

MINISTRY



Great Commission Media Ministries

Summer 2021

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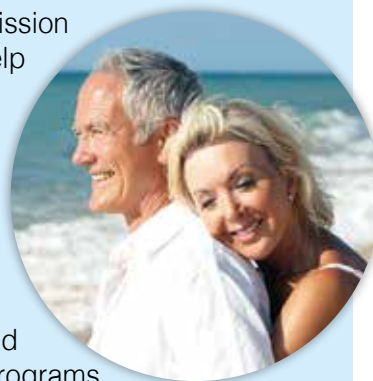
Your legacy helps continue the Great Commission

Jesus' last commandment to fulfill the Great Commission has not been completed yet. You can effectively help to complete His work. What kind of legacy do you want to leave for following generations?

If Great Commission Media Ministries outreach is close to your heart, then perhaps you would like to help fulfill the Great Commission with your last testament and will. By your planned giving you can be sure that the Gospel will continue to be preached through mega city campaigns, satellite television programs and other use of effective cutting-edge tools of media missions.

To help you with the process of planning your will, we can help arrange professional estate specialists, whose planning tools and information will help you be a good steward of all God has given you.

For more information or assistance with planned giving, please call us at: 877 244-7618
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"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us..."

John 1:1–14

In this issue of Ministry Magazine, we share the latest developments regarding the ministry of GCMM in Russia. It's a miracle of God that we have been able to continue to print and supply churches with New Testaments and the Gospel of John, while at the same time many ministries have been labeled foreign agents and undesirable organizations by Russia's Security Service, the FSB.

No small wonder

If it were not for God's continuing intervention, His miracle provision and protecting hand this ministry in Russia would have ceased. The collective intercessory prayers of friends and supporters of GCMM and the prayers of believers in Russia have played a decisive role.

Should we be labeled as a foreign agent, as has been the case with many ministries, we could not continue to do what we do.

The key publishing company in Central Siberia, the one used by GCMM, would be forbidden to accept orders. Likewise, transport companies in Russia would refuse to ship the books to churches across Russia.

As of this writing, we continue to print and distribute the Word of God. By the end of June, 250,000 copies of the New Testament and the Gospel of John had been shipped to Churches. Please see map on pages 12-13.

The power of the Word

God's promises in His Word are like pine trees in the Rocky Mountains of Scripture, abundant, unbending, evergreen. In His word, we find strength for life's journey. The word of God has the power to change us. Jesus said, "Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into

practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock". The storms of life—yes, they come to all of us—the fierce winds, heavy rains, flood waters will never destroy it.

No hands!

A beautifully transcribed plaque was affixed to the front door of a church in Russia. It could be seen by everyone entering the Church. It bore the text "God is love."

It was written by a woman who had no hands. She wrote it with a brush between her teeth. Despite her physical limitations, she had experienced God's love and she bore witness to the love of God by crafting and writing the sign.

In the first chapter of the Bible, we read how God created the heavens and the earth by the power of His word. God merely spoke and things began to happen—the stars, the sun, the moon, and the earth began teeming with life, animals, birds, fish, and lastly came the creation of man.

The Word in the dark valley

John wrote: "the Word became flesh (1:1) and that the world was made through Him" (1:10). To all, who received Him, He gave the power to become children of God (1:12).

The Word pours hope into the down trodden soul and protects us in life's darkest valleys. The Word restores the tired soul (Psalm 23:3) and heals our wounds.

God has never stopped speaking through His word to his creation.

History shows that the word of God has withstood the test of time. All antagonists have disappeared but the Word remains unaltered with its numerous unshakable promises.



Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

These words are a promise to everyone, but also a warning to those who envisioned destroying the Word.

Opposition

A German scholar, author, researcher and artist Johann Wolfgang von Goethe stated:

"Though the world may move forward and advance incredibly, and even if all areas of human research and knowledge rise to great heights, nothing can replace the Bible which is the foundation, the life blood of all knowledge and development!"

Philosophies and ideologies will come and go, but the Word of God remains forever, because in it is "life".

For all who choose to embrace the Word of God there is every reason to rejoice. Let us share the Living Word with all who do not yet know or have access to the truth that still sets men free, restores, heals, washes away our sins.

The Word became flesh in order to save fallen man, including 145 million Russians, He has called us to reach them with the good news of the Gospel. Jesus said: "I have come that they may have life, and that they have it more abundantly."

This is the reason, the basis of our calling to keep on going and sharing the Story of Jesus with millions in Russia using the printed Word.

May your summer be very blessed and safe and full of joy. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel,

Dr. Hannu Haukka

Israeli Messianic Leaders Talk



According to Wikipedia, Hamas opposes a peaceful solution to the Palestinian situation, in accordance with its charter. It aims to create an Islamic state in the region.

The charter of the Palestinian National Authority, written in 1988 and still in force, refers to the destruction of the state of Israel and the establishment of an Islamic state. Hamas governs Gaza with Sharia principles and is accused of human rights organizations of torture, executions, censorship, ill-treatment of women and routine abuses.

The recent war between Palestinian militants and Israel was the most serious conflict since the war in Gaza in 2014.

Ministry magazine called pastors from three Messianic churches in Israel to get their view on what happened.

Pastor Peter Tsukahira lives in Haifa and serves the messianic congregation on Mount Carmel. Peter shared his thoughts on the 11-day war.

- There are many sides to the conflict. It's not a simple one-sided or two-sided thing. Hamas (in Gaza) is a terrorist organization,

as well as a political organization. It seeks influence in the Islamic world and competes with the Palestinian Authority (West bank). I think that the Palestinian Authority is upset that some of the Gulf nations have made peace with Israel. They are concerned, I'm sure, over the Israeli elections and that Israel is gaining strength.

This attack was carefully planned on the part of Hamas. It sought world attention, funding

and influence. At the same time, Hamas calculated the cost of the conflict to themselves as well. It is still unclear whether their strategy worked or not, but the war was bad and we are glad that it's over.

