


Annual Review 2023

“For God **so loved the world**, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

— *John 3:16, English Standard Version*





I got the privilege of listening to the [broadcast] in April, **though I'm a Muslim but that has touched me.** Now I have interest in Christianity. I will call you again.

— *Radio listener to The Story of Jesus audio drama, Nigeria*

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 2,000 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.

Jesus. Loves. Everyone. Everywhere.

It's simple, it's powerful. It gives hope.

And surely, it's the reason you are a faithful partner in the ministry to this day. You invest your finances and prayers and energy into this ministry because you've come to believe His love has changed your life and He's commissioned you to share His story of love with the world. You recognize it's important for someone—everyone—to hear the gospel in their heart language.

Because of this, you've invested in a film based on the Gospel of Luke, translating *JESUS* into well over 2,000 languages. It's simple. It's powerful. It inspires hope. And through it you are helping to change lives everywhere.

Still, many people haven't heard the good news, so your support over the years has spurred innovation in technology, media, partnerships and methods to reach the unreached.

Now Jesus Film Project is more than a film. It is a media resource ministry equipping the body of Christ with creative solutions to the same old problem: people everywhere need to hear about God's love for them in a language they understand and a medium they can access.

In this review of ministry in 2022, you'll read about how a few of the media tools you've provided made an eternal difference in the lives of many:

- *Walking With Jesus*, an Africa-based discipleship series.
- *Magdalena: Released From Shame*.
- The *JESUS* film.
- Tens of thousands of equipment sets in the hands of church planters.
- The Jesus Film Project® mobile app.
- A new video series geared toward young people in the United States and Europe called *NUA*.

This is a review of what God has done through your hands this past year—all because He loves the world.

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



Gloria's Story

DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC
OF CONGO

“Nice sandals! Where did you steal those?” taunted a woman in the village. The verbal finger-pointing was sharp and condescending.

“I don’t steal anymore,” Gloria replied, “I work for God and He provides.” She could assert this because her life—characterized by constant struggle—was completely transformed by Christ.

At Gloria’s birth, the village witch doctor—her grandmother—declared Gloria her successor. Gloria was feared for her supernatural powers, and beginning at age 13 she offered sacrifices and conducted animistic rituals as her grandmother’s apprentice.

Gloria was also a thief and a fighter so, despite her infamous village position, she served multiple sentences in prison. People said there was no hope of redemption for her.

During her third prison term, she became very ill.

Deborah, a Christian who volunteered at the prison, prayed for Gloria and assured her, “God loves you and will forgive your sins.”

But Gloria rejected the idea, “No, not me.”

Deborah shared with Gloria the story of the thief on the cross and that if Jesus forgave that man, He could forgive her too. “Do you want God to forgive you of your sins?”

“Yes.” Gloria prayed and accepted Christ right there.

Soon the prison officials began to see such a radical difference in her ensuing behavior that they released

Gloria early. But like seed sown on rocky soil, there was no root to nourish her new faith, and she quickly fell back into her old ways. She broke a young boy’s arm and was returned to prison for the fourth time.

Deborah, who was still ministering in the jail, was teaching new believers using the five-part film series from Jesus Film Project® called *Walking With Jesus*. Gloria listened and began to put her new faith into practice.

After watching the second episode and learning about peace in relationships, Gloria sought to make amends with the family of the boy she hurt. She asked for forgiveness and regretted not having money to compensate for the boy’s injury. The father was so moved by her humility that he not only forgave her but also gave her money.

By the end of the film series, Gloria burned her witch doctor garb, severing her ties with her old life for good.

She was filled with the Holy Spirit and began a movement of new believers at the women’s prison. So effective was her ministry that prison chaplains complained there was no work left for them to do:

“We come to preach the gospel,” they said, “and there is not even one person who hasn’t heard it. We come to baptize, and everyone has already been baptized.”

Gloria also ministers in the men’s prison where she has overseen the baptisms and discipleship of over 350 men.

