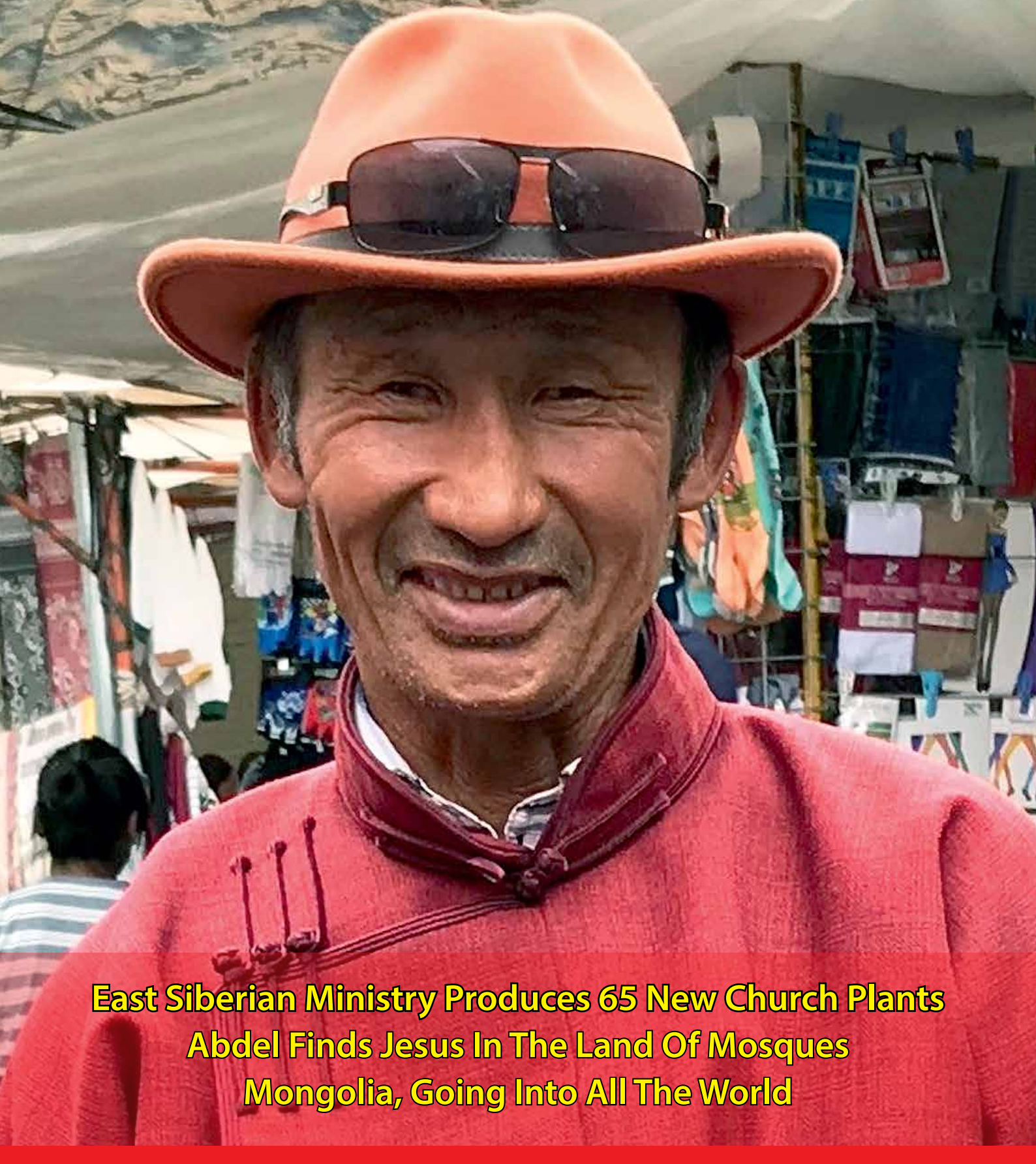


MINISTRY

Great Commission Media Ministries

March 2021



East Siberian Ministry Produces 65 New Church Plants
Abdel Finds Jesus In The Land Of Mosques
Mongolia, Going Into All The World

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One Small Prayer, One Awesome God!



The man's name was not listed among Bible heroes in a hall of fame in Hebrews 11. Strangely, his story was tucked away in a genealogy in the book of 1 Chronicles.

Yet his story caused the author of Chronicles to pause just long enough to record the man's remarkable prayer that radically transformed his life.

This man's name is Jabez. Jabez had more than his share of adversity. So true, for most of us. Troubles and trials come with life.

I re-read a book called *The Prayer of Jabez*. I was blessed once again. So, I thought I'd share a few thoughts with you.

Jabez's prayer is short, about four lines:

"- Oh that you would bless me indeed
- and enlarge my territory
- that your hand would be with me
- and that you would protect me from evil so that I may not cause pain..."

The author of Chronicles sums up the result of the prayer: "So, God granted his request..."

Wow, don't we wish that, this were true for our prayers as well.

Bless Me "in Heaps"

First, God loves to bless. It is the true nature of God.

Proof? When God created man in His own image, the very first thing He did was to bless man. Genesis 1:28.

Today, He is still the same, unchanging God. He still yearns to bless man.

For Jabez, life was unthinkable without God's blessing! Therefore, he called on the God of Israel for an oversize dose of blessing.

Born For More Than This...

Second, when Jabez asked God to expand his territory, he was saying

"open the gates of my prison, take down the barriers that are keeping me from your plan for my life, your blessings."

