

Special Edition

MINISTRY

GREAT COMMISSION MEDIA MINISTRIES

April 2022



Russia Invades Ukraine In Mid Campaign
Bibles For Russia—The Doors Close



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CHIEF EDITOR
Hannu Haukka

CONTRIBUTORS
Laura Haukka
Markku Tenhunen
Hani H.

LAYOUT
Hannu Haukka
John Haukka

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36 Cesar Chavex St
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GCM
MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 16418
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**OFFICE PHONE
& DONATIONS**
877-244-7618

EMAIL
liz@gcministries.com

WEBSITE
www.gcmediaministries.org

**CHARITY
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When War Strikes...

Where is God And

The Great Commission



Jesus gave his followers an assignment, one that would require commitment affecting all areas of their life and strength.

Believers in the early church had no choice but to be “all in”. Spectator Christianity wasn’t an option.

The Ukraine War

Jesus said power for the ‘Commission’ would come not of themselves. To wait for it. It would be given from above! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the impossible would become possible.

A few days later, his followers could see and experience what Jesus had meant. They were equipped to take on the impossible by the power of God.

The Gospel in the trenches

Our God-given assignments are God’s dreams, made possible only by His influence and power.

We quickly realize our lack of strength, resources and abilities to complete the work He has given us. We may even want to avoid or just forget about an assignment altogether.

Every assignment comes with obstacles and problems which cannot be overcome without God. We can’t measure our own strength against a God-given task.

"Where is God"

We may succumb to the “I can’t” or “God won’t” mentality, or that miracles don’t belong in this age. In the Bible, we read of men and women who didn’t believe God’s miracles belonged in their time either.

Gideon is a good example. He lived through the darkest time in Israel’s history, afraid of the enemy and doubting God’s sovereignty.

Gideon declared, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about?” Gideon had to choose if he was going to stay back or accept the commission God had set before him.

Gideon set out to carry out God’s mandate.

In Hebrews 11:6 it says, “for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Men and women of faith did not hold back. Instead, responded to the challenge leaving behind their accustomed comfort and safety.

The power of faith

“Through the power of faith, they defeated kingdoms, held up for righteousness and were able

to experience the promises of God. They blocked the mouths of lions, extinguished the power of fire, escaped swordsmen, gained strength in their weakness and were mighty in battle driving back enemy troops.”

They exemplified courage, knowing the prize would be great!

This remains true today. Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

This has not changed.

Our Father

You ask, how does this work in practice?

Jesus said: “I am the true vine... he who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit, for without Me you can do nothing.”

When the spirit of God flows through us, we are branches connected to the Vine with God’s Word. We can see and experience God’s glory and miracles of old in our lives.

Dr. Hannu Haukka

Russia Invades – Evangelism

On February 24th Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In mid campaign Russian missiles hit practically every major city in the country. Days later, Russian tanks rolled into the heart of Ukraine. Soon after, there was the destruction of television towers across the country. Consequently, the GCMC media campaign came to a halt.

When the February issue of Ministry Report came out it, GCMC announced that the East Ukraine evangelism campaign would continue to the end of March. That was assuming that military action would, at best, be localized. That however was not to be.

Pre-war Campaign

As our partnership with Pilgrim Orphanage Director Gennady Mohnenko in the city of Mariupol grew, so did the vision for a sweeping media campaign in the Donbas region.

We would frequently visit villages along the front lines where we faced Russian forces occupying swaths of Ukrainian territory. That was back in 2015.

Over the next six years we ministered in house churches in small villages as well as in larger cities. Ukrainian soldiers defending the motherland on the front were not neglected.

Donbas had a population of about **6 million** people before the war in 2014. They were the least reached region in Ukraine.

Covid brought preparations for the media campaign to a halt between January 2019 and September 2021.

Signs of A Major War

On December 8, 2021, I penned this entry in my diary: “There is great restlessness and a deep sense of urgency in my spirit. Should Russia invade Ukraine, then Ukraine will be thrown into utter chaos. There will be unimaginable devastation! The doors to Russia will close ending an increasingly tough time of ministry.

Ministry from the west will likely cease.”

Intensify The Campaign!

At the end of November 2021, the campaign focus was to reach both the Russian and Ukrainian held territories of Donbas also known as the separatist republics of Donetsk and Lugansk. This would include the larger cities of Donetsk, Mariupol, Sloviansk, Kramatorsk.

Soon after, in December 2021 we realized we had to modify the campaign plan in the conflict zone. The situation militarily had escalated and signs of a wider war were visible.

We expanded the reach of the media campaign to include East Ukraine’s three mega cities – Kharkiv, Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia. By doing so, we would reach an additional 4-5 **million** people.

Storm Clouds

It was January 2022. We revised the campaign strategy again.

By this time, the likelihood of a massive invasion by Russia was undeniable. All normal ministry in Ukraine would cease.

Russia had positioned 190,000 troops on Ukraine's border. It was clear that Russia would seek to overthrow the government and install a Kremlin-friendly regime.

