

# 44 Years of High-Impact Ministry

CELEBRATING

**44 YEARS**

1976–2020

Great Commission Media Ministries



**OUR WORLD** STILL THIRSTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

**44 YEARS** OF MEDIA MINISTRY IN STORIES AND PHOTOS

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An opportunity to be part of this ministry with your prayers

# Special Edition

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A non-denominational ministry

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**IRR-TV and  
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# 44 Years of the Mighty Works of God

This year Laura and I reflect on 44 years of ministering the Gospel. This year marks the 44th anniversary of an incredible journey together.

It all started in 1976 when we exchanged our vows and tied the knot at the "wedding palace" in Petrozavodsk, Russia.

I was a young man and in love. On the day of our wedding the future may not have been my major concern but the Lord, the Master Planner, was laying his plans.

He foresaw a tiny radio program production facility in a small town in Finland that would become the cradle for program production reaching millions of people in Russia. Eventually the KGB would consider the programs an ideological threat to Soviet society.

The Lord foresaw what we call the "Super Book Miracle," fifty-two animated Bible stories that reached almost 300 million Soviet TV viewers.

## One Oversized Prayer

I remember the days when we, as a small team, got down on our knees to pray for a breakthrough for the Gospel in the atheistic superpower of the Soviet Union.

In the beginning, there were just the two of us operating out of a two bedroom apartment converted into a makeshift radio studio. We produced a weekly half-hour radio program.

There were limits to what a weekly radio program could do in a nation the size of the Soviet Union. Russians needed unhindered access to the Gospel on public television and radio.

## For God So Loved Russia...

We believed with all our hearts that John 3:16 had to include 300 million people in the Soviet Union as well.

However, there was no visible reason to believe that this might happen

any time soon. Russia was a closed country. The Church was persecuted. Bibles were confiscated at its borders. Depending on the region the Gospel was either banned completely or severely restricted.

Yet, if God loved 300 million Soviets then He had to create an opportunity for them to hear the message of His great love.

And that was exactly what God planned to do—beyond comprehension!

The Soviet Empire was to collapse. And in December of 1991 it happened. The iron curtain came down!

So in 1990, a short time before the fall of the Iron Curtain, when we received a phone call from Soviet National Television in Moscow we could barely believe our ears. We were invited to Moscow to sign an agreement to broadcast 52 of the best Bible stories throughout the Soviet Empire.

## Miracle of Miracles

For 52 weeks non stop, millions of homes across Russia watched the Bible unfold in their living rooms.

That triggered an unprecedented response by mail that Soviet postal authorities had never seen. The series also broke all records at Soviet National Television. In four weeks, over one million letters flooded Moscow's Post Office. Response kept pouring in. Eventually hundreds of new churches were planted as a result of the response.

It was a miracle of epic proportions. At that time, TIME Magazine, The Wall Street Journal and many other media reported the story.

## It's Still True Today

Even today, 30 years later we still meet people in Russia, Ukraine and Central Asia, who recall how they found Jesus through that TV series.



So it was not a cliché.

God still loved the world today as much as he did 2,000 years ago! So much so that a whole nation, closed to the Gospel, against all odds, would see and hear the Gospel and respond to the message massively.

## Miracles Continue

It was not the end of the story. The Lord foresaw what came to be known as mega city media saturation campaigns. These are high-intensity, 30-day media campaigns targeting whole cities.

To date, these campaigns have been conducted in 100 major cities, in 15 countries, reaching well over 400 million people.

In this issue, we have sought to tell the story of the God's miracles at Great Commission Media Ministries over the years.

Many of our readers, supporters, intercessors have prayed and contributed so graciously and generously to make this story His story. You have been an integral part of God's plan. The Lord saw your heart for Him and you responded. We are thankful for you.

Today, more than ever I believe that there is no nation for which God would not provide the opportunity to hear the gospel message. God specializes in miracles. In order to do so He needs our availability.

May our collective prayer be that the Lord would continue to use us for His glory and His purposes.

As one evangelist summarized it: Our God-given mission is to plunder hell and to populate heaven.



**1974** At home in Petrozavodsk, Russia. Laura, together with her mom Eeva listen to Christian programs by radio from stations in the West.



**1976** Hannu and Laura were married under the hammer and sickle in the Soviet Union. As a bright university student, Laura came to a vibrant faith in Christ while preparing for her semester exams. Consequently she was expelled from university and persecuted for her faith.



**1974 Rose of Petrozavodsk** Shortly after Laura made her decision to follow Jesus. Soviet authorities labelled her as an ideological enemy of Soviet society.

# Looking Back on 44 Years

## Small Beginnings...

The roots of GCM Ministries (formerly IRR-TV) and the ministry go back to Laura’s family in the Soviet Union and Hannu’s family in Canada.

In the summer of 1976 Laura and Hannu, a Canadian, stood side by side as a married couple in a Soviet “marriage palace” in Petrozavodsk.

The journey to the wedding palace had been a complicated one. Soviet authorities had labeled Laura as “politically not to be trusted” because of her faith in God while Hannu was viewed as a product of the “hostile West.”

For the wedding even to happen at all, the process leading up to tying the knot was laced with suspense, delays, disappointments, interference by the KGB—and a string of unlikely miracles of God.

After dealing with a lot of red tape,

the couple’s exit from the Soviet Union was final. It seemed to resemble Abraham’s journey to an unknown “Promised Land.”

“We did not know where the journey would end or what lay ahead. Our child-like faith relied on God’s guidance,” says Hannu after forty years. “I am grateful that we did not give up and shrink at the obstacles and threats we faced.”

## Super Power Radio Stations

The vision of using media as a tool to take the Gospel to millions in the Soviet Union was born in 1974 in a small underground church meeting in Petrozavodsk.

Hannu had met a young man who had found the meeting place “by chance.”

His story impacted Hannu deeply. The young man explained: “In a

distant village in Russia, 12 people meet in our home regularly. We all came to know Jesus through the radio broadcasts from the west.

“Our village had no church, and we had no knowledge of other believers,” he continued through tears of joy for the “chance” meeting with Hannu and his friends

## “Billy Graham of Russia”

Laura’s moving to the West from her active ministry in the underground church was not an easy decision.

“Hannu, I do not want to move to the West just to be a housewife. My heart burns to serve my country preaching the Gospel,” Laura emphasized even before the engagement ring was on her finger.

There was prophetic flavor in her remark. Not long after, a veteran radio

**1976**

**Laura & Hannu** were married. Earl Poysti, referred to as the “Billy Graham” of the Soviet Union by radio, invited them to join his Russian radio ministry located in Austria.

**1977-1978**

**The Poysti studio** moves from Austria to Stockholm, Sweden. Hannu coordinates a visit to the USSR by Apollo astronaut James Irwin and is exiled for 11 years.

**1979**

**Small beginnings.** Their very first audio cassette in Russian is produced. It was an “audio tour” of the Biblical sites in Israel.



**1981** Hannu ja Laura in their first studio housed in a bedroom in their small apartment in rural Katalina, Finland. This was the start of Russian Christian programming produced in Finland.



**1982** Mother and daughter in their apartment studio. For two years radio programs were produced here before re-locating to a duplex style house nearby that facilitated a larger studio.



**1986** Laura made frequent visits to Russia to visit mother and relatives. Hannu (right) stayed behind. He had been declared "persona non grata" because of missionary activity. (see story below)

# of High-Impact Ministry

evangelist, Earl Poysti, offered a position to Laura. The Church in the Soviet Union regarded him as the "Billy Graham of Russia."

Laura's university education and excellent knowledge of Russian would fill a critical need in Poysti's respected radio ministry, heard by millions of believers in the East. Laura was thrilled to know that she would be a part of the team.

## Transfer to Sweden

The Poysti radio studio facility stationed in Austria was about to move to Stockholm, Sweden.

News of a move to Sweden produced a deep sigh of relief from Laura, since she would experience intense homesickness from time to time. Sweden was much closer to the Soviet Union than Austria.

For Laura and Hannu, three years spent with Earl Poysti provided the training and foundation for later ministry to Russian by radio. However, the road ahead was sure to include new and sometimes intimidating challenges.

## Persona Non Grata!

The Soviet Union had achieved its maximum height as an atheistic Superpower when Apollo 15 astronaut James Irwin visited the Soviet Union. Astronaut Irwin had walked on the moon and had thus outperformed his Soviet counterparts.

On tour in Russia, Irwin spoke of his walk on the moon and also openly shared his faith with thousands of people in Tallinn, Riga, Kiev, Odessa, Kharkov, and Moscow.

Hannu served as the tour guide and link between the group and the

churches.

This visit was viewed as hostile by the Soviet authorities. Rather than openly intervene, however, the KGB followed each move made by the astronaut's entourage.

The tour sent tremors throughout Russia. How was it that an astronaut who had walked on the moon was also a believer in the existence of God?

Students from Moscow State University and other universities flocked to hear the "Man from the Moon." In Odessa, Soviet Air Force officers occupied the church balcony taking notes with pen and paper in hand.

There was a price to pay for accepting to coordinate the tour for this God-believing Apollo astronaut. Clearly, Soviet authorities were not amused. Punishment was on the way!

Hannu was declared "persona non

**1980**

**IBRA RADIO, Finland invites** Hannu & Laura to Finland. They initiate a radio ministry from Finnish soil. A radio studio is built in a small 2-bedroom apartment in rural Finland.

**1981**

**Russian radio ministry** launched from Finland. A superpower transmitter in Lisbon, Portugal broadcasts the first program on Sept. 5, 1981.

**1982**

**The Russian radio ministry** experiences surprising growth. The studio is moved to a duplex style house nearby. More staff are added.

**CELEBRATING**  
**44 YEARS**  
**1976-2020**



**1978 Uniformed police** break up an home worship service in Soviet Union Latvia. Astronaut James Irwin, from the Apollo 15 moon flight was the guest speaker. Irwin shared his faith in Jesus.



**1981 Astronaut** James Irwin invites Laura and Hannu to his home in Colorado Springs. Irwin's visit to Russia and his personal testimony became an unparalleled event in the life of the Church in the USSR.



**1984 Laura's sister** permits to leave Russia. Her family was a great evangelistic radio d

# 1976 - 2020 Celebrating 44 Years of **GOD'S FAV**

grata" and exiled from the Soviet Union for 11 long years.

