

## Annual Review 2021



Fulfilling the Great Commission—it's  
happening now, and you are helping make it

**possible.**

*“It is the first time  
I hear about Jesus  
the way Christians  
know Him. I want  
to know more.”*

– Viewer of the *JESUS* film broadcast in Arabic

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

Since 1979 we've translated *JESUS* into more than 1,900 languages.  
Now with more films, digital ministry tools and strategies than ever  
before, we won't stop helping believers share the gospel the world over.



If we could tell you which confidential country this Arab viewer lived in, you would be amazed at where God is working.

The coronavirus pandemic caused many to wonder how ministry could continue under such difficult circumstances. But the God of Abraham, Moses and David is the same God who showed up with great power in the global upheaval of 2020. And He's not done moving. He's not done working. He's not done using dirt and people made from it to fulfill the vision He began in Jesus Christ.

The truth is, Jesus is fulfilling the Great Commission He gave us, and nothing can stop Him. He's committed to His mission, and we as His body are privileged to work alongside our Savior.

People all over the world—including those in hard-to-reach places like in the quote on the left—are hearing how much Jesus loves them. They're hearing it through films *you* helped put on the internet and satellite broadcasts. They're hearing it through equipment *you* helped put in the hands of faithful believers. They're growing in their faith because of church planters *you* helped train. And they're receiving the good news in their heart language because *you* helped provide it.

The Great Commission can be fulfilled in this generation. As you read this review of 2020 and get a glimpse of what God has done through your investment in Jesus Film Project, let your faith be stirred to trust God for this.

**The story  
of Jesus in  
every language—  
it is possible.**

**Encountering Jesus  
and growing in  
Christ online and  
over the airwaves—  
it is possible.**

**A thriving church  
within reach of  
everyone on earth—  
it is possible.**

**When Jesus  
works beyond  
any one of us,  
it is possible.**

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





The story of Jesus  
in every language—  
**it is possible.**

The *JESUS* film is now in over 1,900 languages. The story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection is the greatest story ever told, and the whole world should hear it in the language they best understand.

**Your partnership helps make this a reality.**



## ‘We Want to See Our God.’

Jingyi welcomed the visitors to his village, thinking they were teachers from his religion. He served them so they could rest, and at night he and his neighbors asked them to share their teachings for the special holy day.

The visitors—who were Christian ministry workers—said they had come to show a film in the local language.

“Film-watching is unlawful in [our religion],” a villager protested.

“You will see that God will touch your hearts by this film,” one of the ministry workers replied. “For many years [your religious teachers] came here ... but this time God sent us to you.”

These words surprised Jingyi and his neighbors—they’d never heard their spiritual leaders speak like this before.


“Play the film,” the villagers decided.

One hour into the *JESUS* film, everyone in attendance had tears in their eyes. The Holy Spirit moved in the hearts of the villagers, including Jingyi. By the end of the film, villagers were shouting: “We want God who orders us to be one—and not to put [our] children to death in war. Indeed, Jesus is God!”

Jingyi and his wife wasted no time, saying, “We want to [be baptized in] the name of Jesus Christ.” In response, 614 people ran to their homes to fetch buckets of water. They declared that every coming generation would follow Christ too.

After the baptisms, the villagers turned to the ministry team and said, “Now play the film [again]! We want to see our God.”





Encountering Jesus  
and growing in Christ online  
and over the airwaves—  
**it is possible.**

Radio. TV. Satellite. Internet. Through technology, gospel-centered content is being broadcast, streamed and downloaded so anyone can hear about Jesus and believers can grow in their faith. It's Great Commission work in the 21st century.

**Your generosity supports this readily available good news.**

## Clicking on Truth

Scrolling through Facebook, Marimet saw an advertisement about Jesus. It piqued his curiosity, so he clicked it and watched the accompanying video. It was the animated short film *Legion*, a creative retelling of Jesus healing a demon-possessed man who was living among tombs. The voice-overs in the video spoke in Marimet's mother tongue. All the more intrigued, he clicked to watch another film, this time the clip from the *JESUS* film where Jesus calms the storm.

