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God Manifests His Power In Impossible

Situations

The early Church acknowledged its worldwide mission. Jesus had commissioned his followers with a mission that would extend to the end of their lives, and would consume their strength and energy.

Everyone was pretty well all in or all out. No one could afford to be a spectator in the stands. The great commission was clear. Jesus said: "Go and preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins in His name to all nations." (Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47)

We hit the "pause button."

So, who exactly was Jesus sending into all the world to preach the Gospel?

The events of the Passover were still fresh on the minds of the people. The disciples of Jesus had been labeled as dangerous, unwanted and unwelcome. Yet, these disoriented disciples were the ones commissioned to take the news of the resurrected Christ to all the world?

Having just heard the mandate, the disciples may well have looked around at each other nervously. They wanted to believe this was true. We can almost hear Thomas saying, "No way! Not with this group! This is way beyond our capacity!"

God Promises To Provide The Power For The Mission

Jesus told them that with the mission comes the power to do the job, power not from men. Do not leave Jerusalem! Wait for power from on high! The impossible becomes possible through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The disciples had to choose! Is it all in, or is it watching the show, remaining in their comfort zone. They could go back to the family fishnets or they could embark on an adventure of their lives to fulfill the Great Commission of their Master and Savior Jesus.

Within days they would experience what Jesus meant. That same group of men set out to accomplish "mission impossible" in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Comfort zone Christianity was "not the deal" for the followers of Christ in the early Church.

The Divine Dream-giver

God-given assignments are God's own dreams for our lives. Impossibilities become possibilities by God's power. We realize that our best efforts are doomed to failure unless He comes through.

God-given tasks are not meant to be solved without God. If we try to figure things out in our own strength, we will surely be discouraged.

God's power is released when we dare to step outside our comfort zone and pray "Lord, let me do more, a lot more for You."

"And So, Where is God?"

When adversity comes our way we are tempted to think that "I can't do this" or "this cannot be God's will", or that "miracles are not for today."

If so, you are not alone.

Men and women in the Bible also thought that God's mighty works could no longer be experienced in their day.

Gideon is a prime example.

He lived in one of the darkest periods of Israel's history. Israel suffered grievously at the hands of her enemies and could see God nowhere.

Gideon reasoned, "if the Lord is with us, then why has all this happened to us? Where are all his miracles that our fathers told us about?" (Judges 6:13, NIV)

But when God stopped by and called Gideon, he had to choose whether to remain in his "comfort zone" or rise up and fulfill his God-given destiny.

Gideon chose and consequently set



out to become a key part of God's plan.

In Hebrews 11:6 we read of men and women of faith who believed God and believed "that *He* exists and that *He* rewards those who earnestly seek him."

These men and women witnessed how the impossible became possible. They said good-bye to their comfort zone and rose to the challenge of their day.

The Power of Faith

'Through faith kingdoms were conquered, justice and righteousness prevailed, whereby gaining that which was promised. The mouths of lions were shut, they quenched the fury of the flames, escaped the edge of the sword, their weakness was turned to strength and became powerful in battle driving back armies of the enemy.'

They were fearless, because they knew that the prize that awaited them was worth it!

It is still true today! "Faith is confidence in what we hope for and the assurance about what we do not see."

The True Vine, Our Power

You may ask, "how does this work in my life?"

Jesus told his followers, "I am the true vine...if you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing."

Similarly, we will see the glory of God and His miracles in our lives, when the connection to the True Vine, Jesus, is unbroken. May His Spirit and His Word flow through us in our daily lives.

Dr. Hannu Haukka





New Testaments Delivered To Ch











urches In Central and East Siberia













Reaching Siberia's Unreached Millio

Pastors in Central and Eastern Siberia and Russia's far east express their gratitude for the literature they have received. The latest printing fell short of the demand for New Testaments. This year GCMM will seek to provide another 750,000 copies of the New Testament and the Gospel of John. Below is response based on the first shipment:

AKSAI

The churches of Aksai greet you, who have enabled us to receive thousands of fine New Testaments that allows us to bring God's word to our community. A big thank you to you, our friends and God bless you.

ULAN UDE

God has a 'big heart', with room for everyone. People all over the world live in different places, and under different conditions and circumstances. With God's help we can step out of our comfort zones and reach out to the distant places to proclaim the Good News.

