

# MINISTRY

Great Commission Media Ministries

November 2022



- **Ukrainians Seek God Amid War**
- **"I Found It" Reaches 90% Of Homes In Finland**
- **Over 800,000 Families Will Suffer This Winter In Ukraine**





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## MINISTRY Magazine

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### ***Giving through your Will***

Your Legacy Gift to the ministry of GCM Ministries, designated through your Will, enables you to honor the Lord at the end of your life as you have throughout your life.

Our goal is to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ in sharing the Gospel with this spiritually lost generation using high-impact media ministry and working with churches in hard to reach regions of the world.

# "I Found It" Campaign Reaches 90% Of Homes In Finland



We currently live in a very unstable world. Just as we thought we had survived the coronavirus pandemic, the political situation between Russia and the West has returned to as it was during the Cold War. The threat of nuclear war is a bigger threat than ever, since the Cuban crisis in the 1960's.

As a result, the world is threatened with a large-scale food and energy crisis. In Finland, many are dreading the dramatic increase in electricity and food prices, as well as rising housing costs due to rising interest rates. So we live in the midst of uncertainty.

Despite this current uncertain situation, this fall we have been able to conduct the *I Found It* campaign in Finland working alongside hundreds of churches and organizations. Such extensive co-operation between different churches has never been implemented in Finland before. The timing of this campaign has been in God's hands from the beginning.

## Why does Finland need the Gospel?

In Finland, about 70 percent of the population still call themselves Christians. People may have some kind of basic understanding of God or religious connection through baptisms, weddings, funerals, and various holiday celebrations. However, Finns' faith in God has almost halved in the past 20 years. Finns lack faith. They are not quick to seek help for their life's problems from God and the hope that faith in Jesus offers to mankind.

## The Gospel has the transforming power of God

In the *I Found It* campaign, we have not focused on differing theological doctrines, but have tried to convey the glad tidings of the Gospel to Finns in a simple way. During the campaign, personal life-changing stories from different people's lives were highlighted. In addition, the campaign book distributed to homes conveyed four basic truths of spiritual life: God loves everyone, every person has sinned against God, God reconciled man in Jesus Christ, and God wants to be in communion with man.

## The events reach large numbers of people

Both large and small events organized by the churches are an integral part of the *I Found It* campaign. Volunteers from the Pentecostal and the Lutheran church set up a tent in several city centers, where they met people three days a week on pedestrian streets nearby.

"Trust and mutual respect create a good basis for cooperation. We want to work together for the good of our hometown. Working together strengthens the bond and brings great joy. After all, we are children of the same Father!"

"Deep conversations have been possible during the campaign with the opportunity to pray for some people every day. The campaign team has had the support of faithful prayer warriors. The effects of prayer have been felt as peace and joy during our mutual outreach ac-

tivities. We believe that God continues his work in everyone we encounter, and our efforts are not in vain in the Lord."

## Newspapers woke up to the news and bishops comment on the campaign

Newspapers have taken an interest in the campaign as well. There have been articles about local campaign events in several newspapers. This national campaign was perhaps most widely reported by Finland's major newspaper, Helsingin Sanomat, with the headline: "*Conversion campaign mixed with celebrity entertainment*". True to its cynical nature, Helsingin Sanomat's coverage was somewhat critical as they reported that the campaign was dividing opinions within the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. "It's good that they published the article, because the news always arouses interest," commented campaign coordinator Onni. The opportunity to have a dialogue on matters of faith out in the open as a natural course of action is being welcomed by many, including clergy.

With this campaign, another important outcome has transpired—individual Christians and churches have rediscovered the zeal and vision of evangelizing. May the enthusiasm grow and continue even after this campaign. Hearts are open to the Gospel—now is the day of salvation.

Let's pray for each of us to have a renewed enthusiasm for sharing the Gospel.



# God Is Near — Soldiers And Citiz

God is close even in times of war. In the adjacent picture, Ukrainian soldiers receive baptism in the Donetsk region. The soldiers professed their faith in Jesus as Lord and requested to be baptized at a safe distance from the front lines.

## The Way Home

GCMM's special campaign book "The Way Home" was distributed to soldiers in all regions of Ukraine including towns and villages subject to continuous shelling by Russian forces.

The book contains deeply moving stories of Ukrainians who are survivors in life's worst storms, including war in Ukraine from 2015 to 2022.

The book is intended for Ukrainians who have lost family and homes, both within the country's borders and abroad.

