



Seed Company™  
*Bible Translation. Life Transformation.*



# destination Zero

ANNUAL REPORT | 2016





# Greetings in Jesus' Name!



SAMUEL E. CHIANG — President and CEO

Seed Company continues to accelerate our commitment to Bibleless people and to the God-sized goals of Vision 2025. Two central ideas now serve as a canopy for everything we do:

1. Reducing to Zerø the number of people groups still waiting for Scripture translation to begin.
2. Engaging in new or continuing translation work for the 4,500 languages that still need it.

Fiscal Year 2016 brought these commitments into sharp focus. We took a long look at our business process, with an eye toward doing more with less while retaining our absolute commitment to quality results. I'm honored to report that, under God's guidance, we are succeeding. FY16 saw our largest-ever number of First Scripture engagements — 101. That's 77 percent of all new Bible translation projects, and it represents a 22 percent increase from FY15.

This was no singular accomplishment. We worked in rhythm with colleagues and partner organizations all over the globe — and in full dependence on the Lord — to accelerate toward Zerø as never before. Today the countdown stands at 1,671.

Also within our business process in FY16, our staff worked toward even higher standards. We saw 74 percent fewer project extensions and more on-time transitions. In other words, we and our partners are doing a better job of keeping our word to our prayer partners and financial investors. While we expect to see cost savings, this also means something much deeper in terms of Seed Company's identity as an organization. Our promises carry meaning. Honoring them matters deeply to us.

In FY16, Seed Company and our partners were engaged in Bible translation with 864 languages in 104 countries. Our total since our founding in 1993 is 1,326. And, in FY16 we saw 39 Bible translation projects convert to Common Framework methods (formerly called the Seed Company model). You can learn more about this on page 20. Basically, the Common Framework focuses on local ownership, strategic partnerships, stewardship and relationships among the people translating, receiving, funding and praying for the work.

Together, it all leads to accelerated impact.

The precise numbers at any given moment can be a bit murky because of different measurement standards among Bible translation organizations. The more important point is that, as a movement, we are accelerating rapidly toward the goal of Zerø. Picture a new language project beginning every 2½ days! Then think back five years, 10 years, 20 years, and imagine if we had predicted this sort of runaway acceleration. Few would have believed us.

In FY16, Seed Company again surpassed all revenue records. God blessed our work with \$40.9 million in total support and revenue. That's up over 10 percent from the previous year and an 83 percent increase from just five years ago.

**BUSINESS PROCESS** — In early 2016, 25 Seed Company leaders spent three days examining our strategic operations. We undertook a planning process that projected out 10 years. The beautiful thing is, the process involved all of our areas of activity and knowledge, and it continues to reverberate throughout the company.

For example, each of our Field Operations colleagues joined with their area directors to come up with a plan. What would represent a faith stretch? What, by faith, are we going to trust God for to bring Scripture to people? And what are the necessary steps?

Just before Easter 2016, I shared with our Seed Company global colleagues a commitment statement developed by our executive leadership team of David Beroth\*, Lori Miller, Shawn Ring, Ken Schmitt, Mike Toupin and myself. As the ELT, we had been reflecting on our history and casting vision together. We have the privilege to work alongside the global Church to serve people groups who need Scripture. We have a unique opportunity and responsibility of being the first generation in history to know who the people groups are and where they are, and learning what they might need. The commitment we are making will require faith, trust and obedience.

Here is that statement:

**2016-2025: OUR COMMITMENT**

Seed Company exists around a God-sized vision: His Word transforming lives in every language, in this generation. As an organization, we will focus all energy toward two numbers: **Zerø and 4,500.**

- **COUNTING DOWN:** The number of people groups waiting for Bible translation to start will stand at Zerø by 2025.

THE COUNTDOWN TO  
Zerø STANDS AT: **1,671**

- **COUNTING UP:** The global Church will gain capacity to serve the 4,500 remaining Bibleless languages by 2025.

**We cannot accomplish these goals by ourselves, nor would we ever want to.** We remain fully committed to seeing the global Church own the work of Bible translation. We will invest in sustainability by seeking to increase capacity within the indigenous Church. We will seek partners everywhere. We are renewing our commitment to innovative approaches in order to find the most effective methods. Where others are serving the Bibleless, we will help. In places where the Bibleless are not yet being served, we will humbly lead.

We will prayerfully reassess and adjust our contribution constantly, responding to changing political and economic dynamics, as well as the global Church's capacity. Serving the Bibleless is a journey of faith. **We will seek and trust God for every step.**

Earlier that week in our staff prayer time, I told the story of Bartimaeus from Mark 10. Bartimaeus was a man who, when he encountered Jesus, wasn't afraid to ask for the impossible. Jesus made note of his faith and Bartimaeus received what he had asked for so boldly. I asked our global colleagues to join in asking God boldly, as Bartimaeus did, for His mercy and His abundance as we work together on the strategies to accomplish "counting down" and "counting up."

*After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. — Revelation 7:9a (NLT)*

**INVESTORS** — My friend David Wills, who is president of the National Christian Foundation, often talks about philanthropy being influenced by vision, leadership and momentum, and how a fourth element — collaboration — takes this to exponential levels. One of the highlights of FY16 for me has been collaborating with Seed Company's financial partners — marvelous kingdom people, many at the top of

\*Later in 2016, Chief Financial Officer David Beroth accepted an invitation to serve in a similar role with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. In November, J.R. Thompson joined Seed Company as the new CFO.



their professions. They love God and are deeply passionate about Bibleless people. It's such a privilege to converse, think and pray together.

In those conversations, the issue is never money. It's Bibleless people. One of the best moments is when together we reach a stunning realization: We're collaborating so that we get to witness — and take part in — the celebration that the Apostle John describes in Revelation 7:9.

**TRANSPARENCY** — Our word is our bond. That's not only an ethical business practice, it's also a sound biblical principle. Numbers 30:2 states, "A man who makes a vow to the LORD or makes a pledge under oath must never break it. He must do exactly what he said he would do."

At Seed Company, we take transparency seriously. Our work is complex. Some of our projects include partnerships with translation entities that operate in challenging cultural, political and economic environments. In one particular case last year, we had promised, "Everything's on time." And then we found out that it wasn't. The project and its funding needed to be extended for two more years. What we had promised to investors was not what we delivered.

Some might argue that this was out of our control. But the bottom line is, we recognize the importance of operating with the full confidence of our investors. You have my promise that we will take every possible step to ensure transparency with our financial investors and prayer partners.

We can already show a tangible result of that promise: In FY16, Seed Company saw just 20 unplanned project extensions, down from 77 the year before.