Expulsion did not by any means mean that God's call on Hannu's life was over. The years of exile gave birth to the radio ministry, the impact of which could not have been calculated in advance.

### Tank Division Neighbor

A new phase began in the summer of 1980 when Laura and Hannu were invited to initiate a new radio ministry from Finnish soil.

This was great news for Laura.

Finland shares 1,500 kilometers of joint border with Russia. Additionally, Laura's mother and sister's family still lived in Russia

Work began in a home-built studio facility, situated not far from a military tank division.

### Communist Media Stages an Attack

The year was 1981.

The first Russian gospel radio program produced by Hannu and Laura was set to go on air on September 5<sup>th</sup>

via a super-power radio transmitter located in Portugal. The transmissions could be heard in millions of homes thousands of miles away in all of western Russian and beyond the Ural Mountains.

The broadcasts had barely begun when Communist media, two leftist newspapers, in Finland launched a counter-attack on the fledgling ministry, publishing brutal headlines and articles aimed at undermining the ministry.

The articles showed how the Soviet authorities regarded these incoming



**1990** The Chairman of USSR State Radio signs a first ever agreement with Hannu and Laura to broadcast weekly Christian radio programs inside Russia.



**1990** The state-run television network of Soviet Latvia agrees to air the Super Book animated Bible series on their biggest television channel. Photo: IRRTV chairman Kai Antturi shakes hands with the CEO of Latvia State Television.

**1983**

**Radio programs** to the USSR over 11 super power short wave radio stations to a potential audience of 35 million listeners.

**1985**

**First ever VHS video cassette in Russian** was produced in Parola, Finland. It was the story of Astronaut James Irwin's flight to the moon and his faith in God.

**1986**

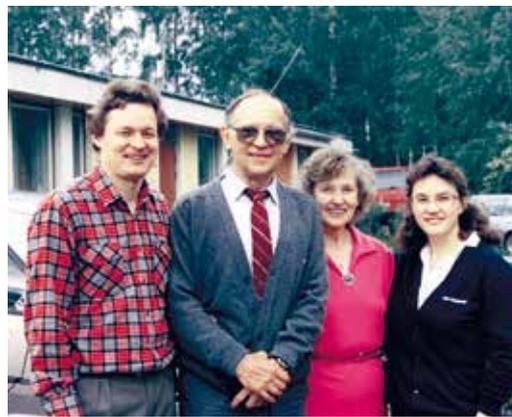
**IRR/TV is founded** in the USA and Canada to support for the ministry of Laura and Hannu (In 2010 IRR/TV re-registered as **Great Commission Media Ministries**.)



**'s family** unexpectedly receive exit visa and settle in Finland. The whole asset in production of a very popular drama in Russian.



**1988 Superbook.** The Bible cartoon series was first produced on a 1-inch VTR that cost about \$90,000. Photo: Our first TV editor John (Juha) Haukka.



**1985 Millions of believers** in the USSR listened to Earl Poysti's radio sermons. Laura & Hannu worked with the Pöysti's in Austria. It was a time of intensive training for their own ministry.

## OUR AND BLESSINGS...

radio programs as dangerous “ideological warfare.”

The articles were hypocritical at best. At the same time, Radio Moscow World Service had invested massively in foreign language broadcasts—its own “ideological warfare”—spewing Communist propaganda around the world and receiving government subsidies of a billion dollars annually.

Despite the attacks, the ministry began to grow. Within three years the network of super power transmitters grew to 11 stations. Included

were TWR sites in Monte Carlo and Guam, FEBC sites in Redwood City, Saipan Island and the Seychelles, a mega power medium wave station in South Korea as well as HCJB stations in Quito, Ecuador and an IBRA Radio station in Portugal.

### The KGB Pays a Visit

According to a BBC study, Russian language broadcasts by shortwave radio were listened to by an estimated 35 million people every week.

Despite the country's postal cen-

sorship, we received occasional letters through the mail. One day, we received a letter with photos from an entire small village that had come to faith in God.

The Soviet authorities did not like the radio programs. It went against the grain of Soviet ideology. We were soon to find out just how much it was against the grain.

In 1988, two KGB agents pretending to radio listeners in Russia visited the studio facility in Finland. They had been assigned to destroy the radio ministry.



**1989** A Historic moment. Executives from Leningrad TV agree to air Super Book, the children's Bible series. Other channels were soon to follow.



**November 1989** Estonia TV agreed to take the children's Bible series in Estonian and Russian languages to millions of viewers. Historic handshake: Chairman Erik Haasmaa and Hannu Haukka.



**1992 Karelia State Television** sign a similar agreement. Photo: Karelia TV executive Anatoly Gordienko with Hannu.

**1987**

The rights for Superbook is granted by CBN, Virginia Beach to IRR/TV to dub the series into Russian. Unknown at the time, the series would air on Soviet National Television.

**1988**

Two Soviet KGB agents are sent to Finland to our destroy the ministry but the agents become believers, confess to the plot and defect to Sweden.

**1989**

IRR-TV is registered in Finland. The Ministry re-locates to the outskirts of Helsinki to 11,000 sq ft of studio and office space.



**1991 Super Book Miracle.** One million response letters flooded the Moscow postal system in Russia. A new record was set for viewership at Soviet Central TV Channel. The PO Box opened for the purpose was never used. The letters were put into containers.



**1992 Soviet Central TV Channel** televised a Superbook program where Laura spoke to her fellow countrymen inviting them to their Heavenly Father just as the prodigal son had done. The response was overwhelming. Two million viewers responded to the invitation.

# "SUPER BOOK MIRACLE" An Unprecedented

But, the protecting hand of God was on the ministry.

The KGB couple was convicted by the Holy Spirit and became believers during their stay at the studio facility.

Long story short, they defected to Sweden and confessed to the whole failed plan. The husband, Vladimir confessed that they had been assigned to our case and had kept tabs on us for 12 years whenever Laura travelled to Russia.

Vladimir told us that the fifth Division of the KGB was afraid of two names among the many international broadcasters. Those names were Poysti and Haukka.

Over time we became aware of how radio broadcasting alone would not be enough to reach Russia. For example, tens of millions of children in the Soviet Union did not listen to radio programs.

Being raised in Russia, Laura knew the situation and carried a burden in her heart to reach children in Russia.

It seemed like mission impossible—

to reach tens of millions of children in the Soviet Union, to tell them about Jesus, especially when smuggling just one children's Bible to the Soviet Union was itself a big enough challenge.

God had impressed upon Laura's heart to use VHS videocassettes. Fifty-two animated cartoon Bible stories would be chosen and translated into Russian and then be smuggled over the border.

We obtained the rights to "Super Book" a product owned by CBN in the United States.

At that time, the ministry we worked for was not interested in doing video productions for Russia. Consequently no funding would be available for the project.

### IRR-TV Is Born

"The lack of funding was a road block, but God opened the way," recalls Hannu. "We were led to new friends of the ministry outside of Finland."

In 1987 Gordon Donaldson, a

mission-minded Alberta businessman from Calgary, along with Laura and Hannu signed legal papers to establish a mission organization called IRR. Because there was no television ministry at the time it was called International Russian Radio.

In December of 1989, Kai Anturi, senior pastor of a large church in Helsinki became a founding member of IRR-TV Finland. Charity laws in Finland required Finnish registration.

### The Bank Manager Smiles

We had no idea what the Lord had planned just ahead. A strategically important work ordained by God was to be born to serve as a force in the spiritual awakening of the Soviet Union.

Regardless of the infamous "Iron Curtain" and other manifold obstacles, still millions in the Soviet Union managed to listen to the gospel message by radio.

"We had a conviction that something in the Soviet Union would open

1990

Super Book airs to 300 million viewers on Soviet TV on May 26, 1990. IRR/TV received over one million letters in response.

1991

Laura is asked to address her people on Soviet National TV, Channel 1. The Soviet Union collapses on December 25, 1991.

1992

Russia State TV signs a contract to air Christian programs produced by IRR-TV Finland. Hundreds of thousands of response letters from over 7,000 cities, towns and villages in Russia are received.



Special closing program inviting them to return to God. The response was overwhelming. Invitation.



1992 On Soviet Central TV Channel 1, Laura told the story of the prodigal son inviting millions of TV viewers across the USSR to return to God after wandering in "the wilderness of atheism" for the past 70 years. Response to the program surpassed all expectations.

## God Move of God in the Soviet Union...

up. Videocassettes were a start but that was no prize by any stretch.

"Impressed by God, we decided to buy the first TV/video editing equipment with a sizable bank loan—and a lot of faith. People close to us thought we had lost our senses buying expensive equipment without a clear reason to justify the spending.

"We marched into the office of the local bank manager.

"For some reason, after looking us over carefully, the bank manager smiled and decided to believe in us. The bank granted the needed loan without guarantees or equity," Hannu recalls with a smile.

In the end, equipment that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars was purchased and production started.

### Believing Is Seeing

Invisible to our eyes was the approaching, almost imminent collapse of the Soviet Union.

History would soon be a witness to

the crumbling of one of the most feared empires in modern history.

God had his hands deep in the events that were soon to follow. Heaven had prepared a plan and maneuvered all the pieces into place. It was awesome to see.

IRR-TV had smuggled the Super Book Bible cartoon series into the Soviet Union and unknown to IRR-TV they had ended up in the hands of a State TV production crew.

A two-minute excerpt from this series was aired on Leningrad TV, which then triggered a call from Moscow, causing the series to end up on national television to the surprise of nearly 300 million viewers.

There seemed to be no limits to the miracles of God.

The response seemed almost like fiction. In just four weeks more than a million letters flooded into the Moscow post office from all over the Soviet Union, smashing all records of the postal system.

According to Soviet TV officials, no program in Soviet television history had received such astronomical ratings.

The letters represented a million stories of real people surging toward the God their country had denied for 70 long years of Communist rule.

### The Prodigal Son Comes Home

Then came another miracle. Laura was chosen to be the "preacher" on a live telecast on Soviet Central Television.

Soviet TV decided to bring a happy ending to the programs that the nation had watched so intently. The closing program was called "Super Book Party."

On live TV, Laura appealed to the people of her home country: "Like the prodigal son, Russia has wandered aimlessly in the wilderness of atheism for 70 years," she said. "It is time to come home to your Heavenly Father!"

Laura's invitation was a direct hit. Again, response swelled to over 2 million letters from viewers.