ARAMIL

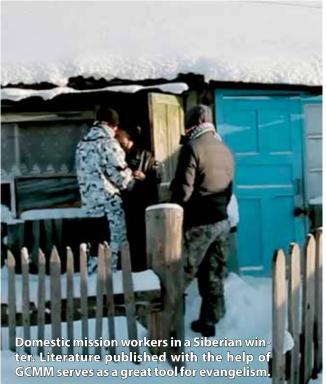
Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters. I would like to thank you all for shipment of New Testaments that we have received from Novosibirsk. With special thanks to GCMM for making this possible. We received 1,000 copies and will be using them as we begin evangelism in earnest here in Aramil. I believe that each and every New Testament will sow the seed for a new beginning with God. Thank you and God bless you.

BRATSK

I am from the city of Bratsk in Siberia, from the Tree of Life Church. We received 1000 copies of the New







ns Together With The Gospel

Testament. A big thank you to all the friends who have blessed our church in this way! Now we can share the gospel in Bratsk with New Testaments, and not just with our business cards! We thank you Hannu and everyone who took part in making this possible. Once again, a big thank you.

CHELYABINSK

We have received a whole car load of literature. Pastor Evgeny and the church have accepted these life-giving books, that can change a person's life. These books will reach people who have not even once in

their lives, heard about Jesus Christ. The books are even beautiful to look at. These are God's gift to us and we accept them with gratitude.

ALTAI

I greet you dear brothers and sisters. I want to thank those of you who have printed and send out these beautiful New Testaments. We have also received some and as a result, we have the ability for greater opportunities to proclaim God's word, and provide people the opportunity to study the Bible. Our desire is that they are encouraged, find answers to the questions they

have in their lives and are blessed by what they are reading. May God bless you.

NIZHNY NOVGOROD

Special thanks for the New Testaments we have received here in Nizhny Novgorod. The brethren who were here, are distributing them to their churches as well. These New Testaments have been so needed. A very special thanks to you and we give glory to God for your work and for the blessing that has ensued to us as well.

Ex-Atheist Alexey Navalny Speaks



Alexey Navalny is a 44-year-old lawyer, a Russian opposition leader, a figurehead fighting against corruption, and the father of two. According to Wikipedia, viewership on Navalny's YouTube channel had reached an astounding 1.1 billion as of March this year.

Alexey Navalny has become famous for his fight against corruption and the Kremlin's abuses of human rights. Formerly an atheist, Alexey Navalny has found faith in God. Navalny said he came to faith after returning to Moscow in January 2021 following his treatment in Germany for poisoning by the Novichok nerve agent. Excerpts from Mr. Navalny's address which appeared in Russian publications and on radio where Navalny had been interviewed:

 A month after Navalny's return to Moscow in February of this year, Navalny was arrested and sentenced to prison.

But, the message of God's love and mercy has touched the soul of Alexey Navalny who has pursued the truth in his own life as well as in the governance of Russia.

Navalny's special focus has been on its leadership, where truth seems to be in short supply.

Jesus touched on the topic of prisoners of faith and conscience. In a parable in Matthew 25 Jesus said:

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... Truly I tell you whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

As the body of Christ, we are called to visit our imprisoned brothers.

We are members of the same body of Christ. This applies to those who have only just become followers of Christ as well.

In Romans 10:9 it is written: "If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart...you will be saved."

GCMM's mandate in Russia is twofold. First, the Gospel must be proclaimed to every person. Second, to support and encourage the local churches by equipping the church with tools to enable them to reach their fellow countrymen.

We do well to remember Alexey in prayer. The risks in prison are great. One can not only lose his health but also his life.

Alexey's Medical Condition

- During his imprisonment Alexey had been ill for a long time. However, prison authorities had not made his health condition public.

The last time lawyers had tried to see him, they were prevented from doing so and when they were finally granted permission, it turned out that Navalny was in the hospital. It was then, that his condition became public in Russia.

He has unbearable back pain, and is unable to sit. He also has numbness in his feet. Prison doctors were reluctant to treat his condition with the exception of a simple painkiller. When he was no longer able to move about, he was transferred to a prison hospital in a shroud of secrecy.

Alexey has over 20 counts against him, and each accusation weakens his case.

Authorities falsely claim that Navalny has been planning a prison break. As a result of this accusation, Alexey is woken up every hour to allegedly see that he is still in place. Uninterrupted sleep is a tactic to break a person.

A second accusation was that Alexey met his lawyer while in a t-shirt. In another, he was accused of getting out of bed "10 minutes ahead of schedule".

God's Word "On Trial"

-When Alexey appeared in court to present his defense, his speech was reported widely around the world, heavily edited.

