



"AND THEIR EYES
WERE OPENED, AND
THEY RECOGNIZED
[JESUS]." LUKE 24:31

REPORT ON
EYEGLASSES MINISTRY
in EASTERN UKRAINE:

Opening Eyes to the Gospel

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US BRING THE HOPE
OF JESUS AND RESTORE VISION TO **100,000**
HURTING PEOPLE IN EASTERN UKRAINE!

Thank You for Helping Bring Physical and Spiritual Restoration to Eastern Ukraine!

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and **recovering of sight to the blind.**" Luke 4:18*



Thank you for helping us restore physical and spiritual vision to the hurting people of eastern Ukraine! Because of your faithful prayers and generous partnership in the gospel, Mission Eurasia's leaders and ministry partners were able to distribute 100,000 pairs of reading glasses this past year to men, women, and youth with impaired vision in the suffering region of eastern Ukraine.

The ongoing war in eastern Ukraine began in 2014 and has left thousands of people struggling to survive in the war zone without consistent access to necessities such as food, clothing, clean water, and basic medical supplies, including eyeglasses. These vulnerable people, who include many children, disabled, sick, and elderly, are in desperate need of both physical and spiritual healing.

In order to help meet these enormous physical and spiritual needs, Mission Eurasia partnered with RestoringVision, a nonprofit organization committed to providing eyeglasses to underserved populations. Thanks to the generous support of Mission Eurasia's faithful donors who gave toward the shipping and

provision of 100,000 pairs of eyeglasses, supplied by RestoringVision, our dedicated young leaders trained in ministry through **School Without Walls (SWW)** partnered with 22 local organizations and churches to distribute the eyeglasses to 100,000 people with no other access to corrective eyewear.

Along with each pair of eyeglasses—in low, medium, and high-power options—they distributed through mobile clinics, churches, and outreach events, our leaders and ministry partners who are specially trained in discipleship and evangelism through SWW also shared copies of Scripture and the message of Jesus with people in need of hope. Thanks to the transformational power of the Good News, those who received the eyeglasses are finding new life and healing in the midst of difficult circumstances.

As they continue learning more about Jesus, these grateful souls are sharing His love with their suffering families, friends, and neighbors as they carry the light of the gospel even deeper into the darkness in eastern Ukraine. In this way, the overall impact of the eyeglasses distribution efforts goes far beyond the 100,000 recipients, and God's Kingdom is continuing to spread all across war-torn Ukraine.

With Christ at work in many hearts, God is using this life-changing eyeglasses ministry to draw many of His hurting children into His loving arms. Thank you for your special role in this impactful outreach to the people of eastern Ukraine!



Touching Hearts with the Good News: Medical Short-Term Mission Trip to Ukraine

"The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes." Psalm 19:8

In May 2019, a team of volunteers from Village Church in Dyer, IN, one of Mission Eurasia's ministry partners, traveled to Korosten, Ukraine on a short-term mission trip, during which they partnered with our Mission Eurasia Field Ministries team, nurses and other Christian medical professionals who received ministry training through School Without Walls (SWW), and local church leaders to host a free mobile eye clinic. "Today was the happiest day of my life!" shared Ekaterina, a woman who received treatment at the clinic. Along with a brand-new pair of eyeglasses, Ekaterina also received a copy of *Light* magazine, which contains the Gospel of John and was published in partnership with ShareWord Global.

When she arrived at the eye clinic, Ekaterina planned to go home as soon as she was done with her examination, but she was pleasantly surprised when the mission team and our leaders wanted to talk with her. "As I witnessed their sincere care and kindness, I realized that this kind of love is unusual, so I asked them to pray with me," shared Ekaterina.

This was the second time Ekaterina interacted with our leaders, and it was clear God had been working in her heart. Last year, our SWW leaders partnered with another group of volunteers from Village Church to host an evangelistic summer Bible camp for children and youth in Korosten. Ekaterina's son participated in this camp, and when he went home, he excitedly shared what he learned about God with his mother. The SWW leaders invited Ekaterina and her son to church, but sadly, Ekaterina wasn't interested.



For the past year, our leaders and the Village Church team have been faithfully praying for the children and youth who participated in last year's summer Bible camp and their families, and now, God is answering their prayers for Ekaterina. For many years, Ekaterina suffered from vision-related issues, and at the medical eye clinic, she finally got the help she needed. Best of all, Ekaterina was so touched by the unconditional love she experienced at the clinic that she, along with her husband and son, went to church the very next Sunday and they are continuing to attend! Through the medical eye clinic and short-term mission team, God touched Ekaterina's eyes, but more importantly, He touched her heart.

A special thank you to the dedicated short-term mission team from Village Church and to all our supporters who gave to provide these eyeglasses, which are opening hearts and eyes to the Good News of Jesus and transforming many lives in eastern Ukraine!



Leonid's Story: An Entire Family Comes to Faith Through the Gift of Sight

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10

"I was born and raised in Donbas in eastern Ukraine," shared Leonid. "For many years, I worked in the local mine to provide for my wife and four children, but after the war broke out, we had to leave. Almost five years have passed, and we still can't go home. Our city is occupied by separatists, and our house was destroyed in the fighting.

"We were left all alone in a strange city, and we were very discouraged. We had no friends, no work opportunities, and no hope for the future. My wife and I tried going to an Orthodox church, but there was no sense of community, and nobody wanted to help us. The God whom we saw depicted in their icons seemed distant and unknowable.