## God's Psychiatry—A Must Have For Every Refugee

The book is also a devotional, which serves as a source of faith and encouragement. The book guides the reader to make a decision of faith and also contains a model of the prayer of salvation.

40,000 books have been received from the Ukrainian printing house. Ukraine did not have enough printing paper for more books, so another large run is still necessary.

Poland serves GCMM as an alternative location for printing. The unit price of the book is \$2.50. Two hundred sixty thousand more books are needed.

In Finland, 18,000 copies of the book have been printed for refugees who have arrived in Finland. The book is bilingual in both Ukrainian and Russian.

You can read more about GCMM's work in Ukraine at our website:

[gcmministries.com/ukraineaid/](http://gcmministries.com/ukraineaid/)

and on Facebook:

[facebook.com/greatcommissionmedia](https://facebook.com/greatcommissionmedia).





# Men Alike Respond To The Gospel





# This Winter Uk



Electricity and heating options are an issue, with large areas of Ukraine currently without power. Russia has bombed many of Ukraine's power distribution centres. Ukraine needs our help more than ever. A locally built stove as a source of heat and cooking as seen above can be purchased and delivered for \$100. Many are needed. Together we can make a difference, supporting Ukrainians yet another way amid this devastating war.

**Winter is coming to Ukraine. Russia has bombed Ukraine's electric power plants and heating infrastructure. Over 800,000 families, mothers, and children are at risk of freezing to death unless help arrives in time. Together, we can help by donating a heating stove with a cooking surface.**

To supply one wood-burning stove to one family the cost is \$100 dollars. Great Commission Media Ministries has already provided 300 families with a wood-burning stove for heating and for cooking. But, thousands more are needed.

This Christmas, please consider sponsoring one

wood-burning stove for one family in Ukraine. Perhaps it will be the most important gift you can give to a family this holiday season.

It is estimated that 800,000 families will face freezing temperatures without heating this winter. On the front lines, fathers and sons are fighting for

their wives, children, and their motherland. We can help keep their loved ones stay warm and alive with the opportunity to cook food as well. Your help is vital to the survival of thousands of families.

You can donate by mail, telephone or online at: <https://gcm-ministries.ca/ukraineaid/donate>.



# Ukraine Needs Your Help



A truckload of 20 tons of food aid arrived at the Zaporizhzhia city warehouse and logistics centre, substantially supported through GCOMM's Ukrainian emergency aid from Finland.



On August 25th and October 12th, in cooperation with a hospital in Finland, we delivered approximately 16 tons of humanitarian aid to the Khmelnytskyi Children's Hospital. The load included regular hospital beds, electrically operated hospital beds and intensive care unit monitoring equipment. We delivered aid to the hard-hit city hospital in Kryvyi Rih as well.





# Attentive To The Cry Of

At least 92 people were killed when Iran cracked down on protests concerning women's issues. According to an Iranian human rights group, the protests flared up after the fatal arrest of Mahsa Amini by Iran's morality police.

Amini was a 22-year-old Iranian citizen of Kurdish background. She was pronounced dead on September 16 after she was arrested for allegedly violating the rules regarding women's hijab scarves and modest clothing. As a result, Iran experienced the largest wave of civil discontent in nearly three years.

Sadly, Mahsa Amini's case is not the only one of its kind. Iranian women are well aware of the news about violence against women. However, this time was different from the previous cases, even the men said: "Enough is enough." Because human rights have been ignored for 44 years, violence against women is everywhere; in Iranian law, on the streets and on TV shows. In Iran, there has been a purposeful effort to create a mindset where men are pitted against women and vice versa.

Mahsa Amini's death has sparked protests in more than 150

towns and cities, even in previously conservative provinces such as Mazandaran, as Iranians poured into the streets. The slogans at some of the protests reveal the kind of sentiment that has overcome historical divides between Kurds, Azeris and Persians, when people are united in their desire for justice.

At the same time, government forces have used tear gas and physical force to break up protests, and shut down the internet in an effort to suppress and control the protests. The concern is that as the protests continue, the authorities





# *The Iranian People*

may respond with ever-increasing use of force.

Women have suffered within their families at the hands of their own husbands. Their activities are limited in society. Fathers fight against their own daughters, brothers against their sisters, and husbands against their wives. This toxic practice seeps into every aspect of life and, taken to its extreme, leads to the acceptance of killing women who behave 'shamefully' in order to 'protect' the integrity of the family.