Honor is a very personal thing for me. I live my life that way, and I transfer it onto the way our organization works and manages for quality results. We will not betray confidences with field partners, prayer partners or investors. That means we will deliver bad news with the same transparency, urgency and integrity that we deliver good news.

**NEW BUILDING** — We've just finished Year One at our beautiful new headquarters in Arlington. I remember summer 2015, as the interior construction was ramping up. Our Arlington colleagues gathered amid the stud walls and stacks of drywall. We prayed for this space and the work that would be done here as a blessing to the nations. Many also wrote Scripture and prayers on steel girders, concrete floors and on the backs of ceiling tiles.

I didn't see any of that as a one-time event. Buildings represent many things to many different people. For me, the most important thing is that a building must be lived into — even if it's a premises newly leased for the next 10 years. Living into a building means we create memories here. I think of how visitors are moved to tears when they see the bookcases filled with more than 1,000 translated Bibles and Bible portions — and especially when they see the empty case awaiting more. I think about the new levels of collaboration we've seen in our more-open floor plan. And I think of lighter moments — like kids (OK, and me) racing office chairs down our long hallways, or one of our colleagues opening his desk drawer to find a live goldfish swimming in a glass bowl.

Our building also contains a level of soulfulness, to be highlighted soon by a hall of martyrs. A series of paintings will depict Bible translators who gave their lives for the cause of Christ. The idea is to provide a constant reminder that God's Word is costly, and how that cost reflects Christ Himself given as a sacrifice. The paintings — each representing a different Bible translation organization — also will remind us that we can't do this work alone.

Day by day, hour by hour, our work environment reminds us that God's Word is precious. It reminds us and our visitors of the joyful collaboration yesterday, today and tomorrow. It reminds us of the work already completed, the work that's been started and the great celebration ahead.

**TRANSFORMED LIVES** — The tagline next to Seed Company's logo reveals our "what" and our "why" — *Bible Translation. Life Transformation.* Let me show you just one of the countless stories that bring those words to life. In the Esther Project, women in South Asia minister to other women by teaching them to craft and tell oral Bible stories. This is happening in villages where women have been abused and feel trapped in lives they did not choose. The stories spark deep conversation, build community and bring something these women have never felt before — hope.

In one region where it's dangerous to be a Christian, Abigail (not her real name) rides her bike from village to village, telling Bible stories to women and children. Every time she learns a new story, she can't wait to share it boldly — even around people who don't like what she's doing.

"I will never leave Jesus," she says. "Until my last breath, I will serve him with my life."

On Fridays and Saturdays, Abigail trains about 25 women to tell Bible stories. They also talk and pray together about their families' struggles, maybe for the first time. Later the women lead devotions for their own families, with many coming to faith.

That's the real impact of Bible translation. The aerial view shows incredible statistics and countdowns. But at ground level, as they interact with His Word, you see the infinite value God places on every person.

*And now at just the right time he has revealed this message, which we announce to everyone. It is by the command of God our Savior that I have been entrusted with this work for him. — Titus 1:3 (NLT)*

**KAIROS MOMENT** — When I spend time with investors, prayer partners or other ministry leaders, it becomes clear to me that these are Kairos moments. That's a Greek term meaning an opportune time. In the New Testament, the word describes a God-ordained time or appointed season, when we get a glimpse of God working — and a glimpse of eternity stepping into time. During a Kairos moment, the kingdom of God is truly at hand.

My friends, we are living in Kairos. This generation and this appointed time of advocating for the Bibleless bring us ever closer to the celebration of Revelation 7:9. Every nation, tribe, people and language will have God's Word — soon.

In this our moment of opportunity, and in the way God sees time, we are already there.

Celebrating together at His throne,



Samuel E. Chiang  
Seed Company President and CEO





NEPAL

# COUNTING DOWN: ZERØ DRAWS CLOSER

In the early 1990s, experts predicted it would take another 150 years to reach Zerø — to engage all remaining languages needing God’s Word for the first time. Today we believe it’s going to happen in the next eight years!

The Bible translation movement is barreling toward that glorious day.

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“You are embarking as an organization on some of the most remarkable goals in human history.”

— **DAVID HAMILTON**, Vice President for Strategic Innovation, University of the Nations, Youth With a Mission (YWAM)

*Spoken to Seed Company Staff during morning prayer, September 2016*





Abba Father, we call on You as the Way-Maker. May we have hearts that seek You first. We lay our steps at Your feet and ask that You order those steps. May our steps please You and continually align with Your will. May all of that be birthed out of a relationship that is yielded and vibrant — our ultimate source of satisfaction. Amen.

## KEEPING FIRST THINGS FIRST

# PRAYER

A note from Seed Company Staff Prayer Intercessor **MARY BORSH**

Prayer is our lifeline. It's our heartbeat. We can't do this ministry effectively without it.

I think it's God's blueprint on how to do anything. Without it, we can only go through the motions of ministry.

