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The Bible. We Want Everyone To Get It.SM

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The President's

Report



GOD CONTINUES TO BLESS EEM

We are thankful for the opportunities that the Lord provided EEM last year, and we were encouraged by the generous donations that allowed us to exceed our Million Dollar Sunday goal of \$2.4 million. 2018 highlights include the distribution of 125,000 Bibles and Bible-based materials in Bulgaria, the start of Bible distribution in Kazakhstan, printing the first modern translation (from the original languages) of the Serbian Bible, and public-school distribution in Croatia, Romania, and Ukraine. EEM also published an Arabic language teen Bible, as well as ongoing distribution projects in Russia, Ukraine, and other countries in Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

EEM now distributes Bibles and Bible-based materials in over 30 countries and more than 20 languages. Our goal is to provide these books free of charge to people seeking to better understand and

apply the teachings of the Bible to their lives. We continually hear how people's hearts are touched and transformed through the reading of God's Word.

Thank you for your financial support to provide the Word of God in homes, camps, public schools, orphanages, hospitals, prisons, and communities. We will continue to focus on putting Bibles into schools so that new generations will grow up knowing God and desiring to follow Christ. We know that this is transformational both for individuals and nations.

We pray for God's guidance for us to see, hear, and act in a timely manner, while stepping out boldly in faith so that His will be done. Thank you for sharing our vision: *The Bible. We Want Everyone To Get It.*SM

Bob Burckle
EEM President

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM EUROPE

The cost of Estonian Bibles exceeds our ability to obtain them (25 EUR a copy). Pray for God to open door to an alternative translation that we could use in this language!

1

Shipping Bibles to Moldova requires clearing them through customs, which is very difficult. Pray that God helps us find a way to do it more efficiently.

2

Please continue to pray for our distribution in Kazakhstan and the safety of our distribution partners there.

3

Please pray for EEM's non-profit in Russia to pass the Ministry of Justice audit successfully

4

NEWS FROM EASTERN UKRAINE



GOD HAS NOT LEFT

Since fighting between the Ukrainian army and Pro-Russian separatists broke out, more than one million people have fled the conflict zone in Eastern Ukraine. EEM team members in Ukraine were among the many who left Donetsk to seek refuge far from the fighting in the city of Kiev. Though violence and war continue, God is present in a powerful way, and He is working to shape the hearts of the children and adults who remain in this area controlled by the separatists.

We recently were able to ship materials to Eastern Ukraine in response to requests in the conflict zone. Soon after receiving sets of our Bibles and Bible-based materials, the director of a preschool in Donetsk writes, "The war in the country requires radical changes in the educational process. Therefore, we believe the priority should be given to shaping the moral and spiritual culture of our society. Our goals with these Bibles and Bible-based materials include using them to encourage our youth to develop their character based upon Christian moral values and to provide an opportunity for both teachers and parents with more information on spiritual matters."

EEM's Director of Ukraine, Dasha Novikova,

responded with rejoicing when the recent shipment to schools in Eastern Ukraine successfully arrived. "For our team in Ukraine, and for me personally, this shipment to Donetsk is very special because it was our home and we were forced to leave. These are more than just books and generous help; these Bibles are evidence of God's eternal love being revealed to children and adults living in an otherwise hopeless situation. God's Word gives hope and proclaims love over everyone."

We believe this work is evidence that the Lord continues to work through our suffering to redeem this broken world, and more specifically, Eastern Ukraine. It is evident that our financial partners serve as God's instruments to help bring hope during the ongoing crisis and we are thankful for the opportunity to sow the seed of His Word. It is inspiring to witness people in the nation begin to understand and live according to God's Word, believing that it will change the future of the country. We ask that you keep the crisis and the people of Ukraine in your prayers as we continue to share the love of Christ with those in need.



AN UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIP

Croatia and Serbia are neighboring countries in southeastern Europe that were united after the First World War in 1918 into the country known as the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Croatia and Serbia were considered to be in the same state until 1991 when old Yugoslavia fell apart after the fall of the Berlin Wall. This dramatic change extended to all of Eastern Europe and into the Balkan States (these include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia). Unfortunately, the collapse of former Yugoslavia ended in a 4-year long war which left a lot of scars on both nations.

Over 20+ years have gone by now, and today both Croatia and Serbia are living in peace, but there is still a lot of “bad blood” on both sides. Many of the consequences of war are still evident between the people in these areas today. Although the people of Croatia (known as “Croats”) are predominantly Catholic and the Serbians, Eastern Orthodox, both nations claim to be “Christian nations.” One of the problems we recognize today is that ‘Christian faith’ in these countries is often limited to following traditions which makes it easy for Christianity to be more about cultural tradition than about an intimate walk with God.

EEM distribution partners, Drasko Denovic in Serbia, and Lazar Jura in Croatia, beautifully illustrate God’s redemption taking place in the hearts of people across the Balkans.



Though Drasko served in the Serbian Army, and Jura served on an opposing side in the Croatian army, they both accepted Christ as savior and became brothers. God decided to have their life paths cross a few years ago, and now in spite of their history, Drasko and Jura work together as a powerful example that everything is possible in Christ Jesus. Drasko writes, “Jesus is the only one who can give our people peace, and in the Balkans where the wars have been, this is a very important message.”