Today, Gloria is training 120 believers to share about Jesus, show the *JESUS* film, baptize new believers and disciple them using *Walking With Jesus*.



Scan to watch
*Walking
With Jesus*



Sophia's Story

EASTERN
EUROPE

In a single day, it seemed like all the love in Sophia's life drained away. First, she overheard a colleague—behind her back—admit to befriending her simply because her connections would help him professionally. Then she got in a fight with her parents. Then her children didn't want to speak to her. But the final sorrow came when she saw her husband's phone—he had a message from his mistress.

Sophia had never once thought about God and only knew of Him through the icons and candles in churches. Her life had been gratifying as a lawyer for a rugby sports club. She moved up the corporate ladder quickly and made great connections with people she thought were her friends. She also got married and had two sons.

Now with broken relationships all around, Sophia felt isolated and afraid.

She slogged along for several days until Alexander, a Christian on the rugby team, noticed the change in her countenance. He went to her office to check in on her, and Sophia opened up about her pain.

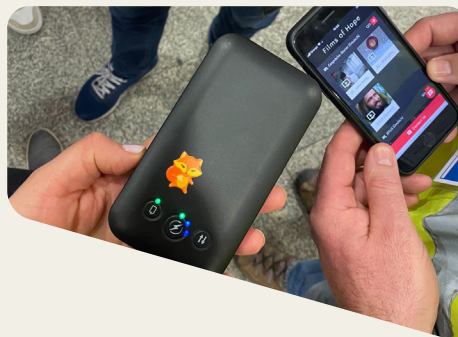
After attentively listening, he encouraged Sophia, saying that only God could help her. He invited her to visit his house church and experience the community there.

Broken and in need, she joined a small fellowship group at Alexander's church. There she watched *Magdalena: Released From Shame* and began to study the Bible. For the first time in her life, she saw that Jesus is more than a man in paintings and stained glass—He is love and peace and joy, and He cares for her.

Sophia put her faith in Christ, was baptized and has even learned to share the gospel with those around her. She later helped lead her mother to Christ.



Scan to watch
Magdalena: Released From Shame



“What did God do this year in your region of the world?”

We asked some of our global executive team members to share ministry highlights from their regions of the world, and this is what they said:

EUROPE

“First, we saw how God's love was very evident when the Ukraine war started. Jesus Film Project was able to respond quickly to the refugees flooding across the multiple borders with NewLifeBox kits and practical help when it was most needed. We also pivoted with creating new ways of how to serve our partners in Russia. In reality both nations still need to hear the gospel.”

“Second, we began a bespoke partnership with the Greek Orthodox Church in Thessaloniki. It involved adapting the Knowing Jesus curriculum and then, with the backing of the church hierarchy, offering it to the church in a pilot. The initial results are promising with presently 1,600 Greeks in follow-up groups.”



— John McNeill
Regional Strategy Leader



Rohan's Story

INDIA

Tears rolled down Rohan's cheeks. The film enthralled him. Rohan and his family had been members of a church but only nominal Christians. His father was a habitual drunk, and Rohan followed in his footsteps. Together, they wasted so much money buying drugs and alcohol that the rest of the family was left facing ongoing financial problems.

Rohan's sister, Sunita, and her husband tried to intervene. They had heard the gospel from some believers and came to trust Christ. Rohan ignored what Sunita said, but she didn't give up and continued to pray for his salvation.

One day she learned of a chance to watch the *JESUS* film. A local pastor, Deepak, organized it for the village and, after much convincing from Sunita, Rohan agreed to attend.

Rohan forgot everything else around him as he watched through tears. During the crucifixion scene, he felt the Holy Spirit convicting him of his sins for the first time.

Then he heard a gentle voice saying, "I loved you so much that I gave My life for you. Repent from your sins and follow Me."

Rohan realized that Jesus Himself was speaking to him. Rohan confessed his sins and received Christ's forgiveness.

