

EEM NEWSLETTER



570,000 FREE BIBLES FOR CHILDREN & TEENS IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGES

\$5 = TWO BIBLES, EVERY GIFT IS DOUBLED



»» 2024 MATCHING CAMPAIGN: MARCH 1 - JUNE 30

Scan the QR code with your phone camera to donate, watch our BFK video, or see our campaign progress at eem.org/bfk.



Q2NL2024



BIBLES FOR KIDS

➤➤➤ 2024 MATCHING CAMPAIGN

The Bibles for Kids campaign aims to unite Christians from various global cultures with a unified purpose: to deliver Bibles to children in their own language. Last year's campaign met its goal of distributing 560,000 Bibles. This year, EEM aims to fund the distribution of 10,000 more Bibles, totaling 570,000, to children and teens throughout Eastern Europe and beyond.

"Worldwide, countless children have never even read or owned a Bible," shares Bob Burckle, President of EEM. "This is difficult for us to fathom in the West when we've never known any scarcity of God's Word. Our goal is to give as many Bibles as we can to these little ones, bringing hope, joy, transformation, and salvation to these innocents, desperate for these gifts."

This year's Bibles for Kids matching fund campaign urges Christians around the world to foster the faith of children and teens in Eastern Europe and beyond through prayerful and financial partnership so that 570,000 Bibles will be gifted to 570,000 kids. Donations will be matched to double the impact of gifts, meaning that a \$5 donation would normally cover one Bible, but thanks to the Bibles for Kids' matching gift donors, this contribution will now allow for the distribution of two Bibles.

"We need believers to come alongside us in ministry as we aim to share the Gospel with these young souls, many of whom have never heard the name of Jesus," urges Dirk Smith, Vice President of EEM.

Please prayerfully consider providing God's Word by giving via mail or online at eem.org/bfk.

SCAN ME



**BIBLES
FOR KIDS**

**JESUS SAID, "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN
COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER
THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE."**

MATTHEW 19:14

BIBLES IN ARMENIA: THE PERFECT TIME

»»» REPORT FROM BART RYBINSKI, VP OF EUROPEAN OPERATIONS

For much of 2023, we've had ongoing conversations with the Armenian Bible Society. We sought permission to print and distribute their Bible translation in partnership with Armenian churches. We had about \$47,000 earmarked for this project. In September, we were still negotiating final details of the project, before proceeding with printing.

Then, on September 19th, Azerbaijan launched a surprise attack on the Nagorno-Karabakh region (N-K). The region had an Armenian majority, but was claimed by both countries. Things moved very quickly, and within a couple of days, the Armenian authorities asked for a ceasefire and agreed to disarm and entered into talks regarding the reintegration of N-K into Azerbaijan. One of the demands of the Azeri government was for all residents of the region to become citizens of Azerbaijan. That, combined with the fear of possible repressions and persecution (Armenians are Christians and Azeris are Muslim), caused a massive rapid exodus of nearly all ethnic Armenians from N-K into Armenia proper. Between September 25 and October 19, 99% of the total population fled the region.

During the first days of October, our partners in Armenia reached out to us. They asked if it was possible to redirect the funds from the print project and, instead, purchase all Bibles directly from the Armenian Bible Society stock. This way, they could immediately supply Bibles to the refugees from N-K. After our partners told us how

many Bibles they have and their cost, we were once again inspired by and in awe of our God as we realized that the total would come to just over \$47,000, almost exactly what we had planned for 2023 for Armenia many months before!

Bibles were quickly picked up by churches and distributed to the refugees coming from N-K. But before they did that, they put a sticker on the inside of the cover that the Bibles are a gift from EEM. Most of the refugees left their homes with just a few personal belongings, and they were very grateful to receive a Bible. One lady shared with our contacts just how emotional she has been ever since she left home because she chose not to pack her family Bibles. She was so relieved to have God's Word in her hands again!

“THIS IS EXACTLY THE OPPORTUNITY GOD WOULD CALL EEM TO RESPOND TO.”