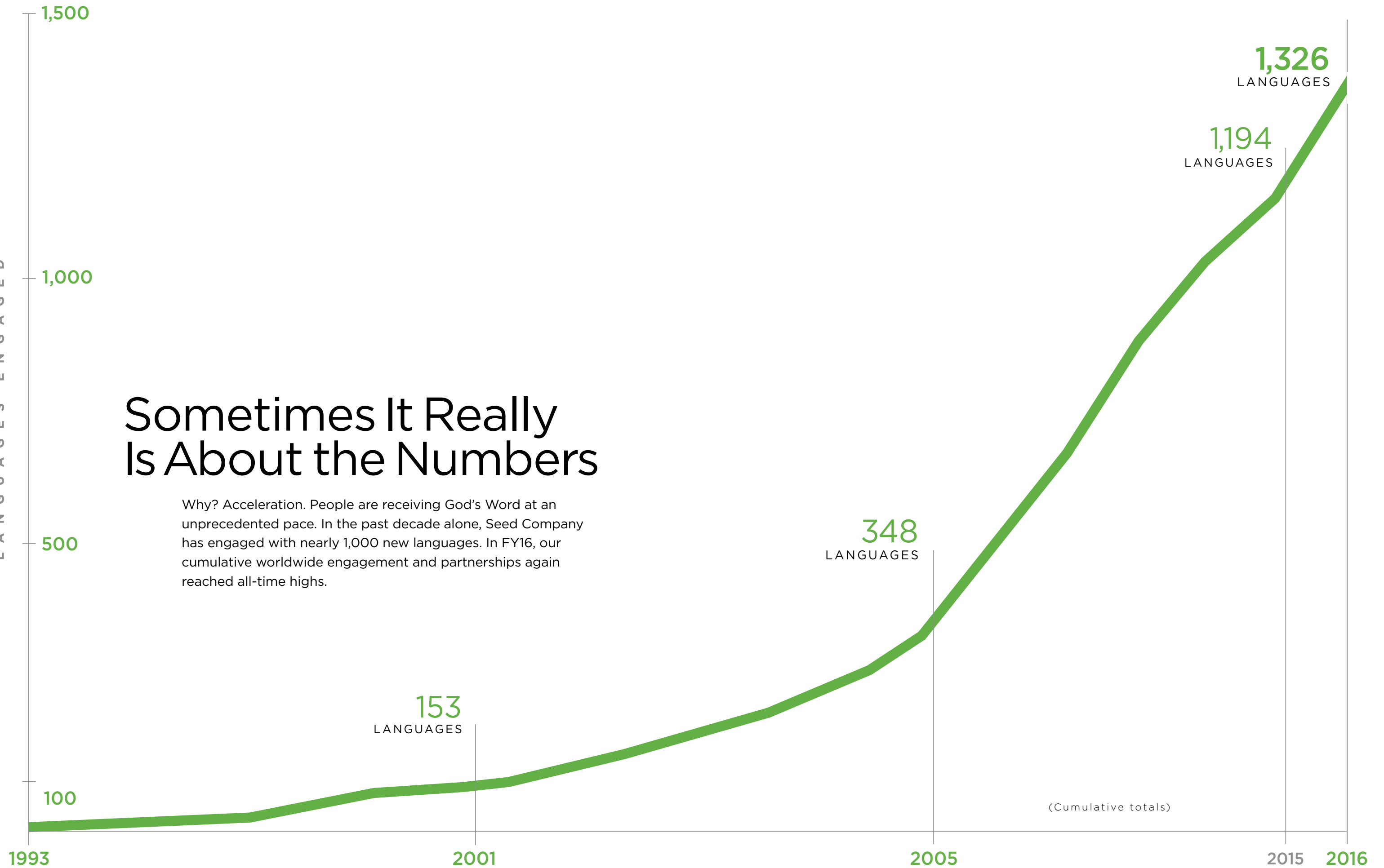
Every week, several colleagues and I consecrate the Seed Company again to the Lord. First thing Monday morning, that's what we do. And for everyone who's under the Seed Company umbrella, we say, "We belong to You, God."

In that time, we seek His presence — the place where we just listen for Him, where we wait for Him. We listen for His priorities. His Word talks about our first love. We want to get first things first. "Seek first the kingdom of God ..." and then all these other things.

All the reports, all the financial statements, all the meetings and all the logistics follow. But together, let's keep the first thing first.

# Sometimes It Really Is About the Numbers

Why? Acceleration. People are receiving God's Word at an unprecedented pace. In the past decade alone, Seed Company has engaged with nearly 1,000 new languages. In FY16, our cumulative worldwide engagement and partnerships again reached all-time highs.



God is using Seed Company to help deliver His Word to more people than ever before.

TOTAL IMPACT SINCE 1993

1,326  
LANGUAGES

104  
COUNTRIES

6  
CONTINENTS

RECORDS SET  
IN FISCAL YEAR 2016

864  
Total languages in progress

9,736  
Active prayer commitments

1,410  
Active field partnerships

39  
Project conversions to  
Common Framework\*

\*See page 20

PRAYER AND  
FINANCIAL PARTNERS

27,633  
[ SINCE 1993 ]



101

First Scripture engagements by Seed Company and our partners in FY16 — part of 131 total new Bible translation projects engaged.

1,671

Number of languages/people groups still waiting for Bible translation to begin. Down from 1,778 in FY15.

*Sign languages are still being identified. Thus, the total number of remaining languages may increase slightly in the coming months as we work toward a complete and accurate list. Source: Wycliffe Global Alliance*