What will happen next?

-From a believer's perspective, the only solution is for hearts to change. As long as Hamas as an organization is committed to the destruction of Israel and remains in power, there is no political or military solution to the situation.

-Israel pulled out of the Gaza Strip in 2005 with the hopes of lasting peace. Hamas has however, resisted the formation of a state in Gaza. Hamas has instead built weapon systems to destroy Israel.

- We know it's a hopeless dream. They cannot defeat Israel, and we also know that Israel cannot defeat Hamas. Israel does not want to govern Gaza or annex Gaza. We want them to rule themselves and succeed, but that is a solution that's not acceptable to them.

-This is a high-stakes game. They have an evil strategy. This isn't about chaotic aggression against Israel.

Everything is well planned, well calculated. In this past 11-day conflict, we succeeded in that we did not send our troops into Gaza which was the move that Hamas really wanted, to lure our troops, our youth onto the streets of Gaza to ambush them.

Israeli ground forces are a much easier target than directing rocket fire at Israel. They failed and we destroyed over 100 miles of their tunnels as well as their military installations.

-This weakened Hamas militarily. It was a tragedy that this did

About The War With Hamas

not benefit the well-being of the people of Gaza. An Israeli spokesman said that Israel sees Hamas as the enemy, and not the people in Gaza. Hamas has projected itself an enemy of Israel.

Was there rocket fire in Haifa?

- In my home city of Haifa, we saw unrest between competing extremist groups. Radical Muslims who are Israeli citizens, have been violent towards other Jewish Israeli citizens.

And vice versa, extremist Jews have attacked Israeli Arabs. We know that here in Haifa, people from outside the city came to incite the crowds and do not represent the large majority.

Our focus is on community

- As Messianic Jews, we foster and work towards maintaining good relations with Arab Christian pastors. We have understood this to be the Lord's plan for us and we have been doing this for decades.

-Messianic Jewish leaders often pray with Arab Christian leaders, work together and we are friends. We are one body — we meet and we keep in touch.

A word to our readers?

- In Psalm 122:6 it says, "Peace be to Jerusalem, may those who love you prosper."

- We ask that you pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for all of Israel, so that the Prince of Peace

will change the hearts and minds of both Arabs and Jews.

- Only the Lord himself can solve this problem. It's not just a political problem, and it's not just about political justice or terrorism.

- It's about our worldview, our hearts and minds. We need to pray that the Holy Spirit would move in a mighty way in our area once again, a mighty wind that heals, reconciles and changes people.

We will continue to pray for Israel.

Thank you. We know that we have many good friends at Great Commission Media Ministries. We appreciate each of you very much.

David Zadok serves as pastor and is also the director of the Israel Bible College in Jerusalem. We asked him how the war was seen in Jerusalem.

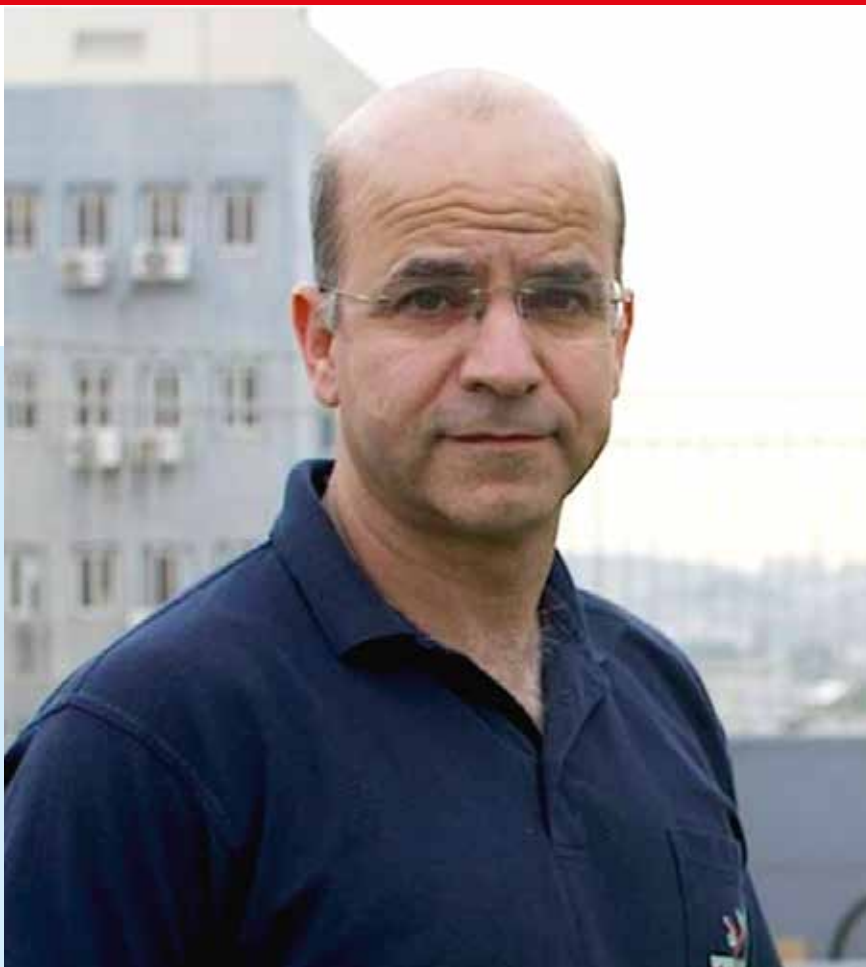
- With the missile defense system in place, only a few missiles hit the ground in this area, however in Ashdod the bombing affected many messianic believers.

- I don't believe this will be the last time that we find ourselves in this situation. This situation will only be resolved, when peace comes to the hearts of both Jews and Palestinians alike.

- We are grateful for the prayers that join us together in Christ. Many prayers have been answered, with more than 4,000 missiles fired only about 10 people died as a result.

