



## 2022 Scripture Celebration

*Forever, O Lord,  
your Word stands  
firm in heaven!*

—Psalm 119:89



September 15, 2022  
Townsend Auditorium

JAARS Center  
Waxhaw, North Carolina



**JAARS**

# Digital Scriptures

Digital Scripture in various formats can be made available before, during, and/or after the printed version of translated Scripture. Many of the people groups that still need Scripture in their language are oral or live in areas that are closed to the gospel. For these reasons, digital Scripture is often the best way for these people to hear and respond to the Lord.

## Some different types of digital Scripture include:

**Scripture App:** Usually on a phone or website, it can contain the whole Bible, the New Testament, or just portions of Scripture. It also usually contains audio Scripture.

**Audio New Testament:** A recording is usually made after the New Testament is translated, and some language groups only have audio Scripture. Recordings can be distributed via SD cards, audio Scripture players, flash drives, apps, and Bluetooth.

**The JESUS Film:** This ministry project by CRU is based on the Gospel of Luke. Its script can be translated into the language of a people group, recorded, and dubbed into the film.

**Gospel Films:** Full-length feature films that use texts from the Gospels as their scripts are created by the LUMO Project in partnership with Faith Comes By Hearing.

**Bible Story Videos:** Videos that tell Bible stories in an approachable, clear way are often available on phones or websites. Most are created by the BibleProject.

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2022 Scripture Celebration at JAARS!

As we gather and celebrate another year of God's faithfulness in this global ministry of Bible translation, I encourage you to take time to learn about and give thanks for each of these communities that now have God's Word available in their languages.

In Psalm 119:89, the psalmist writes:

Forever, O Lord, your Word stands firm in heaven.

In a world where so much of what we handle each day is disposable, what a privilege we have to be part of a ministry that has an eternal impact on the hearts and lives of people! God's Word stands firm, and its truth never changes.

For the people speaking the languages we celebrate in these pages, this year marks the beginning of something new. How will their lives and communities flourish and grow now that the Holy Spirit can speak to them through the Scriptures in their own languages? Please pray bold prayers for God's power and love to be revealed to them.

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*In a world where so much of what we handle every day is disposable, what a privilege we have to be part of a ministry that has eternal impact...*

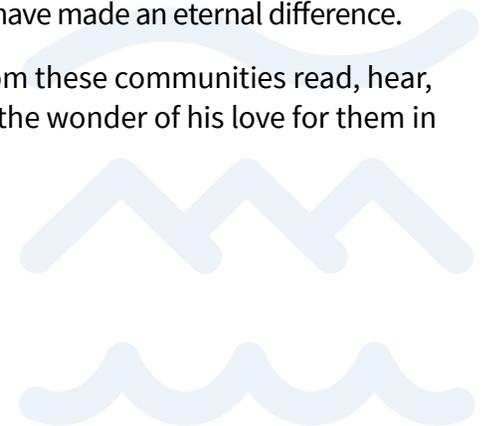
I also want to thank you for your faithful ministry that has made the impact we see here. Whether you serve at JAARS or are a partner or friend of this ministry, your contributions have made an eternal difference.

May God be glorified as people from these communities read, hear, watch, understand, and embrace the wonder of his love for them in Jesus Christ!

In Christ,

Woody

Woody



# Africa

## Central African Republic

JAARS-trained pilot and  
4WD vehicle funded by JAARS

### Gbeya New Testament, Scripture Apps, Audio New Testament

200,000 speakers  
Begun in 1994

### Kaba New Testament, Scripture Apps, Audio Recording

83,000 speakers  
Begun in 1995

### Ngbugu New Testament, Scripture Apps, Audio New Testament

153,000 speakers  
Begun in 1994



In March 2022, the Gbeya, Kaba, and Ngbugu people in the Central African Republic (CAR) celebrated the dedication of their New Testaments.

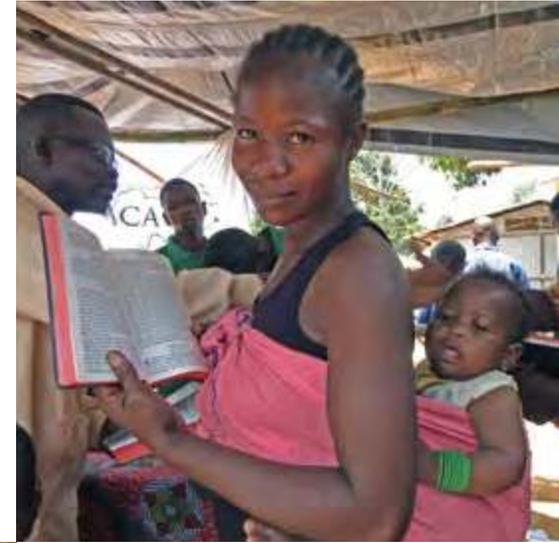
Only one other New Testament had been finished in the Central African Republic—in 2006. Praise God! He enabled these three people groups to have his Word all in one year! “What an amazing time to see multiple projects arrive at this milestone after so many years of faithful work by so many who have persevered through war and unrest,” Judith Sawers, a translator for the Gbeya translation, said.



