## Connect

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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



## The Bible. We Want Everyone To Get It.™





#### **COVID-19, THE BIBLE, & YOU**

As many of you know, we suspended our Spring Events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These events are vital for our budget to share the Gospel, and there is an unprecedented number of people reaching out to God right now. Your gifts during this time will perfectly meet the need for God's Word.

Many of the people we provide Bibles to live in poor, remote places with low access to medical care. Everyone is vulnerable to the virus and for many the fear of the unknown is great. While people are filled with fear and anxiety about the current state of the world and what the future holds, we have a unique opportunity to actively pray for people and share the Word that is the message of God's hope, comfort, peace, and love!

Daily, Jesus is calling people of all nations to come to Him. It is our prayer that the people of Eastern Europe and beyond will be among the repentant who come to know Jesus. You can play an essential role in making an eternal difference in their lives.

Thank you for your continued support as our prayer and financial partners. You make it possible to publish, print, and distribute God's word in 20+ languages and in 30+ countries.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

The cost of Estonian Bibles still exceeds our ability to obtain them (25 EUR a copy). Continue to pray for God to open the door to an alternative translation that we could use in this language. Pray for the production and delivery of Romanian Bibles. The printer is temporarily halted production due to the pandemic and the Bibles will be delayed. They are urgently needed for distribution in Moldova and Romania.

Pray that God will give our European Team wisdom and insight to find solutions for changes happening on short notice during the pandemic.

Pray for the health of all EEM staff and their families during this time.

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#### **NEWS FROM CROATIA**

163,000 Bibles for Croatian schools were ready for delivery as borders began to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a challenge for us, as our European team had to figure out what to do next with a number of Bibles that far exceeded our warehouse capacity.

Thanks to the amazing efforts of EEM Distribution Coordinator, Sasha Taran, we were able to store a portion of the books with the printer. In another answered prayer, a few of our partner churches and schools in Varazdin and Zagreb agreed to take the rest of the Bibles.

In Zagreb, several volunteers, many of them religious school teachers, spent a day unloading two large truckloads of Bibles by hand. Not only did this require overcoming people's natural fear of getting infected, but also securing permission from

the Croatian police to make an exception from the lockdown regulations.

By the grace of God, the delivery went smoothly, and some of the religious teachers took their allotment of Bibles to distribute as soon as their schools open back up.

When VP of European Operations, Bart Rybinski, called our partners in Zagreb to thank them for their service, one of them responded by saying, "Why would you want to thank us? We want to thank EEM for giving this amazing gift of Bibles for our children—this is the least we can do!"

What an amazing testimony of the dedication of our partners and the importance of God's Word for their work. We are incredibly thankful to all who made these deliveries possible, and we praise God for guiding our European team.

#### **NEWS FROM SLOVENIA - GOSPEL SPREADS DURING LOCKDOWN**

When things started to shut down in Slovenia due to COVID-19, an EEM partner church there decided to spend a week in prayer and fasting for all the other countries in the world impacted by the pandemic. The church sought discernment on how they could continue to share the Gospel in this new situation.

During one of the meetings, a neighbor called the police (he was under the impression religious meetings had been banned even though, at that point, they were not). The police came to check out the small gathering. A couple of church leaders explained what they were doing and started to share the Gospel with the two officers that visited them. The leaders offered them a book about the Bible. One of the officers accepted it, and he later called one church leader back saying he wanted to give his life to Christ and study the Bible more!

While the police were still at their house, a neighbor and a reporter for an online news organization saw the police cars and came to check things out. He asked the church leaders what was going on, and the leaders again were able to share the Gospel with their neighbor as he interviewed them.

Their neighbor then published an article that he titled, "From the Police to the Blessing." God's loving message has been spreading even with government restrictions and country lockdowns. We know our God is at work at all times.

#### **NEWS FROM UKRAINE**

Due to the pandemic, our operations in Ukraine during March were limited, yet we continued receiving requests from churches and individuals. Some churches during a time of lockdown prepared grocery sets to deliver to older adults that each included a copy of the Bible or a New Testament. It was a critical time to not only provide physical food but spiritual nourishment as well, nourishing not only people's bodies but also their souls. For many, this has been a time of anxiety and fear, but thanks to our faithful donors, EEM has been able to provide comfort and security that only God's Word can give.

In Eastern Ukraine, we have a partner who is serving and sharing Bibles with the elderly affected by the war with pro-Russian forces. He wrote, "The elderly are forgotten by most people here, but not by God! They need hope, and together we can continue to bring it to them!"



#### **NEWS FROM BELARUS**

EEM is actively shipping Bibles in Russia and Belarus at this time. Regional Director for Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, Oleg Yakimenko, continues to receive many book requests. In Belarus, there is a ministry serving children by correspondence, working to answer spiritual questions by mail. With every letter response, the ministry sends small gifts and includes a Children's Bible and coloring book. God's Word is in high demand among children and the European team stands ready to make these deliveries happen.



#### **TANYA**

Tanya was baptized at 17, but soon after decided to leave God. Two years ago, at 19, she decided to follow Jesus once again. Around the same time, Tanya lost her mother, father, and grandmother to different illnesses within three months. Despite these losses, her faith remained, and a year later, she moved to Lviv so that she could help her church start a campus ministry. Being fluent in two languages, she has switched to speaking Ukrainian more than Russian to be "all things to all people (1 Cor. 9:22)." She is eager to take Ukrainian Bibles for the campus ministry as soon as the quarantine has lifted.

