



20/20 ANNUAL REPORT



Advancing the Gospel in Times of Crisis



Sergey Rakhuba
President

*“Preach the Word; be ready in
season and out of season.”*

— 2 Timothy 4:2, ESV

God’s work is still going strong!

Dear Friend,

No doubt, 2020 will be remembered as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The threat of a deadly virus spreading across the globe struck fear in the hearts of many people. But for believers in Eurasia, who have already endured such terrible hardships, it was an opportunity to share God’s love as never before.

Our *School Without Walls (SWW)* leaders across Eurasia adapted to the new conditions, combining online events with in-person activities, and demonstrating their readiness to continue advancing the gospel despite any challenges they faced.

Young professionals in our *Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI)* also shone as beacons in the darkness, sharing God’s light and peace in and through their workplaces.

Our *I Care ministry* to refugees and displaced people continued helping desperate victims of the war in eastern Ukraine as well as those suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic throughout Eurasia. Meanwhile, our young leaders encountered a new challenge as warfare erupted between Armenia and Azerbaijan, forcing thousands of families to flee their homes. And our leaders responded vigorously and fearlessly.

Other strategic ministry initiatives continued to mightily advance the gospel despite lockdowns and other limitations. Our bold, young leaders delivered more than 125,000 *Gifts of Hope* to children at Christmas. We shared the living Word of God far and wide through our *Scripture Distribution and Evangelism* program. We kept advocating for the right to practice and share our faith in our *Religious Freedom and Reconciliation Initiatives*. And we continued proclaiming Jesus where He had not been known through our *Ministry to Unreached People*.

In short, **nothing was able to stop the work of God that your prayers and support made possible.** I wish you could see how your support is changing lives all across the Eurasian region. What a privilege it is to witness the faith and courage of our young leaders as they minister in the harshest imaginable circumstances!

The victories God has given us in this dark time remind me of these words from the Psalms: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea” (Psalm 46:1-2).

I’m especially encouraged to know that faithful partners like you are standing behind us, supporting us in every way. This annual report represents the fruits of our partnership in the gospel, and that’s why I joyfully share these words of the Apostle Paul who said: “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now” (Philippians 1:3-5).

So, as you read through this report, please take note of all the wonderful things your prayers and support have made possible. I hope you’ll continue supporting us in 2021. It’s your loving commitment to this work that helps us carry on. And, on behalf of all of us at Mission Eurasia, please accept my sincerest thanks.

Gratefully in Him,

Sergey Rakhuba



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“...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