The media were forbidden

of His Newfound Faith In God

entry to the courtroom. Minutes of the proceedings were made secretly. Much of what was spoken, was deleted.

A secret recording of the proceedings showed that his final defense consisted of a sermon.

Alexey stated that he had been a staunch atheist, whose world view had been anti-God, but now had come to faith.

While in pretrial detention, he had found comfort in the words of Jesus as quoted in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled" (The word righteousness in the Russian Bible is "truth").

As one listens to his defense, one can see that only a person who has come to faith is able to speak in the manner he spoke.

Alexey Navalny reasoned: "In the world's eyes, it is mindless to thirst for truth and to be nourished by it."

New Restrictive Law

- A new law has been passed by the Russian Parliament. This new law states that no teaching of any kind shall be conducted anywhere without a government license. So, in actual fact anyone can be fined.

On YouTube, Alexey is seen giving a lesson in servicing a car. He is being accused of teaching without a government permit.

In the same way, churches and their members can be accused of the same, teaching without a permit.

For example, if you teach music, teach Sunday school classes, or preach without a state permit, you are liable for prosecution.

 Last week GCMM received a fresh update from Siberia that a new printing of New Testaments and the Gospel of John have been shipped to Siberian churches.

Missions In Russia Is A Miracle

It is indeed a miracle that we have been able to continue printing literature for evangelism. Books have been shipped and distributed to many cities across Russia.

We received a request to print one million books this year, and to date we have printed 250,000. We hope to print the remaining with the necessary tools, needed to lead their countrymen and women to Jesus - to grow in the knowledge of God. The work continues and we pledge to fulfill our calling to the best of our ability by the grace of God.

- Before Jesus was taken up to heaven, he said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

This is important. The future of the church is in great danger un-



Russian Opposition Leader, Alexey Navalny with his wife Julia, before Alexey's imprisonment.

750,000 by the end of the year.

-This means churches in Russia are under increasing restrictions, with freedoms and opportunities for evangelism decreasing.

Travel is restricted due to the pandemic and soon vaccination certificates will be required for any kind of travel.

In Siberia where the books are printed enjoy a bit more freedom than the European side of Russia. We ask that you might remember the churches in prayer and to continue supporting them.

Our desire is to keep Russia's evangelical churches supplied

less its members become actively engaged in Jesus' last command to go into all the world to preach the Gospel to every nation.

We can compare evangelism to a relay race where the baton must be passed to the next runner assuming that the goal is to win the race.

This is the key. In doing so, the survival of the church will be ensured. And those coming behind us will discover that we never dropped the baton.

Ministry Magazine





Ministry In East Ukraine's War Zone ...Trust God, Pray And Minister!

Working closely with Ukrainian churches, GCMM has conducted large scale media campaigns in both Kiev, and in the Black Sea port city of Odessa. Using Ukrainian state television channels and mainline media, the message of God's power to change the hearts and lives of men and women has reached to millions of Ukrainians. A third media campaign was originally planned for 2020 in the current war zone. But due to the pandemic, as well as the recent hostile Russian military activity along the Ukrainian border, we have re-scheduled the launch of the campaign to the fall of this year, the Lord willing. Below is a special report from Gennady Mohnenko, our representative in the war zone.

Gennady is the pastor of the church in Mariupol and lives with his family15 kilometers

from the front lines. He is also the founder and director of a major local ministry to orphans and street children. We asked Gennady about the current situation in the region. His response:

- "This is the eighth year of the war here in the war zone in Eastern Ukraine.

During this past month, my nightly dreams are filled with rocket and mortar attacks and of my family being taken prisoner.







Once again, we are frantically drawing up evacuation plans for the children and the women. Among the men, we are discussing ways to protect our city.

I remember how Finland fought Russia during the winter war in 1939. Finland is an example of how a small nation was able to repel a giant, overpowering empire. It appeared they could have destroyed Finland in a matter of days.

– At night I have nightmares and I see fear in the eyes of the children at the orphanage. Yesterday, as we left the house we could hear the thunder of shelling. The threat of an all out attack by Russian backed rebel forces increases by the day.

We are stockpiling fuel and food because we know from experience that when a large scale attack begins, fuel will run out at gas stations within half an hour, the Banks close their doors, avenues of communication break down, and daily commodities will disappear in no time.

That's why we are planning for this kind of emergency. We are drawing up contingency plans for evacuation of our women and children.

Enemy media spins news on how Ukraine is gripped by "civil war". This is not a civil war. Part of our country is occupied by the Russia. This war was started by Russia and has been going on for eight years. Now there is the threat of a full scale war against Ukraine.