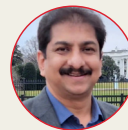
Rohan was baptized the very next day and began his new journey with Jesus. Through Christ, he is seeking to lead a life that is pleasing in God's sight. Pastor Deepak mentors Rohan regularly through God's Word, and he is growing spiritually.



“What did God do this year in your region of the world?”

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

“Praise be to God this was the “year of multiplication.” We witnessed more partners being raised in some of the least reached and most hostile nations and built our capacity to send out more equipment to be in the hands of the partners willing to brave the missional gap.”



— Anupam Nayak
Regional Strategy Leader



YEAR IN REVIEW

Sharing the love of J

598,107,636

people viewed Jesus Film Project® media

371,276,366 online 144,648,448 broadcast 82,182,822 in person

13,475,390

people indicated
decisions for Christ

146,228

new churches
were established

Some reported statistics include estimates.

Mission 865™

604 languages

(70%) completed
through the end of 2022

Mission 865 is an initiative to dub the *JESUS* film in the 865 most spoken languages in the world, representing 99% of the world's population.

261 languages remaining



604 languages completed

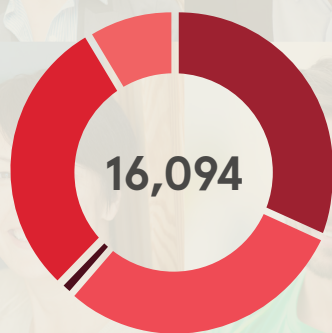
esus in 2022

Equipping local believers around the world with technology and digital media for sharing the story of Jesus.

Generous gifts from ministry partners like you helped open the new Africa Distribution Center in February 2022, and in only 10 months of operations, it prepared and shipped the majority of all ministry equipment.

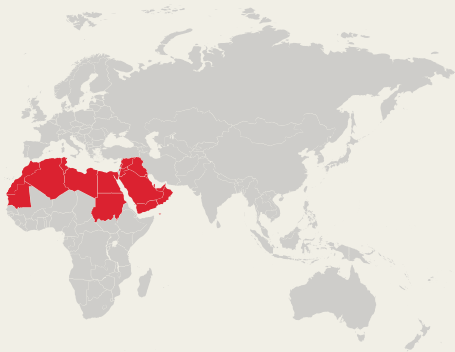
16,094 sets of equipment sent to **117** countries

This is a **260% increase** in equipment distribution from 2021 thanks to your generous support!



SETS OF EQUIPMENT BY DISTRIBUTION CENTER

5,167	4,755	4,714	1,352	106
Africa	Thailand	Orlando	Renew	Other



Rose's Story

MIDDLE EAST

It was a chance to share the gospel like no other: Expo 2020 in a metropolis surrounded by desert, where 24.1 million people from 178 countries converged. A ministry team also had a tool like no other in their pockets: gospel-centered media in more than 2,000 languages.

The team stepped into one country's pavilion. They browsed the colorful brochures and read snippets of stories adorning the blue-hued display walls. Stephen, the team leader, approached two women working there. He greeted them in their heart language and introduced himself as a former missionary to that country.

Stunned, the women identified themselves as Christians too. They revealed how isolated they felt living in a predominantly Muslim environment, starving for fellowship. Stephen showed one woman, Rose, the Jesus Film Project® app.

When he started to play the *JESUS* film in her native tongue, she was moved to tears. She went on to tell them how excited she was to return home and share *JESUS* and more with everyone so they could hear the gospel in their heart language also. Rose exchanged email addresses with Stephen so she could connect with the local ministry team in her country.



Scan to download
the Jesus Film
Project App



“What did God do this year in your region of the world?”

NORTH AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

“This time is very crucial. Our Lord manifested His personality through visions and dreams. I could see how God used social media and many people to deliver the message. They had gospel access—even those who live in places where the Bible is forbidden. Also, I could see God's hand in mobilizing and empowering the local churches and believers in the region to be more passionate to share the good news with others.”



