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# The *JESUS* Film Reaches Its 2,200th Language Translation

Jesus Film Project®, a ministry of Cru®, has reached an amazing milestone. The *JESUS* film is now available in Bouna, a dialect of the Kulango language spoken in Côte d’Ivoire in West Africa. The translation and recording marks the 2,200th language translation of the *JESUS* film!

Premiering in the United States in 1979, the *JESUS* film has been shown in nearly every country in the world, many times presenting people with the message of the gospel for the first time in their language. The film was officially recognized by Guinness World Records as the most-translated film of all time when it surpassed 817 translations. To this day, it remains the world's most translated film.

The journey to reach the first 1,000 language translations took Jesus Film Project 32 years. The subsequent 1,000 languages have been achieved in just over a decade. The reason for the speedy translations? Significant improvements in technology.

The bulk of the translation and recording work is also done in partnership with other organizations, local churches and volunteers who serve as the translated film’s voice actors, coaches, dialogue directors, review committee and more.

One volunteer for the Kulango, Bouna version of the *JESUS* film championed the script translation and coached the voice actors through their roles, helping ensure accuracy and optimal delivery of the lines. Another, one of the voice actors, serves in a branch of government. He was excited to participate in a film for his people in his heart language.

He said, “When you are communicating with a person in the trade language ... it is reaching their mind. When I am listening and speaking in my own language, it is reaching my heart.”

A very small percentage of the Bouna Kulango people profess to follow Christ. The majority practice traditional ethnic religions. But the main value in the translation is that the *JESUS* film in Bouna grants the Kulango access to the message of the gospel in a visual medium.

“The film will be useful for many of the people in the community who are illiterate,” a recordist shared.

Ministry workers plan to host a premiere as well as present the film at smaller showings in the villages sometime in the near future.

“The story of Jesus has never been more relevant, or accessible than it is right now, and it’s about to reach every last corner on earth,” said Josh Newell, executive director for Jesus Film Project. “There are some estimates that there are billions of people today who have never heard of Jesus. And I’m here to tell you that there is a plan to reach everyone, everywhere in the next decade.”

The 2,200th language milestone is especially significant for the Newell family. Josh and his wife, Holly, traveled to nearby Burkina Faso roughly 25 years ago.

“On our final day, our guide, a local Bible translator, took us to the outskirts of town and together we climbed up a dusty hill beyond where any roads could take us,” Holly said. “Look at the land beyond, she said. “I cannot cross the border and go to those villages, and learn their language. Will you pray with me that one day God will reach those villages?”

Josh and Holly prayed with her but never could have imagined what God had in store. The “land beyond” is where 300,000 Kulongo people live today. Now church leaders have a tool to take the gospel over the hill.

“And that’s what this mission is all about,” said Josh. “We’re about presenting Jesus to everyone, everywhere, so that they can truly follow Him and call others to do the same.”

*Want to stay in the know about all that Jesus Film Project is up to?* [*Sign up for JFP News*](https://www.jesusfilm.org/email/)*, our weekly email newsletter, to receive regular updates about Jesus Film Project films, apps, and other tools. You’ll also hear stories and be inspired by how God is moving in our world.*

*For questions and inquiries about the ministry, email* [*info@jesusfilm.org*](mailto:info@jesusfilm.org)