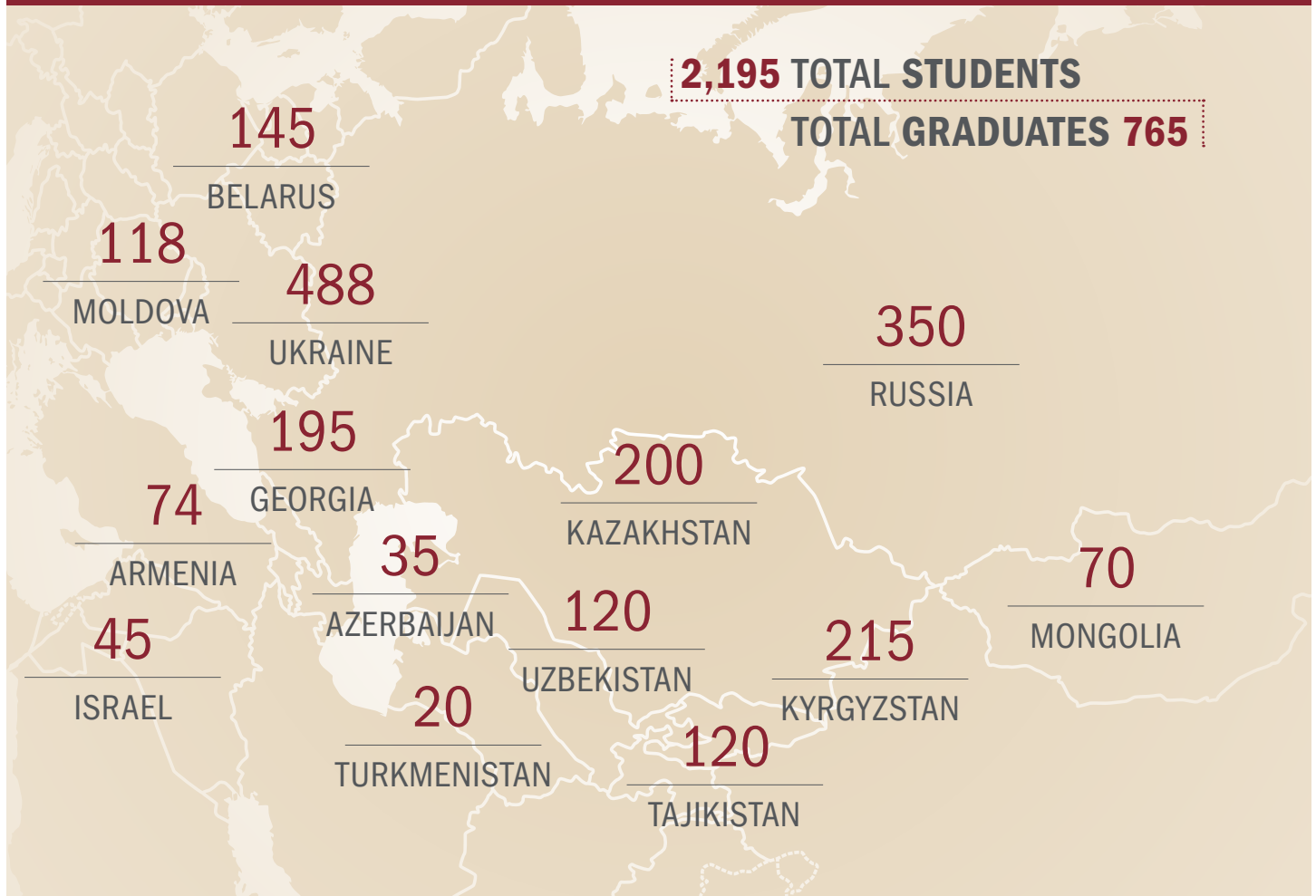
— 2 Timothy 2:2

Equipping Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Since 2004, Mission Eurasia has been training Next Generation Christian leaders in the former Soviet Union/Eurasia through an innovative flexible leadership training program called School Without Walls (SWW). This program trains and equips young leaders to advance the gospel in their communities and nations despite any cultural, political, or religious obstacles they may face.

So, when the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe in 2020, it couldn't stop our SWW leaders from spreading God's message throughout Eurasia. These leaders adapted to the new conditions by implementing a hybrid ministry approach that combined in-person and virtual events. Thanks to your prayers and support, they saw the pandemic as a new opportunity to transform lives through *youth ministry, family ministry, media ministry, education, and outreach* to at-risk people groups. Thanks to your prayers and support, the number of SWW leaders that we trained equipped in 2020 actually exceeded the number of those who were trained in 2019.

GOD'S WORK IS THRIVING THROUGH PANDEMIC AND PERSECUTION





Yevgeniy, Donbas

Transformed to Transform

Yevgeniy is from the city of Donbas in eastern Ukraine where he played soccer as a teenager and had dreams of joining a popular sports school someday. Instead, he became involved in gangs, was arrested, and spent time in jail. As a result, his dreams of joining the sports school vanished. However, God used Yevgeniy's time behind bars to guide him into an entirely new eternal direction.

As Yevgeniy shares, *"When I was freed from prison, Christ transformed my heart, and I started thinking about what my life could have been. As time passed, I was filled with a desire to start a soccer club so I could share the gospel with young people and help them avoid making the mistakes that I did. I talked with my pastor, and I was pleasantly surprised to learn that there were already several soccer clubs in place in my city, so I joined one of these clubs.*

"I then began coaching two Christian soccer teams. I was so thankful that I could use my gifts to grow the church, and during each practice, I led a Bible lesson for the young guys on my teams. However, as I talked about the Bible, I realized that I didn't know how to effectively share the gospel. I was constantly being reminded at church that I should be telling others about Jesus, but I didn't know how. I wanted to learn, but I couldn't quit my job or stop coaching to go back to school.

"I spoke with my pastor about my concerns, and he suggested that I join School Without Walls (SWW). So, I started studying at SWW and have already learned so much, including the nature of God's Kingdom, the role of the church in this eternal Kingdom, and important ministry principles. Also, my fellow SWW leaders pray for me, particularly that the Lord would help me put these principles into practice as I minister to children and youth. Now, I am constantly thinking about how I can grow God's Kingdom through my words and actions. I really want to have a positive impact on the youth of Donbas, and I know that the knowledge I'm gaining through SWW is helping to change their hearts. I am so thankful for this opportunity to learn ministry skills while continuing to work and serve as a soccer coach. Praise God for all He is doing!"



Sharing the Gospel in the Workplace

Christian professionals discover ways to powerfully represent Christ in their vocations.

During the Soviet era, young Christians were not allowed to enter influential professions such as medicine, education, and law for fear that they would have too great of an impact on atheistic society at that time. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, these young Christians in Eurasia have been entering these influential professions in large numbers. This gives them a unique platform from which to share the good news with others. Through conferences, seminars, and forums, the **Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative** (NGPLI) provides them with the motivation, training, and resources they need to be effective in this important ministry.

During the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, the witness of these young professionals for Christ has taken on new power and urgency. Their faith and confidence provide a striking contrast to the despondency so many others are experiencing.

Despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic, NGPLI conducted **75 training events, 20 conferences, two forums, and six roundtables** in various locations in Eurasia. In addition, **65 professional** small groups met regularly throughout the year to share best practices, motivate, and encourage other professionals to share their faith within their spheres of influence.