1993

IRR/TV programs on Russian National Television come under fire. Chairman Lysenko defends his decision to keep the programs on air in the face of stiff opposition.

1994

IRR/TV goes on air with Christian programming over 50 regional TV channels in Russia.

1996

Media Training in St. Peterburg. The vision to train and prepare workers to use the media for evangelistic outreach is cast.



God "speaks the languages of 100 minority nations" in Russia and the CIS. Program production began in 1999.



The Burjats from the shores of Lake Baikal in remote eastern Siberia. Program production began in 2002.



Superbook was an Islamic peo

## The Ministry Gets **A New Home** And Experience

### Russia Sponsors the Programs

For two years Russian State Television Channel Two subscribed to IRR-TV's weekly half-hour Christian program in Russian. IRR-TV produced the programs, and the Russian government paid for the airing of the programs.

Response letters continued to arrive. Our Moscow office was deluged with hundreds of thousands of letters from viewers from over 7,000 Russian cities and villages.

Unseen by the rest of the world, more than 125 Russian minority peoples waited for "the God who speaks

their language."

### The Silent Nations

In 1997, they turned to IRR-TV with a fervent request to have God's Word in their native languages.

Until that time we had produced programs in Russian only. Program production in dozens of additional languages required more equipment costing hundreds of thousands of dollars.

IRR-TV's entire ministry team decided to pray. Again we saw that God was touching hearts.

Within months, amazingly, the money needed came in from a group

of businessmen in Lethbridge, Alberta. The production of minority language programming could begin.

Production commenced in the Kazakh, Kirgiz, Uzbek, Ukrainian, Belorussian, Tatar, Bashkir, Yakut languages. They represented over 140 million people.

### Equipping Russia's Churches

In the Soviet Union Russian believers did not have opportunity to use media for evangelism. Electronic and print media were under strict State control. As the country opened



**2002** Veteran missionary from Israel, Olavi Syvántö was prompted to rally his supporters to our aid in moment of deep need.



**2003 - 2010** Regional media training conferences in Russia and Central Asia. IRR/TV established the Association of Christian Broadcasters in 1998.



Regional media missions training center Petersburg. Teachers came from Moscow Finland. Students came from as far as M

**1997**

#### Minority Nations

IRR/TV starts producing Christian programming in the languages of 20 minority nations of the former Soviet Union.

**1998**

The Association of Christian Broadcasters is registered in Russia. The first national media conference is held in Moscow.

**1999**

IRR/TV abruptly loses ministry center facility. Construction of new offices and studio space begin.



...s produced for the 7 million Tatars, ...ple group, at our studio in Finland.



The Finno-Ugric peoples of the Russian Mari Republic, also received "Super Book Bible" in their mother tongue.



IRR/TV produced programs in languages of many Islamic people groups of the South Caucasus region.

## es New Growth...

up, however, opportunity to use media also opened up. The only problem was that churches did not know how to use media.

There was a definite need to provide training in radio and television for Russia's churches. Training would require funding. Once again our staff prayed.

A comprehensive training program was launched in 1992. To date, more than 3,200 church members have been trained in various aspects of radio and television production.

Complementing the "school of media," annual nationwide media con-

ferences were held in Moscow. The conference transmitted the vision of sowing and harvesting using electronic media.

Without television and radio, the Church would have been sidelined in Russian social life.

### Regional TV Channels Open Up

In the post-Soviet era, other national TV channels became available. TV1 in Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Belarus, and Ukraine's State channels were eager to take Christian content programs.

Ukrainian State TV accepted IRR-TV programs for telecast to 45 million

people in the Ukraine.

Scientists from the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences sent a written appeal to Ukrainian TV authorities to focus on the offering of "quality programs" with IRR-TV viewed as a benchmark. "IRR-TV's programs serve to heal the soul of the people," the professors wrote.

### Trials Bring New Growth

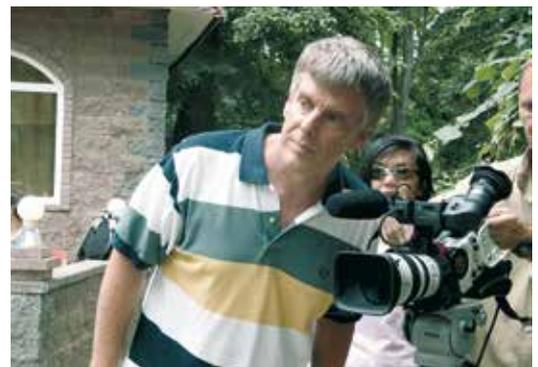
By 1989 the ministry of IRR-TV in Russia had grown to unforeseen proportions. That, in turn, caused discomfort and jealousy in the Finnish umbrella organization that housed the



...r in St. ...w and ...l Mongolia.



IRR/TV's nationals in media. The training events were attended by students from the remote Siberian region of Yakutia as well as Khanty-Mansiysk in the Ural mountains.



Over 3,000 Christians were trained to produce programs for radio and TV ministry in Russia, Ukraine and Central Asia.

**2000**

IRR/TV moves into 11,000 sq ft of new office and studio space. Christian TV programs on Ukrainian National Television Network begins.

**2001**

Satellite television programs start to air to Israel and 20 other countries in Asia. IRR-TV Jewish ministry in Russia is initiated.

**2002**

Arabic television ministry is born. TV programs in the Arabic and Farsi languages are dubbed and broadcast to countries in the Middle East from Morocco to Afghanistan via satellites.



In eastern Siberia the mega city campaign in Krasnoyarsk shook that city. Electricity was cut at the local TV station on the first day of the campaign. Thousands received prayer after hearing the Gospel during the 30-day campaign.



Mega city campaign in the southern Russian city of... premier showing of the *Jesus* film in theatres all around... they had made a personal decision accept Jesus...

## Then Came High-Impact **MEGA CITY MEDIA**

ministry of IRR-TV.

Then came devastating news. The umbrella organization announced that cooperation between the two organizations had abruptly ended.

As a result IRR-TV lost the right to use the premises where their production equipment was located.

But the Lord of the Harvest knew that in order for the ministry to grow to its God-given potential, IRR-TV would need to part with the Finnish denominational organization.

Massive change was set in motion at IRR-TV.

The Board of Directors decided to build a new studio and office space consisting of 11,000 square feet. Providentially, warehouse space had been purchased three years earlier, easing the

pain of the sudden and necessary shift.

Without any capital funding, though, the decision to develop this space at the cost of about one million dollars was a bold step of faith, to say the least. IRR-TV had never needed a building fund, and there was no donor base in Finland itself.

Yet God provided protection over the ministry at a time when it was so vulnerable. A friendly mission organization in Finland came to the rescue and threw a lifeline. The Foundation made an investment of several hundred thousand dollars, making it possible to manage mountain-sized economic challenges during the next year, recalls Hannu.

Additional help came from Friends of Israel in Finland, enabling the min-

istry to survive the challenges of the next year until it found solid ground beneath its feet and a new circle of friends started to materialize in Finland.

While our Canadian partners in Vancouver and Lethbridge were vital for the funding of large scale projects in Russia and elsewhere, the Finnish constituency was vital for covering staff salaries and provision of the headquarters facility.

In May 2000, the newly refitted warehouse, now our ministry home located 100 miles from the Russian border was inaugurated. IRR-TV had finally arrived “home.”

The crisis may be compared to a butterfly as it hatches from its cocoon. It struggles in order to become the beautiful creature it was meant to be.

2003

Historic mega city campaigns begin in Russia. The first city to receive a campaign was Volgograd in South Russia.

2004

Month long campaigns in major Russian cities continue. IRR/TV produces TV programs for millions of children in India.

2005

Humanitarian aid is collected for 40 children's prison camps in Russia. In the Middle East a hundred million Arabs watch IRR-TV programs every week.

2006

Mega city media campaigns continue in Russia. Broadcasting of SUPER BOOK begins in Laos. Office space is added to our ministry center in Finland.



Voronezh. Giant billboards advertised the pre- and the city. Thousands of people indicated that as Lord.



A mega city campaign in Arkhangelsk located near the Arctic Ocean. Thousands of people were reached with the Gospel during the campaign. Hannu Haukka views one of the large campaign billboards.

## SATURATION CAMPAIGNS...

Something new and beautiful came out of this transformation process. IRR-TV was finally in a place, where God was free to bless and expand its impact—and not only on the harvest fields of Russia.

### Targeting Mega Cities

Step by step God prepared Great Commission Media Ministries for a considerably broader role in world evangelism. The last 16 years have been exciting years for our ministry. Hannu and Laura's book, *Only Believe*, covers the events of these years.

In early 2002, God began expand our horizons to reach Russia's major cities.

The idea was to choose and showcase powerful transformation stories

in the secular media of a given city. It would be a high-intensity campaign lasting 30 days. The key tool for the Church would be the 100-page book consisting of the same stories of transformed lives as well as a road map to new life in Jesus.

The list of media was to be comprehensive: prime time television, radio, billboards, outdoor advertising, ads in buses, trains, taxis, newspapers, the Internet, and social media.

### In Stalingrad

The campaign would provide churches with unprecedented publicity and would bring the gospel message directly to their city.

Call centers would have banks of phones operating around the clock tak-

ing requests for the campaign book.

There were 40 mega city campaigns in Russia.

It was not, however, by chance that Volgograd was the first city of choice. Volgograd was a mega city of particular significance in South Russia.

The campaign was truly historic. Russia had never seen anything like it. God's blessing rested on the month-long campaign. The secular press wondered aloud how now all of a sudden 50,000 city dwellers had abruptly appeared in heretofore empty churches.

### Cardiologist Turns Pastor

In Volgograd, thousands of city residents indicated that they had made a decision of faith during the campaign.

The evangelical churches in the

2007

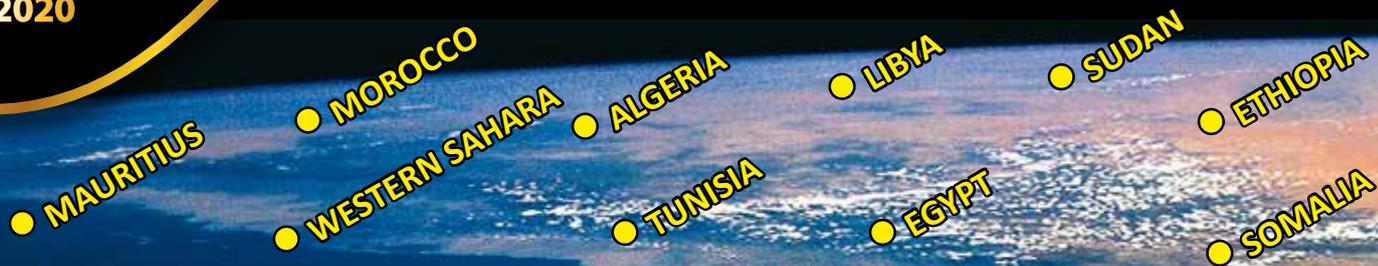
First media campaign conducted in Israel. High-impact campaigns in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan reach 40 million people with the gospel message.

