

# MINISTRY

GREAT COMMISSION MEDIA MINISTRIES

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**Christmas Message Amidst War in Ukraine  
Mongolia Campaign is a Christmas Gift**

## MINISTRY Magazine

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# Christmas Blessings 2023...

Christmas is a lovely time of the year, as we gather to celebrate the coming of our Saviour from the glory of heaven into our dark world. As Daniel Kolenda an American missionary, as well as pastor, author, and teacher, was reflecting on the familiar story of the birth of Jesus one thing surprised him.

## Herod and the wise men

When the eastern astrologers and sorcerers appeared and announced they were looking for the "King of the Jews", Herod was greatly frightened. The Roman authority had appointed only one person "as king" in the province of Israel, and he was the appointed one.

Herod called together Jerusalem's "own sons," the chief priests and scribes, asking them to study the scriptures to ascertain the birthplace of the Messiah. After studying the Hebrew scriptures, they directed Herod to the precise location of the birth.

## Unholy ignorance!

How was it that the "sons" of Herod who knew where their own Messiah was to be born, were completely disinterested in the birth? You would think that every scribe and priest upon hearing the news would have immediately fast-tracked to Bethlehem. After all, had not Israel been waiting for the promised Messiah through the centuries? But none of the kings of Israel, priests, scribes, or

religious leaders acknowledged what had taken place.

## Politics of the day

It is good to know that these same religious leaders were politicians as well. The well-being and security of their status and position on the political scene were determined by the Roman authorities. Herod had been appointed by Rome as the "King of the Jews," so as long as he looked after the well-being of the nation, there was no need to look for another leader. The coming of the Messiah would weaken their position and would be a threat to their prosperity. Perhaps this is why "Herod was alarmed and all Jerusalem with him" (Matthew 2:3) having heard that wise men from the East had come in search of "another king of the Jews."

## A King appointed by God

Although the religious leaders of Jerusalem disregarded the birth of the Messiah, almighty God portrayed indescribable respect for His Son's kingship.

The undeniable tribute was evidenced when the wise men from pagan lands came to worship the new King, favoured by God almighty. The wise men presented valuable gifts to baby Jesus acknowledging Him as King.

## First to worship the King

The wise men from the East were the first distinguished guests from heathen lands who



bowed down to the Messiah, the king to the Jews whom the religious leaders had rejected.

## Prelude of what is yet to come

Over the centuries billions of people from the gentile nations have come to worship Jesus as God and King. Jesus gave a command to his followers to make "disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19) and the last book of the Bible reveals the finale.

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

This is the Christmas message! The Messiah, Jesus Christ is the Lord of all the nations and He alone is the King.

We wish you and your loved ones a blessed 2024!

**Hannu and Laura Haukka**  
and the entire GCM team



# Nomads of Mongolia See and Hear the Christmas Message



**This past Christmas, many Mongolians heard an enhanced Christmas story for the first time.**

As well, many celebrated Christmas for the first time knowing that the birth of Jesus has brought light to their spiritual darkness. The media campaign offered churches in Mongolia the opportunity to preach the Gospel effectively.

Churches in Mongolia are small and outreach has been slow and laborious. Using traditional means in spreading the Gospel without the benefit of the media, it would have taken churches at best 50 years, and perhaps even longer, to reach this generation. But now, with the help of the media, churches have been able to reach their countrymen, blanketing their

nation with the message of the Gospel.

Thousands have responded to the invitation, making personal decisions of faith and are now connected to a church.

## **New believers abound**

One of the callers to the campaign office was a woman of affluence. She had called a few days earlier and made arrangements to pick up a copy of the campaign book in person. When she received it, she touched her forehead with the book and held it over her heart with reverence. She knew the book had powerful stories of changed lives.

## **Campaign is extended**

Response to the campaign exceeded all expectations whereby churches requested

the media campaign to continue into December.

In one instance, Reverend Myagmardarj set up a campaign booth on a very busy street in the middle of the city.