"In the midst of our struggles, I started experiencing major problems with my eyesight, and because of this, I couldn't find a job. We couldn't afford to have my eyes treated by a doctor, therefore, we were so happy when one of our neighbors told us that a team of Christians was going to be hosting a free eye clinic in our city. What impressed me most about this clinic was the caring attitude of the doctors and the kind School Without Walls (SWW) leaders who helped them. After receiving medication and a new pair of eyeglasses, the Christian leaders prayed for my family and shared the gospel with us. I was brought to tears, because I realized that it was God who was speaking to me through them and giving me new hope.

"The next Saturday, my wife and I went to the home Bible study group that the SWW leaders invited us to attend. We brought along the copy of Scripture they gave us at the eye clinic, and we studied it together in the group. The next day, our whole family went to church, and my children participated in Sunday school classes. It had been so long since we were part of a real community, and we were so moved that we said a prayer of repentance with our home group leader that very night. God's peace immediately filled our hearts, and we longed to serve



Him with our entire lives. Praise the Lord for His amazing love, the doctors who helped us, and for the church and home group that helped us come to faith in Jesus Christ!"

Thank you for making it possible for Leonid and his entire family to experience the love of Christian community and discover the hope of Christ for the first time through our eyeglasses distribution ministry!



Grigorii's Story: From Communist Party Leader to Follower of Christ

"Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law." – Psalm 119:18



"I spent most of my adult life working as a local Communist Party leader," shared Grigorii. "I ran meetings and kept lists of party members, including members who brought shame on our Party by doing things like attending church. My entire meaning in life was tied up in the Party.

"When the Soviet Union fell, I lost my job and my life lost its meaning. I moved to a small town and struggled to make ends meet. I faced a lot of health problems, including difficulty walking and seeing. My old glasses were completely useless and I had no money for new ones. It got to the point where I could no longer watch TV or read a book, and instead I just listened to the radio. In the summer of 2014, I was listening to the radio and heard that war was about to reach our town. I left my home and hobbled on my crutches over to my neighbors, whom I knew to be Christian believers, and I yelled at them angrily, 'What kind of God would let this happen?'

"However, if it weren't for those neighbors, I wouldn't have survived the last four years of war. I

am grateful to them for buying me food, helping me cook, and taking me out for walks. I was grateful for these Christian neighbors, but I couldn't make myself believe in God—my heart was hard and I was still resisting Him. A month ago, these same neighbors brought me to the free eye clinic to get new glasses. At the clinic, I met other Christians who were just as kind and caring as my neighbors. Together with the glasses, they gave me a Bible and a copy of a Christian magazine. When I got home, **I was so impressed by their kindness that I prayed for the first time in my life: 'God, if you are the one helping me through these people, then I want to believe in You.'**

"From then on, my life changed completely. I began reading my Bible every day, attending services at the local Baptist church, and praying. Two weeks ago, I was baptized, and now I am a child of God. God has given me a new mission: I found my old lists of my Communist Party comrades, and now I am writing them letters about how Jesus has changed my life. I am including copies of evangelistic literature with my letters and my pastor is helping me mail them. I pray that Jesus will change their lives like He changed mine!"

Thank you for helping our leaders reach thousands of hurting people like Grigorii with the truth of the gospel, inspiring them to share the Good News in turn and multiplying the impact of God's Kingdom!



Thank You for Your Support of Our Eyeglasses Ministry in Eastern Ukraine!

*"The Lord sets the prisoners free; **the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.** The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down." Psalm 146:8*

Thank you for giving so generously and joyfully to provide eyeglasses for the suffering people of eastern Ukraine and for keeping this ministry so faithfully in your prayers. Because of your incredible support, 100,000 men, women, and children were able to receive the message of Jesus and a pair of eyeglasses customized to their individual needs. With their new eyeglasses, every person served through this ministry now has the ability to clearly read and understand the Good News, many for the very first time, helping to change their lives forever. Thank you for your support and prayers, which make this ministry possible!

Personal Words of Thanks for Your Generous Giving:

"I couldn't afford to buy myself a new pair of glasses, as I hardly have enough money to buy medicine and food. I make a small income from sewing projects, but eventually I had to stop accepting sewing requests because I couldn't see well enough to thread a needle. I am so grateful for these glasses, which will allow me to make an income again with my sewing work! Thank you for this gift. I can't give you anything but my gratitude." --Olga, 78 years old

"Participating in this eyeglasses project completely changed my attitude toward Christians. I was so impressed by the attitude of these believers and their selfless service. They showed genuine care for each individual who came to get glasses and gave each person Christian magazines and Scripture. I also took



a copy of Scripture from them, and I've started reading the Bible for the first time, praying with my family, and attending church services. I think I'm at the beginning of a journey. I pray that God keeps leading me, and that these believers continue to change our town and country. Thank you for serving our town!" --Alexei, a local government official in eastern Ukraine

"Everyone who received help from your team at the free eyeglasses clinic felt very loved and cared for. I prayed with dozens of people at the clinic and invited them to our church. The next Sunday, there were many new people at our church service, and 10 people accepted Christ because of this eyeglasses clinic. Thank you for making this free clinic possible and helping us show God's love through word and deed with the people of Korosten!" --Pastor Mikhail, Korosten, Ukraine

To hear more faith-building personal testimonies of lives changed through our eyeglasses ministry in eastern Ukraine, we encourage you to watch our video: bit.ly/EyeglassesUkraine



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