2008

Russia clamps down on evangelistic activity. City campaigns face stiff opposition. Russian Orthodox Church attacks evangelicals through the media.

2010

Trinity Western University confers Hannu Haukka with honorary Doctorate of Humanities. IRR/TV is renamed as Great Commission Media Ministries.



city experienced growth. There were churches in which the number of visitors doubled or even tripled.

*New Life* Pastor Aleksey Rudenky told us his congregation had set up 20 new house church groups as a result of the campaign.

A well-known cardiologist at the central hospital told how the campaign had changed his life.

The doctor’s story was seen on television channels. The next day, he could not continue his normal responsibilities as other hospital physicians and nurses stopped the cardiologist in the hallways to hear more of his story. This phenomenon continued, day after day, until finally, the situation led to

the cardiologist leaving his job at the hospital to become a pastor.

**From The Arctic Ocean**

Every city had its own story.

In the Ural Mountains, in the Islamic Republic of Bashkortostan, five colonels of the Ministry of Justice and other officials came to faith in God.

Thousands of residents of the city of Ufa responded to the campaign message. Half of those who requested intercession belonged to the Islamic Bashkiri people group.

The northern cities of Arkhangelsk and the Karelian city of Petrozavodsk saw their own campaigns. The Air Force and the mafia called to request

their copies of the campaign books, with the transformation stories.

In city after city we saw the demand for campaigns grow. Resistance too increased at the same time. The Russian Orthodox Church began to persecute those involved in city campaigns. The campaign in Voronezh reached more than one million inhabitants in the city. During the campaign more than 16,000 residents prayed the prayer of salvation. Furthermore, 20,000 more asked for additional information.

**“Jihad!” A declaration of War!**

The campaign in the Islamic city of Almaty, Kazakhstan, with a population



**2011**

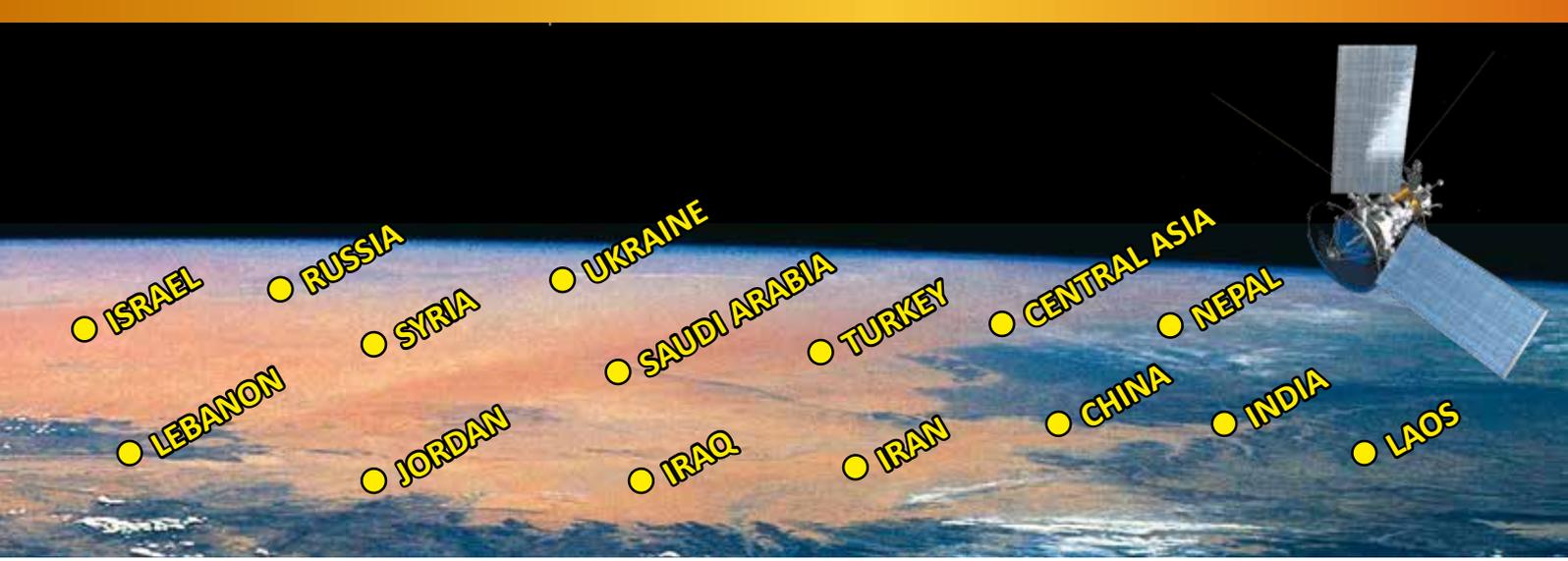
First mega city campaign held in Finland. The month-long campaign becomes a catalyst for 5 additional province-wide campaigns.

**2013**

Five million high-impact campaign books are requested by churches in Russia. GCMC starts a massive printing operation in Novosibirsk, Siberia.

**2014**

Ukraine. The Black Sea port city of Odessa gets a mega city campaign amidst a Russian military invasion in the region.



of two million, solicited a sharp response from fundamentalist Islamists. The campaign website was hacked on the first day of the campaign.

The word “Jihad!” (Holy war) was written in big, blood red letters across the whole length of the home page. Nevertheless, the site was detoxified and re-opened the next day.

Though surrounded by the presence of Islam, the churches had unprecedented visibility in television media resulting in growth in many churches.

Kazakhstan State TV aired life-changing stories at prime-time to more than ten million viewers.

Kazakhstan’s presidential inner

circle called and suggested cooperation to solve youth problems in the city. During the campaign, substance abuse and drug-related halfway houses filled with people asking for help.

**Star World Reaches Israel**

In 2002, Star World TV signed a contract to bring programming to a million homes in Israel. The programs were also seen in 22 other countries of the Middle East.

According to Star World executives, the channel boasts 100 million viewers. However, it was not yet time for a mega city campaign in Israel. The Holy Land would be on the agenda in a few short years.

**Islamic World by Satellite**

The outreach of GCM Ministries has expanded in leaps and bounds in the Middle East and North Africa.

Hani Henein from Egypt joined the IRR-TV team in Finland in 2001 and launched our Arabic television ministry. Soon program production expanded to include Farsi, Turkish, Somali, and South Sudanese.

Arabic-language programs produced at the Finland facility are now seen daily on fifteen satellite channels.

Satellite channel ratings indicate that the programs are watched by 100 million people every week in Arabic alone. Massive feedback is indicative of the effectiveness this outreach.



2015

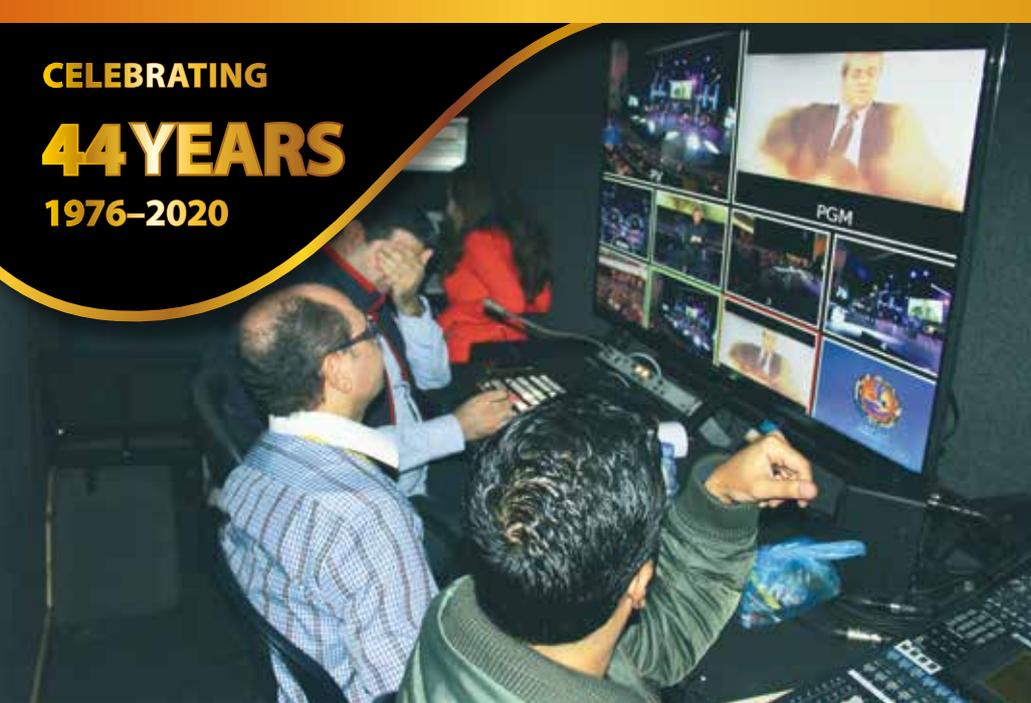
Laura Haukka receives the International Ministry Award from National Religious Broadcasters in the USA for 40 years of uninterrupted media ministry to Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia, Finland.

2019

GCM Ministries conducts campaigns in Africa. Thousands of South Sudanese respond to the Dec. 2018 Power to Change campaign in South Sudan. Dar es Salaam campaign in November.

2020

GCM Ministries celebrates Hannu's and Laura's 44 years of media ministry. Campaigns in East Ukraine and Mongolia in 2020. New Ministry Centre provides for increased evangelism.



The impossible had happened. Millions of Lebanese watched 3 special evangelistic events on **Lebanon State TV**. Technicians followed the evening events in tears. God had intervened and opened an unprecedented door of opportunity.



The Central Concert Hall in Beirut. The venue was fully attended. Many were seeking God's power through the Church, this was a dream come true.