Consequently that would mean neutralizing any church in Ukraine not aligned with Russia's Orthodox Church. Evangelicals were a clear target.

The scope of the campaign was enlarged once again. Ukraine’s TV channel “1+1” with an audience of 40 million took the best campaign transformation stories. The channel



Chaplains Gennady and Albert share t
underground bunker. We were warmly

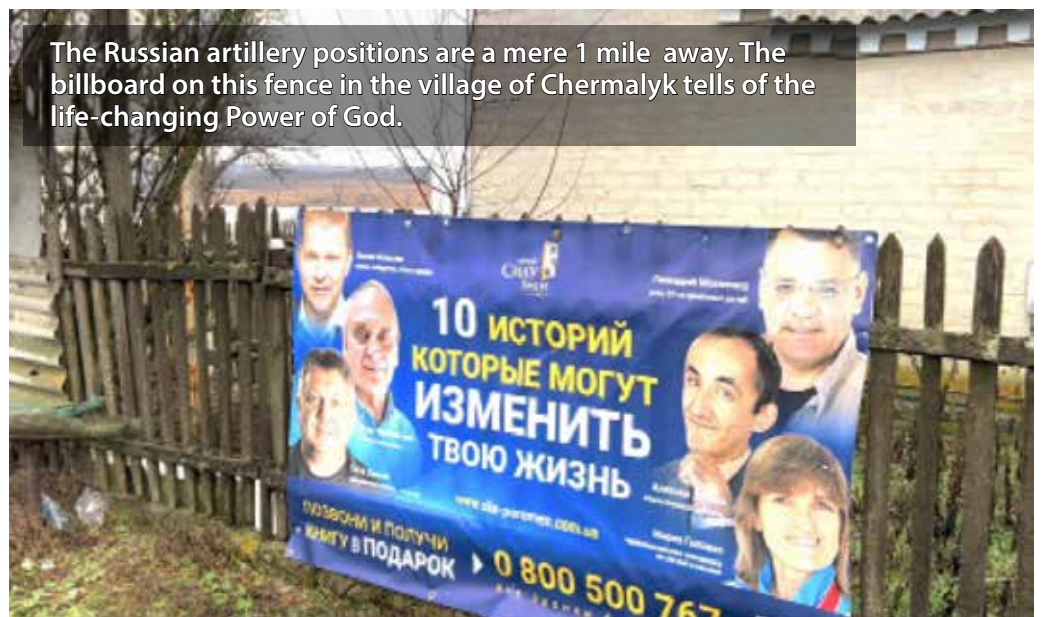


Sharing the Gospel in the village of Ne

ism Campaign Continues



The Gospel with the soldiers in an
received at the base.



The Russian artillery positions are a mere 1 mile away. The billboard on this fence in the village of Chermalyk tells of the life-changing Power of God.

was seen across Ukraine including military outposts and front line villages.

Ministry to Soldiers

Villages on the front line did not have much in the way of media. Newspapers, outdoor advertising or functioning telephone systems were not available.

For this reason, the campaign message would to be made available to front-line villages and military bases by hand delivery of the campaign book and brochures.

We were able to visit forward positions with military chaplains Gennady and Albert. In many cases we were within range of Russian and rebel artillery fire. We were able to fellowship and pray with soldiers in bunkers, trenches and underground tunnels. Bulletproof vests and helmets were mandatory attire.

A Day In The Trenches

The visit to the Ukrainian army base in Pesky was an experience not soon to be forgotten. Pesky was a village on the fringes of the occupied city of Donetsk.

The village has been destroyed, rendered uninhabitable due to heavy enemy shelling.

We arrived at the base at nightfall in time to enjoy a late dinner with the soldiers in their underground dining hall. At evening devotions we shared from the Word of God and had a time of prayer together. Campaign books were given to the officers for distribution among the soldiers at the base.

The campaign book has moving stories of a soldier, a professor tortured at the hands of rebels for 700 days, and a pastor's wife whose husband was arrested outside their church and executed that same morning.

The book includes a road map and guide to new life in Christ and the prayer of salvation.

After a short night at the base and a hefty breakfast, we set out in

protective gear to visit with soldiers manning forward positions.

As we walked through the empty streets with totally destroyed buildings, we made a stop at a bombed Orthodox church.

The last stop on our walk through the town was an underground military surveillance position a mere 900 meters from enemy heavy weapons. Our commanding officer pulled back a camouflage curtain at ground level for a few seconds to briefly allow for a photo shoot of occupied Donetsk City airport.

At this forward position, Chaplain Gennady prayed for the soldiers: *"Almighty God. Bless our sons on the front lines. Protect them. Give them strength to endure all things. Lord, haste the day when we see the enemy leave our land in peace. We ask this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."*

Within minutes we were reminded of the presence of a lethal enemy one kilometer away. Russian-backed forces had detected movements of our military patrol and opened artillery fire at us. We found ourselves in the middle of a fierce firefight forcing our military escort and us down on our stomachs. We dove for cover. I counted about two to three exploding artillery shells per second.