Let us continue to pray that on both sides, Palestinians and Jews have the opportunity to hear the Gospel.





Jerusalem Assembly Pastor, Meno Kalisher: We know that there are born-again believers in Gaza and Lebanon, who are children of God as much as we are.

Meno Kalisher is the pastor of Jerusalem Assembly Messianic Congregation. Meno is the son of a Iranian Jewish family, which emigrated to Israel from Iran several decades ago. We asked Pastor Meno how his congregation experienced the recent 11-day war with Hamas.

- On the first day of the war around six o'clock in the evening, six missiles were fired towards Jerusalem. We were in the middle of a youth meeting.

We heard the sirens and quietly and quickly went down a couple of flights of stairs to the bomb shelter. The missiles hit the outskirts of the city only.

We are thankful to God that we only heard the loud explosions and no one was hurt. Since it's a terrorist organization, their actions are unpredictable. They do not have moral standards in conflict and civilians are their targets.

-This conflict means that we cannot take anything for granted'. We are

not able to predict anything ahead of time. Secondly, as an assembly we are not able to come together at the same time. All our activities must take place either inside or outside near buildings. We must not move away from bomb shelters.

How about the future? What does it look like to you?

- First of all, each day of the ceasefire is a cause for rejoicing. Don't get me wrong. None of us wake up in the morning prepared for war, and none of us want war.

It needs to be understood as well, that the war could not have lasted very much longer solely using air strikes.

It would seem that ground forces would have had to join the war effort within days had the strikes continued. There would have been widespread devastation on all sides.

A potential engagement of Israeli ground forces, would have meant

sending our boys to war. I am 69 years old and no longer in the military, but our children are. My son is in the army, as well as sons of other believers. No one wants their children in battle.

If something like that were to happen, Hezbollah would not idly stand by in the north for the conflict to end. Should Hamas and Hezbollah join hands, it would mean World War III for us and no one would be spared. It would be like Samson, who sacrificed his life before the Philistines.

- In this scenario, it would be best to buy a new map of the Middle East, which does not include Israel, literally, and I mean literally.

You need to help believers in dealing with post traumatic stress disorder...

-Yes, it is true, stress levels are on the rise continuously.

This affects relationships and on a very personal level. We take care of our soldiers.

They need to be told that the congregation is there for them and we buy them whatever goods they need, within reason, if their own families are unable to provide for them. We want to be their support as a big family.

American believers pray for Israel. What would you say to them?

-Yes. We know many Christians have been praying for us and we do not take it for granted.

We know that in Gaza and Lebanon, there are born again Christians, children of God. We need to remember that the problems stem from poor leadership.

Please pray for the Christians in Gaza and southern Lebanon. Pray also for salvation for Israel. The real solution to the problem is Christ, not a new missile or Iron Dome missile defense system.



"There Cannot Be An Israel Without Jerusalem"

"There can be Jerusalem without Israel, but there cannot be Israel without Jerusalem."

David Ben-Gurion

"Peace will come to the Middle East, only when the Arabs love their children more than they hate us." **Golda Meir**

"The world hates the Jew who hits back. The world loves us only when we are to be pitied." **Golda Meir**

"If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel." **Golda Meir**

"We want to live. Our neighbors want us to dead. There isn't much room left for compromise."

Golda Meir

"We have always said, that in war with the Arabs we had a secret weapon—no alternative."

Golda Meir

The Jerusalem Post

The unsettled relationship between Israeli Jews, Arabs and Palestinians, stems from a long-term period of neglect and discontent.

No matter which Israeli government is in power, it's understood that the Palestinian question is here to stay—both at home and on the other side of the wall.

The Government, under which Arab parties participate,

is more important now than ever because it shows co-existence is not just wishful thinking. Such a government could seek to address violence and racism, as well as promote a fairer distribution of its financial resources.

The historical perspective of the Israeli-Arab conflict suggests that progress towards a solution is a process: one step forward can lead to a step backwards and vice versa. The 1979 peace agreement

with Egypt did not prevent the 1982 war with Lebanon.

The Oslo Accords of 1993-95 did not prevent Intifada in 2000.

The 2020 peace agreements with the Arab states did not prevent the latest outbreak of violence between Jews and Arabs.

This doesn't mean that we should spread despair, but that we are to avoid becoming complacent and take concrete steps to improve the situation.



Israeli army chief of staff Aviv Kochavi monitors the activities of Israeli Defense Forces. Military action against Iran and Hezbollah-backed Hamas' rocket attacks, have required different ways of thinking and retaliation.



Moment of terror with no place to hide. A Jewish mother clutches her children as they are caught by surprise too far from the closest bomb shelter as Hamas rockets rain randomly on Israeli cities, towns and civilians.



The “Guardian of the Walls” War Against Hamas

The following report is an excerpt from the *King of Kings Assembly* newsletter in *Jerusalem*, May 2021 issue.

In recent weeks, there have been many reports about events taking place in Israel. We want to pass along reliable information to supporters of our work, with a short summary of what we have experienced in Israel during the Hamas war:

What caused the conflict?

During the month of Ramadan, a worrying trend started with a TikTok video that was shared on a social networking service. Violent attacks against Orthodox Jews were filmed and uploaded.

Obstacles were set up and removed in Jerusalem, at the Damascus gate.

Riots erupted on Temple Mount and Israeli border police forced the rioters to disperse.

A land dispute between Sheikh Jarrah and Jewish landowners, as well as the Arab families living there, had significant undesirable developments take place.

What was the war about?

Hamas fired more than 4,300 rockets at Israel during the 11 days of conflict. The Israeli “Iron Dome” missile defense shield blocked 90% of the missiles fired.

During the hostilities, 13 victims died in Israel, of whom 12 were civilians and 1 soldier.

In Gaza, nearly 250 Palestinians, including 66 children, died. According to the Israeli army and intelligence sources, 200 fighters from Hamas and Islamic jihad were killed.