IN 2020, NGPLI
PROVIDED VITAL
TRAINING TO **14,700**
NEXT GENERATION
LEADERS IN THE
FOLLOWING FIELDS:

Medical/Healthcare: 4,000
Education: 2,500
Law: 1,300
Business: 3,000
Young Entrepreneurs: 1,200
Science and technology: 1,000
The Arts: 900
Media: 800





“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

— 1 Peter 2:12



Shining Light in the Darkness: Madina’s story.

Madina lives in the predominantly Muslim Central Asian country of Tajikistan where she graduated from law school two years ago. In Tajikistan, women rarely pursue higher education, especially in the legal sphere. However, Madina’s stepfather, who is a pastor and School Without Walls graduate, helped shape her faith and career by teaching her that Christians need to hold influential positions in society so they can positively impact their country. That’s why Madina decided to become a lawyer.

During her final year at university, Madina took part in **Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative** (NGPLI) events and during one of those events, she heard the story of William Wilberforce, a British lawyer and politician, who helped lead the abolition movement against slavery. Madina was especially impressed by these words that John Newton spoke to William: “Use your position for the glory of God.” So, after graduating from the university, she started working with local churches to provide ministry training for Christian lawyers.

Madina shares that, *“Today, persecution against the church in Tajikistan is becoming stricter. I am grateful to NGPLI for connecting me with international Christian lawyers who support me in the midst of religious persecution. I believe that we can help make religious freedom the norm in our country, and that children will be able to worship God with their parents as the gospel is openly preached. With God’s help, we will continue to fight for this future.”*

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the evangelical church has largely depended on Western resources to strengthen and expand its impact throughout Eurasia. Part of this dependence is the result of a post-Soviet mindset that lacks a healthy, holistic view and practical models of biblical stewardship and generous giving from within the church.

To help the national evangelical church overcome this post-Soviet mindset by becoming more self-sufficient and less dependent on external sources of support as well as more generous in their support of other ministries, Mission Eurasia has launched a series of initiatives, including training events and the development of resources, that teach the importance of biblical stewardship and sacrificial, generous giving.

IN 2020, HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS YOUR SUPPORT HELPED US PROMOTE STEWARDSHIP AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY TO THE NATIONAL CHURCH IN EURASIA:

2020

- We developed, adapted, and translated six new resources on the topic of generous giving for the local church. These include the “Seven-Day Generosity Challenge” handbook and video lessons, “Seven Characteristics of a Generous Church” handbook, and the “Time to Be Generous” eight-part broadcast series.
- We presented 60 training seminars on biblical stewardship/generous giving to more than 1,300 young SWW leaders representing 280 local evangelical churches, including five training events for SWW leaders/churches in the war zone in eastern Ukraine. Through these efforts, we have impacted more than 3,000 believers in Eurasia.
- In partnership with NGPLI leaders, we presented an eight-part webinar series on generosity and financial management to more than 9,000 online visitors.
- We held training events and retreats for Mission Eurasia field ministry staff in Ukraine, Russia, and Moldova.
- We pursued networking and partnership opportunities with national church leadership on fundraising issues.
- We developed two courses on fundraising and developing national financial support for seminary students in Ukraine.

As a result of these efforts, churches have begun to practice generous giving and have started to develop their own ministries to help those in need. For example, after receiving training on the importance of biblical stewardship, churches located in the war zone in eastern Ukraine began sacrificially raising funds to help those refugee families who are now suffering from the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Thank you for your support that is making this possible!

“I am a SWW student and the topic of generosity is very interesting to me. Practicing generosity to me means being like Christ. Through this teaching I learned that everything belongs to God. I also learned that generosity doesn’t just involve how we use our money, but how we use our time and all of our other resources as well. In general, it refers to everything that we have. I am so grateful to learn about these important concepts and principles.”

— Nastya, SWW student



“And he is the head of the body, the church.”

— Colossians 1:18

Building Up the Body of Christ

Many communities in Europe and Asia have no Christian presence. Mission Eurasia is changing that—by planting churches.

During the Soviet era, one of the goals of the communist authorities was to eliminate the evangelical church. That’s why, since its founding in 1991, Mission Eurasia has focused on planting new churches throughout Eurasia to preach the gospel and provide believers with a safe, nurturing environment where they can grow in their faith.

In 2020, Mission Eurasia partnered with national church-planting networks and published church-planting textbooks for use with the SWW curriculum. In addition, we held **13 training seminars** with **221 participants** and **four additional conferences** for **240 church planters** that emphasized the strategic importance of church planting throughout Eurasia.

The restrictions caused by the COVID-19 crisis led us to create more online events—and the response was gratifying. Our web conference on church planting drew **2,000 participants**.