We can be sure that as we ask for God's goodness into our lives and ask for more influence, new opportunity, He will hear us. God sends people and resources our way that enable God's miracles to take place.

What are miracles?

A miracle is an intervention by God to make something happen that would otherwise have been impossible.

When you take little steps you don't need God. But in the mainstream of God's plans for this world, which are beyond our capabilities, heaven sends angels, people and resources that are needed. We have seen this happen over and over again at Great Commission Media Ministries.

Rising To The Challenge

When God sends us on His assignments, Kingdom-sized tasks as in Matthew 28:18, Mark 16:15, His desire for us is to rise to challenges that are so great that failure would be certain unless He intervenes.

We see this in Hebrews chapter 11.

David knew that Goliath would never have fallen had God not been there in battle with him.

Joshua knew that the walls of Jericho would still be standing today had God not fought that battle for him.

Noah fully recognized that in his day "shipbuilding" was a profession void of logic, when there had never been a rain, unless Noah's God had big plans.

The list continues. Joseph would have remained in Potiphar's prison to his dying day. Daniel would have ended up as supper for lions had God not been there for him when it counted most.

The same was true of Moses, and Elijah before the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, and a group of Galilean fishermen sent to evangelize the world. The same applies to you and me, men and women seeking to serve the Lord.

Faithful Hearts

In God's plan, where our resources are not enough, God will move heaven and send ministering angels, people, resources, everything we need - except one thing - loyal hearts...

Our loyal hearts are the only part of God's expansion plan that He will not provide. God is not scanning the horizon for spiritual giants but those who are sincerely loyal to Him.

Dependence on God makes heroes of ordinary people like Jabez and you and me.

We may be one prayer away from amazing experiences in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives us supernatural enthusiasm, courage, the ability to do God's will!

Jesus promised, "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power, and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8.

Like Jabez, we too can turn to God and pray: Lord, bless me like only heaven knows how, broaden my borders, extend your hand over me, protect me from evil...for Your glory, in honor of Your holy name.

Dr. Hannu Haukka

Reaching The World Together...





Massive Response In Calcutta, India

As you may remember, GCOMM conducted a historic mega city media in Calcutta, India ending in January 2018. At the beginning of this year, we received an update from Mahesh our campaign manager.

The following are a few highlights from Mahesh's report:

"We are very thankful to God for this unprecedented "Power to Change" campaign in Calcutta. It came at just the right time, as the state of West Bengal and the city of Calcutta faced a wide range of problems related to mental health, unemployment, and ailments caused by high levels of stress.

People were searching for answers and the message of the campaign, of God's power to change

lives, brought hope to hundreds of thousands of people.

We thank God for this campaign that reached millions of people in West Bengal and neighboring Bangladesh as well.

To this day, the call center phone lines have continued to ring with over 200,000 additional calls received!

Massive Response

In all, as a result of this campaign, 500,000 people have already responded by phone.

We have delivered the campaign book to 471,000 people. The book contains the road map to new life in Jesus with 15 local, powerful stories of transformed lives. Tens

of thousands are in follow-up and over 10,000 have been baptized and have joined a local church. The response has been massive."

Overwhelming

The response has overwhelmed the local church, as a church will typically see very few new faces in church during the course of a year.

"We thank God for this once-in-a-lifetime campaign that reached every street corner, of every city in the state of West Bengal which has a population of 91 million people.

On behalf of our churches in Calcutta please accept a huge thank you to our friends at Great Commission Media Ministries!"



The next order for 50,000 New Testaments is at the printer



Massive printing projects require a lot of paper



Quality control of

The Literature Ministry In East Siberia

Geographically Russia is the largest country in the world. Russia's current population is 146.7 million and is home to over 100 lesser nations. Importantly, GCOMM has provided churches with much needed literature. The following is an update on GCOMM literature ministry in Siberia.

- We continue to print New Testaments, the Gospel of John, Bibles and evangelism books despite

changing times. See page 18-21.

The printing house in Central Siberia continues to provide printing services, and is the ideal location geographically for distribution of literature to churches of Siberia, all the way to Russia's Pacific coast. We receive reports from receiving churches that the material is critical in furthering the Great Commission.

- During the fall of 2020, we received a letter from a church called

the Tree of Life, which is in a Siberian city. The pastor reported that their goal was to establish 100 new churches in 2020. By fall, they had planted 65 new home churches. Now they have requested more evangelism books, New Testaments, and Gospels of John. Ministry in Siberia continues despite periodic adversity and the pandemic.

- In large cities west of the Urals, churches face more challenges.



In the East-Ukrainian town of Orlivka is in the war-zone. Christians wait for the campaign. Life-changing testimonies for TV and other campaign media have been prepared



New Testaments being printed



Restricted access all through the war-zone

Continues To Produce A Bountiful Harvest

Gatherings are restricted, allowing just a small portion of congregants to attend.

The pandemic is not the issue. Harassment by the authorities is the major factor.

In addition to GCMM literature ministry, over 100 million Russians have smartphones, tablets, laptops that allow people to watch GCMM's Russian on-line TV channel, providing Gospel content on these plat-

forms and devices.

EAST UKRAINE

A media campaign blanketing the war zone in East Ukraine currently under Russian occupation was scheduled for 2020. Due to the pandemic, the date of the campaign has been postponed to the fall of 2021.

To date, the 10 high-impact transformation stories have been produced for television and the key

campaign book.

The message of the extensive evangelism campaign in war-torn East Ukraine is "reconciliation".