One of the ways these two brothers share the message of peace is through their work with EEM. Jura writes, “EEM’s work is significant to both Drasko and me. The Bibles and other Bible-based materials that EEM provides can dramatically change the spiritual life in both nations. The church’s visibility is growing with every project in which we are involved. Drasko is spreading the Bibles in Serbia not only to Serbians but also to several minorities living in the country, the army chaplaincy and all who need one. In Croatia, EEM has been able to distribute Children’s and Teen Bibles in public schools. This calendar year we are hoping to fulfill a request for more Children’s and Teen Bibles, and we are grateful for EEM’s work to make this possible. In February we fulfilled needs for the Bibles in Bosnia and Herzegovina (in Serbian and Croatian languages). I believe that there is a future for us to continue to work closely with EEM because the need is huge in southeastern Europe.”

We are thankful for the testimony of Jura and Drasko’s friendship and the work they are doing for the Kingdom. Please join us in prayer that EEM might be able to respond to every open door in Croatia and Serbia with the help of godly men and women who faithfully support this ministry.



SETTING CAPTIVES FREE - By Jaro Marcin

During his time on earth, Jesus spent a lot of time with the sinners. When asked about why he did so, he replied matter-of-factly: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick" (Mt 9:12). That has not changed—the sick still need a doctor and those who are captive still long to be set free.

Albania is a country that during the previous regime, totally rejected God. There was no place for religion; atheism was taught in the schools. Many who grew up in this environment cannot shake off this heritage—their hearts have been hardened. But hope springs in the most unexpected places: Prisons. Amidst the brokenness, a new hope emerges as they hear the Good News—the good news they so desperately want and need to hear.

In 2018, EEM distributed over 7,000 Bibles and Christian resources to prison ministries in Albania and other countries in the southern Balkans. And they're making all the difference in the world!

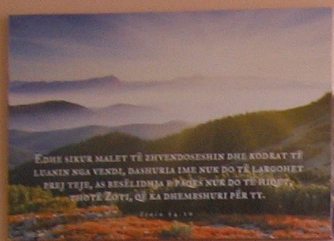
"May our Lord give hope to all those who have fallen and may His teaching about the forgiveness of sins

be heard everywhere—the forgiveness which comes through the blood of Christ to all who feel burdened with guilt in their lives," a local prison minister writes.

"I had a conversation with a preacher of the Gospel," he continues. "An inmate from Fier, Albania shared the Good News with his family. He has encouraged them to find a congregation near their city. Now his family regularly attends the local church to learn more about Jesus Christ and his message. In Lazarat, Albania a freshly released inmate has joined a Christian congregation, having heard the Word of God while in prison."

"Another former inmate from Vlora, Albania now attends church with his wife and his sister. As preachers of the Gospel, we take great encouragement when we see that the Holy Spirit is working with so much power in Albanian prisons. It is a great blessing and privilege to preach the Gospel to inmates in Albania, but it is an even greater joy to see so many souls taking on Jesus Christ as their Savior and Redeemer."

NEWS FROM ALBANIA



A NEW DAY

A new day will dawn on us from above because our God is loving and merciful. Luke 1:78

*Be inspired by God's restorative, irresistible movement in Eastern Europe & beyond.
The old has passed away, & the new has come!*



YOU'RE INVITED TO ONE OF OUR BENEFIT EVENTS

- 3/09/19 **AUSTIN, TX**
- 3/26/19 **HOUSTON, TX**
- 3/28/19 **SAN ANTONIO, TX**
- 4/02/19 **OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**
- 4/09/19 **COLLEGE STATION, TX**
- 4/13/19 **WACO, TX**
- 4/16/19 **LUBBOCK, TX**
- 4/18/19 **AMARILLO, TX**
- 4/22/19 **SEARCY, AR**
- 4/23/19 **LITTLE ROCK, AR**
- 4/25/19 **FORT WORTH, TX**
- 9/05/19 **TYLER, TX**
- 9/10/19 **NASHVILLE, TN**



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Memorials and Honors

To see a list of recent Memorials and Honors visit www.eem.org/memorials-and-honors. Thank you for honoring others by giving Bibles to those seeking the truth in Eastern Europe.

Newsletters

Newsletters are available in digital or print format. If you know of a friend or church that would like to receive one, please contact us at 800-486-1818 or email newsletter@eem.org.

Leave a Legacy

The Hensley Legacy Society (HLS) was created as a tribute to the mission and vision of EEM co-founder Gwen Hensley.

HLS honors individuals who support EEM through one or more estate gift arrangements.

A gift must be documented by EEM for membership. Estate gifts include: documented bequests, trusts, gift annuities, remainder interests in a residence or farm, life insurance, retirement accounts and more.

Each member will be presented with a special-edition Hensley Legacy Society Bible. These treasured keepsakes are a representation of the original Bibles that were printed and smuggled behind the Iron Curtain.

For more information visit eem.org/hensley