Now Marimet was captivated. He clicked to learn more about the miracles of the Messiah. Another segment of *JESUS* played, this time where Jesus brings a dead girl back to life. Marimet's interest in Jesus' life and actions grew as he continued clicking through the webpages. The major religion of his country taught Jesus was a prophet, but these videos are depicting this man as having power over life and death!

He heard a prayer in the next video, and on the following screen he read a transcript of the prayer. With a willing and open heart, he prayed for Jesus to be his Lord. He clicked a button to acknowledge his commitment to Christ and learn more.

On and on the young man clicked, feverishly reading and watching content about Jesus and how to follow Him. Marimet watched another animated short film called *My Last Day*, an animated portrayal of Jesus' suffering and forgiveness through the eyes of a thief crucified beside him. He learned about experiencing God's love and forgiveness. He learned the importance of confessing his sins to God. He learned God now lived inside him and had made him clean.



Marimet's Mediterranean country has one of the smallest percentages of Christians and churches in the world. But your partnership has helped bring the good news within reach—just a click away.





A thriving church within  
reach of everyone on earth—  
**it is possible.**

The church is not a building but people united in Jesus' name. The Great Commission can be fulfilled as the people of God serve, worship and live as a community.

Your kindness and commitment helps train and equip believers around the world to multiply thriving churches.





## A Taxi Ride to the Impossible

**W**hat probably began as a typical day for Girish became the day he began to understand how much is possible with God.

As Girish hailed an auto-rickshaw and climbed in, he sat by Pranav—a church planter. Girish heard the story of Christ from Pranav and committed his life to Jesus on the spot. Over time Girish grew steadily in Christ and learned to share his faith using Jesus Film Project® content. Pranav helped him see the possibility of starting a church in his home village!

Then COVID-19 lockdowns took effect across India. Girish struggled to put food on the table for his family, and one day they ran out. Desperate, they cried out to God. Shortly after,

Pranav showed up in their village with provisions for the villagers. God had heard their prayers! Girish and his family gratefully accepted Pranav's aid, and Girish joined Pranav in delivering the care packages to the rest of the village.

Eventually the lockdowns prevented Pranav from visiting and ministering to the village. He called Girish and encouraged him to continue the Lord's work and support believers there. Although Girish lacked experience, he forged ahead, sharing the gospel and following up with neighbors. The Lord blessed his efforts, growing the Bible study in his village from 25 people to 45!

Time and again, Girish witnessed our God doing the impossible.

# With God All Things



In 2020:

**742,164,408**

people viewed Jesus Film Project® media

**224,452,394**

total online views of  
Jesus Film Project resources

**312,089,525**

total views of Jesus Film  
Project media broadcasts

*Total views of gospel content include online views, media broadcasts and in-person film showings. Some reported statistics include estimates.*