We returned safely to base with our military escort. At the base we held devotions and had a time of prayer with the soldiers along with some hot tea.

Gennady told a story of a soldier who had come to faith. The young soldier had seen live grenades land near Albert, a chaplain, but none had detonated. In disbelief he said, "Your God has to be real! Albert you should be dead by now." He was baptized not long after, during a short visit to visit his folks.

Grandma Katja From Nevelskoye

We made an unscheduled stop in the village of Nevelskoye. Weeks earlier it had been hit by thirty five 122 millimeter artillery shells. There



Chaplain Gennady: "Almighty God, every soldier defending our moth



GCM International Director, Ha badly damaged Orthodox church



View from the tower of the several church in the village of Pesky.



we thank you for
er land Ukraine..."



Hannu with Ukrainian military escort on foot
in front line trenches.



nnu Haukka in the tower of the
in the village of Pesky



The severely damaged church in the village of Pesky



y damaged Orthodox



was no electricity or running water in the village. Katja, her husband and a mother with her handicapped child were the sole residents of the village.

After sharing the Gospel and a prayer together we moved on.

In the seven years prior to Russia's full-scale invasion Ukraine had lost 15,000 soldiers defending their country.

Race Against Time

Towards the end of February, as the full-scale war was looming between Russia and Ukraine, we understood that we needed to accelerate the campaign and spare no effort. It was now or never!

In the absence of standard size 6X3 meter billboards we went for billboards measuring up to 120

meters in length and 10 meters high in the East Ukrainian mega cities of Dnipro, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia and Mariupol.

The billboards read: "There is always a way! Experience God power to Change. Call to get your free book. Read stories that can change your life."

Villagers Seeking Security

Days before the invasion, campaign volunteers from participating churches were out in mass in villages along the conflict line. They ministered to villagers needing comforting, counseling. In Krasnohorivka villagers sought comfort from the church.

Since the invasion started Krasnohorivka has largely been reduced to rubble by Russian artillery.

This past Christmas GCMM provided Christmas gifts for 600 children in villages between Mariupol and Donetsk.

The Story of Christmas was an integral part of the celebrations which were held in the school auditoriums. We could see the joy and happiness in eyes of these children.

Little did they know that weeks later their towns and villages would cease to exist and be reduced to rubble.

Russia's forces would destroy them completely. Christmas, as these children had come to experience it, would never return to their childhood homes.

Last fall the SBU, the Ukrainian equivalent of the FBI in the US, invited Ukrainian church leaders to



This past Christmas, Granitnoye village school Christmas party. The distance to Russian-backed forces was less than 1 mile. Great Commission Media Ministries provided gifts for 600 children.

discuss the impasse in the occupied territories of the country.

These Intelligence Officers confessed that “The church is the only institution with the keys to resolve poisoned attitudes, the bitterness, the revenge, the aggression in peoples lives.

Reconciliation and forgiveness are needed in order for people to live as a united nation again in East Ukraine,” says Yuri Babinets, senior pastor of a large church in Kiev.

State Security welcomed the campaign. “We simply do not have the tools needed to deal with poison in people’s hearts.”

At the heart of the campaign is the message of forgiveness, of hope and survival amidst the most horrific circumstances.

The story of professor Igor Kozlovsky is an example of this. The professor was held in captivity by rebel forces for 700 days in occupied Donetsk. He shares his story in the campaign book telling of his source of power to persevere. Prayer was the force that sustained him despite physical and mental torture.

Prior to Russia's full scale invasion thousands of books were distributed by the churches in the major cities of Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Mariupol, Sloviansk, Odesa, Chernivtsi, Lviv.

For A Time Such As This!

Over 10 million Ukrainians have been displaced by the war and four million have fled to Poland and other countries.

It is not surprising then that GCMM has launched a drive to print 300,000 copies of the campaign book. The book will be tweaked and renamed "The Way Home".

This will require significant funding.

Ministry in Bomb Shelters

The campaign office and call center is situated in Mariupol. Our volunteer staff moved to underground shelters as Russian forces closed in on the city.

Many of our volunteers continue to minister in bomb shelters, basements and hospitals.

Others have assisted with the evacuation of mothers and children left trapped in villages.



Russian forces have now entered Mariupol. This giant campaign billboard was visible to Russian forces entering the city.



