

NEWSLETTER

Q4NL23

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- + Bibles for 800,000+
- + Ukraine Aid Impact
- + Church Growth in Serbia
- + Bibles in Kazakhstan
- + 55:11 Podcast



HOPE FOR 800,000+

The 2023 Hope Campaign

In September, EEM announced the launch of the Hope fundraising campaign with the goal of providing 800,000 Bibles by the end of this year. The cost to print and deliver 800,000 Bibles and other biblical materials will be four million dollars, but we know the value of sharing the hope of the Gospel with 800,000+ new souls is priceless.

In addition to ever-increasing requests for Ukrainian language Bibles, requests from other regions continue to grow. Altogether, the new goal will provide Bibles in 19 different languages to people living in 24 different countries. Many of these will be going to families and individuals who, due to generations of Communist oppression, have never had a Bible in their homes and have never even seen one in their own language.

EEM's Fall campaign was previously named "Million Dollar Sunday." When it launched, one million dollars was the average goal. In recent years, with both costs and requests for Bibles skyrocketing, the "MDS" language no longer fits the need, so EEM has transitioned its theme to "Hope" as the common idea that continues to surface after hearing how the Bible brings hope to those who receive it.

"It seems every day we hear new stories from our in-country staff or ministry partners on the ground about people who receive Bibles from us and whose lives are transformed as they 'get' the meaning of God's love and forgiveness for them," EEM President Bob Burckle noted. "Not only do they receive the hope of eternity, but it inspires us with the hope that we will see everyone in Eastern Europe and beyond reached with the Gospel of Christ."

The campaign runs now through December 31st. To learn more about EEM's annual Fall fundraising campaign and make a donation, visit eem.org/hope.



IRA

UKRAINE AID IMPACT

Report from New Life Choice Foundation

Greetings, brothers and sisters!

Thank you for your cooperation and financial support.

Thanks to your help, we were able to start a home Bible study group in one village. We evangelized, distributed Bibles, and provided food packages in the de-occupied village of Kozarovichi, Kyiv region. We met a woman from Mariupol, Ira. We had conversations and studied the Bible with her. She had long wanted to find the Church and people who could tell her more about God.

Today, she received water baptism and gave her life to Christ!

Another woman is also preparing to be baptized. Everything started with the distribution of food, for which you gave us money, and now this is the result. We will continue to do God's work and preach the Gospel. We are very grateful for your support and help! We pray for you and further cooperation. May God bless you and your families and reward you a hundredfold.

DOWNLOAD THE PRAY APP

You can find EEM on the Pray.com app--the world's #1 app for daily prayer and Bible-based audio content. Reaching more than 10 MILLION people worldwide through its mobile app and website, EEM is excited to share about what God is doing in Eastern Europe and beyond with an expanding audience. Make sure to download the app & follow our channel. You will find our podcast, videos, and various other resources for prayer and Scripture reading. Visit Pray.com/eem.

PRAY WITH US

As EEM continues to serve Eastern Europe and beyond, we continually seek God's guidance for new projects, protection, new direction, new believers, our staff and more. Will you take time this summer to join us in prayer? Here is how you can pray with us now:

1.

Pray for peace in Ukraine. As the Russian military steps up attacks on Ukrainian cities, infrastructure, and civilian population, the suffering of people is increasing.

2.

Pray for the Ukrainian government to issue a permission to import Bibles in the Russian language in Ukraine.

3.

Pray for our team in Minsk as the Belarus government continues to persecute many people. Please pray for their families' physical safety and strength to continue on mission.

4.

Pray for God to give us wisdom in building relationships with the Bible Societies in Central Asia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, etc.) in order to make the Bible available to everyone.

Photo from
Partner in
Ukraine

PODCAST SEASON 2

Have you had a chance to listen to our latest episodes on Season 2 of the 55:11 Podcast? We are pleased to announce that we have added video streaming to our content, allowing you to watch each new episode on YouTube. We have an amazing lineup of guests from Greece, Ukraine, Croatia, and more in Season 2. You won't want to miss it! Find our podcast at eem.org/5511podcast or stream it on Spotify, Apple, Google, and on any other podcast platforms. We invite you to share these stories and interviews with others interested in hearing about what God is doing in Eastern Europe and beyond!



