



A cord of three
strands is not
quickly broken.
—Ecc. 4:12

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

*Partnerships make Bible
translation possible*



JAARS

A letter from our President

Dear Friends,

Last fall I had the privilege to attend the 100th anniversary celebration of when William Cameron “Uncle Cam” Townsend began Bible translation for the Cakchiquel people of Guatemala. The event brought together Guatemalan church and ministry leaders as well as leaders in the Bible translation movement from around the world.

Uncle Cam co-founded SIL International, founded Wycliffe Bible Translators, and he also founded JAARS. The current SIL Executive Director, Dr. Michel Kenmogne, host of the event, shared the impact of Bible translation in his own mother tongue, Ghomálá’, of Cameroon, Africa.

What began as a small step of obedience by a young man in Guatemala has grown into an incredible *worldwide* ministry touching billions of people. At the event, Uncle Cam’s daughter and JAARS Board member, Grace Townsend Goreth, presented Michel with her father’s copy of the first Cakchiquel New Testament completed in 1933.

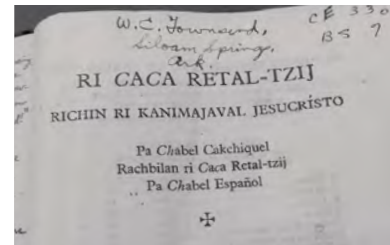
Along the way, these pioneers faced—and by God’s grace overcame—enormous challenges as they shared God’s Word with those communities who had never heard it in their own languages.



Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Bible translation work in Guatemala are SIL board members along with Board Chair Dr. Karel van der Mast, Michel Kenmogne, Woody McLendon, Grace Townsend Goreth, and JAARS Board Chair Andy Hood (pictured left to right, center of photo).

As I write this letter, today we continue to face challenges hindering those *last* language communities from having God’s Word: armed conflicts, political crises, and now the global COVID-19 pandemic.

However, I also remember that God called Uncle Cam in the middle of the largest global conflict ever witnessed at that time, World War I. If that were not enough, the Spanish Flu pandemic that led to 50 million deaths worldwide was also raging.



Uncle Cam’s personal annotated copy of the first edition of the Cakchiquel New Testament, presented as a gift by Grace Townsend Goreth to SIL Executive Director Michel Kenmogne

God protected Uncle Cam and all those pioneers who followed the Lord Jesus’ call even in the midst of those and many other challenges. Likewise, he has the power today to protect his people whom he is calling—people just like you and me.

As you read in this report of all that God enabled JAARS to accomplish this past year, I want to say a heartfelt “Thank you!” for the important part you played through your prayers, financial support, advocacy, and friendship. It takes teamwork to make the dream work.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers and encouraged them with these words:

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
—1 Corinthians 15:58

We are committed to stand firm and to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in his mission. Thank you for partnering with us!

Until all have heard,

Woody McLendon
President

“The criticality of language communities owning and participating in the Bible translation process requires translators BEING THERE.”

—Kividi Kikama, pastor, translator, and JAARS senior missiologist



JAARS was founded in 1948. Around the world today, pilots, mechanics, and mission aviation partners rely on the subsidized, world-class training in updated aircraft that JAARS provides in North Carolina ... so that they are safer, healthier, more confident, and less isolated than they would otherwise be.

In 2019 **307** pilot and mechanic training courses were provided in North Carolina and/or online for global mission aviation staff through our Aviation Pre-field Orientation and Recurrent Training programs throughout the year.

Significant progress has been made on our training fleet renewal requirements, with **2** aircraft updated/upgraded, **1** remaining to be completed.



But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.
—1 Cor. 12:18

“Now she can hear God’s Word in her language!”

Imagine that you’ve never—in all your life—had any access to God’s Word in the language you use and value the most. Then ... imagine having the gift of his Word for the very first time!