We shared the Gospel message in the village of Nevelskoye



The church in the village

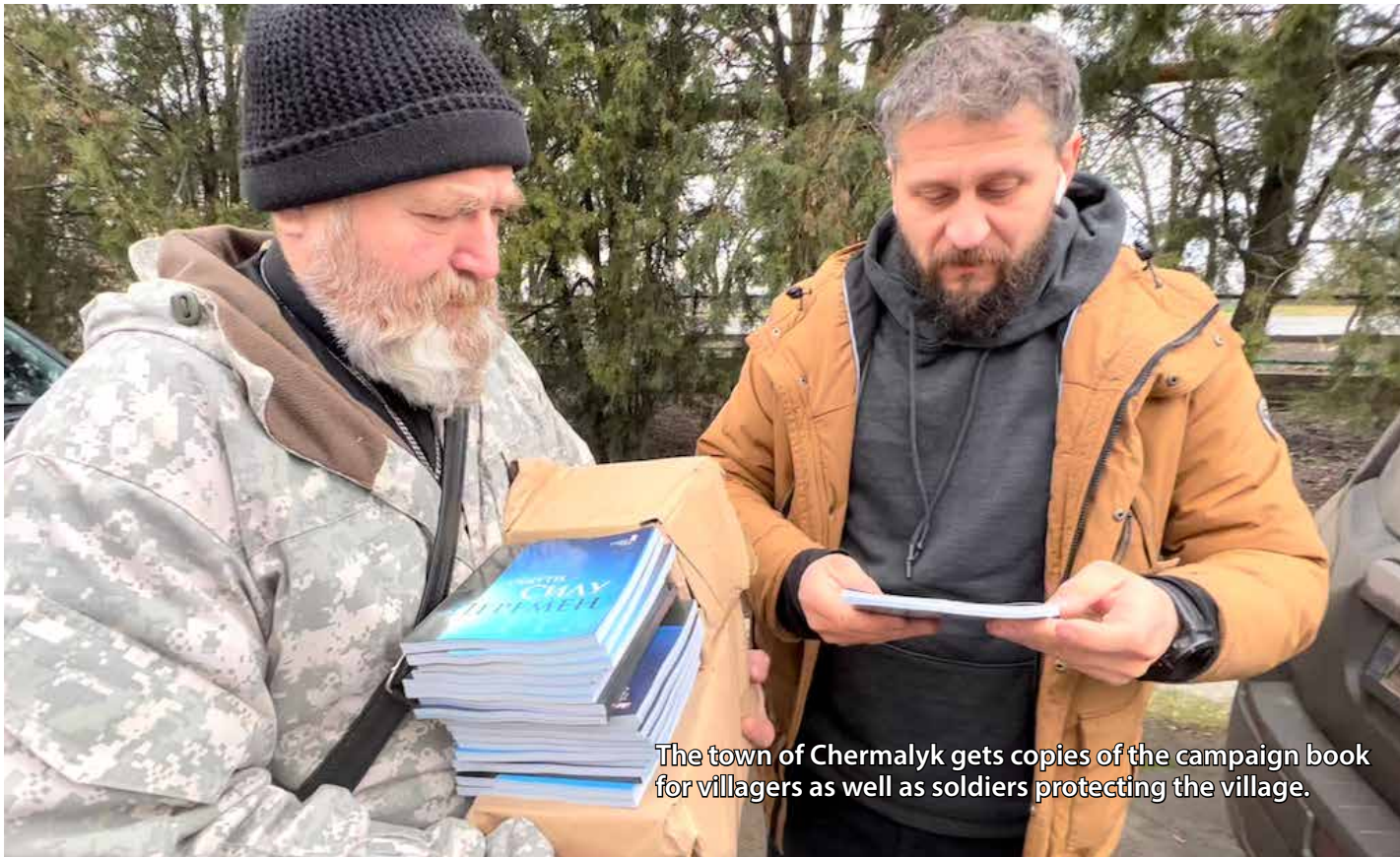


ge of Orlovskoye in East Ukraine



Gennady and Hannu in the campaign office study a map of the city of Mariupol

East Ukraine: Ministry in the war zone



The town of Chermalyk gets copies of the campaign book for villagers as well as soldiers protecting the village.

