

Moscow , Novosibirsk , Vladivostok, Sakhalin, Khabarovsk, Altai, Baikal

The Corona virus pandemic has continued to spread in Russia at an explosive pace. Just a few weeks ago, there were less than 3,000 reported new cases of the corona virus in Russia, mostly in the Moscow region. As this GCM update goes to press, that number has swelled to over 400,000!

Russia's Health Ministry reports that over 100 Russian medics have died from the corona virus. According to an unofficial statistic kept by Russian and Belarussian doctors, 305 medics have died from the virus. According to an unnamed source in the Russian health care system, one in three Russian doctors who treat corona virus patients have been told to change (suppress) how they report cases.

Even while this pandemic is spreading and claiming lives, Siberian churches continue to preach the Gospel message from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. We asked Russian church leaders about the impact of GCM's ongoing printing of literature used by the churches to lead their countrymen to faith in Jesus:

VLADIVOSTOK

Bishop Valentin Romanyuk



Pastor Romanjuk, you have received the printed material from GCM. How are you using the materials and do you have enough for your use?

Thank you for printing and supplying us with these tools of evangelism. We use the books constantly in Vladivostok.

We are unable to hold evangelistic



events or services but our members use the books to help reach out to the people. There is a lot of fear right now because of the corona virus pandemic but our outreach continues. At times we run out of books and then receive more from you and continue on. We keep doing as much as we can with what we have.

It's good to receive greetings from so far away on the shores of eastern Pacific Ocean. What is life like there in dealing with the corona virus?

The city has gone very quiet because of the virus. People are afraid. Our prayer is that this fear does not

overcome Christians, but that they would trust in the Lord who protects and heals us, and gives us strength and resilience to get through this hardship. We don't know what God's will is in this pandemic. We know from reading the Bible that God's people have been through various epidemics and pandemics throughout history.

God wants to speak to people here in the far east during this hardship.

KHABAROVSK

Pastor Yevgeny Sun

Khabarovsk is located near the border with China. Pastor Yevgeny, what does your region look like during this

pandemic?

Khabarovsk has about 600,000 residents and the streets are pretty well empty. We've been asked to physically distance and stay at home. Our church services have gone virtual.

We are encouraging people to stay calm and close to God. This will pass soon.

We have received the printed evangelism books from GCM and we've been able to use them to a great extent. You have been an important aid to us, enabling us to preach the Gospel.

ULAN-UDE, REPUBLIC OF BURYATIA

Pastor Sergey Lyahov

When the pandemic broke we were

afraid at first but then we prayed. Our young people began helping the elderly and delivering food to them.

Unfortunately our care center for drug addicts has been closed at this time. There is a bit of trepidation but we still want to help where we can so we wear masks and gloves as we meet people. We can give people the evangelism book at the same time.

Thank you for helping us with this outreach.

NOVOSIBIRSK, SIBERIA

Bishop Vitaly Maksimiyuk

The printing facility Soviet Siberia, where GCM has printed millions of

evangelism books, is located in your city. How has the printing of these materials affected your area?

We use the book more than ever before. We've distributed the books to all our assistant pastors and prayer



group leaders. Everyone has relatives, neighbors and friends who are looking for answers. We also have quite a community of taxi drivers who give the books to their customers.

I want to thank GCM prayer partners for their sacrificial giving and helping us fulfill the Great Commission in this way.

SAKHALIN ISLAND

Bishop Pyotr Yarmolyuk

The Island of Sakhalin is almost 1,000 kilometers long, located on the Pacific east coast of Russia.

We live so far away from the big population centres of our country. For this reason it is a real blessing to receive these books. They have helped us reach many people in our region



with the Gospel. They are like seeds that we plant into the ground and like bread that we can share with people.

We've distributed the evangelism books, New Testaments and The Gospel of John in large print to the elderly and pocket-size books for students,

throughout Sakhalin Island. We have seen many students come to faith in God just prior to the corona virus outbreak.