Judith, her husband, and the director of SIL CAR, traveled from Bangui, CAR, to the village where the Gbeya dedication occurred with the help of a JAARS-trained pilot serving with SIL Cameroon Aviation.

A 4WD vehicle funded by JAARS had carried the national translators and printed New Testaments to the dedication site.

The Gbeya people are beginning to cherish God’s Word in their language. Georgine Kofedanga, a women’s pastor at a church in CAR, planned to read to a women’s group from Luke’s Gospel in



*“Ever since that day, I’ve understood that the translation of the Bible into Gbeya is quite indispensable if people are to truly understand the word of God!”*

Sango—a trade language. But the Lord prompted her to read from her Gbeya copy of Luke.

When she finished teaching, one of the older women came up to her and said, “My daughter, what must I do to see the Kingdom of God? What you have said in Gbeya really touched me.”

In all the years that Georgine had taught in Sango, she had never faced a question like this! “Ever since that day,” Georgine said, “I’ve understood that the translation of the Bible into Gbeya is quite indispensable if people are to truly understand the word of God.”



## Mozambique

### Meetto New Testament, Audio New Testament

1,200,000 speakers

Begun in 1996

*IT Connect training funded by JAARS*

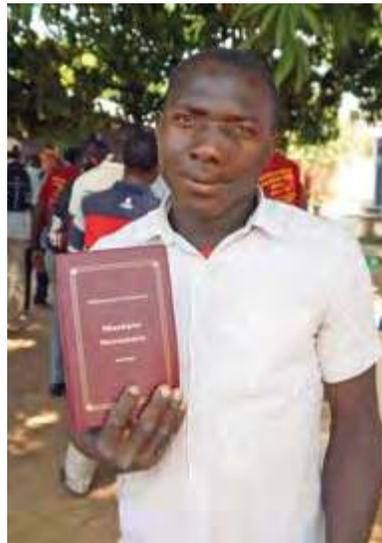
Although translation work on the Meetto New Testament had begun earlier in the 19th century, at that time the people didn't view their language very highly. Church, worship, and teaching continued to be done in Portuguese, the national language. So only about 70 people from a population of about 750,000 were baptized believers.

As more recent translated Scripture portions went out among the people in the format of Bible stories paired with audio, the Meetto people began to understand God's Word for the first time.

On the day of the dedication, the translation team included a copy of the recording with each copy of the New Testament purchased. In total, they distributed roughly 15,000 copies of the recording.

Today, one of the translators, John Iseminger, estimates that there are at least 30,000 evangelical believers among countless churches.

And the number of believers is growing! In April, John's colleague texted him: "I went to the dam to perform four baptisms, and another church was already there baptizing people. That wouldn't have happened ten years ago!"



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## Tanzania

### Simbiti New Testament, JESUS Film, Scripture App

300,000 speakers

Begun in 2009

*IT Connect training funded by JAARS*

At the dedication of the Simbiti New Testament, several people carried a large gift-wrapped box. At the church that hosted the event, the translation team opened the gift box, which held the precious newly printed New Testaments in the Simbiti language. "Now that we have this precious gift," one of the speakers said, "let's not leave it on the shelf to look at—let's use it, put it to work in our lives."



*"Now that we have this precious gift, let's not leave it on the shelf to look at—let's use it!"*

A translation consultant reminded the people that when a hunter brings home a choice game animal to feed his family, it would be a shame if his wife did nothing to cook it. "This book of God's Word is the Bread of Life for us ... it's not sweet like a soda, but sweet like real honey."

The morning's parade leader had another gift for those gathered. Along with fiddlers, flutists, and a drummer, he performed a new original song in Simbiti. "What a day of joy this is," the song declared. "We are gathered here to see the Simbiti Bible!"

The church ceremonies eventually spilled out onto the grounds, where the crowd shared a traditional feast and bought copies of the New Testament. People read their new Scripture immediately and took Bible selfies.