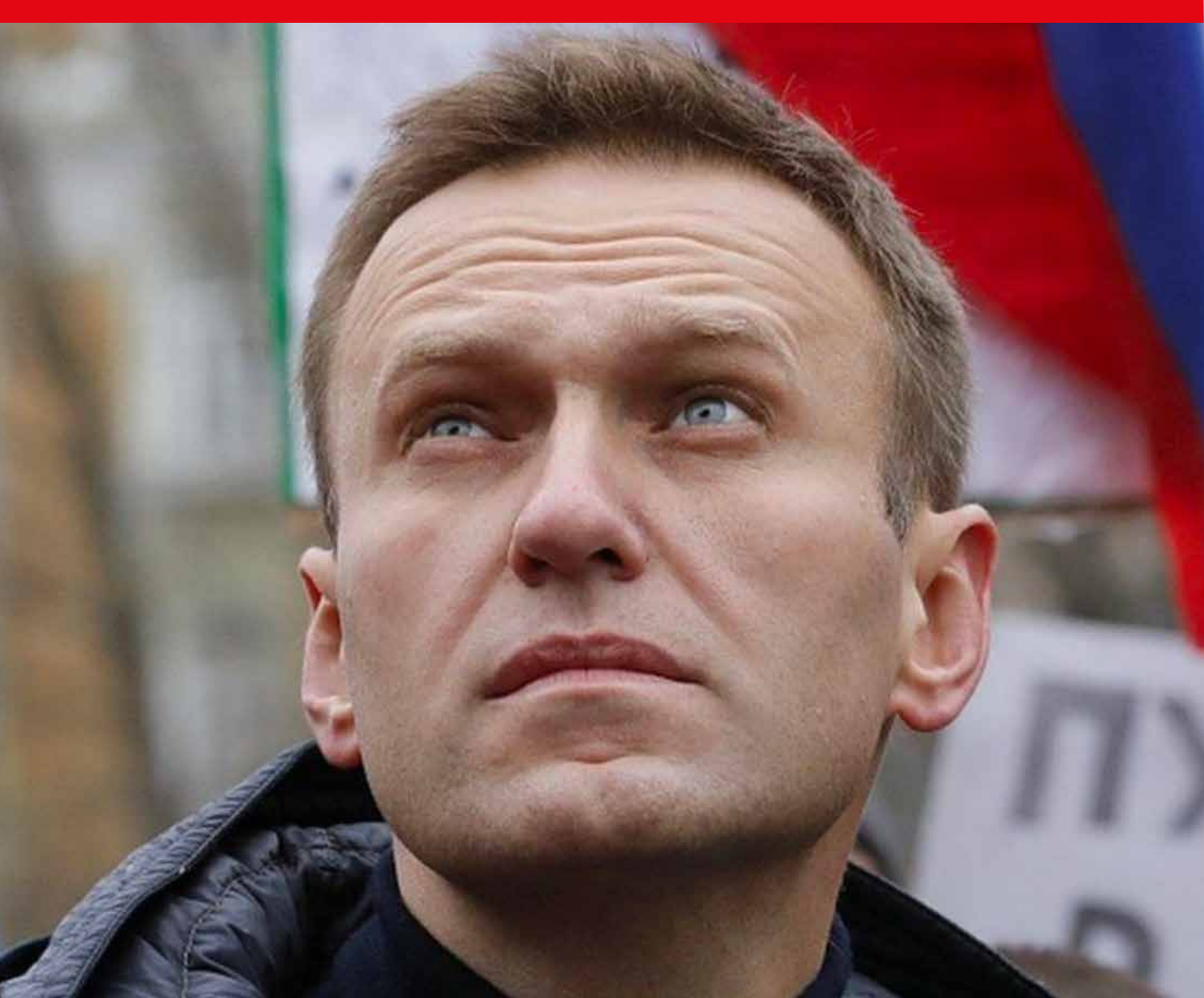




In the city of Mariupol a teenager gets his copy of the campaign book.



Chaplain Albert takes the campaign book to military outposts for soldiers protecting Ukraine.



Alexey Navalny. A Russian opposition leader, a known anti-corruption figure and father of two children. According to Wikipedia, Navalny's videos had reached 1.1 billion views on YouTube in 2021.

Navalny Speaks Of His Faith

Alexey Navalny became renowned in the west for his anti-corruption campaign exposing Kremlin abuses.

Formerly an atheist, Alexey came to faith.

Navalny said he came to faith when he returned to Moscow in January 2021, following treatment in Germany after being poisoned with the nerve agent Novichok.

Alexey was charged with

over 20 offenses.

The Power Of The Word

Navalny's speech at his trial has been widely reported. His defense at his last court appearance was a sermon.

Prior to his trial he had drawn strength from an excerpt in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount:

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled."

Righteousness is translated 'truth' in the Russian Bible.

His quote of scripture was remarkable.

Only a former atheist and lawyer could speak as Navalny had, reflecting the convictions of a man of faith.

"In the eyes of the world, it is insane to fervently thirst for the truth, to become nourished," reasoned Alexey Navalny.



Challenging Ministry In Russia in 2021

In 2021 GCOMM set a goal to print 750,000 books, used for evangelism and outreach by churches in Russia.

Because Russia is a vast and populous country the need for literature is great.

The evangelical Church in Russia as we know it today hasn't been without challenges.

In 2002, well known pastor and evangelist David Wilkerson shared a prophecy of the future of the church in Russia during a Pastor's conference in Moscow. He warned that doors for evangelism would close once again, and that "the time for freedom would be short-lived."

Truth revealed in history

When the Soviet Union collapsed unprecedented freedom ensued for the proclamation of the Gospel in that formerly atheistic nation.

However, churches were unprepared for this change in their country's history. Many in Russia

believed that this new freedom in Russia would be permanent.

Wilkerson's prophetic word to the nation, however, was a stark warning to the contrary.

Many doubted the prophetic word. They assumed that there would be no return to the restrictions and persecution seen in the Soviet Union.

Time has shown that the prophecy was of God.

Spiritual "Climate Change"

Year by year, the political climate in Russia became increasingly difficult.

In 2016, The Russian parliament passed two laws named the Yarovaya 374-FZ and 375-FZ. Soon after, these pieces of legislation were signed into law by President Putin.

These laws were a direct attack on missionary activity and dramatically limited the freedom to practice one's religion including the right to public gatherings.