The campaign booth generated a lot of interest and crowds gathered in close to check out the presentation on site. 185 campaign books were distributed to passers-by and the following week many new faces appeared at the pastor's small group meeting.

## **A new home church**

Consequently, with so many new people the pastor decided to plant a new home church. The name for the church was drawn from a bag after each person wrote their preferred name on a piece of



paper. The winning entry was written by one of the new believers. The new church was named “Light”, and continues to meet regularly.

### **Mission at the well**

One of the churches decided to organize an event at a village well. As people came to draw water, campaign books were distributed to everyone who wanted one, in exchange for their contact information.

During the two-day well event, 147 people in the yurt settlement area received the campaign book with stories of life change as a gift.

The church organized a follow-up event to which everyone receiving the books had been invited. 40 adults and 15 teenagers responded to the invitation.

Two of the people whose stories were in the campaign book had been invited to attend. One of the guest speakers, Dugerma, was a scientist who had found God while he was seeking the ‘truth’. The other, Tsogtbayar had suffered a 12-year prison sentence. He had become a believer and was now a pastor.

In his closing words, Tsogtbayar asked if anyone would like to learn more about this same Jesus, who had found him.

All 55 newcomers that day, indicated their desire to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

### **Three orphan boys**

The Mongolia media campaign manager had attended the same event. Three boys sitting behind her had stood

out from the rest of the audience because of their rather unusual appearances with piercings and rings on their noses.

The boys went up to Pastor Tsogtbayar afterwards to share their story. They were orphans.

In Mongolia, children can reside in an orphanage until the age of 18. After that, they are transferred to other lodgings to earn their food money. Upon turning 22, they are aged out of the system having to leave and provide for themselves on their own.

### **Deadly poison**

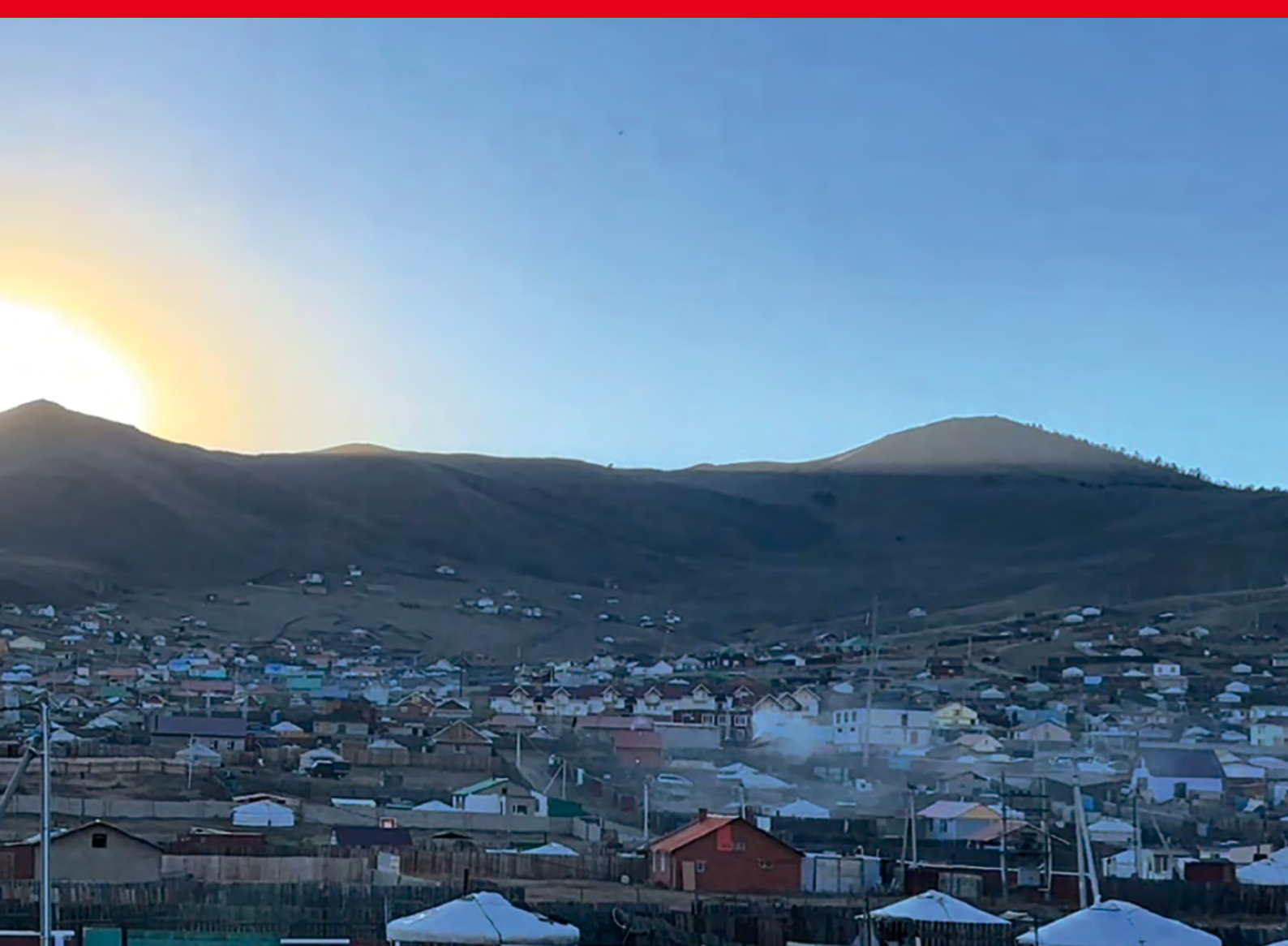
Two of the boys had been in such despair, that they had decided to end it all. They drank poison and lost consciousness. They woke up in a hospital.