BETTER PROJECT  
MANAGEMENT

=

FEWER UNPLANNED  
EXTENSIONS

134  
FY13

79  
FY14

77  
FY15

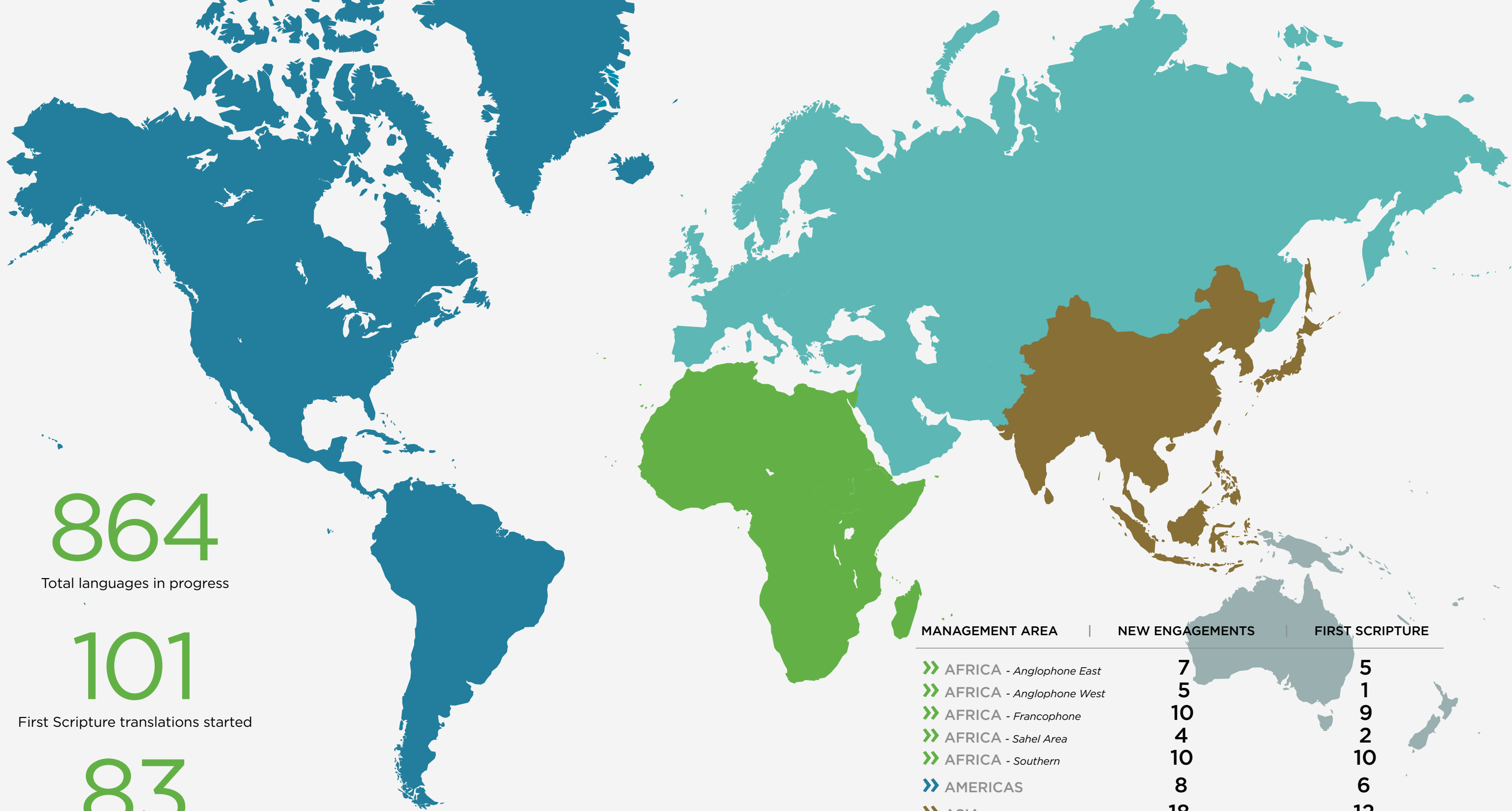
20  
FY16

SENSITIVE PROJECTS

49%

Languages engaged by Seed Company in FY16 that were considered sensitive projects — defined as work that could be harmed by public knowledge. That's the highest percentage in our history, and up 6 percent from last year.





864

Total languages in progress

101

First Scripture translations started

83

Transitions from one project phase to the next

LANGUAGES IN PROGRESS

Fiscal Year 2016

MANAGEMENT AREA | NEW ENGAGEMENTS | FIRST SCRIPTURE

» AFRICA - <i>Anglophone East</i>	7	5
» AFRICA - <i>Anglophone West</i>	5	1
» AFRICA - <i>Francophone</i>	10	9
» AFRICA - <i>Sahel Area</i>	4	2
» AFRICA - <i>Southern</i>	10	10
» AMERICAS	8	6
» ASIA - <i>Islands</i>	18	12
» ASIA - <i>Mainland</i>	13	10
» ASIA - <i>South</i>	11	9
» EURASIA	30	27
» PACIFIC	15	10

GRAND TOTAL

131

101



Then I saw another angel  
flying directly overhead,  
with an eternal gospel  
to proclaim to those who  
dwell on earth, to every  
nation and tribe and  
language and people.  
— Revelation 14:6 (ESV)





# Converging for Quicker Impact

# 39

Common Framework conversions in FY16.



“Counting up” to the 4,500 remaining languages with Bible translation needs requires innovative methods. The Common Framework for Bible translation took shape like so many industry standards do: Great ideas coalesced over time into a widely accepted code of best practices. Seed Company has been central to that convergence.

The Common Framework is summarized by five core principles:

- 1. LOCAL OWNERSHIP:** Local believers own the vision and responsibility for Bible translation work.
- 2. PARTNERSHIP:** Translation needs and goals are determined with partner organizations and the end-users.
- 3. STEWARDSHIP:** Projects are well-developed, well-resourced, well-managed and accountable.
- 4. RELATIONSHIP:** All work together — those translating God’s Word, those receiving it, and those funding and praying for the work.
- 5. ACCELERATED IMPACT:** Community needs dictate which Scripture passages will be translated first — impacting the largest number of people in the shortest possible time.

Common Framework projects are designed to be end-user-focused for immediate impact. One key example is Seed Company’s Luke Partnership, which introduces communities to the Gospel of Luke in tandem with the “JESUS” film. Another is cluster language workshops, where local translators produce chapters of consultant-checked Scriptures in as little as three weeks.

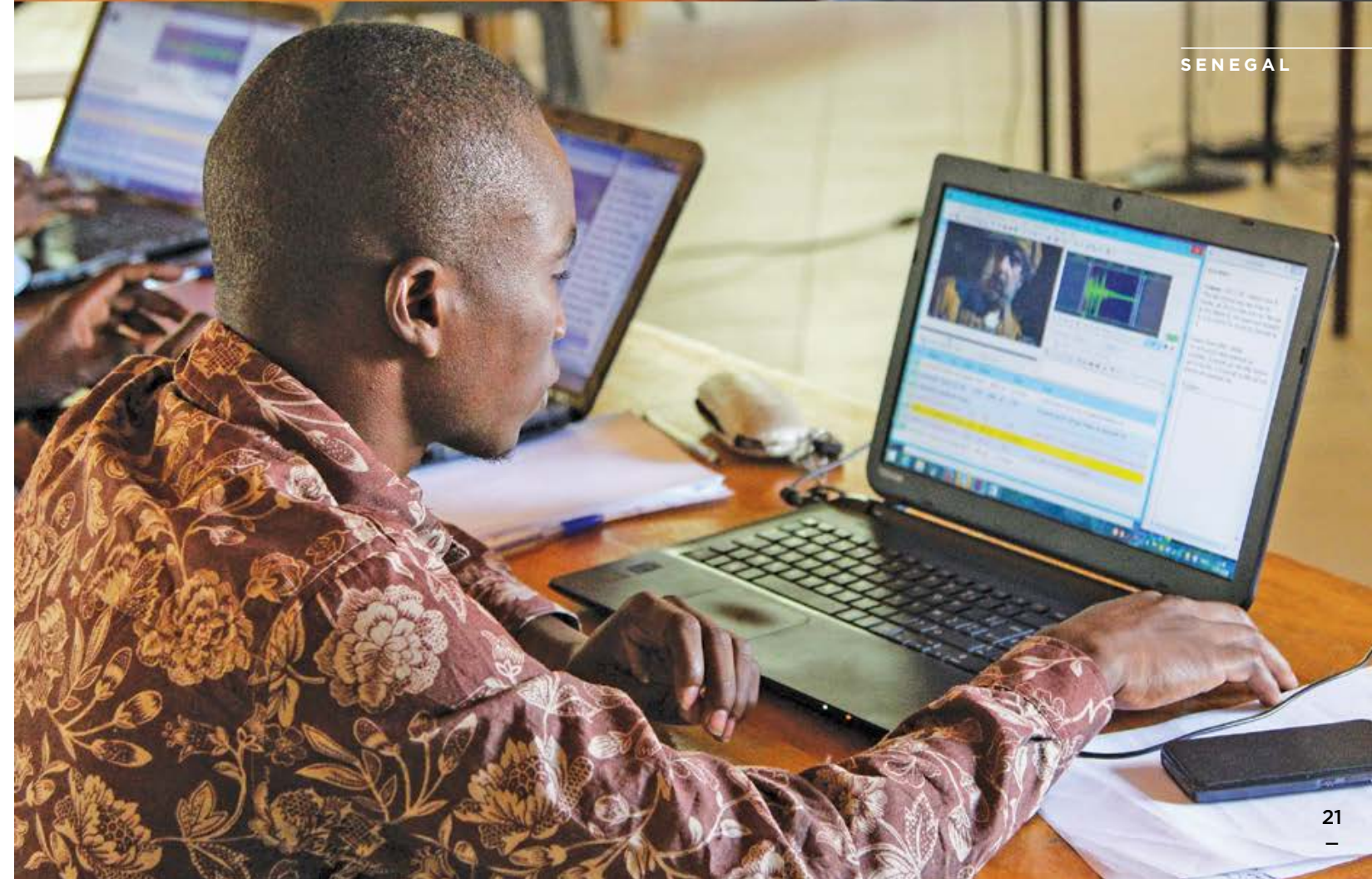
In FY16, dozens of Wycliffe USA translation projects were converted to Common Framework standards. These conversions take an existing Wycliffe-funded project being done with a traditional model and ensure that the five Common Framework elements play an integral part. In all but one of the regions where we serve, Seed Company shares a field team with Wycliffe USA. Those shared teams are implementing the conversions worldwide.