SCAN
TO STREAM
EEM.ORG/5511PODCAST



CHURCH GROWTH IN SERBIA

Earlier this year, part of the EEM team traveled to Serbia to meet with Drasko Djenovic, EEM's National Director of Serbia. Over the course of a few days, Drasko guided the team to meet nine ministry partners working for Christ in a culture where about 85% practice a very nominal Orthodox faith. Drasko reported that most Serbians do not read the Bible and typically attend worship services once or twice annually to celebrate Christmas and Easter. Serbia has seven million people, but only 0.2% of them (~14,000) are Protestants.

This small minority of believers are finding ways to link arms and work together as much as possible so more people will come to know Christ and have a relationship with him. One bright light in Serbia was Rama, a church leader among the Romani (or Roma) people. Romani are scattered across many countries in Europe and are typically poor, less educated, and marginalized by the mainstream population.

Despite the significant discriminatory

challenges, Rama has helped plant seven churches now with about 1,000 members in southern Serbia. He humbly thanked EEM staff multiple times for the Bibles EEM has provided in their own dialect. As we learned about his family, Rama was extremely proud of his hard-working son, who, against the odds, was hired to work in a Serbian factory. The Romani are typically relegated to the least desirable jobs, such as working to harvest fields by hand or cleaning toilets. Rama was an amazingly humble man. Romani are like modern-day Samaritans, yet this man leads a movement of growing churches among his people in an otherwise resistant culture.

When asked how they have had such growth, Rama said, "Unity, discipleship, and church planting--these are the three things our churches are focused on."

May God's kingdom come, and his will be done in Serbia as it is in heaven. EEM thanks God and thanks donors for making it possible to equip leaders like Rama with Bibles to fan the flame of revival in Serbia.



Photo from
Partner Word
of Life in
Kazakhstan

BIBLES IN KAZAKHSTAN

As a predominantly Muslim country, Kazakhstan law states that Bible distribution can only be done on the premises of a registered church. It is typically very difficult to register as a government-approved church. The process can take years. Despite evangelism and Bible distribution challenges in Kazakhstan, EEM ministry partner Alexander is one of several faithful servants continuing to provide Bibles to a network of churches and believers across Eastern Kazakhstan. Alexander spends much of his time enthusiastically seeking out and connecting with those who are hungry for the Word of God. EEM staff in Kazakhstan report that he is now known for having access to Bibles in this large territory. The number of requests continues to grow as word spreads about free access to Scripture in the area.

Nina (R)
Vadim (L)



THE GIFT OF LARGE PRINT BIBLES

Statistically, EEM does not print and distribute many large-print Bibles. But our vision remains, "The Bible. We Want Everyone To Get It." Jesus came to reach the last, the least, and the lost--and we know that sometimes those with poor eyesight are pushed to the margins in some of the nations we serve. There have been increasing requests for large print in Ukrainian and Russian languages in several countries. These requests have been coming from nursing homes, homeless shelters, rehabilitation centers, and churches working with those with poor eyesight. Thanks to generous donors in partnership with EEM, people like Nina and Vadim have access to Scripture they can read even with their deteriorating eyesight.

Nina is an 82-year-old believer and member of the church. Due to poor eyesight, she could not read the Bible on her own. After being given a

large-print Bible, she read the Gospel of John and the Gospel of Mark in three days. Nina was full of gratitude for a wonderful gift--the opportunity to read the Word of God!

Vadim is an inquisitive seven-year-old boy. Unfortunately, from a young age he has had increasingly poor eyesight that has impacted his ability to read traditionally sized printed books. He has grown to love hearing Bible stories and, recently, he asked for his own large print Bible to be able to read on his own.

One EEM partner from Kramatorsk, Ukraine wrote, "The large print Bible is very popular now. For older people with poor eyesight, this is a balm. One woman almost jumped for joy at the surprise of such a large readable format. We believe that in this partnership a lot of people will come to Christ!"

UKRAINE UPDATES

Report from Partner Benevolent Foundation

A miracle took place during the flood. When the waters of the Dnipro River flooded the streets of the village and completely submerged the occupied areas of Kohanivka and the surrounding settlements, only a few dozen people remained on the rooftops.

One of them was an elderly woman, Klavdiya Ivanivna. She found herself near the attic, which could be accessed by a steep ladder from the yard. She was not alone; her household included a goat, a dog, and a rooster.

The elderly lady made her way up and found herself on the wooden platform near the iron doors of the attic. Having brought all three animals up to the attic, Klavdiya accidentally dropped her key—it fell right into the muddy water that was raging below.

She had to settle on a tiny space, no larger than a three-foot square. On this small spot, Klavdiya sat with the goat, the rooster, and the dog for 12 days! How did she survive 12 days without food on the roof with three animals? And how did they manage, and what did they eat?