# Churches in Mongolia Reap Unprecedented Campaign Harvest







Fortunately for the boys, their attending nurse happened to be a Christian woman. Seeing their condition, she had a campaign book sent out to them.

They were profoundly touched by Pastor Tsogtbayar's testimony in the book, as one who regardless of experiencing the hardship of imprisonment, had survived and experienced freedom and healing in both his spirit and soul.

### **Moved to tears**

Pastor Tsogtbayar's story impacted them. They realized that their suffering could not even be compared to what the pastor had gone through. After being released from the

hospital, they wanted to meet the pastor personally, and by the grace of God, they had that opportunity.

### **Love wins!**

The boys shared their own stories with the pastor, who prayed and encouraged them.

The love and peace they experienced as they accepted Jesus, and time spent with the pastor and church was such that they didn't want to leave.

The campaign book had led two orphan boys to salvation in Christ.

### **The Shaman area**

The campaign faced opposition as well. On the way back from the campaign tour, the

team stopped by a Shaman worship site on the hillside.

As part of ancestral spirit-worshipping rituals, the loud nightly drumming and repetitive chants reach nearby homes in the valley and yurts.

This has instilled fear and unrest amongst the people in the nearby village.

The Shamanists seek to intimidate and threaten families, by exposing them to their rituals and saying that even if one family member does not join them, an accident would befall the family.

The Gospel had however made its way into the heart of a Shaman, whose story is shared in the campaign book.



# Christmas Message Reaches Residents of Ulaanbaatar in an Unusual Way



The media campaign has been an exceptional blessing for Mongolia! With your support, the implementation of this campaign has been possible. Many of the nomadic people have come to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

The words of Jesus con-

tinue to resonate: "Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest." Generous sowing allows a bountiful harvest!

The media campaign coverage continues into December, at the request of the churches. The crucial

follow-up ministry will continue long after the campaign ends.

We thank you for your generosity in making this campaign possible! May the Lord bless you and your loved ones in abundance!

**Hannu Haukka**





P.S. Moments ago, we received greetings from Boloroo, the Mongolia media campaign manager:

"The Mongolian media campaign leadership, together with the Mongolian Evangelical Alliance, organized a great evangelistic event for people in Ulaanbaatar who

had requested and received the campaign book.