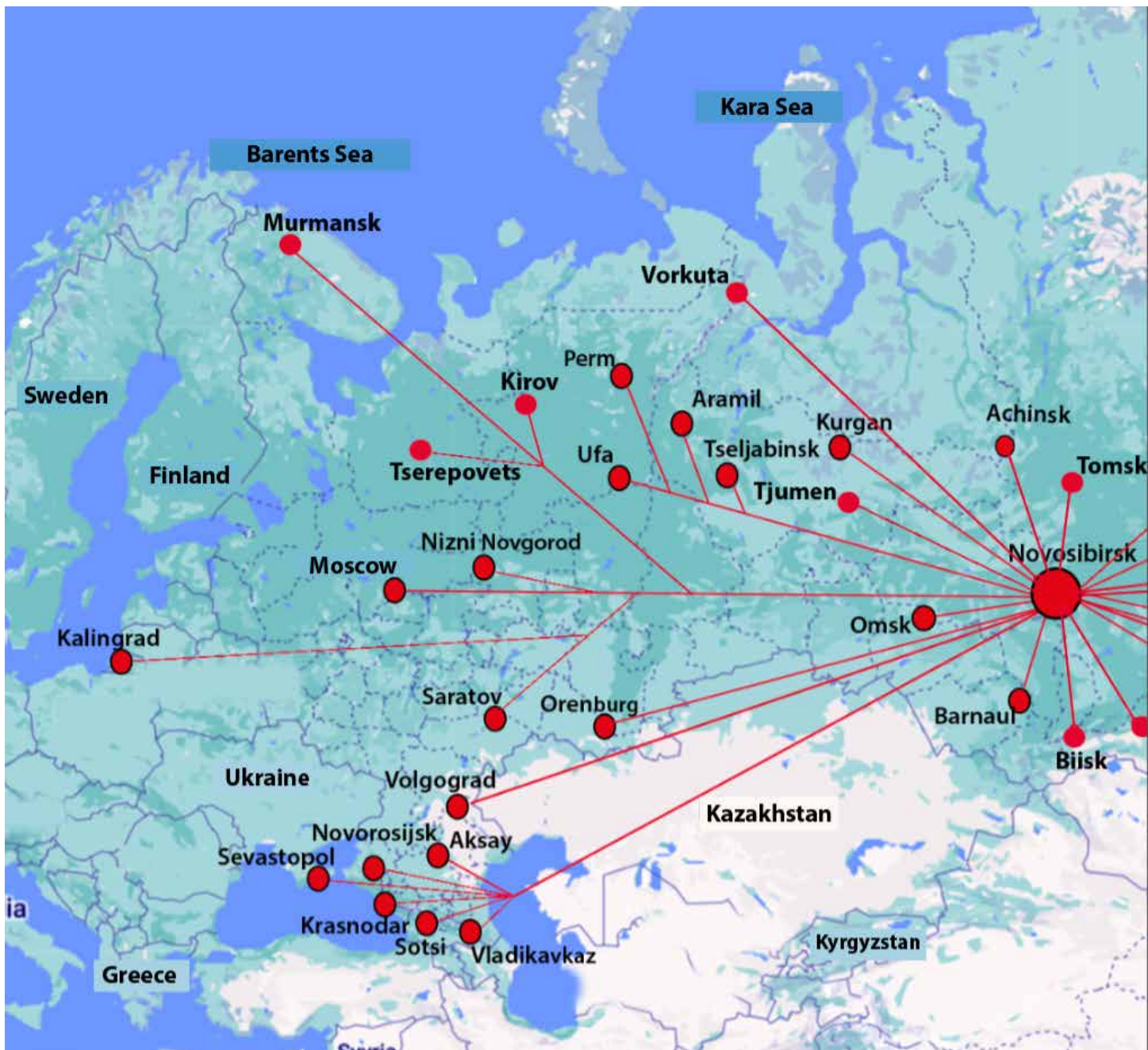
The time was "Now"

Looking back, Great Commission Media Ministries has experienced the grace and direction of God to engage in unprecedented ministry in Russia. We have helped to equip the church in Russia with the printed Word of God.

Between 2014 and 2021, GCOMM has printed over **eight million** pieces of evangelistic literature including New Testaments, the Gospel of John, and Power to Change campaign books.

According to Leading Russian Bishop Grabovenko, more than one million Russians having attended services and having received the printed literature between 2014 and 2020, have prayed the prayer of salvation.

The Apostle Paul encourages us: "Always be abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing your labor is not in vain!" Truly, our combined labors have not been in vain!



Great Commission Media Ministries Pro

In 2021, the Russian domestic political scene changed once again, causing difficulties and disruption to Church ministries.

GCM was following this development causing us to accelerate literature being used by churches for evangelism.

The goal for 2021, to print churches 750,000 copies of literature was a step of faith.

In **February** 10,000 copies of

the campaign book in Mongolian came off the press, which was an extra campaign project.

In **March**, 50,000 Russian New Testaments went to press and in **May**, 200,000 Gospels of John.