“ A lot of the goal of counting up to 4,500 is empowering the global Church. They’re the end-user in focus, the local owner — what we call the local incarnational expression of the Church. They’re taking responsibility for these Bible translation projects. ”

— GORDON WILLIAMS, Seed Company Vice President of Field Operations, Asia/Pacific/Eurasia



NEPAL



SENEGAL



# Connecting the Body Through Innovation

# 70

Seed Company-engaged languages that have mobile apps for Scripture use. A year ago, there were three.

*He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.*

— Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

As technology continues to create unprecedented opportunities in nearly every human endeavor, Seed Company is bolstering its technology with one vital goal in mind: connect the Body of Christ like never before.

Begun in FY16 and scheduled for a FY17 full launch, the Common Framework app will give us far greater ability to manage translation projects. Within this environment, we'll be able to automate and scale our processes as the number of simultaneous translation projects continues to climb. We'll also build apps for phones, tablets and computers that allow investors, prayer partners and others to stay connected in real time.

With the ever-evolving Render audio translation app (developed in partnership with Faith Comes By Hearing), people in oral cultures can receive accurate translations of Scripture. The Windows-based app uses audio-to-audio translation to make God's Word accessible and familiar much faster than ever, to people who may never read and write but still need Scripture.

“ Technology affords us the ability to connect the Body. In Bible translation today — and for the first time in history — we see the Body of Christ being joined together as never before. And once the Body is connected, God brings life.

— SHAWN RING, Seed Company Chief Information Officer

”



NIGERIA



SOUTH ASIA



# When Spoken Words Ring Louder

Today Seed Company is engaged with ...

# 48

Languages where translators are producing oral Bible stories plus a combination of other products: printed Scripture, the “JESUS” film, audio files and more.

# 193

Languages where translators are producing only oral Bible stories.

Perhaps no other area of Seed Company’s ministry is growing and changing more dynamically than orality.

Ours is fast becoming an era of oral communication through digital means — particularly audio and video. For hundreds of millions of people worldwide, spoken words still ring louder than any written text — even for cultures where literacy rates are high. Seed Company’s goal in the area of orality is to reach everyone with the Word of God in the language they understand best — literate or not. And we’ve been working to develop a broad range of oral strategies, including:

1. **ORAL BIBLE STORYTELLING** — training mother-tongue story crafters to tell Bible stories accurately and naturally to a variety of audiences.
2. **ORAL BIBLE TRANSLATION** — accurate, authoritative translation of Scripture for audio publication and possibly print.
3. **ORAL FILM SCRIPT TRANSLATION** — a watch-and-retell method of translating Bible-based films such as the “JESUS” film.
4. **RENDER** — a Windows-based software tool that facilitates audio-to-audio translation. This past year, we undertook three Render projects. In the next year, we hope to do 40.

In Eastern Cameroon, translation of key Bible stories in an oral format is giving people God’s Word in their heart languages for the first time. This locally led vision is creating momentum and capacity for new translation work — and the stories are being used immediately. In a Bangando village, a respected patriarch told his neighbors, “Here is God Himself drawing closer to us. It is time for us to get serious.” Local leaders have even pledged land and office supplies to support the project.

In India, Victor\* serves as a Bible translation facilitator for an area with 55 villages and about a million people. As Victor and his team translate the New Testament into the Savias\* language, they’ve also translated the “JESUS” film into Savias. When the film was completed last year, Victor had a local tailor sew an 8-by-10-foot sheet to serve as a screen. Over the next three months, Victor’s team showed the movie more than 50 times. It was the first movie local villagers had ever seen in their heart language.

\* Pseudonyms used.

“ Our involvement with the Scripture translation movement actually began with an oral Bible story project in six languages here in Bihar. And the impact of this spread like wildfire, to over 150 agencies, who all started to use these sets of 25 stories in their ministries at church. This was an incredible resource for the entire church. ”

— DR. ALEX PHILIP, Executive Director, New India Evangelistic Association (NIEA)



INDIA



CAMEROON

Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it?”

— MARK 4:30 (NLT)



# Engaging the Last Frontier

# 38

Sign languages with which Seed Company has varying levels of involvement — up from 21 about 18 months ago.

Of the estimated 400 sign languages on Earth, none has the complete Bible. That will change by 2020.

During FY16, Seed Company joined a multi-organization project called D3 Vision 2020 that is working toward a full Bible in American Sign Language. The ASL Bible will become the source text for almost 40 other sign language Bibles in the Americas and serve as reference text for all sign languages around the world.

Sign language is considered the last frontier in reaching Zerø people groups without God's Word in their primary language. The translation needs are great. According to Deaf Bible Society, there are more than 70 million Deaf people in the world. Only 2 percent have been exposed to the Gospel.

Sign language has lagged behind other areas of translation because of the incorrect assumption that printed Bibles should suffice for the Deaf community. Hearing plays a vital role in learning to read. Also, American Sign Language, for example, has its own grammar system that differs from that of printed Bibles.

Sign language translation could present the biggest challenge in the journey to Zerø, and not just because of the number of languages.

Translating the Bible into sign language is more costly than other types of translation. After Scripture for sign language goes through the standard process of research and verse-by-verse translation, it then must be video recorded, checked, edited and re-recorded before finally being released.