The Apostle Paul writes: God was in Christ offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world... He has given us the work of sharing his message about peace.... making his appeal through us... make peace with God." 2 Cor. 5:19-20.

Mongolian Churches Receive First Evangel



Traditional Mongolian religion is Buddhism

Mongolia is a landlocked nation situated on China's northern border.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, GCMM has been working together with the churches of Mongolia preparing for a mega city media campaign in the Mongolian capital, Ulaanbaatar.

The key campaign tool is the evange-

lism book containing 12 locally chosen stories of transformed lives of Mongolian believers.

The campaign date has been postponed to late 2021, but Mongolian churches have already received the tailor made, high quality campaign book in their mother tongue.

The planned campaign will utilize all mainline media on all available platforms to reach 3.2 million people in Mongolia, including the Nomads in rural areas.

The churches of Mongolia will not have witnessed a similar penetration of the Gospel in their nation.



"Jesus brought me joy through His power to change my life."



Mongolian evangelism book is now in print



The message that God gives men and women everywhere the power to experience change, reaches Siberian villages.



Buryat Churches Reap Harvest Using Transformation Stories

It was a great day in the history of the life of the Buryat church in East Siberia.

On February 18th, 2020 GCMF delivered 20,000 copies of the Power to Change evangelism books in the Buryat language as a proven tool for outreach by the church.

Prior to this, Buryat churches have not had access to evangelistic literature in their own mother tongue.

Thank you to our GCMF friends who have prayed for and financially supported this project.

To date, we know of 15 new



The campaign book is printed and used extensively among the Buryats

churches planted in the past year.

The Buryats are the most numerous of the Siberian peoples numbering about 500,000. They live in East

Siberia along the northern border of Mongolia. They speak a language related to the Mongolian language.

Lebanon Asks For Another Campaign

Khalil Abdelahad is leader of the Lebanon Evangelical Alliance. GCMM received this message from Khalil:

Five years ago, GCMM approached us with a great initiative to organize a mega city media campaign called "Experience The Power to Change" in Beirut.

The campaign was a major breakthrough in several different ways within our "Country of Cedar Trees", Lebanon.

The campaign was unique in Lebanon and had a huge impact through the use of media including television, radio, newspapers, outdoor billboards, and social media. In addition, hundreds of thousands of campaign books,

pamphlets and supporting publications were distributed.

The campaign was successful as churches joined together in unity, including churches of the Evangelical Alliance, all proclaiming the gospel of Christ. We fondly remember, our very blessed time together.

With deep gratitude to everyone who made this great media campaign possible.

Currently in Lebanon, we are experiencing serious economic and political issues. We ask you to consider conducting a second campaign. The gospel of Christ is the power to change not only in Lebanon but also throughout the Middle East.



Khalil Abdelahad is leader of the Lebanon Evangelical Alliance

Pandemic Spurs Egyptian Ministry

I would like to relay our sincere thanks for your partnership and support of our joint ministry in reaching Arab nations with the message of salvation.

Time and again we are surprised at what God is doing among the Arabic world through the work of GCMM.

Our production team produces hundreds of TV programs aired daily on satellites covering this region.

Follow-Up is Key

People who come to faith through our programs, are followed-up, helping them grow in their faith. Our goal is to connect them to a local group of believers.

We also bring the gospel and poverty relief to people living in poor areas, showing God's true love for them in practical ways.

This would not have been possible without your support. God has helped



Bassem is GCMM's Egyptian team leader

us despite the difficulties we face in the Arab world. We are proud to be your

partners and believe that God will continue to complete the work He has begun.



GCMM's Arabic Ministry Director Hani overlooks Sulaymaniyah, Northern Iraq with a population of one million.

Thank You For Your Partnership In 2020

Our Arabic department at GCMM produces TV programs that air on 16 satellite channels. Our digital “footprint” spans all of north Africa from Morocco to Egypt, Jordan, Syria, the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and all the way to the Pakistan border.

GCMM television programs are broadcast in Arabic, Persian (Farsi), Tajik, Somali, Sudanese and Amharic.

Production takes place in Finland 100 miles west of the Russian border.

Because of severe restrictions in most Islamic countries, the Gospel programs serve as a safe “home church” for millions in countries where attending services is impossible, even life-threatening.

It is no secret that the Islamic world is the highest consumer of satellite TV programs in the world.

Our Arabic language service generates more than 200,000 responses a month. These responses come via email, websites, phone calls, YouTube channels, and social media.

In recent years, we have invested a lot to create a safe and secure system of follow-up providing safe interactions for people who are seeking faith.

Your sustaining prayers are appreciated as there are significant risks involved.

We want to ensure the physical safety of our teams.

Time is of essence and our world is constantly changing. Therefore, we

must use all our resources wisely to reach the Islamic world now. No one knows what will happen tomorrow.

More than 70% of the world's 1.7 billion Muslims have never heard the Gospel. This is why we are challenged to move forward, with an unprecedented opportunity and an incredibly cost-effective way to reach more Muslims with the gospel.

We are seeing wonderful fruit from this ministry every day.

We thank God for you as our prayer partner and supporter for your dedication to the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ and for your willingness to share the love of God to millions in the Islamic world.

They Found Jesus In The La



Yemen, Abdelrahman

"I watch your programs more than anything else and I watch in silence. Occasionally I take notes from what is being displayed on the screen that I consider to be important. I watch the TV with the audio muted because I have turned from Islam to Christianity, and I cannot raise the volume for safety reasons.