It was a wonderful surprise to have access to a venue that could seat over 3,000 people at the Ulaanbaatar Palace.

Bookstore vendors distributed the books and invitations. The guest speaker for the joint venture was Pastor

Tsogtbayar, a "hero" from the campaign book who had experienced the life-changing power of God.

Through this event, many Mongolians heard the gospel message and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour!





## Mongolian Media Campaign Exceeded the Expectations of Organizers and Hosts!

The media campaign held many great breakthrough moments and surprises.

### **Celebration service turn-out a surprise**

The evangelism celebration service organized and held on December 9th at the Ulaanbaatar Palace venue was without a doubt the highlight of the campaign.

Before this celebration, we were informed Christians had not been permitted to use the venue for events. This was the first.

Juri Ananiev, assistant director

of our mission was at the celebration and videoed a short clip of the unexpected and wonderful events of that day.

There were more than 3,500 people in attendance, of which only about 200 were from local churches as they had wanted to make room for those who had not yet come to faith. They had organized separate celebrations for believers on the same day.

The majority of the 3,300 people at the palace venue, had come by the campaign office for their invitations to

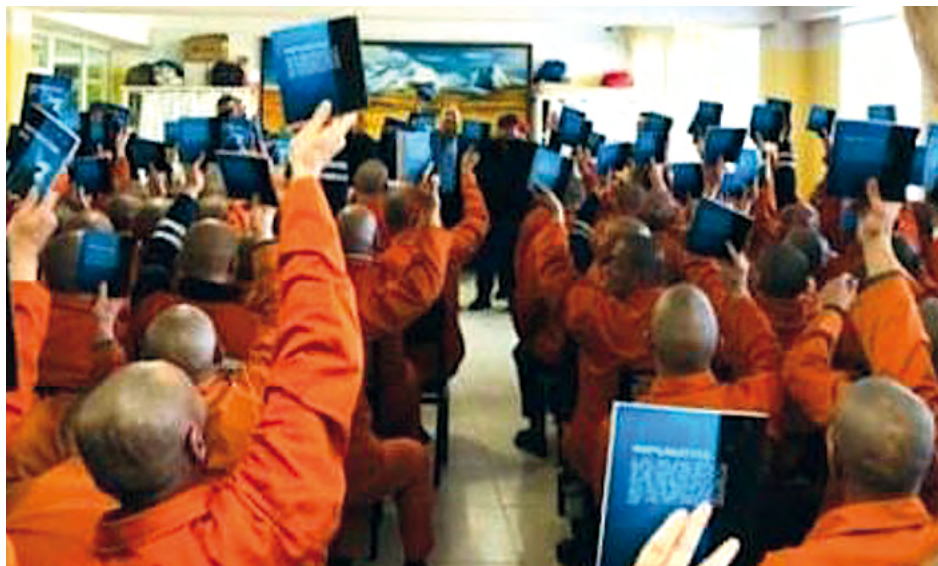
attend the service.

Juri shared that it was a very blessed event; he had not personally seen such great acceptance of the gospel message as on that day.

### **Not since the 90's!**

This was equivalent to Russia's great revival seen in the early 90's! Video of the event soon to come. Juri has been the assistant director for all the mega city campaigns in Russia, and stated a campaign such as this in Mongolia may be hard-pressed elsewhere. But with God, anything is possible!





## A visit with a Buddhist high priest

Buddhism is traditionally the dominant religion in Mongolia. The local campaign team arranged a visit with the highest spiritual leader in the country. The high priest happened to own a significant number of the buses in the city's transport department.

Campaign ads had been successfully placed on the buses with QR codes. By activating the QR code, passengers would see campaign videos with life-changing stories on their phones. With many passengers spending several hours a day on buses to and from work in the mornings and evenings, we had a captive audience.

While visiting the high priest, we were offered tea as

we were chatting. (No recording was allowed.)