— Michael
Regional Strategy Leader

371,276,366

Number of times videos were played in 2022 on our app, YouTube, and partner websites



Tembo's Story

MOZAMBIQUE



Tembo was a fearsome old man, known for his unkind disposition and hostility toward any foreigners who would come to his small, remote community with strange teachings.

So when a team of missionaries arrived in his village, he threatened them.

“I even thought about killing some of them to prevent them from entering our village,” he later admitted. “Everyone in the village and even surrounding villages knows that I am a bad person, and they know to stay away from me.”

But soon, Tembo realized that these missionaries responded differently than other people. They did not fear his menace or respond to his provocations. Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, the missionaries went from door to door, praying with the

villagers and inviting them to attend a showing of the *JESUS* film.

On the day of the showing, Tembo was attracted by the music, so he ventured to the showing. As he surveyed the crowd, he realized all the villagers were present. Despite his initial resistance, he watched, in his own language, the story unfold of a Man who died on a cross to bring forgiveness and eternal life.

“As I watched and listened,” Tembo shared, “I was attracted to this story, and before long, it seemed as if this story was sent just for me.”

On that day, Tembo’s life was changed by the love of the Savior. He gave his life to Jesus, and the next day he helped lead all 23 of his family members to Jesus Christ! These events led to the creation of a new church where Tembo and his family *happily* attend.



Scan to
watch the
JESUS film

Paul Eshleman's Story

In honor of Paul's legacy as a trailblazer, an innovator, and a man who deeply loved Jesus and wanted the whole world to hear about Him in their own heart languages, we remember him here in his very own words.

Everyone, everywhere needs and deserves to feel His wonderful, tender, loving, merciful, healing, protecting, empowering and, oh-so-forgiving touch.

I'm driven every day to say, 'Who hasn't had a chance to hear yet, and how can I make that possible?' We are strategists for Christ, thinking of new ways to reach people with the message of life.

They have waited long enough. It is time for us to finish.