Having a hearing impairment, I would need to raise the volume level, which would cause chaos in my home. I have watched your programs since 2009 on the Hot-Bird satellite channel which I found by chance while I was looking for channels I might like.

As soon as I watched your programs, I knew it was a Christian channel. Since that time, I have watched your programs on a regular basis."

Saudi Arabia, Talal

Talal recently contacted us via WhatsApp. He already knew Christianity was a religion of peace, but he was afraid to get to know it better

because he knew that if he gave up Islam in his own country, it would result in death.

For several years he worked in Kuwait and met Christians from the Philippines and Egypt who warmly received him as a friend. He saw peace and love within them. Talal wrote to us, "Contrary to what Islam teaches, I realized that it is my right to choose a God who saves me, and gives me eternal life."

Talal continues, "I saw a vision before I arrived in Kuwait. In it, I saw three men with me in a dark room, one of whom gave me an old book. When I received it from him, I experienced deep peace. Later, when I traveled to Kuwait, I remembered this dream when I entered a church out of curiosity. There I saw the Bible and it looked exactly like the book the man gave me in a dream!"

Talal asked our team to help him learn more about the God of the Bible. We began a joint study with him so he could get to know who Jesus is and what he has done for Talal. We also sent him a video explaining

Jesus' sacrificial death.

Talal joyfully received the gospel and the Word of God. The light of Christ has replaced the darkness in his life. Talal currently lives in Saudi Arabia.

Iraq, Meryam

"I watch your programs on my phone. Your channel provides great teaching and in-depth information about the Christian faith that is really helpful to my spiritual life. Your programs are special because they are based on the Bible in all their content."

Briefly about myself: "I am a single Iraqi woman. That's why it's hard for me to watch your programs.

I grew up with Christian children but when ISIS came to Iraq, I saw their behavior and abandoned religion in its entirety. I applied to a convent where I came in contact with Christianity. Later, I encountered a family of committed Christians who explained to me that I had to study the Bible independently. I called you so I could really become

nd Of Minarets and Mosques



a follower of Jesus. I am grateful that you offered me a discipleship course, which I follow via WhatsApp.”

Egypt, Gehan

Gehan is a young woman coming from an extremist family background, but she never felt comfortable with her religion.

One time while she was watching our programs on Facebook, she contacted our team of counselors. She expressed her anxiety, which she experienced especially after her family realized that she was no longer practicing their rituals and prayers. She even took her own children out of the religious school they were attending. A member of our team comforted her and prayed with her on the phone and she accepted Jesus into her life.

She wept while on the phone, feeling the presence and peace of the Lord had descended on her life for the first time. She is currently attending a discipleship course remotely. She asked to be baptized as a step to becoming part of the Church

of Christ and to be able to grow in her faith.

Morocco, Said

“I inherited my religion of Islam like most people. Since my youth I studied everything about my religion. I also learned about atheism but never gave up my faith to become an atheist.

“From the beginning, I thought we were all worshipping the same God. Coincidentally, I found your program on Kingdom Sat TV.

I learned about true faith—not about what my own belief system promotes.

I saw a distorted god in my religion who asks his followers to denounce others of being unfaithful and accuses the scriptures of the Bible of being distorted. I realized that God cannot be a traitor or evil because He cannot declare contradictory things about Himself in different books. God who is all good cannot contain deception and evil in Himself. This discovery led me to know the true God, Jesus Christ. I

chose Him with my mind and heart when I realized that faith presents logical evidence that shows a loving God who loves people.

He is not the kind of god I had learned from before who knows nothing about the love between God and his followers. He even denied love among his own followers.

Now I can say that I found and received the Lord Jesus as my Savior. Over a period of five months, I have been able to know the truth.”