## What is the purpose of the campaign?

Without warning, the high priest suddenly turned to me and asked me as the only foreigner of the group: "What is the ultimate goal of this campaign?" Tension momentarily filled the air. A wrong answer could significantly damage our intended mission.

I quickly prayed to God for wisdom, for the right words and immediately had the words to speak.

"In the Holy Book, the Bible, Doctor Luke in his Gospel tells the parable about the lost sheep and the lost silver coin. A shepherd had 100 sheep and one of them went astray in open country. He of course

leaves the 99 and goes after the lost sheep until he finds it. And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and invites his friends and neighbours on his return saying: Rejoice with me! I found my sheep which was lost.

Jesus said this is the same way it is in heaven. There will be more rejoicing when the lost sheep is found than over the 99 who weren't lost.

In another parable a woman had 10 silver coins and loses one. So she lights her lamp, sweeps the floor and searches carefully until she finds it. And when she finds it, she too calls her friends and neighbours together and says: Rejoice with me! I found my lost coin. The same way, angels of God rejoice over one who has been lost and is found."

(continues on page 12)





(continued from page 11)

## Media Campaign Celebration Service Attendance Astounds the Local Churches!

"There are thousands and thousands of Mongolians, who have lost their way and don't know how or have the strength to return to the normalcy of life.

Alcohol, drugs and crises in life have led them astray. Many have lost their desire to live, and with no hope, contemplate suicide.

The campaign message invites them to return to the fullness of life that is worth living. This is the goal of this media mission."

The Buddhist high priest had been listening intently without interruption and finally replied: "But this is exactly what our nation needs!" and moments later added: "We will continue your soon-expiring bus advertising contract into December!"

The Holy Spirit was present and had spoken to the high priest. The

media campaign was given an important extension and additional visibility in the capital city bus transit system.

### 180 prisoners made a decision for Christ

Mongolia is officially a Buddhist country without much room for other religions. Because churches are young and relatively few in number, ministry resources for follow-up for thousands of Mongolians will be put to the test.

Local churches will spend the next 12 months in focused follow-up with those who have responded to the campaign.

The message of Christmas was also brought to prisons while the campaign was taking place.

An angel brought the good news (Matt 1:21) about the soon-to-be-

born baby Jesus, who would "save His people from their sins."

The prisoners visited already knew the meaning of sin and its destructive power in their own lives.

God however, has good will toward men (Luke 2:14). This applied to the Mongolian prisoners as well.

John wrote: "And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace" (John 1:16).

180 prisoners made their decision to follow Christ known publicly. (Photo) Their "thirsty hearts" tasted God's amazing grace that poured out from His heart into theirs!

Mary had expressed a similar thought to Elizabeth before Jesus was born: "He exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty."







# Christmas Message to Poverty-Stricken Mongolians







Greetings amid the freezing temperatures of Mongolia! The current temperature in Ulaanbaatar is -27 C.

As part of the media campaign, churches joined together and organized the distribution of clothing, food, and hot meals to those living on the outskirts of two cities where homeless, impoverished people and families lived.

This time of the year is tough with sub-zero temperatures.

Churches distributed 100 packs of warm clothing, 500 kilograms of flour, 100 hot lunches, and 200 packages of soap along with 200 campaign books.

These families have small children who live with their parents in conditions reminiscent of landfills.

Today we received permission from the children's parents to organize children's camps in January.

We are implementing two 4-day camps to accommodate 100 children.

We would be very grateful if the campaign budget could offer financial support for the children's camp initiatives. Perhaps some Christmas gift money can be set aside. Each child will be gifted with warm clothing, costing \$100 per child.

Thank you for considering this request for these destitute children in Mongolia.

Blessings, **Boloroo**







# Strong Spiritual Awakening Amid the War in Ukraine!

## Church growing at record speed in Kyiv

In Kyiv, the construction of a new church continues under far-from-ideal conditions as war rages on. Two years before Russia invaded Ukraine, they had outgrown

their previous place of worship. Three back-to-back services on a Sunday weren't enough. Once completed, the new church will be the largest in Ukraine with a total seating of 4,500.