Security risks also are inherent to sign language translation. In some parts of the world, a person risks his or her life by appearing on video signing "Jesus is the Son of God." Technology such as motion capture or animation could solve that problem, but an answer is not yet in place.

However, like so much else with sign language translation, that is changing.

“ A sign language could very well be the last language for which a Bible translation project begins. We have increased our focus on sign languages as a company, and we will continue to be proactive to the point of aggressive in meeting sign language translation needs. ”

— KEN SCHMITT, Seed Company Chief Field Officer



SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH ASIA



# Meeting Local Scripture Needs Now

27/  
7,958

Number of books and verses in the New Testament.

39/  
23,145

Number of books and verses in the Old Testament.

Even as God's Word finds its way into cultures through the "JESUS" film or oral Bible storytelling, published and faithful Bible translation remains a heavy focus for Seed Company. In all corners of the globe, teams work chapter by chapter, verse by verse to provide their people with rich, accurate translations of God's Word — in print, in audio and in sign languages. The decisions on which books are translated first are driven locally, based on what people can most quickly apply to their lives and communities.

When people receive portions of Scripture, they want more. Our counting-up-to-4,500 vision grows from the fact that people everywhere need all of God's Word, not just portions. So in cultures as diverse as the Roma people of eastern Slovakia or the Zapotec people of southern Mexico, successful New Testament translations are being followed with the Old Testament. In other cultures, particularly where other major religions dominate, Old Testament books like Genesis are the first, best entry point, and the New Testament comes a little later.

Finished, published Scriptures also bring about dedication events — perhaps the biggest earthly celebrations in Bible translation. In March 2016, the Mayogo New Testament was dedicated in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The books were carried into a church on a raffia palm litter, like chiefs used to be carried into places of honor. Pastor Atulu Ndandangu Francois emceed the ceremony. The next day, his wife, Jeannette, and another woman read from the Mayogo New Testament, and then Atulu preached from it — the parable of the Good Samaritan.

“ The Word speaks to me. It corrects me. It straightens me out. The New Testament in Mayogo will change my way of seeing God ... ”  
— DANIEL, retired Mayogo translator





# Sharing Tasks Accelerates the Work

79

Scholars being trained in various aspects of translation checking.

As Bible translation accelerates at a rate unimaginable even 10 years ago, checking that work depends increasingly on the local church. The remaining translation need won't be met with incremental growth in our recent strategies. Where an entire project once funneled through one consultant with expertise in linguistics and translation, today God is also raising people with various training and experience in theology, exegesis and missiology. That's our roadmap for the coming years, and it's going to reduce a major bottleneck.

Seed Company is helping the global Church address this need by identifying, educating and training people at the local level. For those already involved in translation work, we're helping them get advanced training and internships to become certified translation consultants. Others are trained as translation facilitators — greatly reducing the consultants' workload. Still others already have advanced degrees and are being trained as National Bible Scholars who can help check translated Scripture for accuracy and clarity.

In short, as the global Church grows and matures, we are rethinking the whole translation process. Strategies include oral Bible translation, especially via Render (see page 24); cluster checking where a single consultant works on concurrent, related projects; development of consultants for limited tasks or genres; and increased use of experienced Bible translators, facilitators and advisers from completed projects.

The result is faithful Scripture translation: accurate, clear, natural and acceptable. In place of a bottleneck, we're creating multiple opportunities for input.

“ A translation project is more effective in direct proportion to the level of involvement of the local church and community. ”

— KEN SCHMITT, Seed Company Chief Field Officer



MOZAMBIQUE



INDONESIA



# Global Church Takes Ownership

**\$6  
MILLION**

Commitments over the next six years from Ghanaian individuals, churches and organizations to own Bible translation in that nation.

Flowing out of Seed Company's 10-year commitment to build capacity in the global Church, Global Initiatives is using new strategies to localize Bible translation. Organizations are developing greater vision, and God is providing local resources.

Global Initiatives is about coaching, mentoring and consulting with Bible translation organizations to build capacity in operations, field programs, fundraising and strategic leadership. As a result, indigenous Bible translation organizations can better serve the Church in their own contexts.

During FY16, Global Initiatives partnered with the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation (GILLBT) to gather some of the nation's most influential business people and church leaders. Together, they committed \$6 million over the next six years — from within Ghana — to ensure that Bible translation in Ghana is completed by Ghanaians.

Momentum gathers worldwide. In Papua New Guinea, the first Bible translation fundraising event of its kind raised \$40,000. In Indonesia, South Africa and Mexico, business leaders contributed resources and built support for the movement by joining boards and enlisting others from within their spheres of influence.

As local expressions of the Church embrace ownership of Bible translation, proficient organizations emerge with their own local identities and are rooted in their local economies and church institutions. Together, people groups that still need God's Word are joining with denomination leaders and influential business people to say, "We can do this."

“ We need a radical change in the work of translating the Bible into our local languages. It is time for the work to be placed into African hands, through the creation of a movement of African financial patrons whose activities transform the nature of Bible translation, by reversing centuries of practice where African countries have largely served as transmission belts for external resources for Bible translation. We are ready to provide the leadership to establish this platform in direct proportion to the level of involvement of the local church and community.

— REV. DR. KWABENA DARKO, Business Leader, Ghana



MEXICO



GHANA



# Heart Language Scripture Opens the Meaning of the Gospel

Marek Olah |  
Bible Translator  
Eastern Slovakia





*“This is our mother tongue. It’s much deeper, and we understand the Bible very well now, much better than with the Slovak.”*

More than a decade ago, Marek Olah was praying for his people when, he believes, God pointed him to an Old Testament prophecy.

*Among the other nations, Judah and Israel became symbols of a cursed nation. But no longer! Now I will rescue you and make you both a symbol and a source of blessing. So don’t be afraid. Be strong, and get on with rebuilding the Temple! — Zechariah 8:13 (NLT)*

Those words that God spoke to His chosen people suddenly felt very relevant for a marginalized group in eastern Slovakia. Starting in 2003, Marek was part of a group that held prayer meetings on a hillside outside of their town, Sabinov. In that empty field between two Roma settlements, they prayed for a church building that would serve as a beacon of hope — and for God’s Word to take root in their people.

What they envisioned then is unfolding as reality today. On that hillside stands an Assemblies of God church, a community center and a sports field. And there’s lots of space left.

The vision is also found in hundreds of Roma homes. From 2008 to 2014, Marek was part of the four-man team that translated the New Testament into East Slovak Romani. The first day it was available for sale at the church, people bought 800 copies.