## Witnessing **MIRACLES OF GOD** in the Islamic

### Historic Campaign in Iraq

In 2013, we were invited to discuss the possibility of a media campaign in land of Old Testament Nineveh. Erbil is located 80 km (50 miles) from the ancient ruins of Nineveh (now called Mosul).

No one on the team expected a media outreach to be carried out in hostile Iraq, but God has the keys to every nation even in areas of terrorism and war.

There was one big challenge. Authorization for such an outreach needed to be given by the Supreme Commander of the Security Forces of Northern Iraq. This man was a Muslim.

Upon hearing that the message of the campaign was forgiveness and reconciliation, the supreme commander

granted permission.

“This land is filled with violence, killing, hate, revenge, bitterness. There is no message more needful at this time than yours,” he said. “If the message is forgiveness and reconciliation, then conduct the campaign. We will provide for your security.”

### “I am in love with Jesus!”

The impact of the campaigns was felt in other Iraqi cities as well. Pastors from Sulaymaniyah and Baghdad requested campaigns. Thanks to satellite coverage an estimated 60 million people in the Middle East followed the campaign on TV.

A member of the presidential fam-

ily called the Finland office, and told us he had ordered the campaign book. It had been his daily devotional every day in the past year. He ended his call by saying: “I want to tell you that I am in love with Jesus.”

### The Lebanon Miracle

Lebanon went down in the annals of the history of Great Commission Media Ministries as an astounding campaign. Beirut will remain a bright star among all the cities where we have ministered.

Leading pastors in Beirut invited GCOMM to discuss the possibility of a mega city campaign in their city.

To be sure, there were doubts about the possibility of such a campaign in



Mosul, the stronghold of ISIS in northern Iraq is 80 kilometers from Erbil, where GCOMM conducted a campaign in 2013.



Campaign ads were prominently displayed inside and outside shopping malls in Erbil.



was full to capacity. 4,500 people  
at could change their lives. For the



Approximately 1.5 billion people live in the Islamic world. The greater part of them do not know that there is a God who loves them and proved it by sending his only son, Jesus Christ, into this world to reconcile them to him, through the sacrifice on the cross at Golgotha.

## world...

Lebanon. Everyone involved fully knew that Hezbollah ruled the country.

In a way, the situation resembled that of Jonah in the Bible. God told Jonah to conduct a mega city campaign in the great city of Nineveh. Jonah fled in the opposite direction. Why? Fear of possible consequences? Or maybe an intense desire to see his enemies face judgment rather than receive mercy?

So after some renewed negotiations with Jonah, in rather unique circumstances Jonah came to the conclusion that the Nineveh campaign wasn't such a bad idea after all.

Jonah went and the whole city repented. Jonah's delayed faith was rewarded.

### The Grand Surprise

God rewarded our collective step of faith as well. The 30-day media campaign was planned to close with a three-day series of evangelistic events or concerts in the Central Concert Hall of Beirut.

The hall was packed to overflowing each night.

The big surprise came just before the start of the first concert. A representative from Lebanon State TV called to ask for permission to televise all three evening events live, prime time, with no censorship.

In light of the fact that no money could buy airtime on Lebanon State TV, the magnitude of the miracle was huge!

The full gospel message for two and a half hours every night was seen in every living room in the country. That is every Hezbollah, Shia Muslim, and Sunni Muslim household. No church or group of churches had ever even remotely come close to that kind of outreach.

Together, we witnessed the writing of a historic moment in missions in the Middle East.

It meant that the best singers and the best evangelists in the Middle East preached the Gospel for two and a half hours for three consecutive nights without censorship to millions of Hezbollah, Sunni Muslims, Shia Muslims, and Druze homes. Not a single



People were calling from all walks of life. Many wanted to experience the power to change in their lives.



Over 2 million Syrian and Iraqi refugees live in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. The gospel message reached the refugee camps.

**CELEBRATING**  
**44 YEARS**  
**1976–2020**



Campaign ads in Haifa were visible on buses, billboards, newspapers, radio and social media.



Jewish boys pray to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.



## WITNESSING GOD'S MIGHTY WORKS IN A

household was left untouched.

Inside the concert hall, thousands of people responded to the message, seeking change and responding by coming forward to the altar to receive prayer.

Only Heaven knows all that happened in the homes of millions of Lebanese and how lives were impacted during those three nights of live telecasts.

Where was Hezbollah in all of this, one might ask? Hezbollah representatives showed up at the closing concert. When it was over, they approached the leading pastor and asked who was responsible for arranging the campaign and where did the money come from. There was no violence.

Another milestone was 2008.

The idea of a major media campaign in Israel seemed a very remote

thought. Some local Israeli pastors warned that the whole idea of a media campaign would be a waste of time and money: "Israel is rocky soil. No one will respond. The call center won't get any calls!"

### Targeting Israel's Mega Cities

We targeted the cities of Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, the authorities warned against "proselytizing" using a book. It could be seen as illegal.

The campaign drew over 70,000 calls to the call center.

To the amazement of all, Dan Sered, our manager for the Hebrew language campaign was called to appear on prime time television on the most watched television channel in Israel. Dan gave his testimony for 15 uninterrupted minutes. He talked

about his coming to faith and why he believed that the Jewish Scriptures, the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah were fulfilled in Jesus.

The campaign aroused great interest in the press as well. The prestigious Israeli newspaper *Jerusalem Post* did a six-page story complete with photos on the Messianic movement in Israel. It was a first in Israel. The publicity was unprecedented.

A veteran missionary whose life work is dedicated to working in Israel, said: "This campaign has reached the news in Israel, and now they are talking about the name of Jesus in the national media." For the first time, Israeli television has taken an interest in Messianic Jews.

In Jerusalem campaign ads adorned the sides and back of 200 buses. Ads



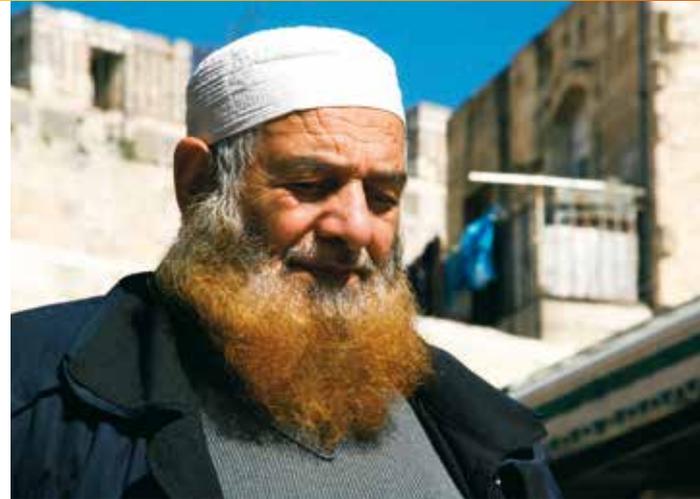
A Sadhu priest in Nepal. A Sadhu is a religious ascetic or holy person. The vast majority of Sādhus are yogis.



Hundreds of churches joined hands during an historic mega city campaign in Kathmandu, Nepal. Over 40,000 Hindi families responded to the Gospel.



The symbol of Islam in Old Jerusalem. This is the Al Aqsa-mosque on the Temple Mount, the historic site of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem.



The Palestinian population living in Old Jerusalem heard the Gospel in Arabic during campaigns.

## SIA – Awesome harvest fields of the Orient...

in Tel Aviv presented the message of Jesus in outdoor advertising. Radio stations and daily newspapers also proclaimed the possibility of change through Jesus.

Nearly 100,000 calls have been logged to date. New believers have found faith through Jesus and new congregations have been planted.

### God Moves in the Himalayas

The ministry continued to grow. Word of the mega city media campaigns spread to several countries in Asia.

We were busy enough elsewhere in different countries. Yet it seemed that the Lord was leading onto Asia's vast harvest fields as well.

God's greatest miracles occur amidst great uncertainties and in unlikely places.

The year was 2011.

Uncertainty surrounded the idea of a media campaign in the Hindu nation of Nepal.

No one in the capital Kathmandu could guarantee that a media campaign could be held in the city. Who in the Hindu state would grant permission to put the message before the eyes of millions of Nepalese?

But many pastors were willing to take a chance—to take a step of faith.

Our faith was rewarded. From day one all the phones in the call center in Kathmandu rang non-stop. Fifteen phones were not enough to handle the volume of incoming calls.

Calls came from all over, from the slopes of the Himalayan Mountains, from villages with a single community phone, people requested the book on

transformation stories. In many villages, there were no mobile phone networks.

By the end of the 30-day campaign 40,000 Hindi families in Nepal had responded to the campaign message.

According to Nepal State TV, fifteen million people watched the campaign's TV programs during the month-long outreach.

Among those calling in great numbers were members of the Nepalese army and rebels from the Maoist training camps.

Nepal's Minister of Defense had seen the campaign ad for the book after watching the evening news.

The next day he walked into a Kathmandu church and received his own copy of the book. He remarked that he needed change just as those in the book had.



Pastors in Chennai praying over eighty thousand response forms in Chennai.



An unprecedented harvest of 95,000 respondees in the central Indian city of Hyderabad, a city of 10 million.



## MEDIA CAMPAIGNS IN EUROPE...

Nepal’s Minister of Internal Affairs ordered the campaign book as well.

The Chancellor of the University of Kathmandu saw the book ad on television and called the call center to announce that he would end his life if we could not in three minutes give him a good reason to live.

The GCM Ministries campaign manager personally met and talked with him at length. Consequently, the Chancellor’s life was saved.

The campaign shook the city of Kathmandu and the Gospel became a topic of discussion in the streets and homes just as it had in Jerusalem in the Acts of the Apostles.

Campaign manager Pradeep reported: “We have received so much feedback on how almost every church is experiencing an influx of new people as a result of the evangelistic campaign.”

The Hindu language campaign website was visited 600,000 times.

The most demanding campaigns were to be held in the mega cities of India.

### India—A Massive Harvest Field

In Chennai, a city of about nine million, campaign phones rang 94,000 times.

Presiding Bishop Mohan of 8,000 Assemblies of God churches noted: “This is a new way to evangelize and reach the people in India. There have been many campaigns that have spent much money to gather people for one event. But in this campaign, people were reached where they are.

“I firmly believe that the time for traditional outdoor evangelistic crusades is over in India. This kind of evangelism is touching large numbers of people and helps to direct them to the churches and delightfully, it is on their initiative.”