Israel hit 6,500 Hamas targets. They targeted the Hamas and Islamic Jihad military infrastructure and 100 km of strategic underground tunnels, through which Hamas smuggled parts for manufacturing rockets from Egypt.

During the operation, Israel took extreme precautions to avoid civilian casualties, by warning of the impending attacks on buildings in

Gaza being used by Hamas ahead of time. Civilians living in a Hamas building, were called and warned of the targeted attack.

Why did this happen?

The Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas feared that Hamas would win the election and canceled it, accusing Israel that they were the ones who had canceled the election.

Hamas had hoped to take hold of the historic PLO centers by taking provocative action.

We can support Israel by praying

- for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122)
- to comfort those who have lost family members in the war
- to protect the Jewish people abroad from anti-Semitic attacks
- the safety of the soldiers, as well as the Messianic congregations that are actively serving in their communities
- the formation of the next Israeli government

Siberian Churches Gladly Re



In Central Siberia 200,000 *Gospels of John* are off the press, printed and shipping to churches. The pandemic has been deadly across much of Russia, Siberian churches from the Ural mountains to the Pacific Ocean in the east have continued to take the Gospel to remote towns and villages.

In the end of May, GCMM finished printing another 200,000 *Gospels of John* in Siberia.

The books are being shipped to a dozen major hub cities from where they will be distributed to over a 100 smaller cities, towns and villages in eastern Russia and Siberia.

The 200,000 copies of the *Gospel of John* are a complement to a previous order of 50,000 *New Testaments* earlier in April-May.

The map on the next pages shows where the latest books have been sent.

Still on order from Churches in Russia is an additional 750,000 books for 2021.

As of June 1st, a new law was passed further curtailing the freedom of expression in Russia.

Churches wishing to remain faithful to the Great Commission

given by Jesus in Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:18 will face persecution.

Bishop Yuri Ananiev, from southern Russia, told *Ministry* magazine, that the present situation is clearly reminiscent of the Soviet era. It is the "Iron Curtain" once again.

The new law bans all educational activity without a permit from the Moscow authorities.

The law is comprehensive. Even quoting the Bible in the wrong place can be punishable by law.

This includes any person lecturing, tutoring or teaching on the internet and elsewhere. The new law includes the circulation of Bible teaching for Christian growth.

This means that anyone who re-posts, quotes, or places on the web, the words of Jesus from the

Sermon on the Mount, for example quoted by Alexei Navalny can end up serving a 30-day prison sentence.

Bishop Ananiev continues "To me, this is a clear sign that days of the Iron Curtain have returned. This is now a fact in Russia."

Did the restrictions begin with the infamous Yarovaya Law?

- Yes. About ten years ago, I recall GCMM Director, Hannu, telling me about this.

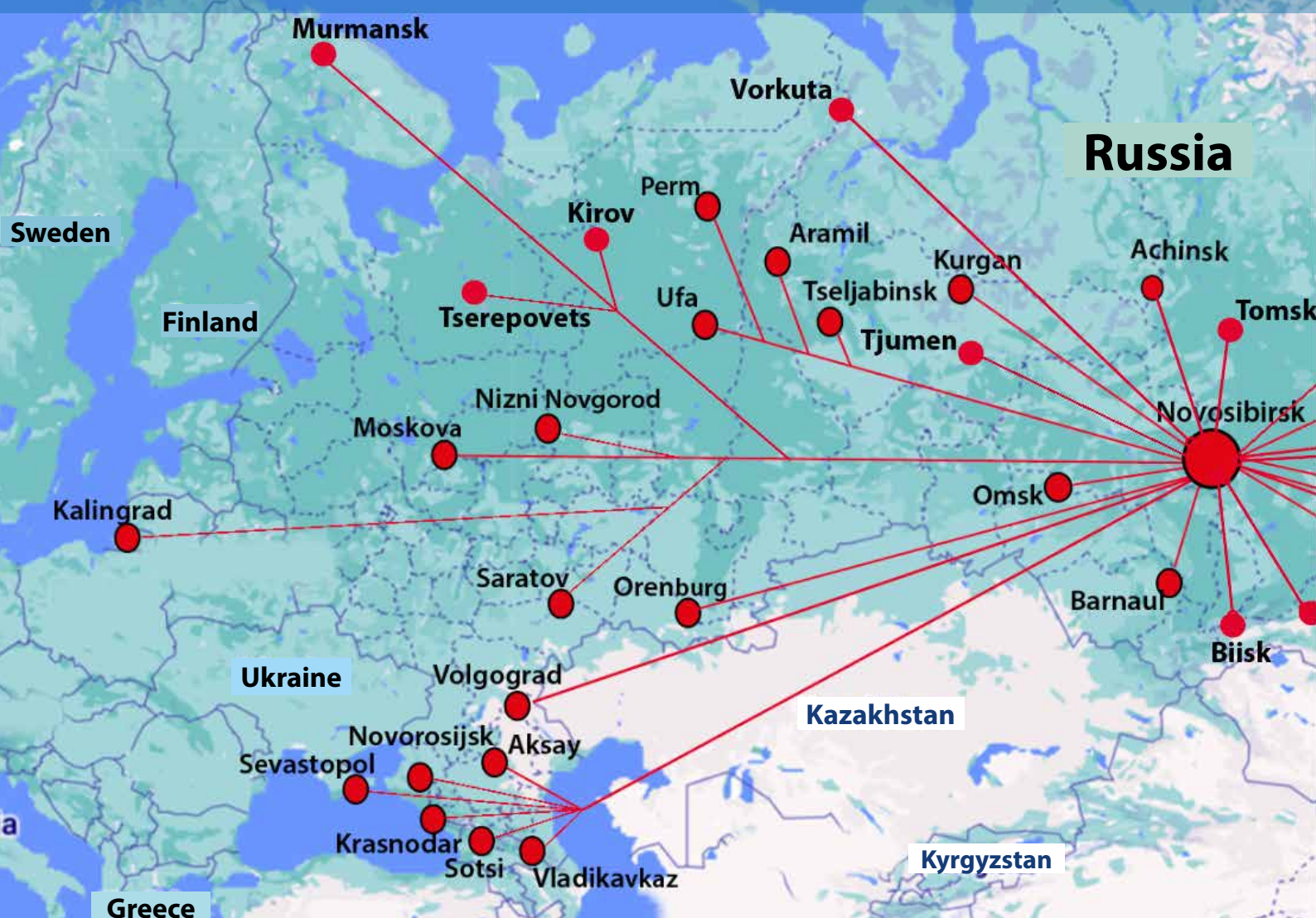
GCMM conducted over 40 mega-city media campaigns in Russia between 2003 and 2012. It was an unprecedented time of harvesting souls for the kingdom of God in Russia.