WITH YOUR SUPPORT, AND AS A RESULT OF OUR CHURCH-PLANTING TRAINING EFFORTS AND SWW OUTREACH MINISTRIES, WE ESTABLISHED A TOTAL OF 64 NEW CHURCHES IN THESE COUNTRIES:

- Armenia: **2**
- Azerbaijan: **4***
- Belarus: **2**
- Georgia: **3**
- Israel: **3**
- Kazakhstan: **6***
- Kyrgyzstan: **7***
- Mongolia: **1**
- Russia: **19**
- Tajikistan: **2***
- Ukraine: **9**
- Uzbekistan: **6***

*Predominantly Muslim countries

*“Forever, O LORD, your word is
firmly fixed in the heavens.”*

— Psalm 119:89

The Word of God Is Spreading throughout Eurasia

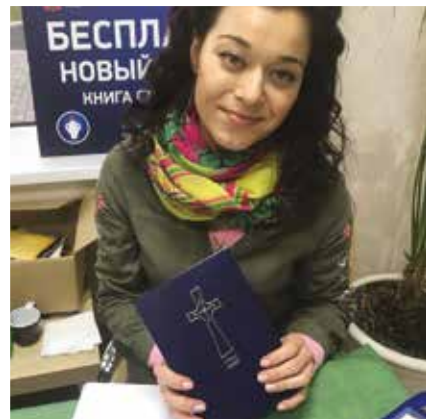
We’re bringing the Bible and Christian literature to spiritually hungry people across Eurasia.

Total Scriptural resources distributed in 2020: 1,709,000

The Soviet Union left this part of the world as a spiritual wasteland where the Word of God was in great demand but in short supply. The arrival of the coronavirus in 2020—along with the afflictions of war, poverty, and family disruption—awakened an even greater spiritual hunger in many people throughout Eurasia. Mission Eurasia seized this opportunity to share the Word of God as widely as possible. Through the support of generous partners like you, we distributed entire Bibles, New Testaments, Gospels of John, specially designed prayer booklets (*Molitvoslovs*), and other Christian literature throughout the region.

“I want to thank Mission Eurasia for providing these printed resources, which have strengthened my church’s ministry and helped many hurting people find spiritual encouragement.”

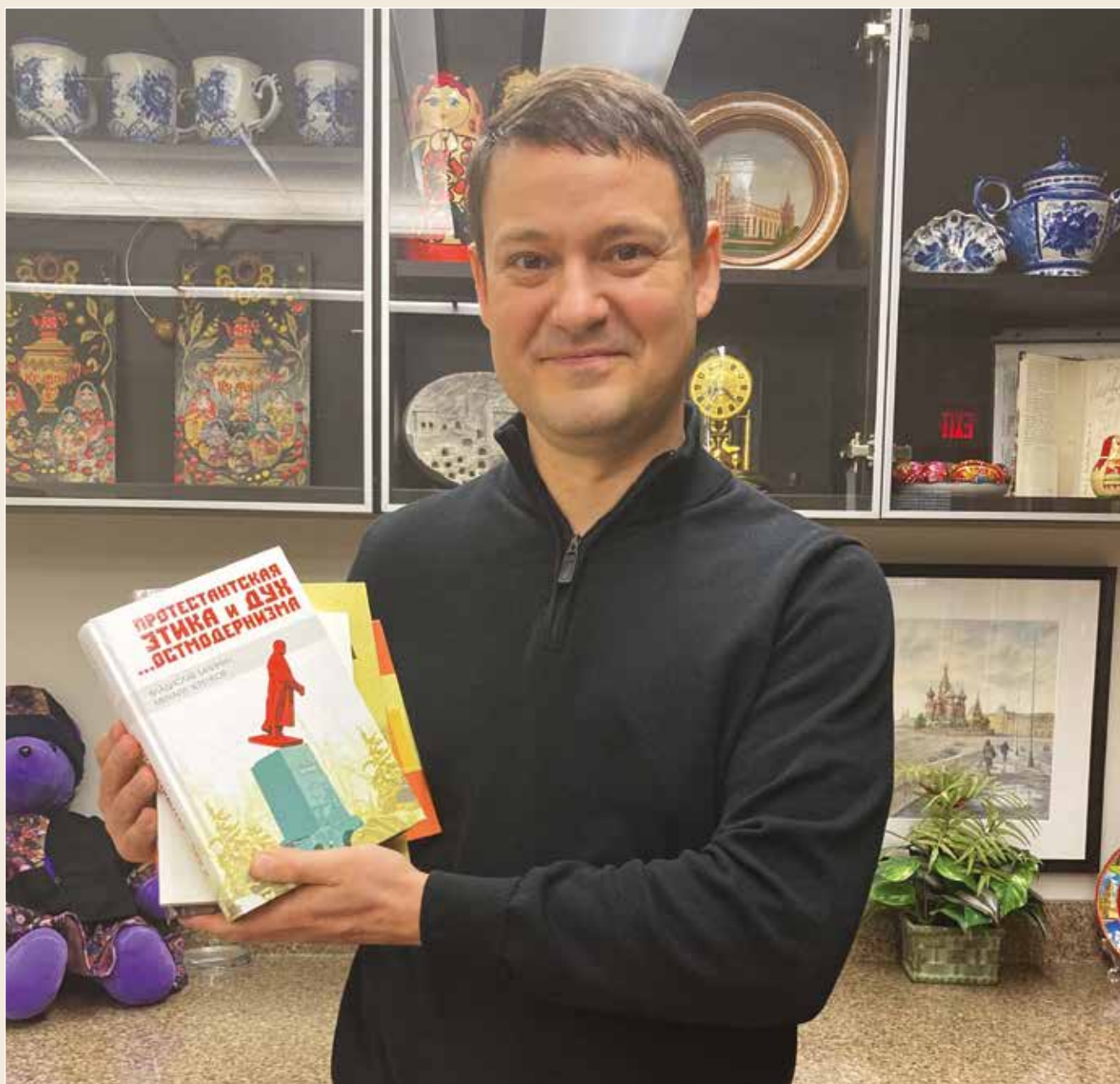
— Vadim, Mission Eurasia partner, Omsk, Russia





