

## **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

# Connect

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#### **Memorials and Honors**

To see a list of recent Memorials and Honors visit www.eem.org/memorials-and-honors.

#### Newsletters

Newsletters are available in digital or print format. Contact us at 800-486-1818 or email newsletter@eem.org.





## Cash Contributions & the CARES ACT

BY CARRIE LUND, CPA

Requests for Bibles are at an all-time high, and your contributions make it possible for us to publish, print, and distribute God's Word in 20+ languages for 30+ countries. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was signed into

law in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, provides taxpayer-friendly provisions for your qualified charitable cash contributions.

For taxpayers who choose not to itemize their deductions, the CARES Act adds a new "above-the-line" deduction that allows taxpayers to deduct up to \$300 of qualified charitable contributions in addition to the standard deduction. This new deduction is the only charitable giving benefit that extends beyond the 2020 tax year.

The Act also includes a provision that increases the 2020 itemized deduction limit for charitable contributions from 60% of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income to 100% of adjusted gross income. Contributions made in 2020 that exceed the 100% adjusted gross income limit can be carried forward and utilized in the following five tax years.

We appreciate your continued support of EEM. If you would like to participate in our Million Dollar Sunday campaign, you can do so by visiting our website, www.eem.org/donate.

\*This information is not intended to constitute written tax advice, but rather the communication of general information for discussion purposes only. Therefore, you should not interpret the statement to be written tax advice or rely on the statements for any purpose. We recommend consulting with your tax professional for more information.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Pray for EEM to find solutions in places like Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Georgia, and Armenia where Biblical translations are limited and providing Bibles is very expensive.

Moriah, a large refugee camp holding 13,000 people in Greece, was burned to the ground. Pray for the livelyhood of refugees, the Greek authorities, and our ministry partners there responding to the crisis. Pray that the new Minister of Education of Ukraine will react favorably toward EEM and continue to promote the teaching of Biblical Ethics/Character in public schools.

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

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### TURKISH BIBLES IN CYPRUS

For the first time, EEM has been asked to provide Turkish Bibles in Cyprus. The country has been divided since 1974 when Turkey invaded the northern part of Cyprus in response to a military coup on the island backed by the Greek government. Since this time, a UN buffer zone has been in place with Greek-speaking Cypriots living to the south and Turkish Cypriots living to the north. Inherent ethnic tension can be felt across the island.

Recently, Greek-speaking Christians in Cyprus asked EEM for Turkish Bibles. They are reaching out to the northern side of the island to share Christ with Turkish people who are open to learning about Jesus. We are thrilled to be part of this beautiful, emerging story. It reminds us that the love of Christ and his Good News is greater than anything that divides people ethnically, racially, culturally, or in any other way.

On a historical note, the island of Cyprus was the first country in the world to come under Christian administration following the first-century missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas. Governor Sergius Paulus "invited Barnabas and Saul to visit him, for he wanted to hear the word of God" (Acts 13:7). Shortly thereafter, the governor "became a believer, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord." Join us today in praying for Cyprus-that this nation will again want to hear the word of God and be astonished at the teaching of the Lord!

#### **NEWS FROM HUNGARY**

Palánta (meaning "seedling" in Hungarian) is one of our key partners in Hungary, operating as a puppet ministry. God has used this ministry to open many doors for Gospel-centered entertainment in public schools. With access to over half of the country's public schools, they've distributed thousands of Bibles and Bible-based materials to several locations across Hungary while touring schools with puppet shows. God has opened our eyes to how creative God's people are when it comes to sharing the Gospel.

This year they contacted local church leaders directly and asked them to distribute the gifts of books personally to children in the schools in their area. Palánta wanted the children to receive the books from local Christians to provide a further connection to the local body of believers. By the beginning of this summer, 36,000 Bibles were in the hands of Christians who helped deliver the books to children.

During the pandemic lockdown, Palánta made it known to several retirement homes that Children's Bibles were available. Palánta encouraged the elderly with this gift of God's Word and it served to be a comfort while many were cut off from their loved

ones. Palánta encouraged the recipients to share the gift of these Bibles with their grandchildren and greatgrandchildren by reading together, or even giving the books to family members as a gift when the lockdown lifted. After the availability of the books were made known, more than 2.000 Bibles were requested and distributed for this use!



#### **NEWS FROM GREECE**

One of our key partners in Greece, Hellenic Ministries (HM), has a ministry that serves as a social, medical center called the Good Samaritan. This ministry expresses God's love by providing holistic care, specifically for refugee women and children. Transformation of lives often occurs through practical services, including medical care, Bible studies, language classes, clothing distribution, and meals. EEM donors make it possible to provide HM with Bibles in Arabic and Farsi, which are actively used in different ministries. The Good Samaritan shared two recent powerful stories of Muslim women turning to Jesus.

"One young woman, 24 years old, came one Friday to our Bible study. She was a practicing Muslim, and she was adamant that she did not want to change her religion. She continued to come to our Friday Bible study for about a year to enjoy the fellowship with other ladies in the class and a good relaxed atmosphere. She took a Bible home to read, and she started to be more and more interested in knowing and learning about God. Because of the pandemic, we could not gather any longer for our weekly Bible class. We continued maintaining relationships by weekly phone calls and later started visiting our ladies in their homes. A few months ago, she became a follower of Jesus!

She is now passionate about sharing the Good News with other students, and she has volunteered to come with us for house visits to encourage others who don't yet know Christ. God's Word has a unique and incredible power to do miracles in our lives, and only his Word can soften our hardened hearts to know and receive Jesus."

#### The Good Samaritan Center

often encounters Muslim refugee women who have suffered sexual or physical abuse. Refugees, in general, carry incredible trauma that needs healing and restoration. Arriving in a safe country does not mean these refugee women have been healed of all their past hurts.



One particular Afghan woman's story broke our hearts. After a lot of abuse in her life, she was deeply traumatized. Out of desperation, she attempted to take her own life several times. Her husband diligently sought help for her. In a foreign land where refugees don't have family or friends, don't know the language or culture, it is a challenge to find help. He found our ministry and told us he knows we are Christian, and he asked us to pray for his wife. He shared, "I am not afraid of other Muslims. This is about my family and the life of my wife, and I believe there is hope in Jesus." His wife began visiting our Bible classes where we prayed together and read God's Word.

Through tears, she shared her story with us, struggling to even say out loud some of the things that have happened to her. As she joined our group looking for healing and hope, we opened the New Testament [Farsi], and slowly read stories like the woman with the issue of blood reaching out in faith for her healing by touching the garment of Jesus. We prayed for her, and she received a New Testament as a gift to practice reading at home and read more stories about the unlimited power of Jesus to heal and restore. She continues to join our Bible study and to work through her trauma. We have taken new steps towards her healing and continue to walk alongside her family in this process, and we do all of this knowing that God's Word is alive and full of power to heal and to restore!"