Bishop Mohan pastors a church of 40,000 members.

In 2013 GCM Ministries conducted its biggest ever campaign in the Indian city of Mumbai, with 22 million inhabitants. With 400 phones in the call center, the volume of calls rose to almost 400,000. Altogether 1,700 participating churches contributed 15,000 volunteers to handle the tremendous response and immense book distribution.

Campaign books were printed and distributed to hundreds of thousands of people. The sowing of the Gospel reached massive proportions in the giant city of Mumbai.

The highest impacting media in Mumbai was television, which took the transformation stories to more than 100 million people living in the state.

### The "Laos" Miracle

God had the keys to unlock the tiny, forgotten Southeast Asian nation of Laos as well.

During the 1990s, Vongvali, the





daughter of the President of Laos returned to communist Laos from the Soviet Union with a personal souvenir. While studying in the Moscow region she had found faith in Jesus.

Because Vongvali had a burden to reach the children of Laos she decided to ask her father for a personal favor, to have permission to air a TV series of her choice on state television. Her wish was granted. The daughter chose the Super Book series seen on Soviet television. Vongvali contacted GCM Ministries seeking permission and partnership in producing the Lao version for her country.

For the first time in Laos, children watched 52 choice Bible stories on Laos state television.

Thousands of children came to know Jesus through the TV programs. Many government officials came to know the Lord through the testimony of Vongvali.

Finland was the recipient to a major media campaign held in the capital, Helsinki.

Ads on buses, trams, at bus stops, lamp posts, posters, giant billboards, bridge banners, radio, television, the internet, Facebook, and a variety of brochures created unprecedented visibility for the Gospel.

Transformation stories were viewed on YouTube tens of thousands of times. Over 130,000 visitors logged into the campaign website.

Secular television and daily newspapers took the message of the campaign to the nation.

The book on transformation stories was distributed to all members of Parliament. The Ministry of Internal Affairs requested books to be given to their officials.

### **Helsinki , A Catalyst For Europe**

The Helsinki campaign became the catalyst for many similar campaigns touching whole provinces of Finland.

Invitations from many other European capitals have been received including the capitals of Sweden, Norway, Greece, Estonia, Latvia, Serbia,

Poland, Turkey, Armenia, Tbilisi.

This year as we celebrate 40 years of ministry we celebrate God's amazing grace. This has been an incredible journey in missions.

The Lord has counted us worthy to serve him in a wonderful way on his harvest fields in this generation.

We wish to express our warmest appreciation, to say thank you to our ministry friends who have walked with us, planted and harvested with us, prayed for GCM Ministries, and have sacrificially given of their finances to make all of this happen.

### **He that Hath Received Much...**

Because of this partnership, thousands upon thousands of people have found personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Together we have toiled and together we have reaped the great harvest. God has entrusted so very much to us. Therefore, much is also required of us. May the Lord of the harvest bless you abundantly!



CELEBRATING  
**44 YEARS**  
1976-2020

# Mega City Media Camp



**2003 VOLGOGRAD** – GCMM/IRR-TV first mega city campaign was held on the shores of the Volga river in Volgograd. Church attendance soared and the news media reported that 50 thousand people had found their way to a church and were seeking God. Thousands of people received Jesus as Lord. Many public services were held during the campaign. This response exceeded all expectations of local believers and pastors.

#### **2004 PETROZAVODSK**

This campaign reached almost a million people in the Northwestern Republic of Karelia. National TV telecast hundreds of campaign programs, news and ads during the month-long event. Thousands of Petrozavodsk residents, including defence ministry officials, mafia members and government officials called the call center and requested a copy of the campaign book containing well-known local Christian celebrities life-changing story and the steps to salvation.

At special services over a thousand people indicated they made a decision to follow Christ.

# Campaigns in Cities of Russia



**2004 UFA** A city with a population of a million people, located in the Ural mountains, heard the campaign message: "God gives you the power to change". Thousands called the call center. Five Colonels from the Ministry of Justice committed their lives to Jesus.

**Mega City Media campaigns are a God-given, cutting-edge tool** for the Church today. Prior to these campaigns churches were effectively sidelined from the social marketplace. But the campaigns have provided the Church with high visibility, becoming a constructive force, a "salt and light" of this world.





**2004 PETROZAVODSK** – Long after the campaign the fruits of our labor were still being gathered. At a hotel in Petrozavodsk 300 people gave their lives to Jesus.  
 RIGHT: Joy at a baptismal service in Volgograd.



**2005 ARKHANGELSK** – The campaign came to the shores of the White Sea. Thousands were searching for God in Arkhangelsk, Severodvinsk and Novodvinsk. 600,000 residents heard the gospel message. Miraculously, a young schoolboy received the ability to read in a moment as he pronounced the message on the giant billboard: "God gave me the power to change..." The boy's mother came to faith in God.



**2007 NIZHNI NOVGOROD**

A mega city campaign was held in the fourth largest city in Russia, with a population of 4 million. The police and state security among others, requested campaign books for distribution among their staff.



# h 70 million People in Russia



## CHILDREN'S PRISON CAMPS IN RUSSIA

2003-2015 GCM Ministries has provided humanitarian aid and the gospel message to 40 children's prison camps in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Hundreds of boys and girls have made decisions to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. Prison wardens and guards responded to the Gospel as well.

## RESPONSE FROM 44 YEARS OF RADIO & TV MINISTRY:

### IVANOVO

*I am 21 years old. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart because it was through your programs that I found Jesus Christ, and he found me. I cannot imagine living without him anymore. Thank you! I am so happy, I found the right path in life and now I want to show others the way.*

**Anton**

### KOMSOMOLSK

*I experienced a power that swept my being—a supernatural power that I yearned to receive for so long now. You taught me how to overcome challenges and to be set free of sin. I only regret that it took me so long to find God.*

**Alex**

### KURSK

*I watched your programs with tears in my eyes and a deep respect for you. I live with so much sorrow and worry. But when you speak, I believe in something I didn't believe before. My life has changed completely and you gave something I never had before. Now I want to read and study God's Word.*

**Galina**

### KAZAKHSTAN

*My daughter and I watched your programs on TV. God used you to save me and my daughter Anna. Praise God! Thank you dear friends! God's blessings on your ministry.*

**Vera**

### TURKMENISTAN

*Until now I have not believed in God. I've had difficulty believing in him. But now I am very interested because of your radio broadcasts. Through your programs my faith has come to life. We don't have anyone who can help us. I want to believe in Jesus. My heart has a deep thirst to know God.*

### UDMURT

*I am a man who wants to know Jesus. I just returned from serving in the army and now I ask you to help me find the right path to God. He is my only hope. Please do not stop your programs, keep sending them.*

### LATVIA

*I am writing to you immediately after seeing your program. I have tried committing suicide twice but my life was spared. I am 16 years old. I have never prayed to God. Now I am praying. Please send me the book that you mentioned in your program. I am waiting for it anxiously.*

**Svetlana**

## RESPONSE FROM 44 YEARS OF MEDIA MINISTRY:

### MOSCOW

*I am a prior suicide candidate. My gun was already loaded and cocked when I saw your program the first time. I was severely depressed when I decided to put an end to my misery. God saved me through your program. He saved me from such sorrow that I can't imagine as I think back on it. My life has changed so much that I can hardly find words to explain it.*

### CENTRAL ASIA

*I cried throughout your program. I have been an atheist all my life. Now I finally realize how lost I am. I want to get out of this darkness. Your message reached my inner most being and moved me.*

*I have lived as a prostitute for the past two years. Your programs helped me find Jesus Christ. You saved me from destruction. God's love and grace for my life is immeasurable. Praise God and thank you.*

### SIBERIA

*The family I was born into was not a believing family. I knew nothing about Him and I did not believe in Him. I trusted in myself only. One day my sister Lena and I watched your program on TV. I watched every one of your programs. Then came the moment when I asked God to come into my life. I prayed: "Lord, if you are real, give me faith to believe." It was a cry from my heart. I realized how much I need Him. You sent me two books. After reading them I accepted Jesus and my life changed—I received a new life and was set free! Now my father, mother and sister have come to faith in God.*

#### Svetlana

*I am 14 years old. I am not afraid of pain. I have been a bad person since I was a toddler. When I listened to your program a new sensation swept through my being. I regretted all the sorrow and misery I caused others. An unexplainable power has changed my life around.*

#### Igor

### LIPETSK REGION

*I have taught in schools for 40 years now. My husband and I have come to faith through your programs. We took our first steps of faith toward God with your guidance.*

#### K. ja A. Barmin

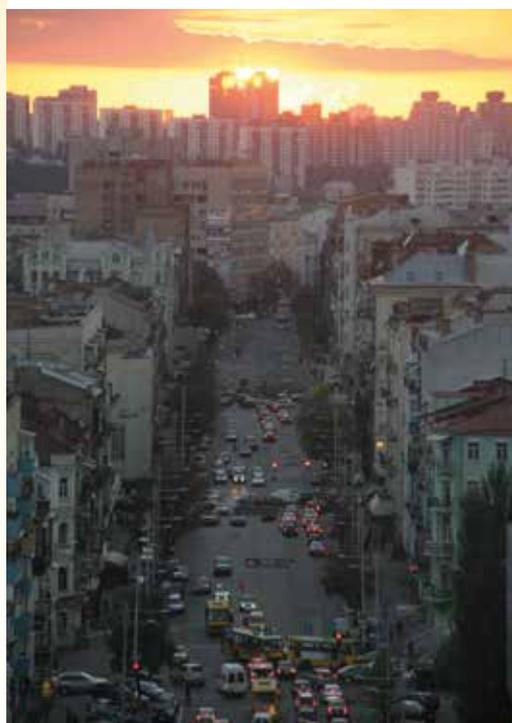
### VOLGODONSK

*I am in grade seven. I received Jesus as my Savior just recently. Thank you for sending me some literature.*

#### Lena

### 2007 KIEV

GCOMM mega city campaign stirring attention of 5 million. Ukrainian TV in its second day, in a reach estimated 25 million viewers on TV through to the city.



### 2007 KIEV

Bishop Mihail Panochko representing 2,400 Ukrainian churches said: "This campaign stirred the capital city of Ukraine. Kiev is buzzing. Hundreds of thousands of people are searching for a higher purpose and morals. This campaign was like a ray of light in the darkness." Outdoor ads, secular TV channels, radio and newspapers proclaimed the Gospel daily for a month. 20,000 campaign books were distributed.