Development of National Christian Authors in Eurasia

For more than a decade, Mission Eurasia has been cultivating and publishing the works of national Christian authors who can effectively address issues affecting the church and society in Eurasia. Under the direction of Dr. Michael Cherenkov, Mission Eurasia's executive field director, Mission Eurasia helped to publish 12 titles by national authors in 2020 on topics including Christian leadership training, missions, and the role of the family, among others. These works are used to train and equip young leaders for more effective ministry through our School Without Walls (SWW) and Next Generation Professional Leaders (NGPLI) networks.



Powerful forces are trying to stop the spread of the gospel.

Mission Eurasia is determined to make God’s message freely available—to everyone.



The Soviet Union left a legacy of religious repression that continues to threaten the evangelical church in Eurasia today. In 2016, Russia enacted its “Yarovaya” law that restricts the religious activity of all religious groups, except the Orthodox Church, especially targeting the activities of Protestant churches. Believers living in the predominantly Muslim countries of Central Asia are often persecuted for their faith and face intimidation, fines, and raids on a regular basis. That’s why Mission Eurasia is working through partnerships on a non-denominational basis, such as the Religious Liberty Partnership (RLP), to raise awareness of those who are oppressed, and to train pastors how to lead their churches under these difficult circumstances.

In 2020, Mission Eurasia published a **variety of online and printed resources** to help strengthen the church facing persecution in Eurasia. In addition, we held **11 separate training events** (conferences, seminars, webinars, presentations, and round tables) on religious freedom issues affecting the occupied territories of eastern Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and Central Asia. These events were **attended by 550 individuals**, including church leaders, SWW coordinators, SWW teachers, SWW students, representatives of human rights organizations, and religious freedom activists, who will impact a total of 15,000 other leaders through their networks in Eurasia.





“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”

— James 1:12



Valeriy Giletsky (above right), former president of the Evangelical Christian-Baptist Union of Moldova, vice president of the European Baptist Union, and member of European Parliament, notes that:

“One of the growing problems facing the church in the countries of the former Soviet Union/ Eurasia is the limitation of religious freedom in post-Soviet, predominantly Muslim states. It is so important that church and ministry leaders learn how to lead the church under these difficult circumstances. In many cases, churches suffer because their leaders don’t know their legal rights with regard to leading, protecting, and defending their congregations. It is so good to see that Mission Eurasia is a leading force, training and equipping the Next Generation to focus on this important topic.”

In 2020, Mission Eurasia published a variety of online and printed resources. We held 11 separate training events on religious freedom issues, attended by 550 individuals, who will impact a total of 15,000 other leaders through their networks in Eurasia.

God's work is thriving through the most challenging of times. Pandemic, persecution, oppression, and war can't stop the spread of the gospel.

Here's what your prayers and support made possible in 2020.



SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS (SWW)

SWW equipped **2,195** students in **14** countries. **765** people graduated from the SWW program and are now ministering across Eurasia.

"School Without Walls has been continuously training Next Generation leaders for 16 years. The goal of this program is to teach biblical principles and provide practical ministry experience in the church and society for those who are able to serve and teach others."

— Alexandr Belev, SWW International Director



NEXT GENERATION PROFESSIONAL LEADERS INITIATIVE (NGPLI)

Our *Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative* conducted **75** training events, **20** conferences, **two** forums and **six** roundtables. At these events, we trained **14,700** young leaders to represent Christ in their various fields.

"God has created all spheres of life, authority, and the professional world. It is encouraging to realize that He reigns in all of these spheres, which is why Christians can serve Him anywhere, bringing transformation and impact."

— Denis Gorenkov, NGPLI International Director



SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION

Sharing God's Word as widely as possible has always been a top priority for Mission Eurasia. In 2020, we distributed **1,709,000** Scripture resources to adults and children, including Bibles, New Testaments, prayer booklets, gospel booklets, and other literature.