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## Kenya

### Chiduruma Full Bible

555,000–600,000 speakers

Begun in 1984

*Website and app creation supported by JAARS*

## Chad

### Migaama New Testament

70,000 speakers

Begun in 2001

## Equatorial Guinea

### Fa d'Ambu New Testament

10,000 speakers

Begun in 2008

## Côte d'Ivoire

### Guéré New Testament

422,000 speakers

## Senegal

### Ndut Half New Testament and Genesis

## Americas

### Colombia

#### Guahibo New Testament

#### Revision; Scripture App

100,000 speakers

Revision begun in 2010

*Website and app creation by an organization supported by JAARS*

Sandra, a media consultant for an organization in Colombia, created the New Testament app with the help of Dan who works with the JAARS-funded Scripture website partner. Sandra asked the Guahibo to provide an image for the app menu that was representative of the people—something that said, “This is Guahibo.”

For the book of Romans, the people chose an image of a woven item they use to wring out the poison found in their main food staple—cassava. The Guahibo chose this image because Romans is also a staple and helps people remove heresies; it’s true, pure doctrine.

Within five minutes after the app was installed on their phones, the Guahibo were already sending it out to people in Venezuela and other places in Colombia. To reach those places from the office where Sandra and the team work, would have required about 48 hours of driving. Instead, these people had the app—the entire New Testament in their language—in 10 or 15 seconds!

After the app was published, a team went to the Guahibo area to record parts of the New Testament. An 11-year-old boy showed up to play the voice of young Jesus. When they tried to hand him a script, he refused and pulled his phone out. “What’s the reference?” he asked. He looked the passage up on the app and read his part directly from his phone.



*“God does know ASL, and he wants to communicate with us!”*

### Colombia

#### ĕbĕra bedede (chamí)

#### New Testament, Scripture App,

#### Bible Story Videos

45,000 speakers

Begun in 2008

### Colombia

#### ĕpĕra pedede (Tado)

#### New Testament, Scripture App,

#### Bible Story Videos

2,500 speakers

Begun in 2008

*The translators appreciated the services of JAARS—the youth program, Communications, and the Boutique—when in the U.S.*

### Mexico

#### Zapotec, Aloápam

#### New Testament

3,000 speakers

Begun in 1993

### United States

#### American Sign Language (ASLV)

#### Full Bible

About 3.2 million signers

Begun in 1982

American Sign Language (ASL) is one of the top 10 languages used in the United States, yet ASL was the only one without a translation of the entire Bible.

The Deaf community resembles oral cultures—communicating through stories rather than the written word. Because of this, Bibles written in other languages don’t directly impact the hearts of signers.

But after nearly forty years, the American Sign Language Version (ASLV) of the Bible has been published! This marks the completion of the very first full sign-language Bible.

The translation, which began in 1982, took 22 years to complete. Through an organization called Deaf Missions, fifty-three translators worked on the project, most of whom are deaf themselves. They drew from the original languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek—to accurately translate the Bible. The ASLV is made up of videos, broken up by Bible chapters or passages, with someone signing the biblical text.

A young Deaf girl confided in her Bible study group that she couldn’t pray because, “God doesn’t know sign language.” She assumed that because her own dad couldn’t communicate with her in ASL, that had to be true of her heavenly Father as well.

But the girl’s Bible study leader was aware of the ASL Bible translation efforts and told her, “God does know ASL, and he wants to communicate with us!”

# Asia

## Philippines

**Ayta Mag-indi New Testament,  
The JESUS Film,  
Audio New Testament**  
10,000 speakers  
Begun in 1989  
*Creation of a Scripture website  
supported by JAARS*

As a local translator of the Ayta Mag-indi language lay dying, he said, "I won't be here much longer but you must finish this translation of the Scriptures." To help accomplish this, the Ayta cluster was formed to translate three related languages.

As books of the New Testament neared completion, translation consultants came from all over the world to check the Scripture. Then came media specialists, who recorded Scripture, songs, and Bible stories. With help from a JAARS-funded Scripture website partner, a website for the language was created.



More support came from the untold thousands of people all over the world who prayed for this translation. "It became clear that through this whole process," Roger Stone, one of the translators, said, "God has responded directly to the Ayta Mag-indi's request for the translation of the New Testament to be completed and that he loves them very much."

The Ayta Mag-indi New Testament was finally dedicated on June 9, 2021, along with the dedication of the audio New Testament and the book of Genesis (print and audio).

Rain was in the forecast for the day of the dedication. The team prayed, and though it rained hard the night before, the dedication structure survived, and God cleared the skies. This was the day the Lord had made for his Word to be launched!

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## Philippines

**Western Subanon Revision,  
The JESUS Film and  
Audio New Testament**  
125,000 speakers  
Revision begun in 2014

## Indonesia

**Auye New Testament,  
Audio New Testament**  
500 speakers  
Begun in 1988  
*Aviation support via YAJASI*

## Indonesia

**Dela-Oenale New Testament  
with Genesis**  
7,000 speakers  
Begun in 2005



## Indonesia

**Malay, North Moluccan New  
Testament**  
1,000,000 speakers  
Begun in 2001  
*Website creation supported  
by JAARS*

## Indonesia

**Rikou New Testament  
with Genesis**  
10,000 speakers  
Begun in 2005

## Central Asia

**Irata\* New Testament  
Revision**  
6,380,000 speakers

*\*name changed for security reasons*

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## South Asia

Each of these languages is in a sensitive area and uses a pseudonym for safety reasons.