A sack of grain floated to them--this seemed unbelievable, but when the water was flowing forcefully, it lifted heavy objects that seemed impossible to float. Klavdiya fed the goat and the rooster with this grain. The goat provided milk. This is how they survived for 12 days.

The milk saved Klavdiya and the dog. On the 12th day, a boat appeared near the house with a local resident named Oleksandr, a fellow believer, who rescued all of them from the watery trap and provided humanitarian aid.

Such a wonderful story should have a moral, right? I suppose one could say, "If you unselfishly care for those in need around you, it just might get you through a flood!"



Tetyana

Report from Partner Resurrection Life

82-year-old Tetyana started coming to church services on the eve of the full-scale invasion. She felt some kind of spiritual burden and was searching for God. Tetyana has a son with cerebral palsy, so he was by her side wherever she went. Time and time again she returned with her son to church as long as she could before it was too dangerous. The spoken Word of God and sermons that they listened to together began to take root in her heart.

In the most difficult time of the war, when half the city left, and the other half hid in the basements from the daily rockets, Tetyana said she remembered everything she had time to hear with the church. She prayed, as she thought, clumsy prayers while she and her son remained in danger. She felt that God heard her prayers and was with her. She was not able to go down to the basement often with her son. Nevertheless, they were both protected, alive and unharmed.

As soon as the Russian invaders left, Tetyana dared to leave the house for the first time to head back to the church.

Since then, she and her son have been regularly attending church and Tetyana gave her life to Christ in baptism. They continued to receive humanitarian aid with food packages. We were able to get to know the leader of her church, Ihor, and share Bibles with this community. Tetyana then received her first Bible in Ukrainian since the war began!

OUR HOPE IS CERTAIN

Often, when a biblical word is used out of context with modern, cultural meaning attached to it, one might think, in the words of Inigo Montoya from *The Princess Bride*, "I do not think that word means what you think it means." One such word is hope, which today is used much like the word "wish," as if there is something that we would like to see happen, but we really don't know if it will.

Biblically speaking, hope is certainty. Different words are used for hope throughout both the Old and New Testaments. The Hebrew word *yachal* is used 48 times in the Old Testament, and in context, it represents expectancy or waiting on God, who we know will deliver. It may not happen in the time frame that we expect, but God will do it.

In the New Testament, the Greek word *elpis* is used, which according to Strong's Concordance, means expectation, trust, and confidence. The understanding is that what is expected is guaranteed. Being able to make that decision to follow Christ often comes as a response of studying the Bible - God's Word. Especially in the Old Testament, we see faith in action tied to the use of the word hope meaning certainty of an expected outcome. Not only do we have hope in God, we have hope in His Word. Psalm 119:114 is a great and well-known example of this use: "You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word."

This is exactly why we must remain committed to getting God's Word into people's hands and hearts. We know in the midst of war, suffering and trials, they can find the hope that is an anchor for their souls in the Bible. Specifically, many individuals in Ukraine have recently emphasized how much they value their Bibles right now, as they explain that nothing else can give them the hope they need to keep going.

When trouble comes, we look for what's real, something to hang onto, and this is what biblical hope is - not some ephemeral fantasy. Because our hope rests in God and His Word.

PEACE OF MIND

Have you considered that God may use you and the decisions you make today to bring that peace of mind and heart to your family after you are gone? Through a well-designed estate plan, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that the goals important to you in this life will continue to be pursued through your family and ministries for years to come.

EEM has partnered with PhilanthroCorp to provide a customized Will or Trust as a free service to you. Since 1997, PhilanthroCorp has been helping Christian families think through issues of stewardship and estate planning from a biblical worldview.

PhilanthroCorp's simple and confidential process will allow you to clearly articulate your desires for your family and the ministries you care about in order to accomplish God's purposes for your legacy.

When surveyed, 3 times more people stated "peace of mind" as the number one benefit to completing an estate plan. This was greater than security, tax advantages, or any other benefit. The satisfaction of knowing that the goals important to you in this life will continue to be pursued through your family and ministries after you are gone provides a sense of completeness and satisfaction to ease your mind and heart.

Whether you feel your estate is large or small, PhilanthroCorp can help you create or update your plan. Eliminate the nagging worry and stress of the unknown about your estate by calling Susan Wylie at PhilanthroCorp at 800-876-7958 ext. 2125. As a result, you will experience ease of mind and heart knowing you have been faithful with all that God has given you now and in the future.



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INFORMATION ABOUT
A FREE ESTATE PLAN



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