In **August/September** we ordered 100,000 New Testaments and another 20,000 campaign books in the Yakut language.

New testaments were in high demand and churches asked for

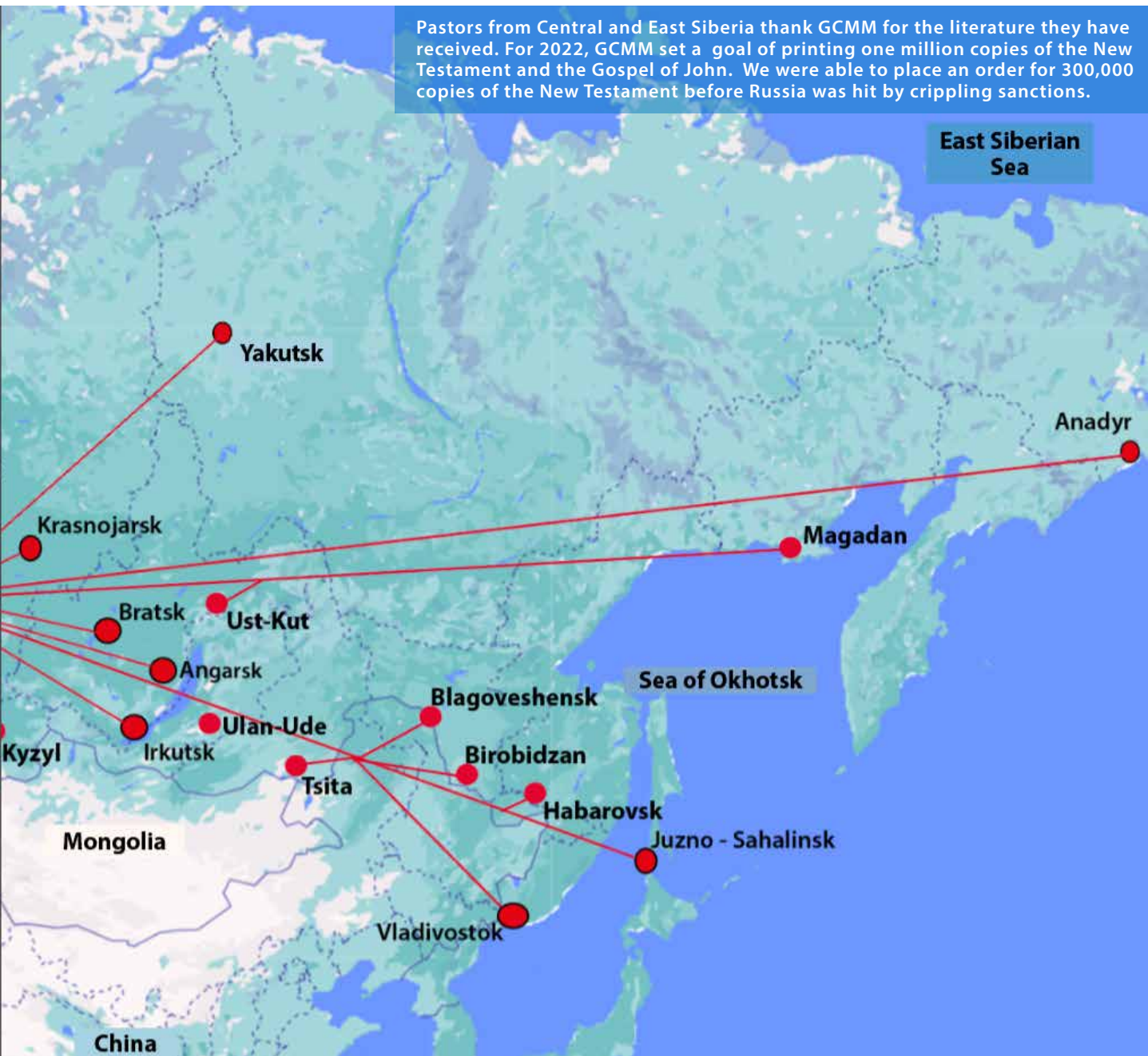
more. We ordered another 200,000 of the Gospel of John and 100,000 more campaign books.

Regardless of the restrictions, churches continued with their evangelism outreach in Siberia and Russian cities and villages in the Far East.

Literature was distributed in 100 cities, with a focus on the Russian Far East and Siberia.

In **December** 2021 our last lit-

Pastors from Central and East Siberia thank GCM for the literature they have received. For 2022, GCM set a goal of printing one million copies of the New Testament and the Gospel of John. We were able to place an order for 300,000 copies of the New Testament before Russia was hit by crippling sanctions.



vided Churches With Tools For Missions

erature order was received from the central Siberian printing house. This would not have been possible without our friends of the ministry, supporters and our intercessory prayer warriors.

The central Siberian printing house was situated perfectly, for shipments going to different parts of the country.

On the European side of the country, churches are experiencing

hard-handed restrictions for ministry. Church services are restricted. Preaching the gospel in public is forbidden. Only a handful of church members gather for services.

Authorities are restricting public gatherings.