"As we minister on the streets, your Scripture pieces are our tools to start a conversation, make friends, and reach out to people. We have countless stories of people who have come up to us to receive a magazine or a Gospel of John and then we were able to help them go to rehabilitation centers and start a new life. It really does help to start a good conversation with a person when you hand them a gift."

— Evgeniy, Pastor from Kyiv, Ukraine



“I CARE” MINISTRY TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE

Thanks to you, we provided **10,000** food packages to war victims in Armenia, as well as **100,000** Good News Prayer Guides (Molitvoslovs), and **10,000** copies of the Gospel of John and the New Testament. In Ukraine we provided food assistance, wheelchairs, clothing, and other essential items to thousands of hurting people. Altogether, with God’s help, we provided assistance to **787,000** refugees and other suffering people.

“On the front line, people suffer from enormous destruction and wounds without food, medicine, and shelter. And the COVID-19 crisis is escalating. Against this backdrop, churches have become beacons of hope for masses of frightened and suffering people in need of Christ.”

— Dr. Michael Cherenkov, Mission Eurasia Executive Field Director



GIFT OF HOPE

Through the Gift of Hope program, our SWW leaders and ministry partners bring the joy, hope, and light of Christ to needy children living in some of the darkest and most hopeless corners of Eurasia. Each Gift of Hope contains toys, treats, but most importantly, a children’s Bible or other piece of children’s Christian literature. In 2020, our SWW students partnered with **941** national churches to deliver Gifts of Hope to **128,980** children throughout Eurasia. And in the process, **115,025** parents and other family members were also touched by the Good News of God’s love.

“This Gift of Hope was a reminder from God that, although I don’t have many friends, the Lord Himself is my friend. He knows me by name and He enjoys blessing me through my other friends, like you.”

— Lena, Ukraine



SUMMER BIBLE CAMPS

Summer Bible camps for children have been one of Mission Eurasia’s most effective evangelistic outreaches for more than two decades. In 2020, with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person summer Bible camps were not always possible so Mission Eurasia used a hybrid approach of in-person neighborhood events for small groups of children as well as online events to introduce hurting children to the gospel. As a result, a total of **16,510** children attended in-person neighborhood Bible day camps while another **5,020** attended **187** online events. Best of all, **2,500** young hearts made a commitment to follow Christ.

“That camp totally changed me and the way I viewed the world. I experienced what it felt like to really believe—believe without being false, just wholeheartedly believe in Jesus, talk to Him, and see His work in my life.”

— Sasha, Moldova, Summer Bible camp attendee

“I Care” Refugee Assistance Program— Offering Help to the “Least of These”

As war and other crises erupted in Eurasia, Mission Eurasia was there to care for the victims.

War, violence, unrest, and disease plagued the people of Eurasia in 2020. Even as the fighting in eastern Ukraine degenerated into a grim stalemate, the ancient hostility between Armenia and Azerbaijan erupted into full-scale combat. Civil unrest in Belarus and Russia added to the physical and emotional trauma. The COVID-19 pandemic brought an even greater level of hardship to those already suffering.

That’s why our young leaders tirelessly continued bringing help and hope to “the least of these” through our “I Care” Refugee Assistance Program. In 2020, through partnerships with Feed My Starving Children, Free Wheelchair Mission, and World Compassion Network, we provided food assistance, wheelchairs, as well as clothing, blankets, and other useful items to thousands of suffering people in Ukraine.

We also delivered food packets and Scripture resources to thousands of refugee families who fled to Armenia and Azerbaijan from the war in the disputed **Nagorno-Karabakh** region. An estimated **150,000** survivors there are desperately in need of help. We’re working with Samaritan’s Purse, Christian Aid Ministries, Voice of the Martyrs Canada, and other strategic partners to make sure they receive it.

For those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout Eurasia, our young leaders distributed thousands of face masks, sanitizing products, food and medicine, as well as one million copies of a special Good News Prayer Guide (Molitvoslov) and prayer app.

Overall, through the “I Care” program in 2020, we reached at least **3 million suffering people** with God’s love and comfort.





“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound...”

— Isaiah 61:1

Zarine’s hometown of Shushi sits high in the Karabakh Mountains, near the center of the current conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. When the recent fighting broke out, she was forced to flee with her daughter, sister, and their children. They found refuge in Armenia and now the six of them share a single room. But they are grateful to be safe.

They were especially happy to receive a visit from a group of *I Care* partners based in Armenia. The team bolstered Zarine and her family with their prayers, fellowship, and encouragement. They also left behind a devotional booklet to help Zarine focus on her faith in God.

This ministry of encouragement to war victims is part of the *I Care* mission. And it’s all possible because of **compassionate partners like you.**



Angelina’s family was one of many displaced by the war in Ukraine. With her husband away serving in the military, Angelina and her four children were left to face the harsh Ukrainian winter alone. They had little food and no fuel to keep warm.