BIBLES IN UKRAINE

»»» REPORT FROM SASHA PROKOPCHUK

Dear partners of EEM and friends in the Lord,

Despite the war and many challenges, God continues to bless our efforts in Ukraine. We see our TV programs becoming more popular as more people respond to the Gospel. In February, I chose Christ's words as the central theme of all the sermons, "Don't be afraid; just believe." In Ukraine, civilians and children die almost every day from Russian bombing. The air in Ukraine is saturated with the smell and fear of death, and people are looking for comfort, support, and inspiration. Our TV sermons give people hope, faith, and the love of God. One of the latest programs shared on YouTube received more than 10,000 views and a lot of positive, grateful testimonies. One such review was from a young woman who was deeply moved by God through the TV program and by the free gift of a Bible.

The young woman wrote, **"Once in 2004, there were very difficult circumstances in my life, and I stumbled upon and watched your TV sermons every Sunday. The Lord Himself touched my heart. During your program, you always suggested that anyone could write to you, and you would send a free Bible, and you could also take a Bible course. I first did the course at night because my relatives did not understand and were afraid that I had fallen into a cult, but I knew that I was on the right path to truth. I really wanted that Bible. After the sermon, you shared that the free Bible would be a black paperback Bible. I know some people may think this is funny, but I had a strong desire for a red hardcover Bible that said "Bible" in gold letters in the size appropriate for my bag. When I received the Bible from you, it was hardcover, it was red, it said "Bible" in gold letters, and it was much smaller than the one I saw on TV. I immediately cried because I realized that God Himself gave me this Bible. I finally realized I was not in a covenant relationship with God, and the Lord taught me a lot about this through His Word. But the Lord brought me in His time. Glory to Jesus Christ."**

You are part of this fruitful work in Ukraine. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for your love and care. Our prayers do not stop for peace throughout the world, and you and your families are in our prayers.

SCAN ME



»»» THE 55:11 PODCAST: SEASON 3

Have you had a chance to listen to our latest episodes on Season 3 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. Scan the QR code on the left to watch Season 2 and Season 3. We invite you to share these episodes with others interested in hearing about what God is doing in Eastern Europe and beyond!

UKRAINE AID UPDATE

»»» REPORT FROM NEW LIFE CHOICE

I want to share some joyful news. Tamara Yegorovna Kozyr was baptized. She's an 86-year-old, displaced individual from Kupyansk, Ukraine. She started attending feeding programs and progressed to socializing with other displaced people in the church. Eventually, she began attending services and studying the Bible with others. After six months, she repented and expressed a desire to be baptized.



TAMARA WITH NEW BIBLE

REPORT FROM CHURCH IN BILOUSIVKA

We distributed aid and Bibles to the people of the city of Krasnohorivka and talked with them about the values of eternal life. In places where there is constant shelling, where there is no light, gas, water, where the internet does not work—spiritual literature is very useful for them. That's why they also thanked us for providing not only bread for the body, but also bread for the soul.

BIBLES IN CROATIA

»»» PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS

In Zagreb, Croatia, there is a school for children suffering from hearing loss. As part of the curriculum, students attend religious classes. A few weeks ago, a teacher from the school contacted EEM's Director of Central Europe, Jura Lazar, asking for Children's and Teen Bibles for her students. EEM was able to respond to this special request immediately because of extra Bibles from a previous Bible request. The teachers and children were thankful for this gift. Please pray for more opportunities like this one and for these children's and teenagers' hearts to be touched by Jesus through the Word of God.



STUDENTS IN ZAGREB, CROATIA



BIBLES IN ROMANIA



THANK YOU FROM EEM PARTNER CALLED TO PROCLAIM

Thank you for your donations of Bibles and Christian books! This year, 60,000-70,000 books, including Children's, Teen, and adult Bibles, and character training books, were distributed from house to house and at book stands for those who desired these materials. So many families were touched to receive a Bible which they have wanted but didn't have! We reached so many families. The children's books had an overwhelming impact. This year the demand has increased greatly! Thanks again to the EEM team for the donations of Bible-based materials, especially the adult Bibles. For us, this is Divine help, as the fundamental objective of our work is to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth (Matthew 24:14).