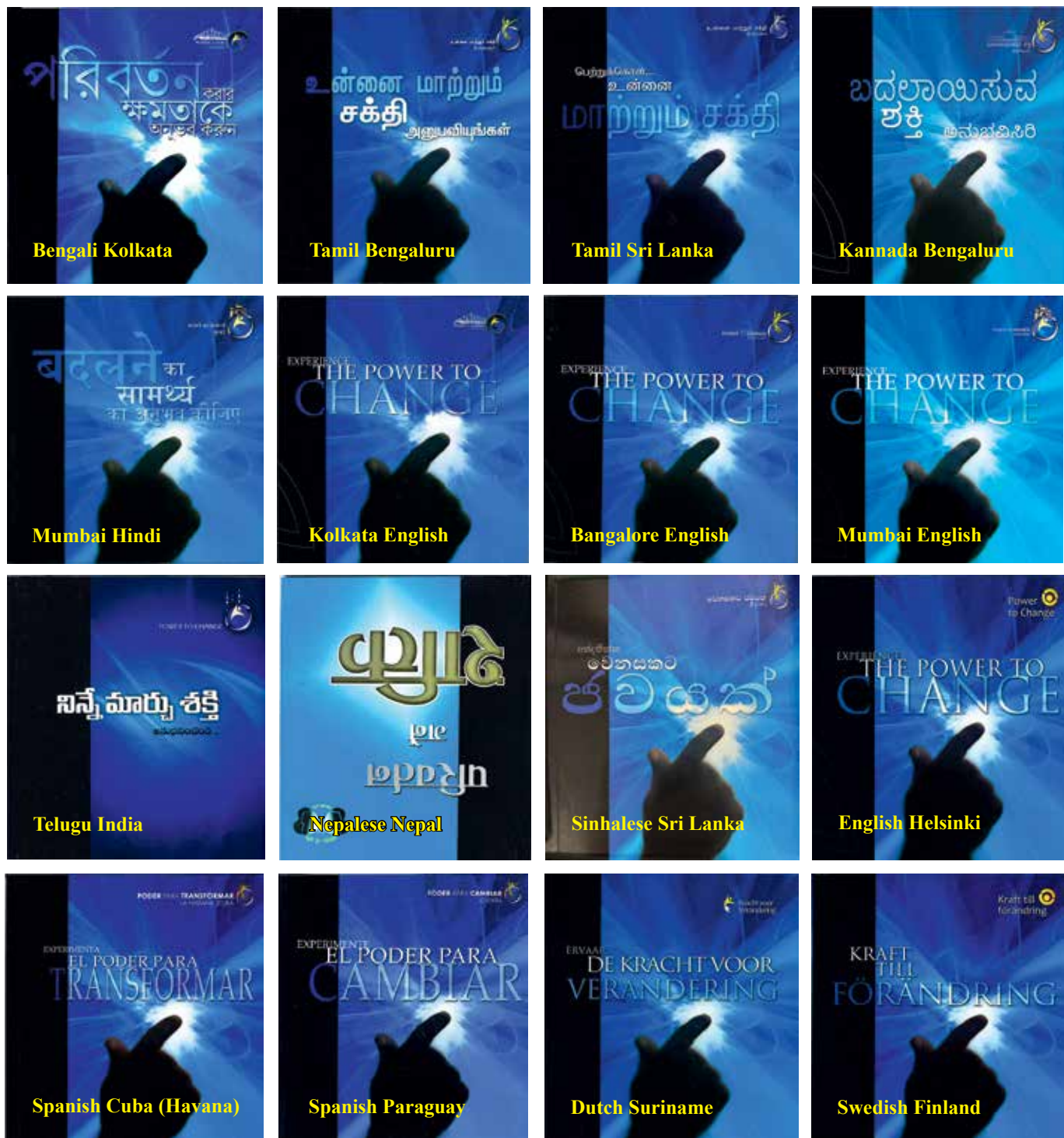
Algeria, Yehia

Yehia had lost his job because of the corona virus, so she started surfing the satellite TV channels until she found your channel one night.

Her mind had been restless and distracted by various thoughts when she started watching TV and decided to call the number on the screen to express her interest in Christ and Christianity. She asked many questions and asked for a Bible for herself.

Through further communication, Yehia found saving faith in Jesus.

Transformation Stories, New Testaments, Gospels – The



Over 8 Million Campaign Books Printed In

In 2020, we received reports from cities and countries where GCM has conducted highly effective media campaigns closely working with local churches.

The key tool in every mega city media campaign is the campaign book itself, where the transformation stories of local believers are showcased.

These same stories are exported to all

available mainline media in a city.

It is no random strategy that every mega city campaign showcases local transformation stories.

These stories are deliberately chosen because Gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John also showcased powerful transformations stories.

Jesus changed lives then. Jesus still changes lives today!

And two thousand years later, we still preach these same timeless, powerful examples of what God can do in the lives of men and women.

Imagine what it would be like without stories of Zacchaeus, blind Bartimaeus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the prodigal son, the Centurion's servant, Jairus' daughter, Matthew the tax collector, and dozens of others who

Great Commission And The Printed Page 2003 - 2021



30 Languages, 108 Mega Cities, 4 Continents

experienced the transforming power of Jesus in their lives.

These GCM campaign books also include important parts of Jesus' teachings. We always include an easy-to-understand road map for a new life in Jesus Christ.

There is a model prayer of salvation for those seeking salvation. In many cultures of Asia and the Middle East for ex-

ample, the reader will not have any idea as to how to pray. The concepts of the Bible, God, Jesus will not be not familiar. Tutoring, teaching needs to be included.

The campaign books pictured above represent the millions of printed copies in dozens of languages including:

Russian, Ukrainian, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Uzbek, Arabic, Kurdish, Hebrew, Spanish, English, Hindi, Bengali,

Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Swahili, Sinhalese, Mongolian, Dutch, Finnish, etc.

Each campaign book is a seed sown in the harvest fields of our generation (Matt. 13: 3-8).

The Apostle Paul reminds us: Remember this: Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2 Cor. 9:6



Sergei Bobrovsky, Krasnoyarsk, Siberia

I Was a Psychic And a Prisoner of Lies

GCM Ministries conducted a mega city media campaign in the eastern Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk before the anti-terrorism law of July 2016 was passed in Russia. Sergei Bobrovsky's exceptional story appeared in the Krasnoyarsk campaign book as part of the media campaign. In addition, his story appeared on a Siberian television channel, in daily newspapers and on the radio. TV news reported, "that 600 witches from Moscow and St. Petersburg had been deported to the city of Krasnoyarsk." Sergei's story is told below:

- A few years had passed after our wedding and we had two children. At that time, my wife fell sick. Without getting relief from doctors, we decided to look for other ways of

healing. We turned to parapsychologists and psychics. But they too could not help.

Once my wife's friend told her about great courses being offered

in our city that teach bio-energetics according to the new method.

I registered for the courses.

At first glance, the courses seemed fascinating. Without any prior knowledge of these so-called "disciplines, practices", a wide, interesting, and enticing road seemed to open up before us.

Spells and Sorcery

We were taught to free people from curses, spells, hexes, the forces of black magic.

I didn't even know there was all this "pollution" everywhere around

me before, but now I started to see and experience it for myself.