JAARS helped make possible that wonderful gift to Rebecca and her Tanna people group of Vanuatu! Yet, over 700 million people worldwide are still without that gift—without even a full New Testament in the language they use and understand best. And nearly 1.5 billion have less than a full Bible.*

That’s why JAARS exists. We come alongside often-marginalized people, and our partners who love and serve them well, to help share the gospel in some of the most remote and difficult places on earth. As we help solve logistical problems in areas like transportation, technology, communications, and off-the-grid power, language workers and translators can do the work God calls them to.

“With tears in her eyes, Rebecca explained to me that she has never been able to read, but now she can hear God’s Word in her language.”

—Belinda Rich, Vanuatu SIL (South Pacific)



Barnabas, a blind member of the Mato people of Papua New Guinea, celebrates the August 2019 dedication of their New Testament—in print *and* audio!

Thanks to the gift of a MegaVoice—provided by JAARS—Barnabas is overjoyed that he can now listen to the Mato New Testament anytime he wants.

IT services (off-the-grid power generation, Internet connectivity, network set-up and maintenance, IT staff training) and Media projects (recording and distribution of audio and video Scripture, music, and related stories/content) touched:

- 44** language communities
- 36** Wycliffe Global Alliance and/or SIL partner organizations
- 26** countries

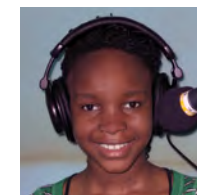
For over 70 years, this has been our mission and calling. We are 400+ servants lifted up by God’s grace and thousands of partners who pray for and generously fund the solutions we provide in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific.

From all of us and those we serve and support around the world, we thank you for your partnership with us in the gospel—past, present, and future. We hope this report of what God is doing through JAARS is an encouragement!

*Statistics from wycliffe.net/resources/scripture-access-statistics/

“I never imagined that this many materials would come one day in my language. I am so blessed and grateful to God for having them!”

—A language speaker from a South Asian community



He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
—Phil. 1:6b

In South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, oral language communities rejoice over audio Scripture recordings and critical mission-support IT training made possible by our support for staffing, infrastructure, and events.

Partnering with a regional Bible translation organization in South Asia, JAARS enabled the recording of:

- 8** New Testament books
- 50** oral Bible stories, New Testament portions, and several songs.

Collaboration and partnership: the model that works

Recently, the Evangelical Mission Quarterly declared the 2020s as “the decade of collaboration” for mission organizations.

We agree. And we want to share with you why that matters and how we’re already living that out!

Global partners ensure big picture alignment

Over 2,600 language and Bible translation projects are going on or being planned globally—affecting the lives of hundreds of millions of people. It’s critical that we understand the goals and plans and needs of the organizations that shepherd those projects. JAARS isn’t needed everywhere, but where we *are* needed the circumstances are usually both critical and urgent.

Our ongoing dialogue and planning with organizations like SIL, Faith Comes By Hearing, and many partners within the Wycliffe Global Alliance—from senior leaders right down to ground-level staff—help us focus our resources on the most impactful needs.

We’ve always operated this way, and it’s even more important in today’s volatile mission landscape.

Local partners keep our feet on the ground

We’re based in Waxhaw, North Carolina, because of God’s provision many decades ago. It’s proven to be an excellent location for the work we do.

But ultimately our solutions need to work effectively in some of the most remote and difficult places on earth—the places where our partners work. So we’re in close touch with local organizations like the Bible Translation Association of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and translation committees in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), who are led by local churches with overall coordination by the national Church of Christ in the Congo. These relationships ensure that we have a clear-eyed view of their challenges.

In these particular situations, as well as others, our partners help us clearly define which 4WD vehicles can best handle the treacherous on- and off-road conditions in these two countries. When provided with timely, reliable access to local language communities, translation workers can ensure the accuracy and adoption of translated Scripture.



For partners in PNG and DRC, JAARS defines which vehicles can best handle treacherous on- and off-road conditions and provide translators reliable access to local language communities.

1 4WD vehicle and **2** motorcycles were provided to the Iyansi Management Committee in the Democratic Republic of Congo—along with training for **5** 4WD drivers and **9** motorcycle riders—to support their dispersed Bible translation project.

