aircraft was originally headed to SIL Cameroon, but God intervened in a way that left us amazed and grateful. It will now meet a critical need for SAMAIR, our partner in Peru, while paving the way for an even *better* solution in Cameroon.

**Started a new partnership with Faith Comes By Hearing** to support Oral Bible Translation in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. This partnership has launched seven new translation projects, and momentum is growing.

**Sent a rugged 4WD to the Central African Republic**, where our partner ACATBA is forging ahead with Bible translation in eight languages despite an ongoing civil war.



**Began the FAA certification process for a commercial autopilot system** to be used in Pilatus PC-6s—long awaited by our partner in Indonesia.

**Continued our core support of partners around the world**, working amidst COVID-19 restrictions to provide training, research, technical staff, support for field programs, shipping of critical supplies, and more.

**Kept every commitment to support ongoing programs** that are crucial to our partners' ministry. Thanks to God's provision and *your* generosity despite the pandemic, we maintained our support for:

- workshops to create Scripture websites
- two recording studios in South Asia
- multi-language IT support for Bible translation in South Asia
- training for IT staff in Africa—moved online due to COVID-19
- power and internet access for translation centers in Africa
- Scripture recording teams in Papua New Guinea



We praise God that we saw more progress in 2020 than we can possibly squeeze onto these pages. For more stories and statistics, visit [jaars.org/2020-report](https://jaars.org/2020-report).



# Retooling Our Training

Training is a core part of our ministry, and as you can guess, it looked *very* different in 2020. We're grateful that before the pandemic even hit, God led us to add online learning to our Pre-field Orientation for new pilots and mechanics. That course was underway when the world went into lockdown—but ground school continued via Google Classroom and Zoom.

Throughout the year, we found ways to keep training and connecting despite the distance. Our aviation team hosted two online conferences, taught two new online courses to partner organizations, and held a socially distanced version of our classic Mountain Week. We safely offered in-person training for off-road driving, water safety, and overseas security. And we created TIP, an online version of our popular Intercultural Communications Course that launched in January.



*Below, children in Papua New Guinea carry a box of medical supplies delivered by our partner.*

## Responding to the Pandemic

Beyond our support for Bible translation, God also blessed us with the ability to care for many missionaries and community members during the pandemic. We sewed masks, 3D-printed face shields, and offered housing to missionary families forced to evacuate their overseas locations due to COVID-19. Our on-site clinic and Wycliffe counselors also offered medical, spiritual, and emotional support.



Photo by pilot Jonathan Federwitz



***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-mechanic, SIL Cameroon

# Financial Summary

In Thousands of U.S. Dollars

We're incredibly grateful that JAARS has remained in a healthy financial position throughout the pandemic—thanks to God's provision and generous partners like you.

## Income

Cash Contributions . . . . .	\$4,515
Non-Cash Contributions . . .	\$7,898
Program Activity Revenue . .	\$1,353
Investment Income . . . . .	\$89
Other Income. . . . .	\$226
<b>Total Income. . . . .</b>	<b>\$14,080</b>

## Expenses\*

Program Services . . . . .	\$10,284
Management and General. . .	\$1,468
Fundraising. . . . .	\$603
<b>Total Expenses . . . . .</b>	<b>\$12,356</b>
<b>Ending Net Assets . . . . .</b>	<b>\$11,447</b>
<b>Total Gain from Operations. .</b>	<b>\$1,725</b>

\*Excludes depreciation of \$578 thousand included in our audited financial statements



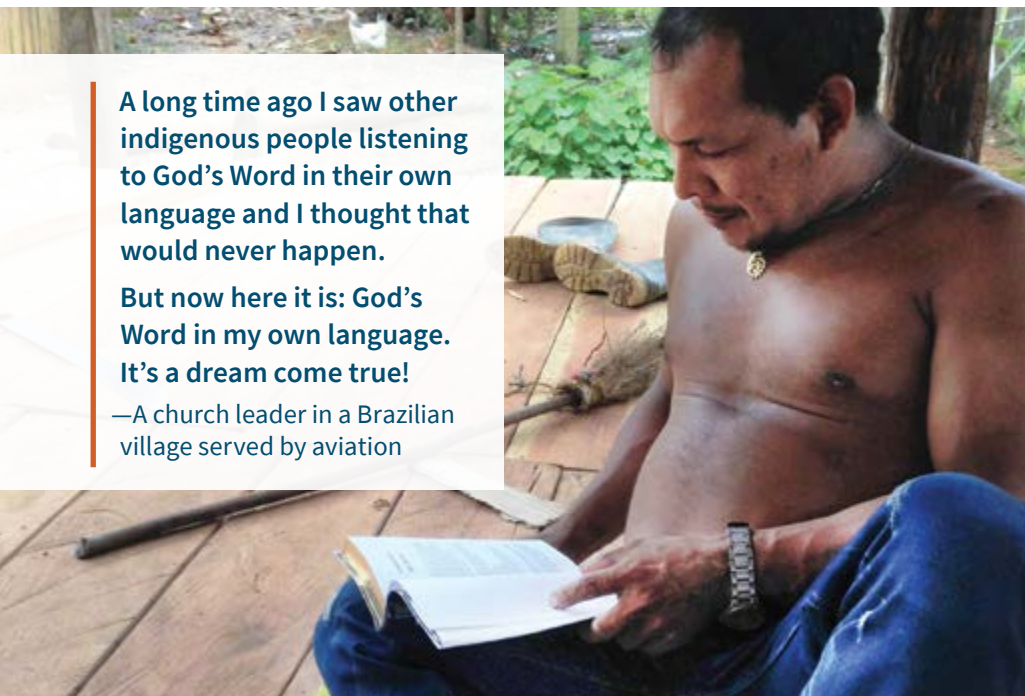
The financial results reported here are a summarization of our full financial statements. Complete financial statements, audited by Capin Crouse LLP, are available by visiting [jaars.org/about/stewardship](http://jaars.org/about/stewardship). Non-cash contributions include a labor grant for supported staff—supported by the financial and prayer contributions of friends and churches through Wycliffe Bible Translators—plus donated labor from volunteers; both are also recognized as expenses. Amounts in the report represent the financial activity of JAARS, Inc. for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020.

**100% of giving to a Solution goes directly to support the range of commitments within that specific fund.** We can do this because our operating expenses are funded by internal operations, gifts to our *CORE Mission Operations*, and when necessary, funds from *Where Needed Most*. This enables JAARS to respond with the speed and flexibility our global Bible translation partners need.

A long time ago I saw other indigenous people listening to God's Word in their own language and I thought that would never happen.

But now here it is: God's Word in my own language. It's a dream come true!

—A church leader in a Brazilian village served by aviation



A Letuama (Columbia) man reads his own New Testament, published in 2020.

## Board of Directors

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**Liz Thompson**  
Director of Language Program Services, SIL Anglo-Lusophone Africa Area

## JAARS Officers

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**Kathy Andrews**  
Assistant Corporate Secretary



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