These manifestations seemed to have a magic attraction. I tried to explain it by the fact that I had become more sensitive. But, as I progressed, I felt this evil inside of me.

Psychic Syndrome

Sometime later, we noticed an ad inviting people to new parapsychology courses.

I decided to attend with my wife, I also invited a few of my friends. These courses promoted a higher level of extrasensory perception.

We were taught that our past life was darkness, but now a light illuminated that darkness. This was supposedly something totally new. We could now embrace our boundless human potential.

I Could See Internal Organs

Just imagine that you are talking to a person on the phone and you can see his or her internal organs and then tell what illness they had.

At the time, I believed this was from God, but in reality, utter darkness.

We had turned to some kind of spirit that showed us everything and began to lead us. As we submitted ourselves to this, our desire to know more and experience more, grew.

Overwhelmed With Horror

I decided to continue attending these training sessions. I taught others and even healed other people. I was also fascinated at what my instructors were up to.

I had no peace. And one night I saw what was happening in the instructor's lab. I became scared and started to realize what was happening.

When a person turns to a psychic, a parapsychologist, a psychotherapist, he is instructed to go to church, light a candle, and repent. And so, a person does this, purifies his mind and heart, and then returns to the psychic.

The Trap

And into this purified heart comes the Devil and implants his own desires and agenda. Man is now hooked, he becomes a slave, after which he pulls his husband or wife and acquaintances with him. And that's how the trap grows.

When it dawned on me that this was not from God, I was overcome with fear. I realized that the Devil had the power to destroy me at anytime.

There was no place to hide! I was serving the Devil, and he wasn't about to let me leave.

We Got On Our Knees

I woke my wife and told her everything. We got on our knees and began to pray—we were supposed to be believers in God.

We went to sleep, but I found no rest. I turned to God again and asked, "God, what is this?"

I trusted God, that He was present right there and that He would not let the Devil destroy me.

Bonfire of Books

God clearly showed me that I had to burn my library of books on parapsychology magic, the occult and my notes.

We took all the literature, all the books and lecture notes, everything to the sauna in our back yard and burned them.

My wife did not even hesitate. However, I destroyed my books selectively, for a few of them were expensive and difficult to give up.

But only after every book, pamphlet, brochure and note was burned did I get complete peace. Lastly, I burned my psychotherapist diplomas and certificates.

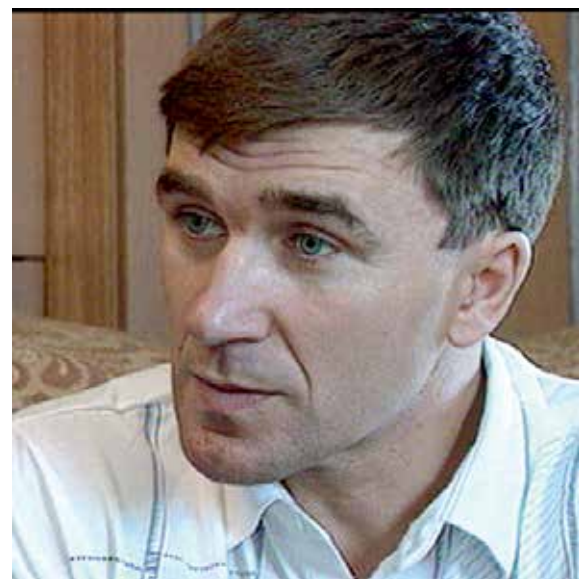
Wrong Connections

Finally it became clear to me that I had been in touch with a spirit that had nothing to do with the Holy Spirit of God.

Although some of these books mention Christ, they only lead peo-

ple farther and farther away from God.

No psychic or clairvoyant can help a person in his or her distress or illness.



Perhaps at first it may seem that a seance with a psychic may bring some measure of relief, but the price of this momentary relief will cost a man his soul, which belongs to his Creator, his God.

Only God can heal and deliver and bring freedom, and most importantly, eternal life.

During the mega city media campaign hundreds of thousands of people watched Sergey's transformation story live on the city's most watched TV channel.

Fifty thousand copies of the campaign book with Sergey's testimony were ordered by viewers including from the city's hospitals, clinics, police, universities. The governor's office ordered copies for its staff.

Orders also came from educational institutions.

The dean of the Faculty of Religions at the University of Siberia asked for campaign books to be distributed to students. Books were also delivered to other universities.

The Church In Russia A

MINISTRY magazine interviewed Igor Knyazev who holds a degree in Economics and serves as Bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia's northwest. His church includes Moscow and the Russian Karelian Republic.

According to Russian authorities, Russia is considered a Christian country. We asked for bishop Igor Knjazev's comments into Russia's current religious climate as well as Russia's efforts to showcase how they support conservative tradition, defend Christian values, and thereby seek to present Russia as a Christian Orthodox country.

Bishop Igor Knyazev:

- If you compare the current leader of Russia and Alexey Navalny, it can be said that Mr. Navalny fairly represents conservative Christian thinking. Navalny welcomes public scrutiny of his political life. He is a family man with a wife and children and is open and transparent in what

matters as a Christian conservative.

For political leaders in this manner of public service, openness and transparency of family relationships are essential.

For example, if one has divorced several times, has abandoned his children and has a questionable reputation, one can put an end to his claims about his embracing Christian conservative values.

- Concerning religion and the role of the Orthodox Church in Russia, according to official data confirmed by the State Church and law enforcement of the Russian Federation, in 2018-2019 the largest number of adherents at a Russian religious holiday took place at Easter mass, with 5,000,000 people attending churches in two days.