“Some people were thinking, ‘We already have the Slovak version; why a Romani translation?’” he says. “But others were saying, ‘This is our mother tongue. It’s much deeper, and we understand the Bible very well now, much better than with the Slovak.’”

Now Marek preaches from it. “I read other translations, but the Romani has opened more of the meaning of the Gospel.”

Though kids learn Slovak in school, Romani remains the language spoken in homes and neighborhoods. Many older Roma people can’t read their language, so an audio version of the Romani New Testament was a must, too. But Marek believes the written New Testament — and the Old Testament now being translated — will help increase literacy.

“For many believers, the Bible is the very first book in their lives,” he says. “When they read the Bible, they want to read more. They want to know more about God, and they start to read different spiritual literature to know God better. The new generation reads much better and more than the older generation. So the Bible has impact.”





## Partnership Development

The Seed Company calendar for FY16 included three major events. The third reminded us that living by faith sometimes means laying aside our plans and placing complete trust in God.

### forWORD

Seed Company hosted two successful **forWORD** events in FY16 — in October 2015 at Deer Valley, Utah, and in April 2016 in Tucson, Ariz. Speakers and artists from all over the world related the latest stories of Bible translation and life transformation and led attendees in worship, prayer and giving.



### illumiNations

A year ago, Seed Company's Board of Directors gave **illumiNations** to the entire Bible translation movement. **illumiNations** gatherings now include nine North America-based translation organizations — under the banner of Every Tribe Every Nation — representing a huge majority of the active Bible translation projects worldwide.

In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew forced cancellation of the **illumiNations** gathering at Palmetto Bluff, S.C. We invite your continued prayer as **illumiNations** continues to gather momentum with worldwide partnerships.

### illumiNations 2016



“God writes great stories. I trust He has a better plan. I’m anxious to look back six months or a year from now and say, ‘Oh wow. Look what happened. God moved in ways that we didn’t expect. But it was actually better than anything we planned.’”

— **Mart Green**, **illumiNations** host

## More Highlights

Also during FY16, Seed Company engaged in a new educational opportunity and received awards for excellence in communications.



### Sonlight Project

Seed Company's Mobilization, Interactive and Communications teams produced **KidsDiscover**, a six-week missions program for home-based education, featuring stories from the Bible translation movement. The project was done in cooperation with Sonlight, the nation's leading homeschool curriculum provider. [kidsdiscovermissions.com](http://kidsdiscovermissions.com)



### AWARDS

Seed Company's Communications and Interactive teams were recognized as industry leaders with these awards in 2016:

#### | Graphic Design USA

2016 American Graphic Design Awards Certificate of Excellence: *illumiNations 2016 invitation.*

Of more than 10,000 entries from design firms, ad agencies, corporations, non-profits, institutions, freelancers, students and more, only 15 percent received this honor.

#### | Evangelical Press Association

2016 Award of Excellence, Missions Publication: *Co:MISSION.*

Judging was based on writing quality, content choices and design.



#### | Telly Awards

Two 2016 Bronze Awards for videos: *The Word is Alive* and *Philippines: Jenny Eso.*

The Telly Awards honor the finest film and video productions from around the world, with more than 13,000 entries annually.

“I am staggered at how God is bringing nations to His light at a pace we’ve never seen before.”

— **Todd Peterson**, **illumiNations** host



““ My experience and training is in business. You’re taught to focus on economy — allocating the finite resources at your disposal and maximizing the impact you can achieve with them. I think the Seed Company does a great job of that, and they do so without forgetting about the small groups of people in those far-flung places.””

— **STEVEN GANSS**

Seed Company Investor and Advocate, Texas

““ God is the greatest giver of all. This is one of God’s greatest attributes — giving. He delights in giving. All of His giving is motivated by His abundant and extravagant love. We become God’s image to the watching world when we give cheerfully, when we give out of the abundance of love that’s been given to us.””

— **SUSIE LIPPS**

Seed Company Investor and Advocate, California



# FINANCIALS

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...

— 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)



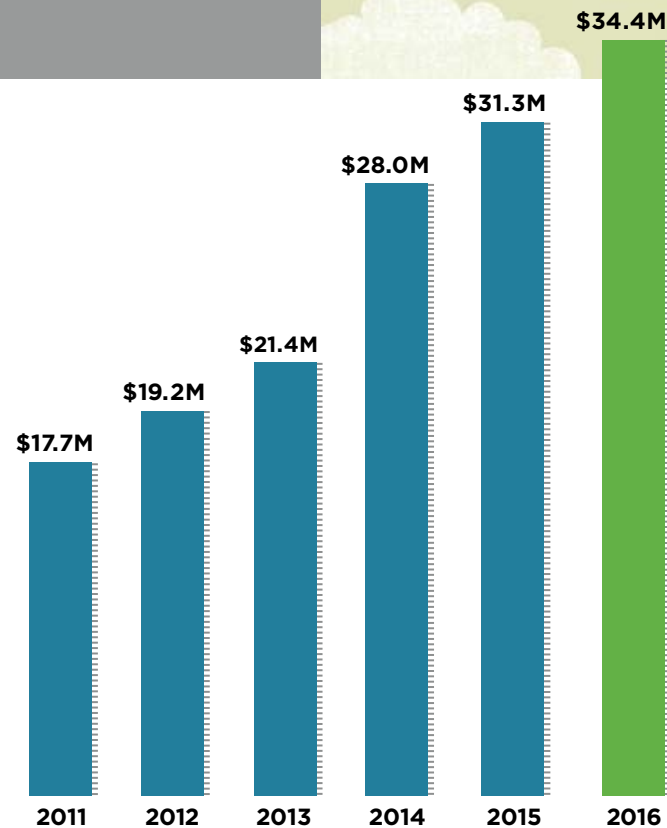
81%

Translation Expenses



19%

Administrative Expenses



## CONTRIBUTION INCOME

Eighty-one percent of all gifts to Seed Company translation projects are used for translation expenses. This includes 6 percent for our First Bible and Momentum funds.

God has blessed Seed Company with integrity, humility and accountability. One significant demonstration of His blessing is the vital connections He's given us with financial partners. These relationships are built on trust underscored by our track record. Again in FY16, financial partners embraced God's vision and Seed Company's work to break all records.