Some workers from Mission Eurasia’s *School Without Walls* program visited Angelina and heard her story. Before long, they returned with MannaPack rice meals, Scripture pieces, and a good supply of coal and firewood. While still missing her husband, Angelina could rest knowing her children were warm and fed.



Bringing the Good News to Those Who Haven't Heard

With your support, people across Eurasia are learning about Jesus—for the first time.

Of the **6,671 unreached people** groups in the world, **373** of them live in the former Soviet Union and Israel—where Mission Eurasia focuses its ministry. These unreached groups typically retain their own distinct languages and cultures. They represent more than **93 million people**.

They include:

- The **Kalmyk** in **Kalmykia**
- The **Siberian Tatars** in **Western Siberia**
- The **Udi** people in **Azerbaijan**
- The **Roma** (Gypsy) people in **Ukraine**.



The vast **North Caucasus** region, encompassing Chechnya, Dagestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Karachay-Cherkessia, is home to the *Digor*, *Lezghin*, *Dargin*, *Ingush*, *Chechen*, *Balkar*, *Kabardin*, *Circassian*, *Karachai*, *Avar*, and *Ossetian* peoples.

And many unreached peoples live in the remote regions of **Russia's Far North**. Here Stalin's death camps once dotted the land, which has been soaked with the blood, sweat, and tears of millions of Christians. But when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Mission Eurasia (then Russian Ministries) sent its first missionaries to this region, ushering in a spiritual thaw in this frozen land.

Since then, Mission Eurasia has offered nomadic training sessions through *School Without Walls* to help nationals reach their own people groups with the gospel. In 2020, the fifth nomadic training session was held in the remote village of Syktyvkar in Russia's Far North. A total of 26 students from the *Komi*, *Khanty*, *Nenets*, *Saami*, *Selkup* and *Tramagans* people groups took part in this special event that focused on Christian leadership, Scripture memorization, practical steps of faith, and church planting. Now equipped with new ministry skills and inspired by God's love, these native believers are taking the gospel to their own people.



“I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else’s foundation.”

— Romans 15:20



Showing God's Love to Young Lives

Children have a special place in God's heart. Providing them with the right guidance is a vital part of our calling in Christ.

Even in the darkest circumstances, children respond to love and hope. Reaching the next generation with the message of God's love and hope has always been a priority for Mission Eurasia.



Gift of Hope

Christmas offers a great opportunity to show the love of God to children. That's what our Gift of Hope program is all about. Each Christmas, our young leaders deliver *Gifts of Hope* to tens of thousands of children, many of whom who have lived with the trauma of war, poverty, dysfunction, and despair. And how their faces light up! Each gift contains treats, toys, and most important of all, a colorful Bible storybook.

In 2020, thanks to you, our young leaders partnered with 941 national churches to deliver Gifts of Hope to **128,980 hurting children** in Eurasia, including those living in orphanages, shelters, and other institutions. An estimated **115,025** parents, family members, caregivers, orphanage workers, and others witnessed God's love in action through this program.

"For Christmas, a young man named Alexey who lives in our apartment invited my brother and me to a Christmas gathering at his church. Everyone there was so kind, and I really loved learning about God. Alexey gave us Gift of Hope boxes and our own copy of 101 Favorite Bible Stories. After reading these stories, I accepted Jesus. Now Jesus gives real hope and meaning to my life, and Alexey and I read Bible stories together almost every day! I am going to church regularly, and soon I plan to invite my father to go with me. Please pray that his life will be changed, too."

— Tigran, 12 years old





“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’”

— Matthew 19:14

Summer Bible Camps

For more than two decades, Mission Eurasia has been reaching hurting children and youth with the gospel through our *Summer of Hope* Bible camps. Many of these camps took place in the very locations where decades ago the Soviets held Young Pioneer camps to indoctrinate children in atheism. But in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic posed unexpected difficulties. So, our Bible camp leaders responded with creative innovations—including online events that engaged children remotely in fun, Bible-centered activities and lessons.

As a result, **5,020** young people participated in our **187** online activities. Meanwhile, **612** in-person neighborhood Bible day camps in **14** countries reached another **16,510** children and youth. And **54,600** parents, workers, and family members were also touched with the message of God’s love.

Spartak is a young boy from Ukraine who belongs to the Roma (Gypsy) people, a group often treated as social outcasts. To serve the Roma people effectively, School Without Walls (SWW) leaders and local church leaders have been forming relationships with local Roma families and hosting outreach events for them. Last summer, Spartak attended a neighborhood Bible day camp organized in his village, and his life was transformed.

As he shared, “Today, I learned for the first time that Christ wants to live in my heart. I’ve always wanted to have a personal relationship with God, and now I want to read every word in the Bible that the SWW leaders gave me. When I invited Jesus into my heart, I felt so happy, and now I know that my powerful God will always be with me.”