David Wilkerson, pastor and author from Times Square Church in New York warned 4,000 Russian pastors in Moscow that this time of

ceive More New Testaments



GCMM: Fresh Deliveries Of



How is it possible that we are allowed to continue printing Bibles in Russia? Response: It is God who is keeping the door open for GCMM. No one knows how long this will continue. We will use this opportunity until we are told to stop.

harvest would not last.

By 2012 the Russian Federal Bureau of State Security, better known as the FSB, had threatened all secular media that co-worked with churches in Russia to terminate their activity. Violators would be mercilessly shut down.

So, what followed was a time of opportunity to massively distribute printed material by the Church.

And, with the media out of reach, GCMM embarked on printing over 6 million powerful evangelistic

books called "Experience The Power to Change" for church ministry across Russia.

In the past few years alone, we have received reports of 2-3 million people having received Jesus as Lord. That resulted in over two thousand new churches and house churches planted!

Presently, churches continue to use GCMM evangelistic literature going from door to door sharing the gospel message. This activity is primarily in Siberia and eastern

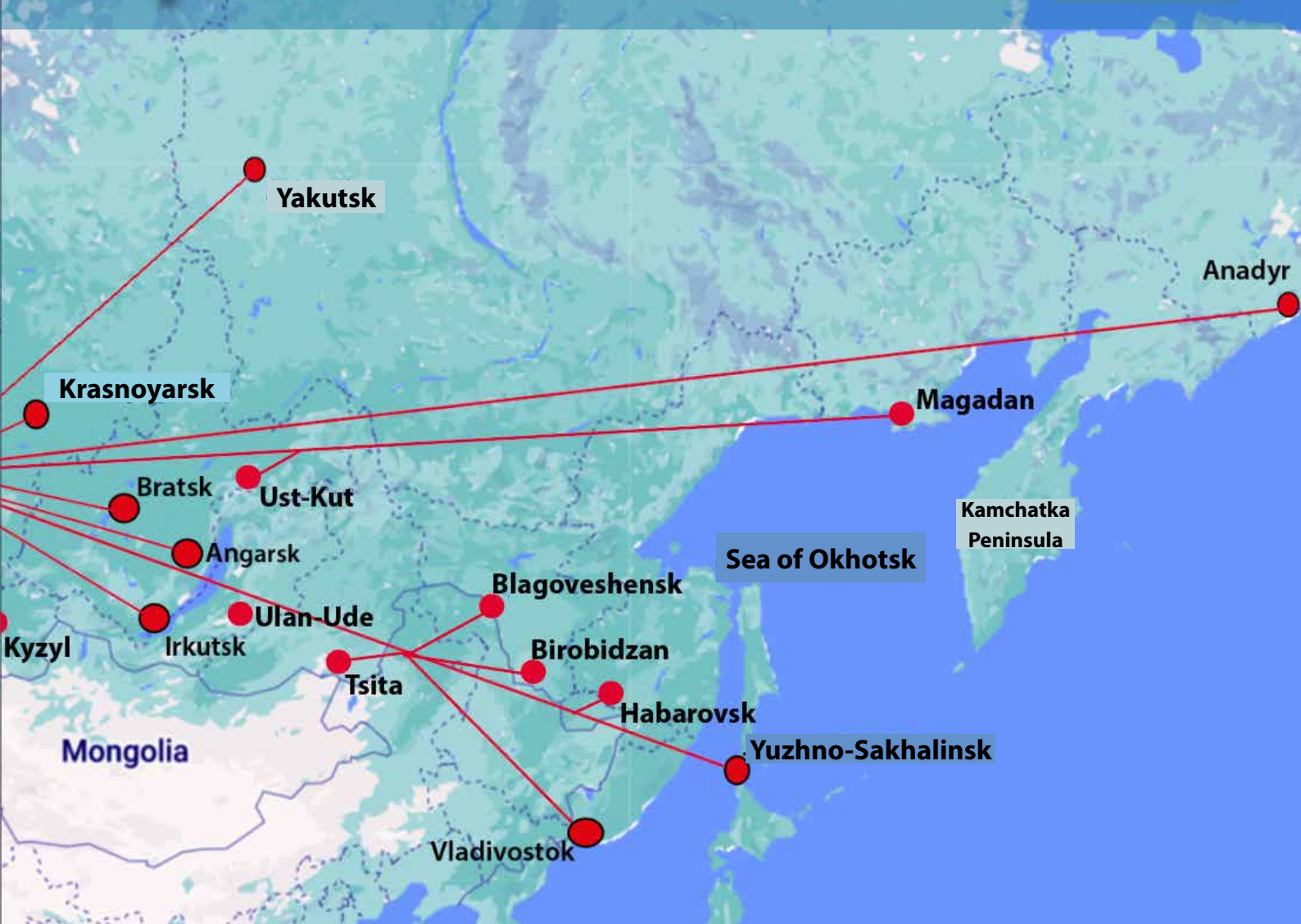
Russia where the gospel message is still welcomed and received.

In European Russia, evangelists are prosecuted and face prison and houses of prayer have been bulldozed.