This is only five (5) percent of voters. In other words, the number of all the people who attended church at Easter Mass in Russia would be

amidst Massive Protests

enough to represent only a very small group in the lower house of the Russian parliament in the Duma.

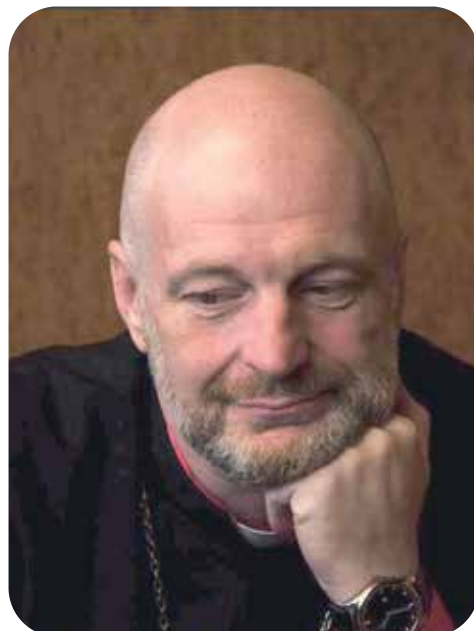
By way of comparison, for example, at Epiphany on January 6th and 7th in Moscow, with an approximate population of twenty million people live, only 60,000 people, 0.3%) of the population of Moscow took part in Epiphany celebrations. This is traditionally characterized by adherents showing up to receive the holy water in bottles.

- Russia currently has a population of 146 million people. Therefore, one cannot talk about the leading role of the Church and the

impact it has in politics, or that the Church would be a defender of ethical and moral values.

Unfortunately, the Church has no influence on Russian society. We have seen this from recent mass demonstrations. Very few voices were heard, with two from the Orthodox Church urging police not to use force against the protesters. Also, one voice from the Lutheran community, and one from among the small Orthodox churches. A few priests showed support for the demands to honor freedom of expression. That was it!

- In Russia, where there is a de-



Igor Knjazev, is an economist and bishop in the northern regions of Russia with the Russian Evangelical Lutheran Church. His main focus for ministry is in Moscow and Karelia.

mand for high moral standards and strong religious beliefs, it can be observed that corruption is at an all-time high. According to experts, the





level of corruption in Russia has already risen to more than 60 percent of the country's GDP, it can simply be said that religion has no effect in the behavior of its citizens.

- We can simply look at recent history of the Soviet Union, which I personally remember well.

I became a member of the Church as a young boy in 1977, and lived through the latter era of persecution.

At that time, if one refused to join the Communist Party's youth organization, the Komsomol, it meant the end of his or her career with no future.

I remember how a church was sieged by Komsomol activists and police at Easter. They grabbed young people and dragged them away to jail.

For a better understanding of what it was like for this church the in Soviet era, we see it clearly in published articles of the Moscow Patriarchate Magazine.

They idealized the power of the Soviet Union with praise on every page. In those archives, we find articles written by the Orthodox Church quoting Josef Stalin and Nikita Khrushchev who shuttered churches across Russia, and Leonid Brezhnev.

The Moscow Patriarchate Magazine would publish new statements on November 7th, year after year, praising a flourishing church in the Soviet Union, while hundreds of believers suffered in prison camps because of their faith.

- Very few opposed to the regime and those members of the Orthodox Church who dared to take a stand and speak the truth can be counted on one hand. They were priests Gleb Yakunin, Georg Yeslibam, Pavel Adylgeev and Alexander Men.

- Gleb Yakunin was sentenced and dispatched to those same prison camps following a letter he wrote to the patriarch stating the Church should be aware of what is happening in the country, and had no right to lie about it.

- Pavel Adylgeev and Alexander Men suffered the same fate. In today's religious climate, the same thing is happening again.

- Russian authorities chose a German Lutheran Church to represent Lutheranism in Russia, by awarding the German Church a key role. Most of the property was subsequently transferred to them and a representative of the German Church is on the council under the Russian president, as its official representative.

- The official representative is Dmitry Brauer and is the same person who in a Duma session in 2014 demanded persecution against believers. Mr. Brauer is on the West's sanctions list. He has been researched and his dossiers have been published internationally.

- Very few people speak out and express their convictions. We know who they are. They are showcased in the mass media in the press where we read of their fate, the bans and dismissals from employment, as well as prison sentences.

- Many other clergy from other churches have passively supported persecution and imprisonment, though

not always vocalizing their view.

- Only very few representatives of the religious community supported the mass demonstrations on social media on January 23rd.

There were some representatives from churches that even demanded up to 20 years of imprisonment to these protesters, or at the very least punishing actions against them at the hands of the authorities.

- This all leads to a very unfortunate state of affairs for the Russian Church.



- Political regimes will inevitably change. History does not give credence to eternal political systems.

Even this government in Russia will be history.

When this happens, then once again society will come to know the truth of what is currently happening. This was the case in 1990-1991.

When KGB archives were opened, we discovered the truth.

We found that the entire leadership of the Orthodox Church was occupied by KGB agents. As such, it was impossible to serve the church in any capacity without cooperating with the KGB, and much more.

- Much the same will happen when this current political period ends. People will remember who did what and said what, especially now as pretty much every written and

spoken word is eternally recorded on the internet making it impossible to delete anything.

-Very difficult times await the Russian Church, similar to that of 1917, when that new government came to power and destroyed the Church in a matter of months. It happened at the hands of the same peasants who had attended church services a few months earlier.