Thanks to you, children like Spartak, whom society has rejected, are finding new life in Christ.



“...he upholds the widow and the fatherless.”

— Psalm 146:9



A Home for Every Orphan (HFEO)

War, poverty, and family dysfunction have left thousands of children without families in Eurasia. Many of them live on the streets where they experience abuse and exploitation. Others end up in facilities that are overcrowded, understaffed, and underequipped. One of the unfortunate legacies of the Soviet era is a mindset that stigmatizes orphans and considers them to be damaged goods, unworthy of adoption by families in their own country.

That's why Anita Deyneka, Mission Eurasia co-founder and director emeritus, launched *A Home for Every Orphan* (HFEO) to help change this mindset and place homeless children into loving families within their own countries. Anita and her team have worked tirelessly to unite orphans with loving families this past year, and their efforts have been richly rewarded.

In 2020, in partnership with A Family for Every Orphan (AFFEO), your support helped 69,953 children and families in nine countries including:

- **1,124 children**, who were placed in families
- **8,758 families**, who were strengthened or reunited
- **2,871 foster and adoptive families**, who received support or counseling.

Additionally, **7,932** social workers received training on orphans and adoption. Also, **3,009** family-based care resources were distributed to **32,171** people who attended motivational and training events. In total, **2,252,560** people were reached with the message of adoption in 2020. With your support, more vulnerable children will be placed into loving homes in Eurasia and beyond.



“They said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household.’”

— Acts 16:31

Showing God’s love at home is our most important task

As believers, our most important calling is to our own families. By establishing reverence for God in our homes, we shine as a light before the world. And we build a godly legacy that can last through the generations.

Sadly, many forces in Eurasia today threaten the well-being of families, including the COVID-19 pandemic. To help Christians build strong families, Mission Eurasia develops special resources and hosts conferences and other training events through its Family as Mission Initiative in various locations throughout the region.

In 2020 the Family as Mission Initiative sponsored **13** major training events, which were integrated into our SWW training program. A total of **11,910** people received training through these online and in-person events on topics ranging from principles of healthy marriages to how families can survive and thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic.



“Our mission starts with the family, continues through the family, and ends in the family!”

— Konstantin Teteryatnikov
SWW Director Ukraine
Coordinator of Family as Mission Initiative



A letter from our Board Chairman



Wayne Shepherd
Christian Radio Host
Chairman, Mission Eurasia Board of Directors

Dear Friends of Mission Eurasia,

If you are reading this letter at the end of our annual report, it tells me that you have more than a passing interest in the ministry of Mission Eurasia. You've read the accounts and seen the photos of our God-empowered accomplishments during the past year. And what a year it has been! Who could have predicted the COVID-19 crisis and the challenges it presented? However, once again, God's faithfulness has been demonstrated over and over again.

In addition to all the normal obstacles we encounter in the many countries where Mission Eurasia staff and volunteers serve, this past year called for an extra measure of stamina, creativity, and bravery as they continued to reach out with Christ's love to people who needed the assurance that God cares for them—even when their world is rocked with war, political unrest, persecution, and disease. Through the efforts that you've read about in these pages, people have been reconciled to God through faith in Christ, trained to share that message with others, and received gifts to help them cope with life in difficult circumstances. For all of this, I am grateful to our staff and to you whom God uses to equip them for service.

Hopefully, we will not see another year like this one with all the challenges presented by the coronavirus. But if we do, I know that God will prove Himself faithful once again. As we move forward, would you pray for Mission Eurasia and those impacted through the ministry in the year ahead? Pray for our President Sergey Rakhuba and for the excellent staff God has gifted us, including the frontline staff on the field in the countries of Eurasia. Most of all, pray with us that God will bring a harvest of new believers into the Kingdom for His glory.

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night" (Psalm 92: 1-2, ESV).

God's best to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Shepherd".



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Ministry Impact During 2020



SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS (SWW)

2,195 NEXT GENERATION CHRISTIAN LEADERS TRAINED

NEXT GENERATION PROFESSIONAL LEADERS INITIATIVE (NGPLI)

14,700 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TRAINED

SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION

1,709,000 SCRIPTURE RESOURCES PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED



I CARE REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

787,000 REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS ASSISTED



GIFT OF HOPE

128,980 CHILDREN REACHED



SUMMER BIBLE CAMPS

21,530 CHILDREN AND YOUTH REACHED

A HOME FOR EVERY ORPHAN

1,124 CHILDREN PLACED IN LOVING FAMILIES



FAMILY AS MISSION

11,910 PEOPLE TRAINED

ESTIMATED TOTAL GOSPEL IMPACT: **3.5 MILLION**



MISSION
EURASIA

Train to lead. Equip to serve.

Our Mission

To train, equip, and mobilize Christian leadership throughout Eurasia, who will engage in indigenous evangelism, church planting, holistic ministries, and church growth by developing creative and strategic ministries and by facilitating partnerships between nationals and Western Christians.



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