How is it possible that GCMM can still continue to print inside Russia?

- Those who have not succumbed to intimidation and pressure by the Kremlin have followed the example of the apostles. They ask, "Who should

Scripture To Russian Churches



Churches are using GCMF financed evangelistic literature and going to door to door, sharing the good news of the Gospel. This ministry fares well in Siberia and eastern Russia where the Gospel is still welcomed and received.

we obey, the authorities or God?"

The Holy Spirit gave the apostles the power and the boldness to continue proclaiming the gospel message.

Churches that refuse to compromise their mission, their convictions will continue.

- Personally, I do not understand how we have been able to continue doing this. It is my understanding that God is keeping the door open to allow us to do His will.

We don't know how long this

will continue. So, we use the opportunity as best we can.

It is a miracle of God, that we have not been labeled foreign agents.

Perhaps it's because we proclaim the Gospel and have no other agenda.

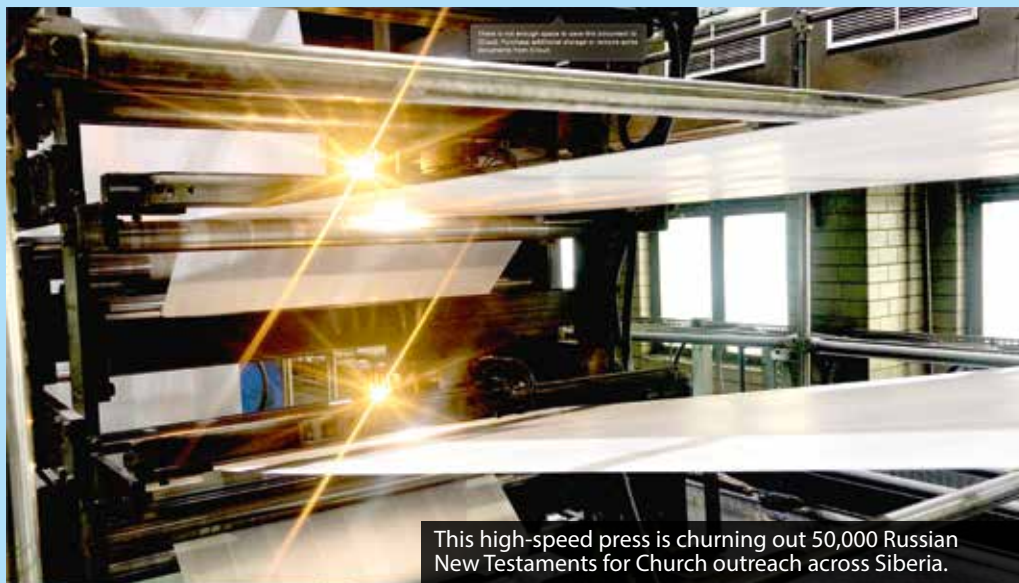
What is a foreign agent and a hostile organization?

- If an organization publishes any material, they must include a printed statement that the organization

is a foreign agent.

For GCMF, it would mean that no one would work with us. For example, a printing company would refuse to take orders for books and transport companies would refuse to deliver the books across Russia.

This is comparable to what happened during World War II in Germany, when the Star of David was glued to the backs of the Jews, so that no one would approach them or deal with them. This is the question even now.



This high-speed press is churning out 50,000 Russian New Testaments for Church outreach across Siberia.



00113.m

Viewer Response Skyrockets Ac



Thanks to GCOMM Arabic and Farsi programs that air on 18 satellite TV channels, millions of Muslims are reached daily by broadcasting the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. Between 300-400,000 viewers contact our follow up centers in the Middle East and North Africa every month. Here are some recent testimonies from the calls we have received:

Iraq

Thank you that you do a wonderful work through your TV programs. It has been 13 years since Jesus Christ came to me as a light in a dream and I saw Him. He was so full of light, so bright. Since then, so much has happened in my life. First, the temptation to use drugs has completely left me and I have stopped smoking. I used to be a thief, but no

longer steal. So many things in me have changed.

I was in jail for 12 years. I was charged with stealing and 4 of my fingers were cut off in a public town square. My legs were also fractured in public, announcing that I was a thief.

But Christ came into my life. After that I have not lived that kind of life anymore. A few months ago,

security agents stopped me. They asked why I had become a Christian. I told them, "I was a thief and a transgressor, but Jesus Christ saved me."

They asked, "Do you know what your crime is?" They told me, "You live in a manner in which you draw and attract people to you." I answered, "It is not me, but Christ who is in me. I was dead 13 years ago, but He came and saved me. That's why I wanted to give my life to Christ because of His love."

Jordan

Eight years ago, I found faith in Christ. Since then, six other families have come to faith through your programs.

I thank God that I can watch your satellite TV programs. I've told my friends about the programs they should watch. The Lord has helped us. We are a family of 8, and 5 of us are believers.

Algeria

I am truly thankful for your awesome programs. There is a lot of unemployment here so we don't go out much, we just stay inside and watch your programs. We are start-



Churches are using GCOMM financed evangelistic literature and going to door to door.



June 2021. 200,000 copies of the Gospel of John stand packed and ready to be shipped to over 100 destinations.

ross The Middle East and Africa



ing to understand them and we are realizing how wrong we have been.

There are no churches here where we can worship the Lord in peace. I truly love Jesus Christ with my whole heart. I read the Bible and watch your programs every day.

I hope that my whole nation would come to know Christ.

Tunisia

I have been a believer for several years and your programs have blessed me.

Here in Tunisia we can't speak openly to people, so we give hints

on how to watch your programs. Through them, they see the light and then come back to us and come to faith.

We want you to know, what an important role you have in evangelism. Without you even realizing it, we are in a sense your co-workers—one of us is planting the seeds, another is watering the seeds, and growth comes from God. Blessings to you!

Syria

I am greatly indebted to God, who I came to know through you. You

have helped me grow in Him. If you compare what I was like before and what I am now, I see how much work the Lord has done in my life.