Why did this happen? Because at the time, people viewed the Church as a tool of the "oppressor."

- History tells us that among those who carried out the revolution in 1917, there were many children of slaves. There were those who still re-

membered the time of slavery, when the Church endorsed slavery and the sale of people, as if they were objects.

- It is wrong to say that the Church was destroyed by the terrible Bolsheviks because of some conspiracy. The same people who were considered orthodox believers destroyed the Church.

Coming events will be on a much smaller scale because the current Church population is only a few million.

The position of the dominant state Church and those churches that currently support the state Church will lose the opportunity to engage

in missions and experience growth.

- People are not attracted to a church that has lied, deceived and demanded cruelty and violence against its own people for speaking the truth.

- Who would want to go to such a church or to commit their lives to such a Church?

- Unfortunately, at the end of this present political period, no new growth, revival or anything new awaits the Russian Church. At best, the Church will remain as it is.

Interview: Andrei Motinga



Historic Campaign in South Sudan

Pastor Emmanuel Netanya, of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, Diocese of Juba, and vice chairman of the campaign pastoral committee of South Sudan, sent this campaign report to Great Commission Media Ministries.



Pastor Emmanuel Netanya, South Sudan Episcopal Church, Diocese of Juba.

- The *Power To Change* mega city media campaign in South Sudan could not have come at a better time in our nation.

The campaign was unprecedented and very powerful. We saw how the message of atonement, forgiveness, and reconciliation between tribes gripped the

nation.

Consequently in 2019 and 2020 we have continued to see the fruit of the campaign message, of forgiveness as it was proclaimed in our country.

Salva Kiir Mayardit, our President of South Sudan not only endorsed the campaign but on national radio and television encouraged the nation to embrace forgiveness, to forgive and to ask for forgiveness, to heed the message of the mega city campaign.

To this day, our government radio station continues to broadcast the life-changing, transformation stories from the campaign.

Our nationwide TV channel also continues to repeat the same stories, which have had a really big impact on the lives of great

numbers of people in our country. Thousands of villages have been reached with the GCOMM Mega voice solar powered digital audio players.

One year after the campaign the crime rate in South Sudan has fallen by 40%, according to the Ministry of Homeland Security.

Many have asked why this campaign could not continue.

People say that they want the campaign to continue and to grow not just for one year.

We as representatives of the Churches of South Sudan are truly grateful to you for bringing us this powerful campaign.

I have the honor of sending our big thank you on behalf of all of our Churches. May God bless you ever so abundantly!



Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The mega city media campaign in Dar es Salaam ended in January 2020. Reports from Tanzania tell of the continuing success of the campaign in Tanzania.

Our campaign manager Daniel reports:

- Regardless of the pandemic also in Tanzania, the campaign has continued on. The proclamation of the Gospel message has had a great impact. Everywhere, the message came into the homes of unbelievers, Muslims, places where we could not otherwise have gone. As a result, many people experienced how God's power has changed in their lives.

The goal of the campaign was to reach five million people in Dar es Salaam. But as the campaign progressed, we discovered that it covered the entire nation.

Calls came into our campaign call center from all over Tanzania. We had a group of pastors 24/7 at the call center who led the callers in the prayer of salvation.

A caller from Zanzibar asked to pray for a woman who, according

to their tradition, was being taken for human sacrifice on behalf of her family. We reached out to her and her life was saved.

The transforming power Jesus reached her, literally, in the land of the shadow of death.

The campaign book in the Swahili language is a powerful tool because of the transformation stories.

We thank Almighty God who used not only Hannu and Hani in planning, and organizing this Tanzania campaign, but also everyone whom God touched to financially support the campaign.

On behalf of the churches and believers of Tanzania, a very big thank you.

Bishop Zambi:

- Due to the pandemic, travel restrictions are in effect in Tanzania. But from all over Tanzania,



Daniel Mungemo, campaign coordinator, Dar es Salaam

the Christians are ministering using the powerful transformation stories in the campaign book. We have learned from the media campaign and have now begun to use media in the ministry of our churches.

We have trained believers to use the book especially on the Islamic Swahili coast including the regions of Tanga, Pwan, Lind and regions such as Zanzibar (Unguja).

Our prayer is that we will reap the rich fruit of the media campaign well into the future.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. God bless you abundantly!



Portrait: Leading Tanzanian pastors, bishops together with GCMC campaign directors Hannu Haukka and Kenneth Gronroos in Dar es Salaam.

Planned Giving

Giving comes with a double blessing attached; the recipient experiences the joy of new doors opened and new opportunities realized.

The giver discovers the satisfaction of being part of something infinitely greater than even the best earthly enterprise: a legacy that is an investment for eternity, much after our time is up and we have passed on to Glory.

Planned giving, also called Estate Planning, balances the needs of your loved ones with an opportunity for you to support Great Commission Media Ministries which exists to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ in sharing the Gospel with this spiritually lost generation using high impact media ministry.

Great Commission Media Ministries offers assistance in estate planning and management of your Last Testament and Will. At your disposal are professional estate specialists, whose experience and planning tools will help you in the stewardship of all that God has given you.

For more information

Please call: 877-244-7618

Or send a message to:

dave@gcmministries.com

Like the heroes of the Bible listed in Hebrews 11, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Barak, Jephtah, Samuel, David, we too can be a part of God's great works in our generation. Let us be part of the miracles of God together!

Dr. Hannu Haukka



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