# raines Reach 30 Million People

...s Kiev, the capital city of Ukraine, with a popula-  
President Yushchenko mentioned the campaign  
nationally televised address to the nation. An es-  
...n people watched the life-changing testimonies  
hroughout Ukraine. Over 10,000 people responded  
Gospel during this successful campaign.



**Я ЗНАЮ- БОГ  
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**800 987 65 43**



## 2010 SEVASTOPOL

About a million people were reached with the Gospel during a campaign held in the port city of Sevastopol in Crimea, home to a massive naval base.



## 2014 ODESSA

A campaign on the shores of the Black Sea in Odessa reached 1.5 million people. A ceasefire came into effect just days before the campaign began.



## KIEV

A year after the campaign the pastor from Spasenie Church said that 7,000 new people had attended their services in the following 12 months. Of these, 3,000 had made a decision for Christ. Over 1,000 had been baptised. Today they have 565 home churches in the Kiev area.





**2006 KAZAKHSTAN**

A campaign held in Almaty and throughout Kazakhstan reached 11 million people. The gospel message also penetrated the inner circle of the President. Extremist Islamists declared "jihad" against us, as they hacked the campaign website. Over 4,000 Muslims called the call center and ordered the campaign book. TV programs containing life-changing stories dramatically increased viewership on the nation's most popular TV channel.

NIGHT LIGHTS OF ALMATY



BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN



OSH, KYRGYZSTAN



KYZYL-KIA, KYRGYZSTAN

# zakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan

“ҚҰДАЙ біздің  
МАХАББАТЫМЫЗДЫ  
қайта жаңартты!”

“БОГ возродил  
нашу ЛЮБОВЬ!”

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АЗАТТЫҚ сыйлады!”

“БОГ подарил мне  
СВОБОДУ!”

Николай Васильев  
был трижды судим

Қазір телефон  
соғып  
сыйға кітап ал

44-77-22

Звони сейчас  
и получи  
в подарок книгу

www.silaperemen.ru

## 2008 KYRGYZSTAN

Thousands of people ordered the "Power to Change" book and DVD, containing life-changing stories, in the cities of Bishkek, Osh, Kyrgyzstan's second largest city. Simultaneously the campaign message reached 200,000 people in neighboring regions of Dzhala-Abad and Kyzyl-Kiya. We had to deal with opposition from Islamic

extremists. Eight million Uzbeks had the opportunity to see and hear the gospel message by way of a TV station located on a high mountain top overlooking Fergana Valley. More than 6,000 families responded and called the call center. Outdoor ads proclaimed God's power to change in the Kyrgyz and Russian languages.



OSH, KYRGYZSTAN



BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN



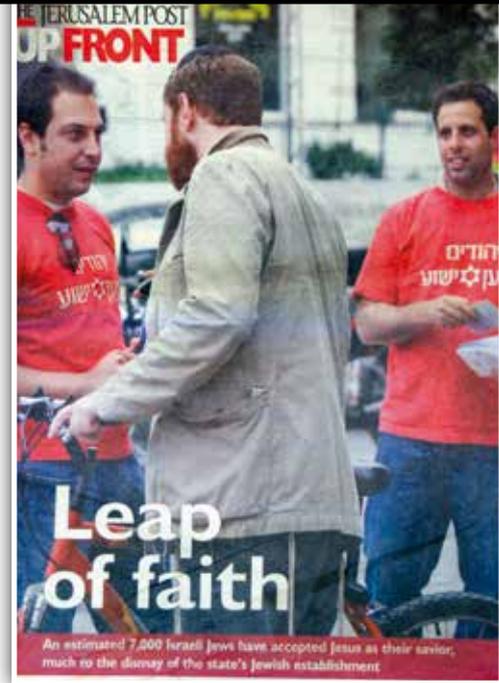
DZALAL-ABAD, KYRGYZSTAN



OSH, KYRGYZSTAN



**JORDAN RIVER**  
 Descendants of Abraham baptized in the Jordan River. Ten Jews who came to faith in Christ during the campaigns in Nazareth were baptized during this service. Other new-born believers from other cities were baptized as well.



**CAMPAIGN ADS IN ARABIC AND HEBREW**

Campaigns in the Arabic language were held in West Bank, Gaza and other Arab cities in Israel. Over 2 million Arabs and Palestinians were reached with the Gospel. Some 14,000 Arabs responded to the message. Below: Jeshua (Jesus) website advertised in Hebrew on jumbo video screens and billboards.



# Campaigns in The Land of Israel



## HEBREW JEWS

The Jerusalem Post published an unprecedented 6-page article about Messianic Jews. The headlines stated that 7,000 Israeli Jews have received Jesus as their Savior. Dan Sered, director of Jews for Jesus says this surprising publicity was a result of GCM Ministries' media campaigns held in 2008.

## 2008 ISRAEL—3 SIMULTANEOUS CAMPAIGNS

Our call centers from the mega city media campaigns received 70,000 calls from Jews, Arabs and Druze people. The Gospel was proclaimed in three languages in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Over 9,000 Jews were in follow-up by local congregations.



## RUSSIAN AND HEBREW JEWS

Almost two million Jews had the opportunity to hear about the Messiah in Hebrew and Russian throughout Israel as a result of the media campaigns held by GCM Ministries and our ministry partners.



## LAURA VISITS ISRAEL

The first video program recorded at the Garden Tomb in Israel. Laura Haukka describes to Russian listeners what she sees inside the tomb.





JERUSALEM, ISRAEL



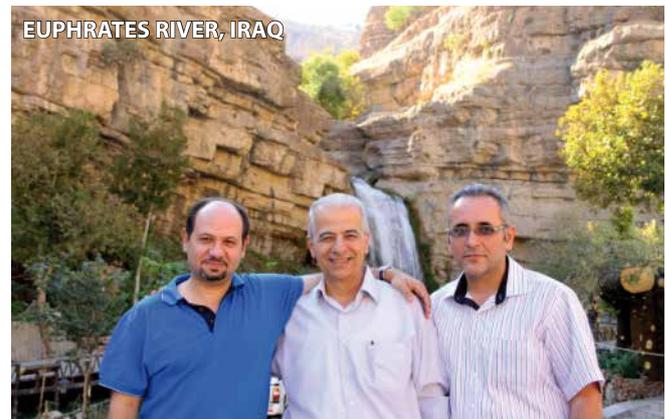
CANAAN, ISRAEL



BEIRUT, LEBANON - 2015



BEIRUT, LEBANON - 2015



EUPHRATES RIVER, IRAQ



MOSUL, IRAQ



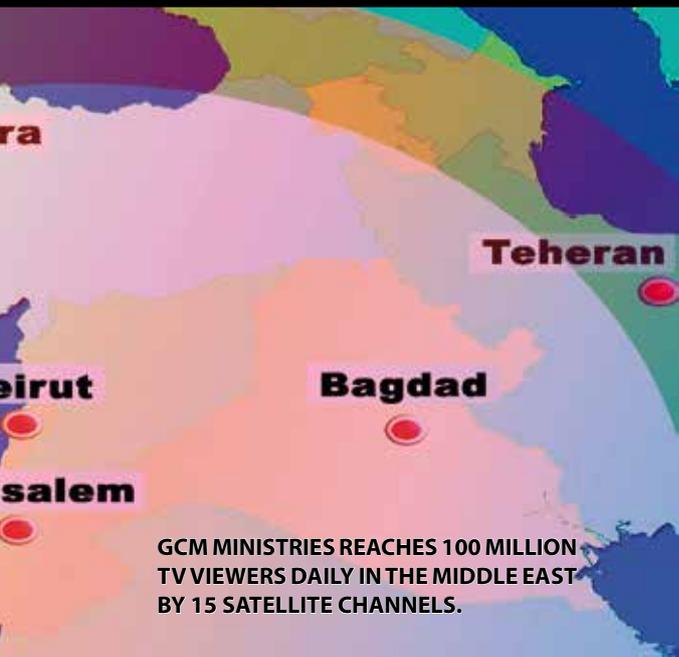
**2013 ERBIL, IRAQ - AN "IMPOSSIBLE" MEGA MEDIA CAMPAIGN**

A media campaign was held in the northern Iraqi city, of Erbil, of two million residents. Security was provided by the commander of the security forces of Northern Iraq. The campaign message: "God Gives the Power to Forgive" touched Baghdad and Suleymaniah as well.

**2015 LEBANON** The Media campaign was an unprecedented event in missions in the Arabic world. During the final week of the campaign Lebanon National TV aired three services, live, on prime time TV to every Lebanese Hezbollah, Shiia, Sunni, Alawite, Druze home. The Gospel was present in millions of living rooms in Lebanon.

**OVER 100 MILLION VIEWERS** GCM Ministries produces daily Christian TV programs that are aired over 15 satellite channels in Arabic and Farsi languages as well as in Somali and South Sudanese Arabic.

# Ministries in the Islamic World



GCM MINISTRIES REACHES 100 MILLION TV VIEWERS DAILY IN THE MIDDLE EAST BY 15 SATELLITE CHANNELS.



BEIRUT, LEBANON 2015



BEIRUT, LEBANON - 2015



BEQAA VALLEY, LEBANON



ERBIL, IRAQ



BEIRUT, LEBANON



BEIRUT, LEBANON



CELEBRATING  
**44 YEARS**  
 1976-2020

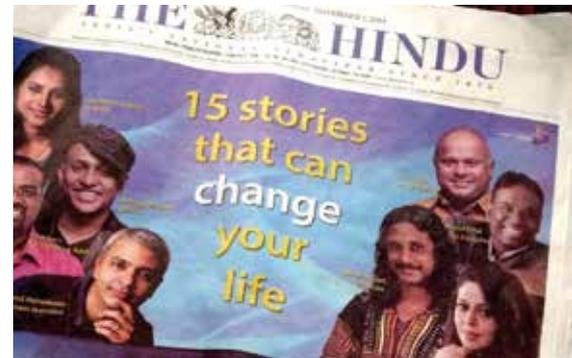
# Mega City Media Camp



MUMBAI, INDIA  
 2013



HYDERABAD INDIA  
 2012



CHENNAI, INDIA  
 2011



BANGALORE, INDIA  
 2014



## 2012 HYDERABAD, INDIA

In May 2012 Hyderabad's 8.5 million residents woke up to the mega city media campaign in their city. The pastors witnessed unprecedented amounts of calls to the ministry call center. Sixty phones were not enough to intercept all the calls. Over 100,000 contacts were logged. Muslims and Hindus alike responded to the campaign message.