Sometimes it's hard to believe, that I am still the same Saher. It's as if you helped me see things from another perspective and have opened my eyes to things I was unable to see before.

Lebanon

My husband was a Shiite Muslim, but watched a certain Christian program a lot. As result, he became a believer in Jesus.

Palestinians Respond To Jesus



When mega-city media campaigns were held in Israel, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank 12 years ago, GCMW witnessed the Power of God's Word in action. Thousands of Arabs responded and received Jesus as Lord.

Stories of changed lives of Palestinians were showcased for the first time on TV channels, radio programs, billboards and newspapers.

The campaign call centers received thousands of calls from Arabs in East Jerusalem, Haifa, Gaza and the West Bank.

Conducting high-impact media campaigns in Islamic cultures and communities was said to be an impossible feat. Palestinian media

would never give space or airtime for a Christian message.

Instead, a new chapter in missions to the Arabic people was being written.

Contrary to all expectations, the door opened to mainline Arab media including TV, radio, newspapers, billboards all bearing powerful testimonies of transformation.

In response to the media, thousands of calls were received. Callers

wanted to read all of the stories of Arabs who had experienced the transforming power of God in their lives.

The Unreached Druze

The Druze are considered an unreached Arabic ethnic minority. Their religious tradition separates them from mainline the Muslim communities.

The Druze moved away from Islam to its own brand of religion in the 11th century. Conversions from other religions to Druze, or conversions of the Druze to other religions are not accepted. Yet, callers from the Druze community in Northern Israel wanted to find their way to Jesus.

One Druze man called and asked: "Can your God accept me too? Can a Druze come to faith to become a Christian?" He asked for the evangelism book and the Jesus DVD.

In addition to the media, the campaign included several concerts, with up to 2,000 people in the audience. Hundreds of attendees made a personal profession of faith, following a keynote speech in the closing moments of the concerts.

Extremists wake up

Where the Kingdom of God is preached, there the enemy will be as well, to oppose.

Our campaign call centers received threats from extremist groups of Islamists, including a threat to burn down the campaign office—which did not materialize.

Just days prior to the media campaign, an article appeared in the main Palestinian newspaper FATAH, where extremist Sheikh Kamal Khateeb declared a Fatwa to the campaign. This meant that

Continued on page 18

Iraq

Abo communicated with us through WhatsApp and was amazed at the Bible. He thought at the time that the content of the Bible was distorted and that no truth could be found in it. He told us he is constantly afraid of being tortured or dying.

He also told us, that he had been ill for 32 years. We told him about faith and what Christianity holds, and he then asked: “Will salvation be achieved through fasting and prayer?” We replied that we are all sinners and we make mistakes, but that Jesus died on the cross to take upon himself the punishment that we deserve!

“Jesus Christ... He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the world.” 1 John 2:2

“Do you want to be forgiven of your sins?” Abo Mohamed answered affirmatively and accepted Christ as his Savior. We began reading the Gospel of Luke together and prayed with him.

Afghanistan

“About 10 years ago, I was disappointed in the Islamic faith. Amongst the leaders, I saw superstition and magic, violence and finagling which caused me to completely lose faith in all Islamic beliefs.

About 6 years ago, by chance, I started to watch your programs on satellite TV. I saw how many of the people who called in were disrespectful in the manner in which they spoke, but the Christian hosts on the programs were patient and kind hearted. A Christian’s kindheartedness and love intrigued me.”

We spoke with Abdolbashir about the gospel message and the coming of Christ to earth to save us from judgment by His own death and resurrection. After this he said: “I feel like I was born again and I feel light, as if a burden has been lifted off me.”



The 3,000 Year Old Question – “Isaac, where is your brother Ishmael?”

It was a fateful day 3,600 year ago for Ishmael, the forefather of the Arabic nation which to this day, still bears bitter fruit.

The chairman of Israel’s Arab-language congregations in the Middle East, reminded us of what happened between the brothers, Isaac and Ishmael. On that fateful day, when Ishmael was told he had to leave the home of his father Abraham, three things happened. Ishmael

lost his connection and relationship with the God of Abraham, his father and his brother Isaac.

The Arabic-language media ministry, seeks to find the lost descendants of Ishmael, and show them the way back to a relationship with the God of Abraham.

Restoring the relationship between the two nations, of the Arabs and the Jews, is only possible through Christ. For this reason, we continue with our ministry in the Middle East.

Muslims were to avoid all contact with the campaign.

But Fatwa had the opposite effect. Many Muslims called to receive their personal copy of the evangelism book with transformation stories of Arabs. The book included the four spiritual laws and the prayer of salvation, and the Jesus Film on DVD.

Cana of Galilee

We experienced many moments of blessing in Cana of Galilee, which by the way was the same village where 2,000 years earlier Jesus had turned the water into wine at a wedding.

The village of Cana, in Bible times, is now called Kafr Kana and is a town with an Arab population.

As we drove through the busy Intersection in the middle of the town of Cana, a giant billboard advertising the media campaign appeared before our eyes.

Several shops dotted the intersection. Across from one shop there was this giant campaign billboard. We found out that its owner had called the call center in Haifa.

The shop owner said that he had seen many ads over the years across from his shop, but none of them had stirred his heart in any way. This one had deeply moved him. He ordered his personal copy of the evangelism book, where his Arab countrymen, told their story how the son of God, Jesus, had given them the power to change.

The shop owner and his household read the campaign book he had ordered, and hear about God, who had atoned for their sins through the blood sacrifice of His Son.

Calls came in from almost all Arab villages and towns in both Israel and the Palestinian territories.

At the Haifa campaign call center, I could see from the entries in the database that there were calls from Nazareth, Nablus, East Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jericho, Ramallah, Yen, Gaza, Tulkarem,

Kanna, Abu Gosh, Rahat, Carmel, Beersheba, and many other villages.