BIBLES IN ROMANIA

PRAY WITH EEM

- Pray for the protection and health of EEM staff members and their families in Europe and the US.
- Pray for peace in Ukraine and protection for all those impacted by the war.
- Pray for our European team working in increasingly oppressive environments.
- Pray for the Ukrainian government to issue permission to print Bibles in Russian.



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FREE PROFESSIONAL ESTATE PLANNING FOR THE EEM FAMILY

Since 1997, PhilanthroCorp has been helping Christian families think through issues of stewardship and estate planning from a Biblical worldview. PhilanthroCorp will help you discern the important relationships and resources you have and recommend the tools that are most effective to ensure your family is cared for and that you leave the legacy you desire.

The process begins with a phone interview, during which PhilanthroCorp asks questions to learn your story, including your wishes and hopes for future generations. PhilanthroCorp then provides tools that can guide you to legacy decisions in the privacy of your home. Based on those decisions, PhilanthroCorp will design a plan that can be implemented by your advisors or by an attorney in their network at reduced rates.

The services of PhilanthroCorp are free to you, and there is no obligation. Get started by calling Susan Wylie at PhilanthroCorp at 800-876-7958 ext. 2125.

EEM TESTIMONIAL

»»» BY DR. LYNN MCMILLON

Nothing is more powerful than the word of God, and EEM has shared millions of copies in many languages for over sixty years. I have had personal contact with EEM since its 25th anniversary in 1986. My wife Joy and I were blessed to share that occasion in Vienna, Austria, with the then-European director Murray and Dorothea Czczotka. We quickly saw how effective EEM was in printing and sharing free Bibles with countless people.

EEM's ministry has grown since those days and now is under the European leadership of Bart Rybinski, a Polish and American citizen who once served as a minister in the Memorial Road church in Oklahoma City, where I was an elder, and at Oklahoma Christian University, where I was Dean of the College of Biblical Studies. Bart and his wife Tamika are two of the very most dedicated Christian people that I know. Bart's ability to make key contacts with important officials in countries has enabled EEM to place many Bibles and other related Bible materials in schools and other places. For those of us who want to advance the kingdom of God by sharing His written word, EEM is a highly reliable and productive ministry.

EEM is a ministry that I deeply believe in. With EEM we can count on our dollars going for exactly what we intend—sharing the good news of God's love and promise of salvation.

Lynn McMillon, Ph.D.
President Emeritus of the Christian Chronicle
Dean and Professor of Bible Emeritus
Oklahoma Christian University



DR. MCMILLON

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THE QR CODE!**

BREAKING NEWS: BIBLES IN PRISONS ACROSS EASTERN EUROPE

»»» BY PRISON FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (PFI)

Prison Fellowship International (PFI) and EEM have signed a new agreement to provide 71,000 adult, 8,500 teen, and 34,500 child-friendly Bibles to seven PFI national affiliates across Eastern Europe, which will be distributed to prisoners and their families in the months and years to come. The organizations, who previously worked together to distribute approximately 15,000 Bibles to PFI affiliates across Eastern Europe, have greatly expanded their partnership to provide Bibles and Scripture resources to graduates and beneficiaries of PFI's in-prison and family programs across the region.

“Ensuring those in prison and their families have access to Scripture and Bible-based resources is at the heart of all we do,” said David Van Patten, Chief Operating Officer of Prison Fellowship International. “Partnering with EEM to get the most relevant, meaningful Scripture resources to those in Eastern Europe is the perfect solution for the growing and complex needs our ministries have there.”

PFI has a long-standing presence in Eastern Europe, with its first chartered ministry signed in the early 1990s, and is now home to ten partner ministries. Both organizations expect a long-lasting partnership and to continue transforming the lives of prisoners and their families with the Good News for years to come.