## THE WYCLIFFE SEED COMPANY, INC. STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended September 30, 2016

With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended September 30, 2015

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2016	2015
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>				
Contributions	\$ 6,599,548	\$ 25,841,927	\$ 32,441,475	\$ 28,800,931
Gift in kind contributions	57,585	-0	57,585	29,000
Support from affiliates				
Wycliffe contributions	99,304	1,903,579	2,002,883	2,425,415
Member support	5,096,300	-0	5,096,300	5,088,484
Service income	743,240	-0	743,240	153,864
Investment income	541,424	-0	541,424	365,282
Other Income	40,597	-0	40,597	56,326
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Field operations assessments	5,299,952	(5,299,952)	-0	-0
Administrative assessments (19% administrative & fundraising)	5,439,290	(5,439,290)	-0	-0
Satisfaction of program restrictions	17,405,364	(17,405,364)	-0	-0
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>41,322,604</b>	<b>(399,100)</b>	<b>40,923,504</b>	<b>36,919,302</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program services - Bible translation	29,291,159	-0	29,291,159	27,336,834
General & administrative services	3,903,130	-0	3,903,130	3,770,446
Fundraising services (Includes communications, marketing)	5,636,951	-0	5,636,951	5,534,128
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>38,831,240</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>38,831,240</b>	<b>36,641,408</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>				
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>8,082,991</b>	<b>19,078,224</b>	<b>27,161,215</b>	<b>26,883,321</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 10,574,355</b>	<b>\$ 18,679,124</b>	<b>\$ 29,253,479</b>	<b>\$ 27,161,215</b>

NOTE: All financial figures cited in this document for FY16 are unaudited as of press time. Audited numbers will be available after February 15, 2017, and can be viewed at [theseedcompany.org](http://theseedcompany.org).

The Seed Company is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and complies fully with its rules for Christian ministries, including an annual independent financial audit.



A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.



# Actually, It's More About Serving Than Leading



- Humility
- Courage
- Generosity

Seed Company Leadership Values

## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Through prayerful, servant leadership, the Executive Leadership Team manages and guides Seed Company's part in fulfilling the Great Commission. President and CEO Samuel E. Chiang directs the team that makes executive-level decisions, determines corporate strategies and oversees organizational initiatives in obedience to God's calling.



**Samuel E. Chiang**  
President and CEO



**Lori Miller**  
Chief Administrative Officer



**Shawn Ring**  
Chief Information Officer



**Ken Schmitt**  
Chief Field Officer



**J.R. Thompson**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Mike Toupin**  
Chief Advancement Officer

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Seed Company's 11 members of the Board of Directors are blessed with extensive experience leading in an array of fields. Their combination of business knowledge and passion for the Bibleless helps them assess the company's direction and provide insight, strategy, guidance and innovative leadership.

**Rick Britton**  
2009 - present  
Board Chair  
President  
Digital Monitoring  
Products



**Joyce Williams**  
2009 - present  
Board Vice  
Chair  
Board Member  
Cornerstone Trust



**Jason Baker**  
2012 - present  
Principal/Owner  
Baker Katz, LLC



**Bob Creson**  
2013 - present  
President and CEO  
Wycliffe Bible  
Translators USA



**Jill Hamilton**  
2016 - present  
Director of  
Communications  
Denver Institute for  
Faith & Work



**Jeff Johns**  
2009 - present  
CEO  
Impact  
Foundation



**Michel Kenmogne**  
2016 - present  
Executive Director  
SIL International



**Andrea Levin Kim**  
2016 - present  
Partner  
Diamond  
McCarthy LLP



**Matthew Mancinelli**  
2009 - present  
Executive Vice  
President of Strategy  
and Volunteers  
Generous Giving



**Robby Moser**  
2014 - present  
President  
Clark Construction  
Group, LLC



**Bill Williams**  
2008 - present  
Former CEO  
National Christian  
Foundation





# At Our Core, It's All About People

## CORE VALUE #1 — Honoring God in All We Do

"I believe our leaders really try hard to model what a Christian employee or staff should be. That would include the way they steward the financial aspect of things, time, relationships and partnerships. They show the value of Christian character in treating each other with respect, integrity and honor. Also, with the culture we have of prayer and devotion time in the mornings, I think that's a great way to honor God. We start each day on our knees, so to speak — getting our hearts and minds connected to His will."

— **ABRAHAM TORRES**, Events Coordinator



## CORE VALUE #2 — Valuing Individuals & Relationships

"I just love this place. I love the people and I love the mission. I've never worked for a company or organization that has genuinely cared about me — and not only me, but my family. It doesn't matter what job I'm doing that day, I feel like I'm doing something because I'm valued. The people don't just ask me about me, they ask about my family. They pray for me, they pray for my family. That's the biggest difference, I think."

— **JAKI RIX**, Partner Development Specialist



## CORE VALUE #3 — Partnering Effectively

"Partnerships are based on people. In order to honor God and the individual, we have to partner effectively. Working cross-culturally — and interdepartmentally — with organizations the Lord has called to specific areas of ministry requires a lot of listening in order to understand other perspectives. There are overlaps in areas of service within God's kingdom. So we ask, how can we serve them? How can we work with them in fulfillment of our mission without dominating theirs? We partner to give, not to take. No single organization can do the whole work of Bible translation alone — it takes all of God's resources to do God-sized work."

— **AMY EASTERLIN**, Field Coordinator, Nigeria



## MISSION

To accelerate Scripture translation and impact for people without God's Word through Great Commission partnerships

## VISION

God's Word transforming lives in every language in this generation

## CORE VALUE #4 — Encouraging Creativity & Innovation

"For myself, when it comes to creativity and innovation, an easy example is virtual reality video. Leadership gave us the margin to go and experiment with buying different VR cameras and different headsets to see, what does this even look like? The first few times, I came back with some really ugly footage, but leadership didn't give up on me. They acknowledged the fact that this is completely new, and they encouraged me to improve my abilities. And they encouraged me to even fail a couple more times if I needed to. A lot of companies would think it's a waste. But I think they value internally learning new techniques and new strategies to better equip the people working for Seed Company."

— **JACOB BRANCH**, Videographer



## CORE VALUE #5 — Managing for Quality Results

"God has given us people, investors, money, a building. To me, it's a matter of being a good steward of all those things. I believe that God is the owner and we're the managers. In order to be good managers of the things God has given us, we have to use those things efficaciously and efficiently. Honestly, I think that we're doing a good job, and I think there are a lot of things that are going to be happening soon that are going to make that job go from good to great."

— **ROSE FULLER**, Field Performance Analyst





2017 THEME: FAITH

“For we live by believing and not by seeing.”

— 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NLT)





destination Zerø



Cover: From the East Slovak Romani translation project. Photos pages 3, 10, 33 top, 34, 36, 37 and cover by Esther Havens.





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A Wycliffe Bible Translators Affiliate