## Great losses

1,500 congregants dwindled to 17 attendees following the start of the war. At the onset, most of the church members left Kyiv, fearing the city would be captured. Church attendance has since





rebounded and the church has grown to 3,500 members, of which most are “new faces.”

At the moment, 100 members of the church are actively defending Ukraine at the front lines, many of whom were the construction workers tasked with building the new church. Sadly, the number of fallen soldiers and fathers has greatly increased during this past year of the ongoing war.

### **Serving alongside churches**

When the war started, the established partnership between the churches in Ukraine and GCMM increased greatly.

GCMM's role in spreading the Gospel and evangelism continues, as does the humanitarian aid. The immeasurable value of supporting Military Chaplains at the front lines who are ministering to the soldiers amid the fighting continues to be of great importance. The sol-

diers want to be prayed for, they want to have devotions and the opportunity to partake in communion.

In turn, GCMM supports the spiritual well-being of the Chaplains as well.

Pastor Juri believes the church building project in Kyiv will continue to fruition despite the setbacks due to the war. This too, is the Lord's work after all.

**Hannu Haukka**





# Ministry for Muslims Moving Decisively Forward in 2024

We have had the privilege of seeing the amazing works of God in the lives of countless people. Amid change, instability and chaos in the world, we lean on this truth: God is still good and hears our prayers.

And while the secular media bombards the world with heartbreaking and anxiety-driven news, we strive to focus on God's love and we continue to believe that He is in control.

We are very grateful for what God has been doing and is doing as we continue to serve in His ministry. We are filled with gratitude to have witnessed and shared stories of His influence in people's lives this past year. And we want to take this opportunity to praise Him for this!

As testimonies from our gospel broadcasts in Muslim-majority countries reach us daily through our networks and partners in ministry, my heart is full of reverence for God.

Every story is a testimony of His boundless grace. People are freed from their fears and stress. Many who were sick have been healed and family relationships have been restored. We have indeed seen lives being saved.

The testimonies we receive daily are not just stories, but an echo of lives that have found hope and have truly been changed. These new believers share with all who will listen, that Christ is victorious and has secured their salvation, which you helped convey to them!

Our TV programs are broadcast every day through GCM's 18 partner satellite channels blanketing the entire Arab and Islamic world and the surrounding areas. Thousands of Muslims are being saved.

God is indeed using our ministry to serve the vast, hard to reach areas of the world. The Gospel broadcasts greatly strengthen our work and produce "much fruit".

Your continued support is more important than ever before, in this challenging worldwide economy. I humbly encourage you to tell your friends about the incredible strides in sharing the Gospel in the Arab and Islamic world and to stand with us. Your support and prayers bring hope to untold people.