**Things Are**

**possible**

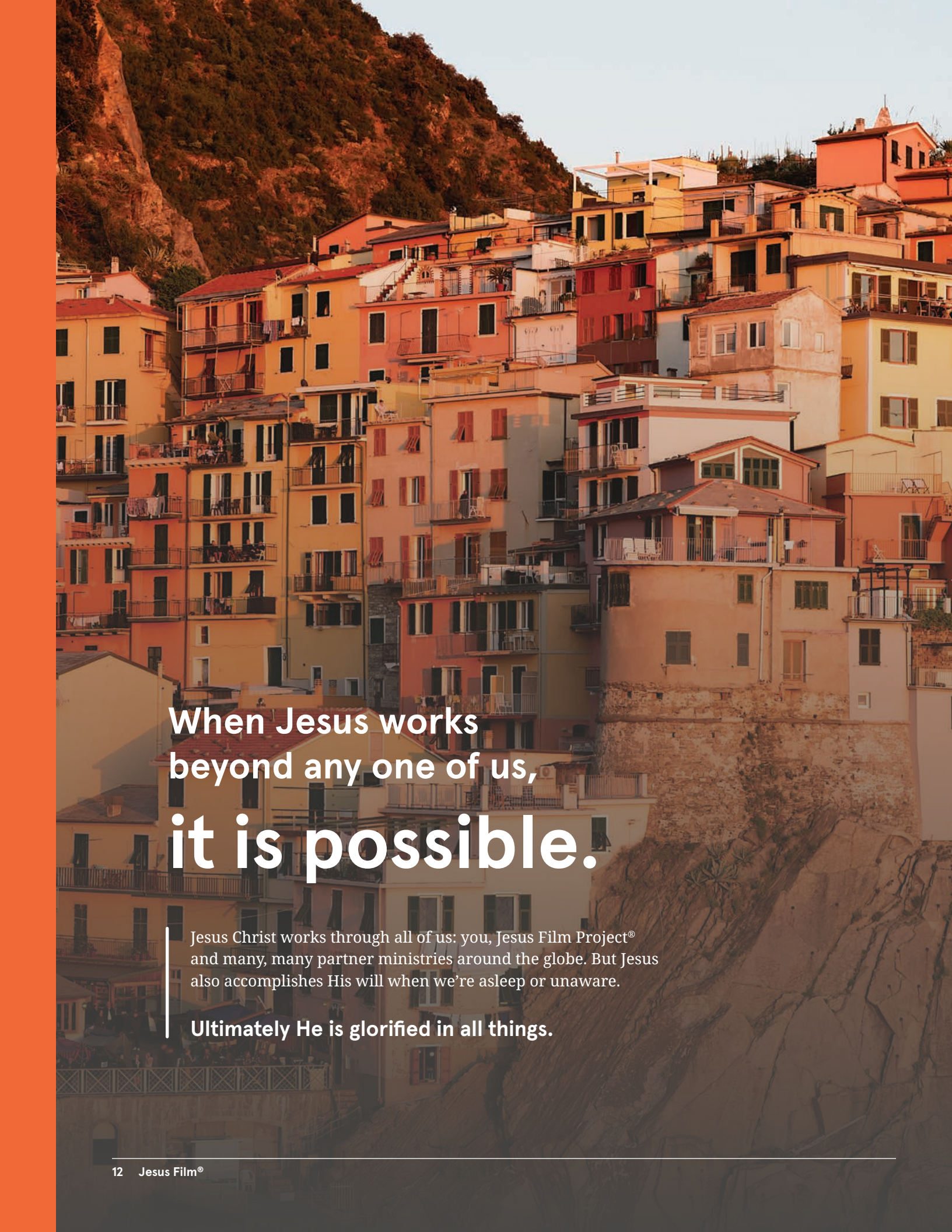
**30,121,304**

people indicated  
decisions for Christ

**278,052**

new churches  
and groups





When Jesus works  
beyond any one of us,  
**it is possible.**

Jesus Christ works through all of us: you, Jesus Film Project® and many, many partner ministries around the globe. But Jesus also accomplishes His will when we're asleep or unaware.

**Ultimately He is glorified in all things.**



# A Change of Heart

***“No, I am not coming,” declared Hamzah.  
“I am on a mission myself, but for [my religion].”***

**H**amzah flat-out refused the invitation to the *JESUS* film showing. He was a North African seeking refuge in Germany, and while many like him gravitate toward free entertainment in their primary language when on foreign soil, Hamzah saw himself as an immovable pillar—he would not be tempted by a free movie. As a former leader of his religion’s place of worship, he was principled. In fact he had his own plans for proselytizing. But God has His own plans too.

We don’t know what happened to Hamzah immediately after that encounter with those Christians. Perhaps he met another Christian. Perhaps he saw an advertisement for the showing. Perhaps a friend or family member spoke to him about it. Whatever the case, we know when God is at work, anything is possible.

Hamzah had a change of heart. He showed up at the movie event hosted by Elijah21, a partner ministry, and brought many more refugees with him. After watching *JESUS*, Hamzah interacted with a Christian named Andrew and exchanged cellphone numbers.



Not long after, officials deported Hamzah back to his home country.

A year later, as Andrew browsed WhatsApp, he noticed something curious: Hamzah had changed his profile picture to a cross! Andrew quickly messaged Hamzah to learn his story.

Following the movie night, Hamzah had learned more about Jesus Christ and surrendered his life to Jesus. Even in returning to his home country, where it is illegal to share the gospel, he couldn’t keep quiet about his newfound hope in Christ. He was sharing the good news everywhere he went. He felt compelled to be “on a mission” for his Savior.

Now four young Christians, including Hamzah, meet together secretly to study Scripture, pray and watch Christian content online. They also share their faith. They don’t have a church nearby, but that hasn’t stopped them from being the church.