CHITA, ALTAI REPUBLIC

Pastor Stanislav

I can say that our members are quite anxious nowadays. We've never been through something like this. However, this also helps to strengthen and grow our trust in our Lord. We are also united in prayer.



Right now we cannot hold large services but we gather in homes. We pray together and help deliver food to those who cannot go out of their own homes.

We have received the books GCM printed, with the personal life-changing stories as well as New Testaments. People are afraid right now but these books provide comfort and direction as they read them.

Thank you for the books. Even

though we are separated by thousands of kilometers but God unites us. May He bless you abundantly.

IRKUTSK, LAKE BAIKAL

Pastor Stanislav

There are several dozen churches in our area along the shores of Lake Baikal. I oversee the distribution to these churches as well as to the Yakut and Buryat regions.

Things have come to a standstill during this pandemic but people are really open to the Word of God.

One of our members hands out face masks and an evangelism book to people. Their physical and spiritual needs get served this way.

We also help by delivering food to the elderly. This has opened doors of opportunity to share the Gospel with people who were previously not willing to hear it. We see God's hand in all of this.

MOSCOW

Pastor Ivan Borishevsky

We hear in the news that the pandemic has hit Moscow exceptionally hard.

It is true unfortunately. The epidemic is spreading quickly in our capital city. Church members and pastors have been sick with the corona virus and many of them have passed away because of the disease.

We've never seen such a desire to serve one another before. Also, every

evening at 9 we join in prayer right across Russia.

Many people have lost their jobs and need help. That is why we have mobilized, to help those in need. There are many that need help with feeding their family.

GCM has printed millions of evangelism books, Gospel of John, New Testaments and Bibles for the churches to use in their outreach.

Now more than ever it is an opportune time for the Church to help those in need every way they can: delivering food, giving spiritual support, encouraging and providing physical aid.

I wish your prayer partners will stay safe and healthy through this difficult time. I hope we can join in prayer and listen to what God wants to say to us during this challenging time, so that many people will find the way into the Kingdom of Heaven.



How Can I Serve During A Pandemic?

The corona virus is a thief that is stealing our health, freedom, time tables and our occupation. It robs us of our jobs, our income and our savings. It creeps into our care homes and facilities, hospitals, grocery stores and places of gathering. It penetrates our schools, churches, restaurants and homes. It messes up our vacation plans, weddings and a whole lot more.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy," said Jesus in John 10:10. While Jesus was referring to the Devil, we know that the Devil has many tools in his toolbox—the corona virus is one of them.

But, Jesus also said that this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a testimony to all nations (Matthew 24: 14). There are no exemptions, not even while this pandemic rages in the world.

Great Commission Media Ministries continues with its mandate even as the pandemic continues in places like Russia and the Middle East. Thank you for faithful support as we continue to minister the Gospel during this difficult time. People who are more open to the Gospel at this time than ever before. With your support GCM Ministries can continue with critical ministry. Thank you for your deeply appreciated support this May.

Jesus Changed My Life!

Larissa, who lives in Volgograd shares her story:

This past Sunday was the day I experienced the moment I was born again. I was reading the campaign book at midnight. I read how I can be forgiven for my sins, how I can be born again. When I woke up the next morning I did what it said in the book. I took a

pen and made a list of all my sins. It was a long list.

After I finished the list I read from 1 John 1:9. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Then I did what was taught in the book. I tore up the list and threw it away.

At that moment I experienced a great joy that filled my heart. I felt free of my sins. It was a wonderful experience. I no longer wanted to smoke, drink alcohol nor indulge in promiscuous sex. I was relieved of all my sins by God. After that my daughter came to faith, and I trust that my son will also find his salvation in God.

Be A Part of The Big Picture!

It costs about \$1.00 to \$2.00 to print one 100-page book depending on the number of pages. Even one book will in-

troduce one person to Jesus. The book includes the roadmap to new life in Jesus and the prayer of salvation. Each dollar spent

can mean one more life saved, one more person who would never have known Jesus otherwise.