1 vehicle was acquired for training at the core 4WD Training Course in Waxhaw, North Carolina.

11 4WD drivers and **3** motorcycle riders were trained in Waxhaw to safely drive and maintain mission vehicles overseas.

“Our biggest problem is getting translators to and from the language and people groups to work effectively.”

—Tony Kotauga, president, Bible Translation Association, Papua New Guinea

Through the insights gained from personal relationships with those leaders, we’re better able to understand available options and collaborate on sustainable solutions that support their work.

We think this approach makes for better stewardship on everyone’s part. It certainly advances our common mission in sustainable ways.

Logistical collaboration leads to better solutions

In Ecclesiastes 4, we read that “two are better than one ... if either of them falls down, one can help the other up” and “a cord of three strands is not easily broken.”

When it comes to solving remote, complex, and urgent logistical problems, this biblical principle surely highlights the value of shared vision, expertise, and resources among technical partners.

In 2019, we were privileged to work hand-in-hand with mission aviation partners like Asas de Secorro and Ethnos360 (Brazil), YAJASI (Indonesia), and MAF (worldwide). We repurposed aircraft and shared trained pilots with MAF and others, making all organizations better stewards of people and Kingdom funds. Ongoing relationship dialogue and common, cohesive training protocols made this possible!

We worked with YWAM (maritime mission support) in the Pacific and a wide range of organizations in the Wa’a Partnership focused on mission support in the South Pacific. We plan to continue this support in 2020.

For some, we provided solutions like staffing, training, and/or vehicles and equipment. With others, we listened and learned and strategized about how best to solve sticky problems.

In all cases, we strengthened each other, held each other up, and honored God by working together to introduce more people to him.



4 fixed wing pilots, **1** helicopter pilot, and their families are assigned to serve with our partners Asas de Socorro and Ethnos360 to support Bible translation in Brazil.

1 Kodiak pilot is assigned to MAF for service in a restricted access country.

The LORD himself goes before you ...
—Deut. 31:8a



Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

—Proverbs 16:3

In our world, things don't always go as planned. Without warning, pandemics, earthquakes, political violence, and more interrupt daily lives. And the people we serve are often the most vulnerable and suffer the most.

Bible translation projects on the back burner suddenly become time-sensitive because God brings the needed staff or partner resources into the picture—we're seeing this now in the area of Oral Bible Translation in Africa.

Sometimes, urgent needs for specific transportation resources (think aircraft and boats) suddenly stall because the staffing or funding required to operate them is unavailable. This happened with water transportation solutions in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Thankfully, momentum is now building there again.

Too often, projects that could bless thousands, even millions, of people are sidelined by political unrest, weather-related catastrophes, and more—frequently the case in areas of Central Africa.



36 pre-field mission staff in our Inter-Cultural Communications classes received intensive water safety training.

35 participants in CrossVenture programs at JAARS received water safety overviews.

42 Filipino national mission staff—all serving in difficult locations accessed by boat—were provided with two-day intensive water safety training in the Philippines.

250 emergency locator beacons—assigned to mission staff routinely traveling over water—are constantly monitored by the JAARS Maritime Transportation team.

2 three-week water training programs were conducted by a JAARS water safety instructor for YWAM Kona in Hawaii.

In PNG, translation teams dependent upon open-ocean crossings are looking forward to a safe, reliable water transport system that JAARS is working to develop and supervise ... at least in part via local partnerships to own and operate the necessary vessels.

Since we're committed to our mission of enabling Bible translation and to showing Jesus' love in every situation, we must be adaptive ... and innovative ... and open to interruption, just as Jesus was in his ministry on Earth.