Today we can see how Iranian men and women try to stand by

each other to help each other. Today, calling for basic rights and fighting for them is not only an issue of women, but also of men.

That's why we, as a team at GCM Ministries, continue to produce programs aired over satellite TV channels and use digital media tools to reach women in the Iranian region.

We are trying to achieve two goals in particular:

1. To help women and girls recognize their individual worth in God's eyes
2. To give them a platform where their voice is heard and

to strengthen their family and community.

## **We must not remain silent about what is happening in Iran today**

We should give a voice to Iranians, keep God's Word in our hearts and be brave to change the world.

We must pray for the silenced but courageous people of Iran.

I ask you to convey their voices to your own community and church. Let's hope these voices are heard and influence the decision-makers who can bring about change for the people of Iran.





Stanislav was interviewed by the GCMC team in Ukraine before leaving for Finland with his spouse. He was in a sombre mood and scared. Soon, after his arrival in Finland, he was feeling relieved and happy to be at the North Karelia retreat center.

## *GCMM Helped Stanislav To Go From Ukraine To Finland*

In September, GCMM's Jewish/Israel ministry department organized a retreat camp in North Karelia in cooperation with *North Karelia Exodus ry* and *Bible Media*. 31 Ukrainians from different parts of Finland arrived at the camp. During those few days, we heard many touching stories about life in Ukraine and about escaping to Finland. We listened to their concerns and sadness for spouses and adult sons who remained in the homeland. About ten participants said they had Jewish roots.

Stanislav was one of the refugees who came to the camp. For

health reasons, both he and his wife had been able to leave their home in the Slavjanski area of east Ukraine.

Stanislav had been forced to flee his hometown and told us how he had met the "war pastor" Gennady Mohnenko at his refugee center. Gennady's team offered him and his wife the chance to get to safety in Finland. Stanislav said that at first he didn't think he could leave because he had volunteered to defend his country. As it turned out, he was released from the task due to his health. He and his wife met GCMM team members who

interviewed them and assured them that going to Finland would be a unique opportunity. Finally, they got into a minibus for the trip. The journey ended safely in Finland, and they now live in Järvenpää. At the scenic and peaceful retreat center of North Karelia, Stanislav happily shared: "It is God's miracle that we are here! It is a miracle". Let's continue to pray for this married couple, that the sown Word of God may grow in their hearts.



# Kyiv Messianic Church Helps Victims Of War

Since the beginning of the war, the Messianic Church of Kyiv (KEMO) has effectively assisted victims from war-affected areas and refugees who fled to different countries. Andrei Lugovsky, director of social work of the church, writes:

"In these unstable times of war in our country, we are trying to maintain a humanitarian aid program through our Kyiv church and its satellite churches and other channels. At the moment, we help the poorest of the poor, pensioners, families with many children, the unemployed and refugees, and soldiers. We also provide medical assistance.

## Traveling dental clinic

Dental care in Ukraine is so expensive that many cannot afford it. People are grateful for our free dental care project. We have a dental clinic on wheels that travels around the areas on the outskirts of Kyiv that were worst affected by the attacks last spring. We have also visited military units to treat soldiers. We make 2–4 trips a month, and on each trip, we take care of 35–50 people. The monthly costs of the project



are around \$1,500 USD. In order to help more people, we would need better dental equipment, at a cost of \$8,000 USD.

## Needs for medical assistance

Our second project consists of home visits to the sick. Currently, there are many chronically ill people who should receive their medication regularly, but cannot afford to buy it. We help them by buying the medicines prescribed by the doctor at the pharmacy and delivering it home to them. We have already helped 1,000 people. The expenses of one

person's medications for a month are on average \$40.

*"We are very grateful for your support. The amount of help we provide depends on the support we receive.*

*God bless you!"*

*Andrei Lugovsky*

GCMM supports the humanitarian aid work of the KEMO church with donations through <https://gcmmministries.com/ukraineaid/> web-pages.

Thank you for your help!



The Messianic Congregation of Kyiv has acquired a dental clinic on wheels that travels around Kyiv helping both civilians and soldiers.



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**help change lives  
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## ***Giving through your Will.***

Legacy Gifts balance the needs of your loved ones with an opportunity for you to support Great Commission Media Ministries. Our goal is to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ in sharing the Gospel with this spiritually lost generation using high-impact media ministry and working with churches in hard-to-reach regions of the world.



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***Please call: 877-244-7618***

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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*



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