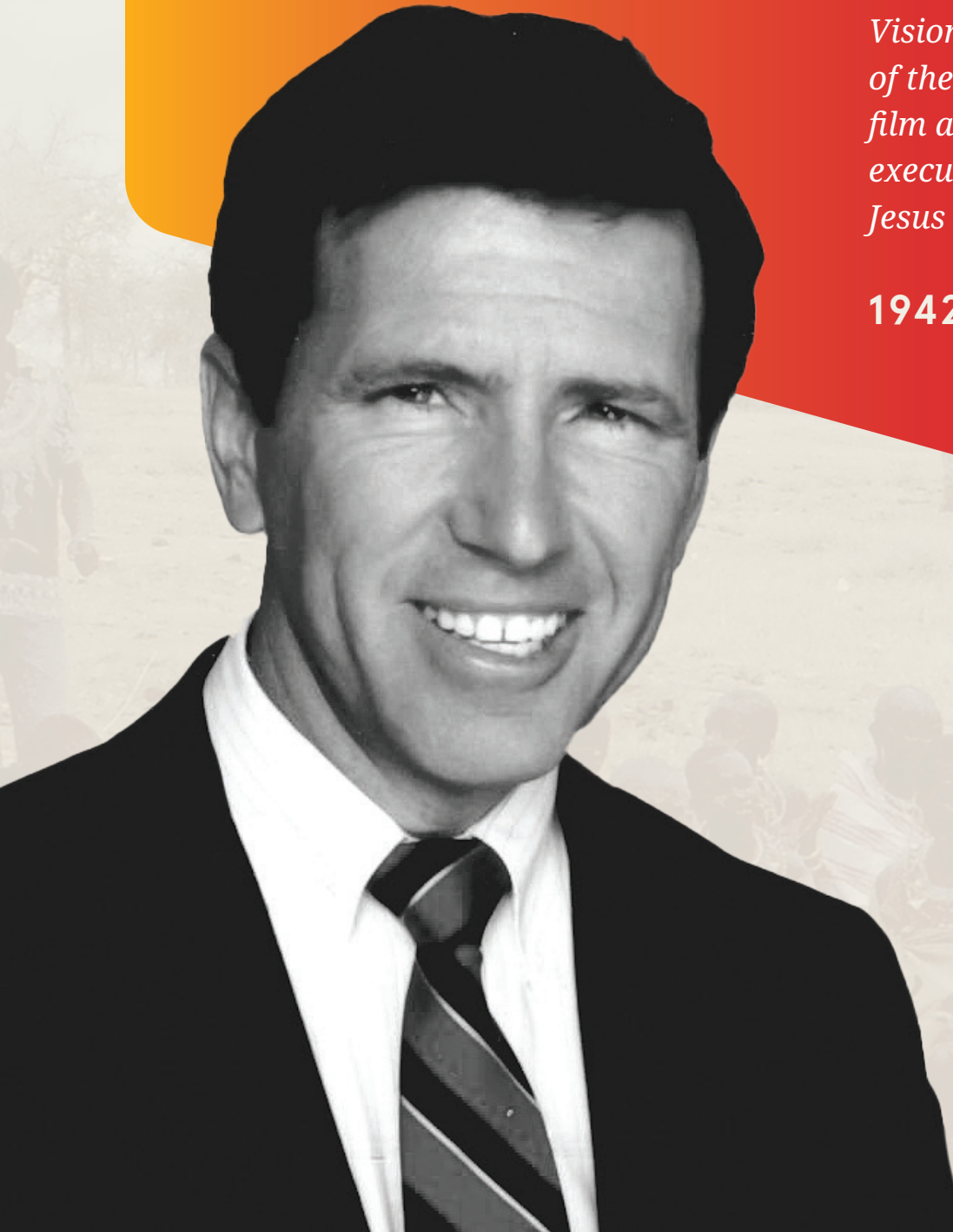


Learn more about Paul's life and his hope for the future of Jesus Film Project.

Paul Eshleman

*Visionary producer
of the JESUS
film and the first
executive director of
Jesus Film Project*

1942-2023



Dear Friend,

At a conference for college students at Indiana University, my life was forever changed when I heard Paul Eshleman speak. A gifted communicator and masterful storyteller, Paul's invitation to join him in taking *JESUS* to the world spoke right to my heart. Twenty-five years later, I am still all-in with reaching everyone, everywhere, with the message of Jesus.

The passion Paul had when he founded Jesus Film Project still drives us today. It's a passion to look beyond circumstances, to see what God is doing in His master plan, and to jump into our part alongside Jesus. That is why we will do whatever it takes and partner with the whole body of Christ—so the whole world can hear in their own heart languages that God loves them.

The year 2022 was no exception. We saw exponential growth in equipment distribution, new partnerships form in Asia, progress in new media, and over 13 million people around the world indicate a decision to follow Jesus.

You are at the very core of this pioneering, mission-focused endeavor. Your financial generosity and sacrifice are a source of encouragement, because they tell us you are all-in on this mission too.

Thank you for jumping into this part of God's plan with us to proclaim His message of love around the world.

With an unquenched passion for the Great Commission,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Newell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