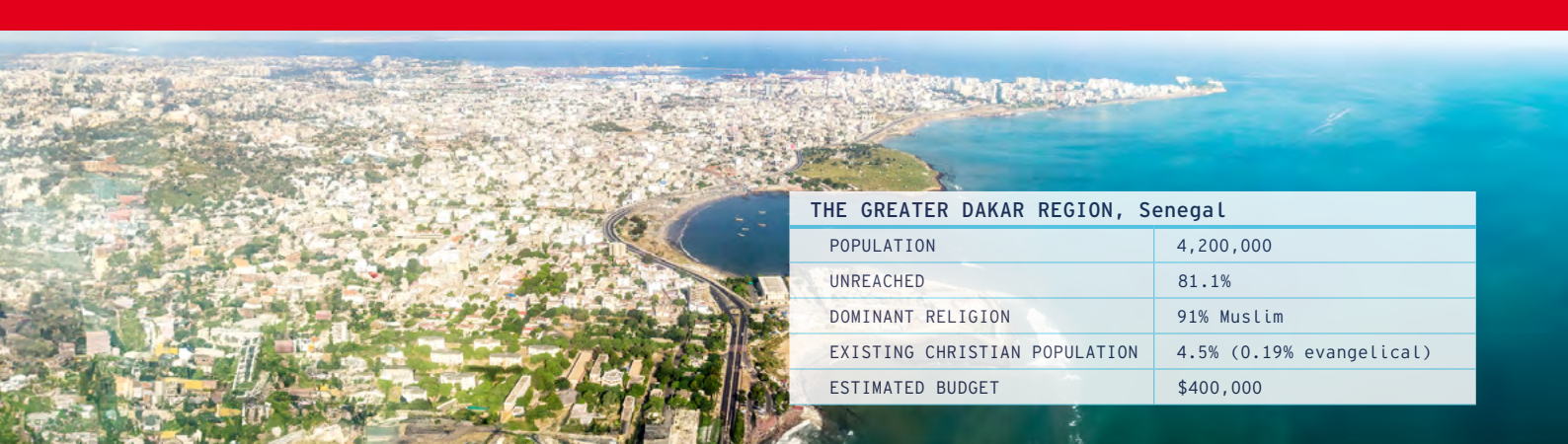
This coming year, we are planning to produce over 1,000 TV programs in various languages. Additionally, an extraordinary opportunity to conduct a mega city campaign in Dakar, Senegal in May is on the horizon. This requires massive preparation with local teams and resources. The challenges are admittedly enormous to implement this campaign but we trust the Lord who has called us to the great commission to bring the Gospel to millions in this Arab Islamic country as well.

May our collective efforts produce a bountiful harvest for millions more to know Christ. Let's move forward standing together prayerfully, with hearts full of anticipation of what God is going to do in 2024!

**Warm regards,  
Hani Hanein**







THE GREATER DAKAR REGION, Senegal	
POPULATION	4,200,000
UNREACHED	81.1%
DOMINANT RELIGION	91% Muslim
EXISTING CHRISTIAN POPULATION	4.5% (0.19% evangelical)
ESTIMATED BUDGET	\$400,000

Islam’s influence in Senegal began with the conversion of the King War Jabi in the year 1040. Wide-spread acceptance of Islam did not occur, however, until the period of French colonialism.

Independence from France was achieved in 1960. At the time of their departure **97% of the Senegalese population identified as Muslim**. Today it remains steady at **91%**. Typical to many post-colonial African countries, the main social challenge that they face is extreme poverty.

Today Senegal is experiencing many early benefits of social and economic development. The future hope in Senegal rests in the fact that 60% of the Senegalese population is under 25 years of age and literacy rates of these young people are on the rise. What an opportunity for the Gospel!

Despite being a religiously tolerant society, Islam remains entrenched. The Gospel has not yet broken through on a large scale. But the local church in Senegal believes that the time to break the 60-year stalemate between Islam and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is now. That is why they have asked for our help with a Mega City Media Campaign in Dakar.

*After such a successful campaign in Mongolia, how can we say no?*

Preparation with the local church in Senegal has been going on for the past 5 years. We are so excited to move this mission forward to the next phase. And with your help, we can.

The time for a **30 day, city wide media campaign has now come**, and with it, so has the need for your fervent prayer and financial support.

We urgently need to raise the initial installment of **\$150,000** by April to secure the media outlets necessary to see the Gospel break through to over 4,000,000 Senegalese in the capital city of Dakar.

*Will you help?*

**I will support the Media Campaign in Dakar and see the Gospel breakthrough!**

**Here is my gift to help break the 60-year stalemate between Islam and the Gospel**

- ☐ **\$25** will reach over **200** Senegalese with the Gospel
- ☐ **\$75** will reach over **600** Senegalese with the Gospel
- ☐ **\$125** will reach over **1000** Senegalese with the Gospel
- ☐ I'd like to invest \$\_\_\_\_\_ to reach as many Senegalese as I can

**CLICK HERE TO DONATE ONLINE**



Every \$1  
spent reaches  
**8** Senegalese  
with the  
Gospel