### **Tikro New Testament and Audio New Testament, The JESUS Film**

400,000 speakers

Begun in 2004

*Technology support and JAARS-funded recording studio*

After a long wait of seven months due to COVID-19, the Tikro people dedicated their New Testament. Because of COVID-19 protocols, only about 50 believers attended. But hundreds of believers witnessed the dedication live through online platforms from across the globe!

Because possessing a Bible in this area is banned, it's important to have the Word of God available in a subtle way. So the Tikro translation team partnered with the JAARS-funded South Asia media partner to produce



mobile-accessible apps for Bible stories, *The JESUS film*, and CDs of songs in Tikro.

The Tikro people received the Word of God with joy and eagerness. Many are now reading the Word of God and being drawn to faith in Christ.

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*In this remote village where outsiders are not allowed, the Word of God has reached down to this family and saved them!*

Recently, when an infant died in a jungle village, an evangelist comforted the grieving family with the Word of God. He gave them a Tikro New Testament before he left. The family started reading the Word of God and were touched by the wonders of Jesus. They started praying for a child.

Within a few months, the woman conceived again, and their faith in Christ was strengthened. The woman developed complications, and a doctor informed them that they might lose the baby. The family continued reading the New Testament and praying. Within days, the woman regained her health. They are confident that the Lord will bless them with a healthy baby.

In this remote village where outsiders are not allowed, the Word of God has reached down to this family and saved them, and now a small church is active.



**Wokra New Testament, Audio New Testament**  
66,000 speakers  
Begun in 2005  
*Technology support and JAARS-funded recording studio*

**Kirik New Testament, Audio New Testament**  
Begun in 2005  
*Technology support and JAARS-funded recording studio*

**Bunai New Testament, Audio New Testament, Gospel Film, The JESUS Film**  
1,800,000 speakers  
Begun in 2008  
*Technology support and JAARS-funded recording studio*

**Godili New Testament, Audio New Testament**  
70,000 speakers  
Begun in 2004  
*Technology support and JAARS-funded recording studio*

**Souniski New Testament**  
400,000 speakers  
Begun in 2008  
*Technology support by JAARS*

**Pilgani New Testament, Scripture App**  
23,000 speakers  
Begun in 2005  
*Technology support by JAARS*

**Beladi New Testament, Audio New Testament, Scripture App**  
7,760,000 speakers  
Begun in 2008  
*Technology support and JAARS-funded recording studio*

**Kadir New Testament, Scripture App**  
1,800,000 speakers  
Begun in 2009  
*Technology support by JAARS*

**Malima New Testament, Scripture App**  
19,000 speakers  
Begun in 2005  
*Technology support by JAARS*

**Doguma New Testament, Scripture App**  
8,000 speakers  
Begun in 2005  
*Technology support by JAARS*

## Pacific

Language groups in this area are served by JAARS Aviation and Maritime departments.

### Papua New Guinea

**Fanamaket New Testament, *The JESUS Film***

Begun in 2007

*JAARS-funded recording team*

On the 26th of August, Stanley Gereao, a recording technician with a JAARS-supported organization, left his village on a small boat to reach a village in the Fanamaket language area to record *The JESUS film*.

Stanley and his partner, Bennis, found that the Fanamaket language community had organized themselves well with good readers for all the characters in the film. They completed the film within five working days and then spent the following three days editing the film.

Even though this was Stanley and Bennis' first dubbing project on their own, their mentor and trainer, Lauren Runia, said, "They did a great job! Both the recording and the final editing were done so well, which [is] a testimony to God's enabling and blessing on the training and partnership we have with JAARS and others."

The night before their departure, Stanley and Bennis were encouraged to witness the Fanamaket speakers gathering at the field near the beach to watch the very first film in their own language. Many of the people expressed appreciation for the team's dubbing of *The JESUS film* in their language.



**Autonomous Region of Bougainville**  
**Halia Revised New Testament**  
30,000 speakers  
Begun in 1964

**Papua New Guinea**  
**Vitu New Testament**  
6000 speakers  
Begun in 1990

**Papua New Guinea**  
**Kandas Audio New Testament, *The JESUS Film***  
*JAARS-funded recording team*

**Papua New Guinea**  
**Siar-Lak Audio New Testament, *The JESUS Film***  
Begun in 2020  
*JAARS-funded recording team*



At JAARS, 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.



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