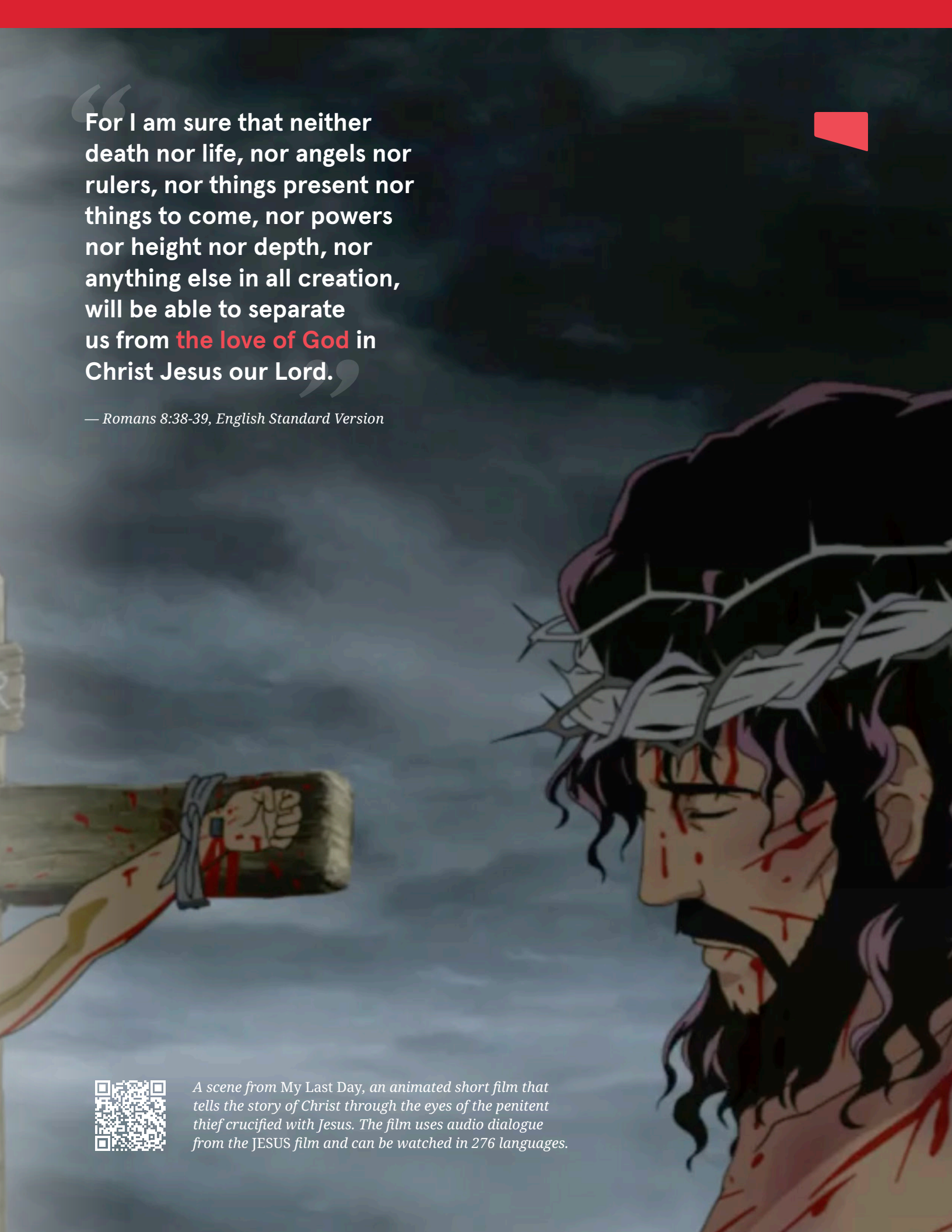
Josh Newell
Executive Director
Jesus Film Project

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from **the love of God** in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

— Romans 8:38-39, English Standard Version



A scene from My Last Day, an animated short film that tells the story of Christ through the eyes of the penitent thief crucified with Jesus. The film uses audio dialogue from the JESUS film and can be watched in 276 languages.



Give your teens, youth pastors and friends a short-film series to help young people work through hard questions and strengthen their faith in Jesus.



NUA: Fresh Perspective

This eight-part film series encourages questions, acknowledges doubt and offers an engaging perspective on the Christian faith, exploring topics like God, faith and science, the problem of evil and suffering, and the history of the church.



Available in the Jesus Film Project app and online at jesusfilm.org/watch.

Jesus Film Project
A Cru Ministry

**More
Than a Film**



"I love NUA, I feel it really breaks down the Bible to make it easy for us to take in and use it in our day to day lives. It changed my view on a few things for good which i liked. I've grown up in a christian family but it still helped me so much. NUA is really good, thank you."

— Teenager, Ireland



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