A few years earlier, the sprawling refugee camp in Jenin had been reduced to rubble during the fighting between Palestinians and Israelis.

Now billboards decorated its streets proclaiming the power of God to change lives.

The town of Tulkarem was a Hamas stronghold and many Palestinians were reached there as well.

Palestinian Government Officials Respond

It was no small surprise when we saw employees of the Palestinian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Finance calling into the call center in Bethlehem to order the campaign books in Arabic.

As many as 400 Arab Muslims at a single special event had opened their hearts to Jesus.

I Want to Find the Way!

Volunteers at the Haifa call center, rejoiced. Rena exclaimed:

"This is the first time I am seeing this kind of spiritual hunger among Muslims. It comes up in every phone call! They have seen the *Power to Change* ads and they call to get the Jesus DVD and the evangelism book."

A Muslim caller from Akko was longing for a change to his life. Upon seeing an ad, he called in for the book.

The ad read: *"I killed an innocent person. I ended up in prison. But, my life changed. You too have the opportunity to be set free from bondage and experience the power of God that will change your life! Experience a miracle. Call and receive a book as a gift, where you can read true, real life stories!"*

Saana who was taking calls alongside Rena, said, "I have never seen this kind of an outreach. Something like this has only been a dream and now it has come true!

I look forward to coming to the office every day."

Nadia's joy was so evident: "I have never seen such an impactful campaign! My soul rejoices and just rises up, when I see the *Power to Change* ads on the streets, on buses and on billboards.

When I saw the first ad, I cried out, Oh God! Touch hearts and save the people! We have always prayed that something like this would happen. This is a dream that is coming true. The impact of the campaign is something indescribable!"

University Students Respond

Calls came from the university as well: "I called because everyone here on campus is talking about your campaign. I want to come to your events and hear more about the life-changing power."

The director of the Haifa call center spoke of how the campaign was going: "The Gospel has been presented powerfully in all media. There has never been such an extensive presentation of the Gospel among Arabs before."

God's Wonderful Grace Was Something Infinitely Better

A woman in great despair, called in and was crying. Her family was in a difficult situation. Everything had crashed. They had seen our ad on the side of a bus where it read: "I lost everything but God's grace offered me something better." She asked: "How can I get the best from God? I want to know! We desperately need change."

A man told us that he saw demons. He had heard of a situation, in which someone who had been controlled by demons, had experienced release from their power. This man wanted his life to change as well.

We received letters from Gaza Strip where many have come to know Jesus. They were asking for counsel on how to live without



hiding one's faith and continue to follow Jesus.

In Haifa, a major music festival was attended by about 1,600 Arabs. It was an awesome event. The concert itself, was attended by many Muslims, many of which who made a decision of faith at that event.

A Work Of God

It was a miracle that the Palestinian Authority granted permission for Arabs to present their testimonies in the media, in their newspapers, on TV and on radio.

We were able to put up billboards in every area of the West Bank in cities like Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramallah where 99% of the population is Muslim. The West Bank alone has a population of 2 million with another 1.5 million in Gaza.

George, our campaign team leader stated: "You can't even imagine, how God has been work-

ing among these people." He said people are open and want to know more about Jesus and how God has changed people's lives.

Doctors and Psychiatrists

George continued:

"Not only did Palestinian Authority employees, people from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Finance call in for the campaign books, but many medical doctors and psychiatrists called in as well for their own. Our prayer is that the Lord will touch all the people who ordered the books. Our desire is that everyone in this country would come to know Jesus."

**With GCM Arab Ministry
Director Hani and the
GCM Ministry Magazine
Editorial Team**



Alexey Navalny: Birthday Wishes From Prison

Formerly an atheist, Alexey Navalny said that he came to faith upon his return to Moscow in January 2021, after being treated in Germany for poisoning by the nerve agent Novichok.

Alexey Navalny had his 45th birthday in prison, on June 4, 2021. Family and friends were unable to celebrate the day with him.

Here are excerpts from his “birthday blog”:

- In my annual birthday posts, I always express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who surrounds me and supports me, above all to my family.

- But this time I want to share how I am feeling. I have been wondering if I should write this or not. I decided to write.

In the past year, many unbelievable things have happened:

I was poisoned. I was at death's door on the plane. I was given more time to live.

- I learned to walk and talk all over again. The assassination attempt on my life was revealed. I was able to speak with those who had been sent to murder me. Then there was my return flight home from Germany and my arrest at the Moscow airport. There was a mock trial, and was sent to a prison reminiscent of a concentration camp. I got sick. Hospital care was denied. And then I was on a hunger strike.

- I noticed how I was observing myself. I really don't want to become



a beast. Surely you understand, that these kinds of events contribute to a person changing as they become the hunted, likened to a wolf, into a person who hates everyone and dreams of destroying their enemies and sending them to prison.

- When you fall asleep, you no longer count sheep, but instead count those who I would hang the first week after coming to power.

- These are the feelings I have been having and honestly confess being afraid, that these feelings would become part of who I am.

- In actuality, my plans were completely contrary to this: I want to show love to those who suffer at the hands of injustice and to understand all people a little more.

I have not compromised in my attitude. The fight against corruption and the prosecution of wrongdoers have always been at my core and motive for my work.

While Alexey was in pretrial detention, he was comforted by the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount:

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (seen as ‘truth’ in Russian translation) for they will be filled”.

- Now as I encounter a person of whom I am thinking, “You are a ruthless criminal”, I try to understand this person, to forgive and even love him a little. It's not easy, but I am doing my best. As it is written: “If you only greet your friends, what are you doing more than others?” (Matt 5:47, Editors note)

I receive a lot of encouraging emails and think people are so good, how can we not love them? You are my support in this situation.

So, thanks to all of you, a hug to all.

As for spending my birthday in my prison cell, it's a nonsensical reality. One day when this ‘spaceship’ arrives at its destination – then all the celebrations I have missed, will be celebrated.