Authorities arrested Hamzah for his bold faith but then released him three days later, on the condition that he would remain silent about Jesus. He has refused.

Possible  
Possible  
Possible  
Possible  
Possible

# **Why do you believe it's possible**

**to fulfill the Great Commission  
in this generation?**





*We believe the Great Commission can be fulfilled in this generation because of the amazing digital platforms that allow us to reach more people than ever before. We believe God is going to use digital to do more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). We are so grateful that we get to play a role in what God is doing through Jesus Film Project!*



**Karen and Matt Johnson**  
financial ministry partners and  
Jesus Film® board members

*This equipment of Jesus Film [has] helped me and the ministry for our evangelism outreaches in the rural areas. It makes our outreaches easy. And [we're] seeing souls coming into the kingdom of God.*

**Partner ministering  
in West Africa**





“  
*Jesus Film Project has shown us a road map of how the Great Commission can be fulfilled in this generation. Knowledgeable and committed people have prayerfully put together a picture of when it can be completed with God-given resources invested in this strategy.*”



**Jeremy and Shana Duininck**  
financial ministry partners



“  
*The hearts of the people are cracked open to the gospel. The [area I work in] is one of the greatest strongholds of darkness in the country. The JESUS film is a great tool to shine the light of the gospel into this spiritual darkness that has engulfed our country through centuries of Buddhism!*”

**Partner ministering in Asia**



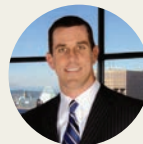
By 2033, at the current rate of collaboration and using all the amazing technologies that are available, every language on earth will have at least a portion—and most likely the whole—Bible available in their own mother tongue. Jesus Film is right at the front of that.

**David Hamilton**

international associate provost,  
University of the Nations and YWAM®



Translation technology has advanced to allow much faster translation of the Gospel into languages that have never had God's Word in their language. The coordinated effort to adopt and reach the unreached has been amazing. God is opening doors into the most-difficult-to-reach areas of the world.



**Curt Hensley**  
financial ministry partner  
and co-chair of the  
Jesus Film® board



## Dear Friend,

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He tasked His followers with continuing His mission throughout the whole world. This Great Commission is for all of us who are called by His name, regardless of our talents, job titles or locations on a map.

At Jesus Film Project® we focus on getting the right tools and strategies into the hands of the right partner ministries to reach the right people. Everyone on earth deserves a chance to hear the good news of Jesus Christ in his or her heart language and grow in the faith, and it is possible!

### **It is possible in this generation.**

So let's do our part. When we do, more than 1,800 partners have cutting-edge tools to share the gospel with anyone anywhere, online or offline. It's a privilege to serve alongside anyone with such commitment to the Great Commission.

Fulfilling the Great Commission in this generation is possible because God is at work. He has given us the means and the power to communicate His message to everyone everywhere, even in the most difficult circumstances. When the coronavirus pandemic began, many wondered whether it was possible to continue ministering in such dismal times. But what Satan intended for death, destruction and disconnection, God turned into life, love and light. After more than 742 million people heard the gospel and over a quarter of a million new churches and groups formed in 2020 alone, "It is possible" echoes throughout the global church.

Jesus Film® has a small part to play in His work, but we're all-in. Clearly you're all-in too. There are so many earthly opportunities to invest in—good opportunities, fun opportunities—yet you have chosen to invest in what is godly and eternal. You're passionate about helping fulfill the Great Commission, and I believe the Lord is pleased with this.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and sacrificial giving. This great task is possible, and by His Spirit we are completing it together with the entire body of Christ.

With faith and gratitude,



**Josh Newell**  
*Executive Director*  
*Jesus Film Project*



*“Those who heard this asked, ‘Who then can be saved?’ Jesus replied, ‘What is impossible with man is possible with God.’”*

— Luke 18:26-27, New International Version



*“Thank you so much  
for the story of Jesus  
delivered in my language,  
\_\_\_\_\_. It’s a blessing  
to us, the people who  
use \_\_\_\_\_ every day.”*

— Viewer of *JESUS* broadcast in one of  
the least-reached nations on earth

Imagine 99% of the world’s population having access to the  
story of Jesus in their language, like the broadcast viewer above.

**Fill in the blanks with us by 2025.**

**It is possible.**



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

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