A couple of years ago, we visited the bombed front line village of Shirokino. What is happening in Shirokino?

We a have a direct view of the

front lines from the windows of my bedroom and our children see it when they wake up.

My youngest son is 13 years old. He has spent eight of those years in this war zone.

In other words, he has seen war for most of his life. He doesn't remember the earliest years of his life. When he wakes up, the first thing he sees from his window is war.

Yesterday, he heard shelling again and the thunder of artillery fire. The windows shook. That was yesterday. It means that there was heavy fighting in Shirokino. We could see flashes from explosions and billowing smoke through the window.

Yet, the children rejoice that spring had arrived. They were out playing volleyball, running and laughing.





It still feels like this is just some kind of a nightmare, and that somehow we will wake up to discover that it was not real. But the nightmare continues...

– Since the beginning of the year, 27 soldiers have died from the war. Dozens have been wounded including civilian casualties. No one can estimate how many lives have been lost as a result of traumatizing fear and despair.

Gennady, How is your health?

– I am suffering from the Corona virus. I should be resting and thinking of pleasant thoughts so that my immune system can regain its strength. But instead, I have one meeting after another.

We are brainstorming solutions for evacuating the children,

women and the elderly to safety, in the event that the enemy steps up military action toward our city.

GCMM conducted a media campaign in the Crimean peninsula in Sevastopol in 2012. How are things in Crimea?

-Things in Crimea are pretty grim. It seems it wasn't until after the Russians occupied Crimea that they realized that they had forgotten to take into account that Crimea is a peninsula that is structurally and economically dependent on mainland Ukraine.

Crimea doesn't have fresh water of its own, it all comes from mainland Ukraine.

First, Russia occupied Crimea and then demanded we supply them with fresh water. "If you don't help us, we will occupy another slice of your country."

In other words, it is like breaking into your house, taking over one room and saying, "Provide us with water and food to this room, and if you don't do this, we will occupy another room in your house."

How are things at the chicken farm and green house?

– I would like to thank Hannu and Laura and the whole GCMM team. We think of you every day. The farm is doing well. We have chickens, eggs, and now we even have a couple of goats and a pig.

Work is ongoing in the green house. It is spacious and greatly appreciated. There is room for seedlings as well. This has been a huge help during this war.

Thank you for partnering with us. We are grateful. The Niva autos that you donated have allowed our chaplains to deliver food supplies and water to villages and churches in need of assistance in the war zone. We enjoy the produce grown in the greenhouse sponsored by you.

What's happening with the house churches in the war zone that we visited with you and Albert?

Life goes on. They continue to minister under difficult circumstances. For strategic reasons power is cut every night and communication is down. The threat of major military action creates a lot of problems for these churches.





Some people have been able to evacuate sensing that something terrible is about to happen.

Most people have stayed. They are weary of war and are in a state of apathy. They are saying, "whatever happens, let it happen. If they kill us, let them kill us, we will not leave." Our military chaplains and volunteers are there, ministering non stop.

We plan to go back soon to see them again. Our soldiers have no time for visitors, yet they ask that we come. In a few weeks we will do a lengthy visit to the front. There will be a lot to do.

Thank You For Your Prayers

I am thankful that you keep us in your prayers. I have contracted the Corona virus and have suffered from a fever this past week. Three of my children also have the virus.

We have isolated my wife from the rest of the family, so that no one will infect her. She has suffered from a health condition for many years and her immune system is weakened. Vaccinations are not yet available in our area.

Thank you for your prayers. Please greet our beloved friends at GCMM.

Once again let me say that the history of the small nation of Finland, even after so many decades, continues to be an example for us.

As mentioned, GCMM month long media campaigns were conducted in Kiev, the capital city of Ukraine as well as the port city of Odessa. By using television and mainline media, the Gospel reached millions in the country.

We saw thousands come to know the Lord and witnessed new churches planted.

Lord willing, the upcoming campaign in the war zone in East Ukraine is likely to reach six million people with the message of God's reconciling love for Ukraine.

Paul wrote: "...God reconciled the world to himself in Christ... and has committed us to the message of reconciliation... to be reconciled to God." (2 Cor 5:19-20)

This campaign which was to take place in 2020 was postponed. Testimonies of transformed lives have already been prepared for television, radio and print.

We are looking at a start date in the fall of this year.

Hannu Haukka with Gennady Mohnenko

Report: Ministering Among Jews In Russia

A rush to join the Pesach event in St. Petersburg

When restrictions for gatherings came into effect in many countries more than a year ago, we were also unable to organize events commemorating biblically based celebrations locally.