Since the war broke out in February, freedom of speech in Russia is pretty much non-existent.

Now in April, there is already talk of the iron curtain coming down.

It would seem that western economic sanctions against Russia will be crippling.

Two days before the war began, GCM ordered 300,000 new testaments from the Siberian printing house.

Year in Review – Mongolia and Yakutia in 2021



Mongolians Received First Evangelistic Book

Mongolia is located in Eastern Asia, with neighboring China to the south. The date of the media campaign was changed due to the covid pandemic within its borders, and pandemic travel challenges from outside the country as well.

The Power to Change media campaign was adapted to recognize the pandemic challenges within the country. The capital city has 1.6 million people.

Churches are evangelizing their country, using the Power to Change

books containing 12 touching stories of life change by local Mongolians.

This is the first time, churches in Mongolia have the campaign book in their mother tongue.





Yakuts Receive Their First Evangelistic Book

THE CHURCHES OF BURYATS REAPING CAMPAIGN HARVEST

The Buryats are Mongolian, a nation of about 500,000 people and are the largest group of Siberian indigenous peoples. They live between the Russian and Mongolian border areas.

In 2020 GCMF funded 20,000 Power to Change campaign books in the Buryat language, using the Siberian printing house for the job.

Prior to this, Buryat churches did not have any printed literature for evangelism in their own language.

In 2021 Buryat believers used the campaign books as tools for evangelism and are now reaping the harvest. Our efforts have not been in vain.

Year in Review – Ministry To Millions in 2021



**In 2021
over 100
Africa in**

Arabic Ministry Director Hani Says Thank-you For 2021

The global pandemic has limited various mission initiatives. Destination countries with rising covid cases were a deterrent for mission travel worldwide.

No Pandemic slowdowns

One form of ministry was unaffected by the pandemic. Christian satellite TV.

Satellite TV viewership has doubled most noticeably in Islamic countries.

The GCOMM Arabic ministry team produced TV programs reaching North Africa from Morocco to Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan on 18 satellite TV channels.

TV programs in 2021 were produced in 7 languages – Arabic, Farsi, Tajik, Dari, Amharic, Somali, and Sudanese.

Church at home

GCOMM has produced and broadcasts Christian TV programs serving

countless people around the world. Attending church in many countries can be impossible, even life-threatening. Having “Church at home”, is a safe alternative.

Between 300-400,000 viewers continue to contact our follow-up centers in the Middle East and North Africa every month. Our follow-up centers reply to emails, calls, texts, YouTube and other social media platforms in addition to face-to-face meetings.

Safety measures

This past year we continued to invest in the safety and wellbeing of our growing follow-up ministry teams. Safety monitoring systems are updated regularly by believers in each country. We are thankful for all your prayers, as the nature of the ministry has its dangers.

Time is short and the world is changing rapidly. For this reason,

we need to make use of all our resources to reach the Islamic world now.

We don't know about tomorrow

No one knows what tomorrow may bring. Over 70% of the 1.7 billion Muslims in the world have never heard the gospel.

This is a huge challenge.

We have the opportunity to reach ‘the masses’ with the Gospel message. This is an incredibly big undertaking, yet a cost-effective way to bring the message forward using media.

We thank God for everyone reading our magazine, for your intercessory prayers, and for your love for Jesus Christ.

Our goal is to make God and His love known to the people of Islam, the hundreds of millions who still wander in darkness.



we used 18 satellites to broadcast evangelistic TV programs to million viewers in the Middle East, Central Asia and North Arabic, Farsi, Somali and Tajik languages.





Ministry Continued In Israeli Cit

The GCMM Israel ministry has continued in the same manner as in previous years. Programs were filmed in St. Petersburg as well as the studio in Finland.

In Israel, local volunteers have also produced programs. Each week, KRIK-TV, a commercial station with a range reaching across

the former Soviet Union, broadcasts GCMM produced programs as well as GCMM acquired ones.

Our Russian language programs have been aired on local TV stations in Russia, Ukraine and in Baltic countries. ItonTV, internet-based TV has aired programs produced by the Israel ministry team.

Travel to Israel

GCMM produced TV travel programs “Israel Tutuksi” and “Shabbat Shalom”. Weekly radio versions from these TV programs were created in St. Petersburg. These radio programs aired on local Slavic Family radio programs on the east and west coasts of the United States. As



ies Amidst Rocket Rain

well in St. Petersburg, on local radio station Radio Maria.

YouTube

The Israel ministry team's YouTube channels viewership – Putevoditel TV (Travel Guide) and Shalom TV (Peace TV) have continued to grow in 2021. Hun-

dreds of thousands of viewers have visited their web pages. One program alone had between 3-5 million views. Feedback is between 500-700 contacts a month.

TV coverage

TV Programs in Russian can be seen on the following channels:

KRIK-TV, Life-TV (Estonia), NesvetaiTV (Rostov) TBN and CBN channels.

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Like the heroes of the Bible listed in Hebrews 11, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Barak, Jephthah, 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