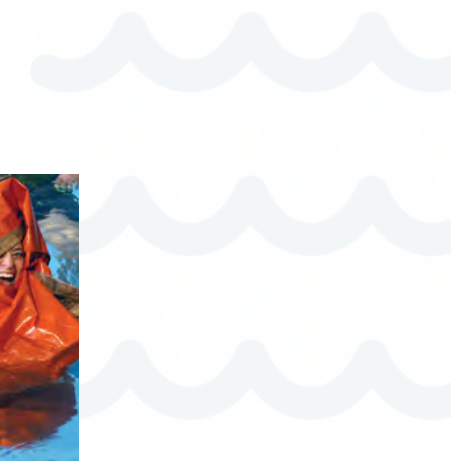
In the end, we know that *our God is sovereign and will accomplish whatever he plans and blesses.*

Throughout this annual report, you've seen evidence of how God enabled JAARS to serve our partners and bless people groups yearning for his Word in 2019. We consider ourselves privileged to be on the front lines of this mission, but we are also humbled to recognize that God uses your *support*—your prayers, your labor alongside us, your generous gifts—to make our work possible.

We're thankful you recognize that the adaptability, innovation, and agility we bring to our work are valuable assets. And we're thankful that you trust us, after more than 70 years on-mission, to partner well and make decisions in a volatile world to steward your gifts toward the greatest Kingdom impact!

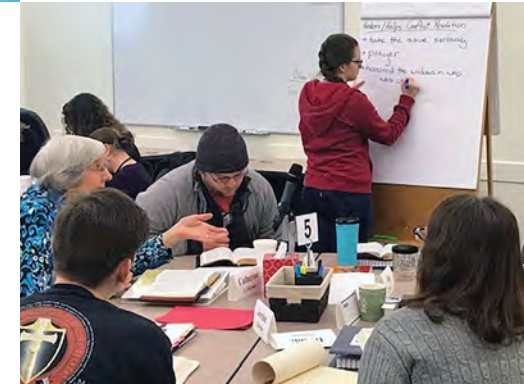


For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.
—Matt. 18:20



60 adults and **26** children participated in our **2** Inter-Cultural Communications training sessions—four-week intensive workshops that equip new missionary staff and their families to serve effectively in multicultural contexts around the world.

Numerous Spiritual and Relational Vitality workshops, led internationally by JAARS staff, supported currently deployed multicultural ministry teams.



Financial Summary

In Thousands of U.S. Dollars

Income

Cash Contributions	\$3,086
Non-Cash Contributions	\$8,000
Program Activity Revenue	\$1,732
Investment Income\$69
Other Income	\$473
Total Income	\$13,360

Expenses*

Program Services	
Transportation	\$4,481
Information Technology	\$928
Media	\$355
Ministry Operations	\$4,943
Management and General	\$1,351
Fundraising	\$585
Total Expenses	\$12,643
Ending Net Assets	\$10,478

Total Gain from Operations \$717

*Excludes depreciation of \$540 thousand

Notes:



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. 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, 2019.

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 and gifts to our *CORE Mission Operations* and *Where Needed Most* funds. This enables JAARS to respond with the speed and flexibility our global Bible translation partners need.

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. —Ps. 127:1a



15 communities in Cameroon now have solar panels and Wi-Fi equipment, thanks to JAARS and the IT team at the Cameroon Association for Bible Translation.

With internet access, and the ability to save changes to their work and charge their computers, translators can work more reliably and efficiently to advance their translation projects.

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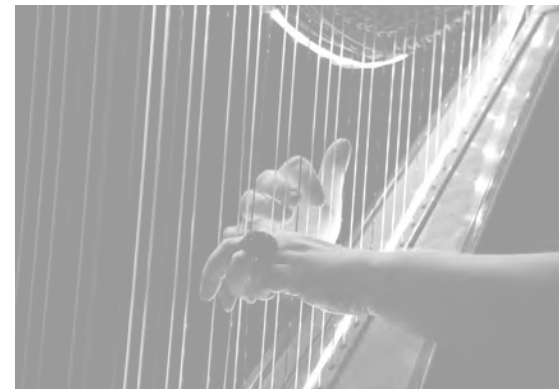
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May God ... help you live in complete harmony with each other... —Rom. 15:5 (NLT)

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At JAARS, 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.

A Ugandan woman proudly holds her copy of the Keliko New Testament.