With restrictions easing up and the opportunity to once again arrange gatherings, the GCMM Israel ministry team decided to have a Pesach—an Easter passover celebration in St Petersburg. Preregistration was by phone, with a couple hundred people wanting to participate in the event.

People called in enthusiastically to participate, which was a reflection of their great desire to be together again after a long period of isolation.

GCMM sent a video greeting for the celebration, with volunteers from the Father's Heart Messianic Church and Andrei and Ljudmila Evert taking care of the rest of the program. Andrei and Ljudmila have been serving with us in Jewish ministry for many years.

It became evident through the music, praise dances and the spoken Word of God, that the Messiah of Israel came to free, save and redeem His people.

TV Channel in Georgia

Georgia in the Caucasus, which is one of the oldest Jewish areas in the world, has a locally Christian-run TV channel. We have a program agreement with them. Their high-level production team began translating and dubbing our Israel themed programs into Georgian last year, with the first programs already reaching viewers this year.



A photo at Christmas, of the Georgian TV channel team who are producing Israel themed programs into the Georgian language.



The Pesach celebration in St. Petersburg was the first event in over a year, with more attendees desiring to attend than was possible.

VIEWER FEEDBACK MAIL

In addition to our traditional TV channel programs, YouTube has increasingly grown as a form of media ministry for GCMM, receiving 500-700 messages from viewers monthly. Here are a few examples:

Janna: A huge thank you for your programs, which are eye opening for me. I would like to get to Jerusalem to experience everything for myself.

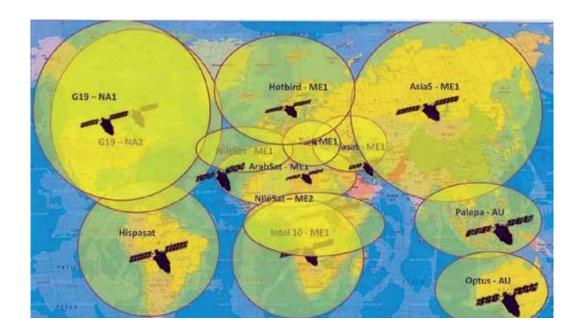
Svetlana: Lord, help me and forgive me. Lead me to your light for Christ's sake!

Anonymous: Oh, what a program, I have watched it over and over many times in tears. It's well done and conveys love and goodness. I have experienced a lot of hard things and want to face more goodness in the world.

SATELLITES: God's "Secret Plan" in Reaching Millions of Arab, Irani, Somali Muslims

GCMM produces approximately 800 new Christian TV programs annually for evangelism in Arabic, Sudanese Arabic, Farsi, Berber and Amharic. These programs are shown all over the world on 18 Satellite TV channels. They reach more than 100 million Muslims and Arabs each month, with an average of 200,000 to 400,000 viewers contacting our program centers. Through them, those who wish to take next steps have the opportunity to be connected to thousands of networks created by Christians living throughout the Islamic world.

Below are some stories from viewers where they share how as Muslims they find Jesus through our programs.



Reza from Morocco

Reza had rid himself of using drugs and heard the good news of the gospel through our programs. He had been addicted to heroin for 16 years. He told us, "I am in love with your programs, that have really blessed me. Now Christ has become the Truth to me."

Reza was very eager to pray with us at the end of our conversation. We prayed together and he surrendered his heart to the Lord.

Mohsen from Iraq

I want to tell you good news, of how my mother and father have begun to believe in Christ after 15 years. Now they watch Christian TV channels all the time.

It seems that the Lord wanted me to watch your programs over and over again so that I could live a life that glorifies Christ, and that my behavior when testifying, would reflect that Christ is real.

Mir from Afghanistan

"I live in Afghanistan. About a year ago, I began to believe in Jesus Christ through your programs. My family knows about it and I can pray and worship the Lord in my own home. However, there are no churches here and I have been threatened by Muslims.

If I practice my faith in public, as I do, is my faith in God and Jesus Christ accepting, if I hide my faith to save my life?

If this is not acceptable to Him in this manner, I must declare my faith in Jesus before religious people, even if it means certain death at their hands. This is why I want to know your view – what should I do? Do I keep my faith a secret until an appropriate time, or do I continue to worship Christ at home, where family members are aware of my faith?"

A warm thank you for your prayers and supporting the mission of reaching Muslims with the message of the Gospel!

Hani Henein and Ari Talja

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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