## 2011 CHENNAI, INDIA

Chennai, the fourth largest city in India. The call center received 86,000 calls in the month of May. Over 50,000 people requested the campaign book with stories of transformed lives. Over 703,000 visitors came to the website. Photo above: Leading pastors in Chennai pray over tens of thousands of response forms.

# Campaigns in India—A Plentiful Harvest!



CALL CENTER  
MUMBAI, INDIA



CALL CENTER  
MUMBAI, INDIA



CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE  
MUMBAI, INDIA -2013

## 2013 MUMBAI, INDIA

Mumbai reacts to the mega city campaign. One of the biggest daily newspapers headlined: "Power to Change Takes the City by Storm!" It was a rare confession to the impact of the campaign. Leading Pastor Shelton: "When the campaign launched, we saw the media, the trains, the billboards, newspapers. We saw millions of people in the city wake up to the campaign message "God gives you the power to change!"



DHARAVI SLUM  
MUMBAI, INDIA

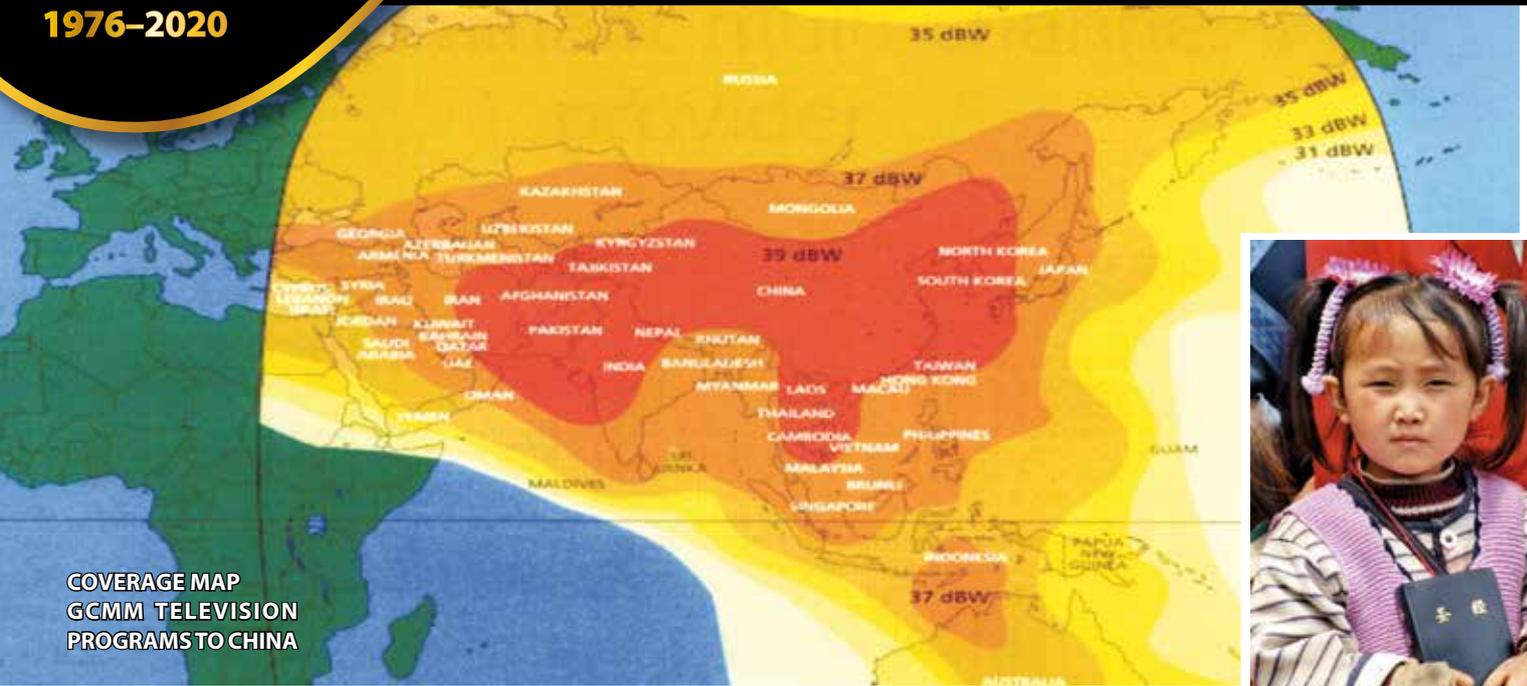


CALCUTTA, INDIA  
2017

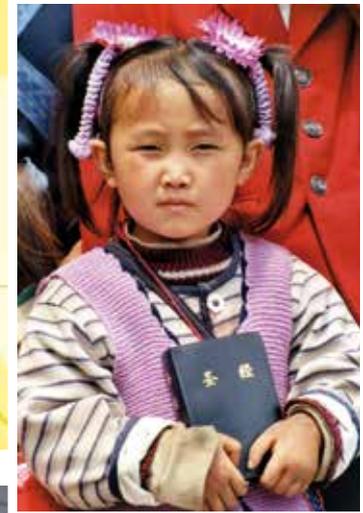


BANGALORE, INDIA  
2014





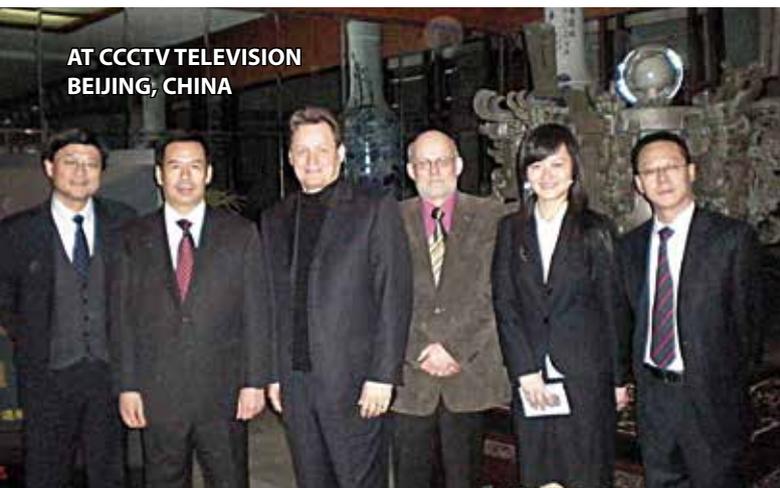
COVERAGE MAP  
GCMM TELEVISION  
PROGRAMS TO CHINA



IRR-TV VISIT TO  
BEIJING, CHINA



BIBLES IN  
BEIJING, CHINA



AT CCCTV TELEVISION  
BEIJING, CHINA



CHINESE DELEGATION  
AT GCMM, FINLAND

**2002 MAINLAND CHINA**

STAR WORLD and PEARL TV out of Hong Kong begin telecast of GCM Ministries Gospel TV programs in Chinese to mainland China. Finnish directors Hannu Haukka and Aki Miettinen visit CCC-TV headquarters in Beijing.

Partnering with "Bibles For All" GCM Ministries printed 70,000 Chinese Bibles inside China. Top Photo: Directors Markku Tenhunen and Hannu Haukka inspect Bibles fresh off the press in China. Bottom photo: In 2015 a delegation from Mainland China Television visits GCMM facility in Kerava, Finland.

# n Nepal and Mainland China

MEDIA CAMPAIGN IN  
POKHARA, NEPAL



KATMANDU  
NEPAL

## 2011–2014 MEGA CITY CAMPAIGNS IN THE NEPALESE CITIES OF KATHMANDU, POKHARA, BIRATNAGAR

Mega city campaign in the cradle of Hinduism. In Kathmandu the campaign caused a flood of calls to the ministry call center. The churches had never seen similar response within one month. "Power to Change" shook the five million residents of Kathmandu Valley. During the month-long campaign, the phones rang with 40,000 Hindi families responding to the campaign message. A total of 75,000 *Power to Change* books containing powerful transformation stories were distributed. Nepal State TV telecast the stories of transformed lives to 20 million Nepalese throughout the Himalayas. Many churches experienced significant growth as a result.

CELEBRATING  
**44 YEARS**  
 1976–2020

# GCM Ministries Main Office



Winter at the original GCM Ministries facility, known as IRR-TV in Finland

**1981**  
 The first audio studio



**1983**  
 The next studio in a duplex



**1999**  
 The bomb shelter



The shipping container



This container served as storage space



The warehouse before construction



**1999** It was a challenging year for Great Commission Media Ministries in many ways. At the start of the year we were given an evacuation order to vacate our ministry center. Temporary work space was set up in the basement area of our existing warehouse as well as containers outfitted as mobile offices. Program production took place in a small bomb shelter (in all commercial buildings in Finland). The TV editing equipment was

stored in shipping containers on the property while the staff worked out of a room measuring 350 sq ft. Sauna benches were used for the filing system. The shower stall was the overflow storage space.  
**2000** The new ministry center under construction in Kerava, Finland was officially opened in 2000.

# Office and Media Centre in Finland

The dedication of the new studio facility in 2006



2006 Cutting the ribbon. The media centre is declared open

Studio One, GCMM Finland



2020 The additional, new ministry centre was finished, greatly increasing our capacity to reach lost souls with the Gospel.



2005 The annex building project is launched



2006 Completed annex



**2006** In five brief years Great Commission Media Ministries had outgrown its existing office and studio space which hindered further ministry expansion. The second addition to the existing office and studio space was opened in 2006 with ministry part-

ners and church leaders from Russia, Ukraine, Latvia and Canada attending the opening ceremonies. **2007–2020** Great Commission Media Ministries continued to experience dynamic growth of its ministries in Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Israel, South America, Africa, the Islamic world.

**2018–2020** New studios, conference/strategy rooms and video editing suites were added. Much needed warehouse space was added as well. The bills have been paid by the grace of God and generous gifts of ministry friends.

# Accelerating The **GREAT COMMISSION**

## **HIGH-IMPACT**

Evangelistic  
Media Campaigns  
with the Message:

***"God Gives The  
Power To Change"***

Working with The Church using  
the Firepower of Media

**TARGETING ENTIRE CITIES  
AROUND THE WORLD**



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