

SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 – 2021



EXALTING JESUS IN A DARK WORLD





Sergey Rakhuba
President

*“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us
an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison ...”*

— 2 Corinthians 4:17, ESV

Pressing on to the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus

Dear Friend,

Sometimes it seems as if circumstances are working to thwart God’s purposes. But that’s an illusion—because *God’s work cannot be stopped*. We’ve seen that demonstrated over and over during the past year.

During that time, Eurasia has experienced a succession of challenging events: the Covid pandemic, the continuing threat of war, economic upheaval, and social unrest.

The pandemic caused many people to retreat from public interactions, which would seem to hinder ministry activities. But God always finds a way to reach people. During this difficult time, He is using the internet and a wealth of online resources to do what can’t be done in person.

Christians are still being persecuted in Muslim-dominant countries. Even nominally Christian countries are singling out evangelical believers for harassment. But this opposition always causes God’s church to grow.

Likewise, war and turmoil in Ukraine, Armenia, and Azerbaijan have disrupted normal activities there. But that means our ministry to people who are suffering and spiritually hungry is needed now more than ever.

In fact, *it’s in the darkest places that God’s light shines the brightest*.

As we’ve fought against spiritual opposition from all directions, I’m reminded of God’s promise to the Israelites: “No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD” (Isaiah 54:17).

We are persevering because of God’s faithfulness—and the generous support of partners like you. As you read this report about the accomplishments of our young Christian leaders, I hope you’ll rejoice with me and “ascribe greatness to our God,” knowing that “His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice” (Deuteronomy 32:3-4).

Thank you for standing with School Without Walls as we stand for Christ in this dark world.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Rakhuba', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sergey Rakhuba
President

SWW LEADERS ARE CHANGING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST



“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” — John 14:26

SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS AT-A-GLANCE

Country	Students	Graduates	Locations
Armenia	60	65	2
Azerbaijan	35	35	3
Belarus	66	66	3
Georgia	80	0	3
Israel	19	0	3
Kazakhstan	115	130	6
Kyrgyzstan	115	110	4
Moldova	70	16	3
Mongolia	80	0	7
Russia	215	40	9
Tajikistan	75	0	18
Turkmenistan	20	20	2
Ukraine	255	220	11
Uzbekistan	80	44	6
Totals	1,285	746	80

The most important education we can receive comes from God Himself through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This is truly a *School Without Walls!*

We are committed to working with God to train the Next Generation of believers, empowering them to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Through a variety of ministries operating throughout Eurasia, God is raising up men and women of faith to represent Him in a desperate world.

God’s young leaders are standing strong, despite obstacles and opposition. And through them, God’s work is thriving.

In addition to in-person learning, SWW hosted **300 students** in online groups, bringing the total number of students to **1,585**. We were gratified to see hundreds of these young leaders complete their two-year course.

Total Graduates: 746



NGPLI: CHRISTIAN PROFESSIONAL LEADERS ARE SHARING THEIR FAITH

The Next Generation of
Christian professional leaders
is bringing Christ into the workplace.

“... Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.” —2 Corinthians 2:14

There are many people who are hungry for God but who would never enter a church building. They can still receive the gospel from committed believers who share their faith in their work environment. **The Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI)** trains Christians to shine the light of God’s truth in the marketplace and professional world. The result is a harvest of new believers from many professional fields and walks of life.

In the past year, 16,100 young professionals received training in the following categories:

- Medical/healthcare **4,100**
- Education **3,600**
- Law **1,900**
- Business **3,700**
- Science and Technology **2,800**

NGPLI also conducted:

- **19** training events
- **6** conferences
- **2** forums
- **7** roundtables

CHURCH PLANTING

SWW is establishing churches where the need is greatest.

“... The Word of God grew and multiplied.”

—Acts 12:24



Many places in Eurasia lack a strong local church presence. SWW is establishing new Christian congregations wherever there is opportunity, providing an environment for new believers to grow and thrive.

Over the past year, SWW workers planted 20 new churches.

We also held **31 church-planting seminars** with **715 people** participating, including **550 SWW students**, **100 church planters**, and **65 pastors**.



With your support, we've established new churches in these locations:

Azerbaijan:	1	Turkmenistan:	1
Israel:	1	Ukraine:	3
Kyrgyzstan:	5	Uzbekistan:	4
Russia:	5		

“Thanks to SWW, I not only developed as a youth ministry leader; but I understood that the Lord has His plan for my future profession. I used to think that I could only produce fruit for God by working in the church. But now I understand that the Lord can also lead me into the professional sphere.” —Rufina, SWW graduate, Kazakhstan

*“And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children
and the hearts of children to their fathers ...”*

—Malachi 4:6

FAMILY AS MISSION

Over the past year, SWW held 23 major events through our Family as Mission program, training 3,839 people.



“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?”

—Romans 10:14

REACHING THE UNREACHED WITH THE GOSPEL

Hundreds of people groups are still waiting for the Good News.

It's estimated that **6,671** people groups in the world have never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ. And **373** of them are in the former Soviet Union and Israel. We're trying to reach as many of them as we can, obeying our Lord's command to, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matthew 28:19).

Our efforts last year took us to such remote places as Buryatia and Tuva in Siberia, where people mix Buddhist teachings with traditional pagan beliefs. Even in the twenty-first century, they've had little exposure to the Christian gospel. From our outposts there we can reach more people groups, including the Soyots to the south and the Evenks to the north.

When we go into new areas, we endeavor, like the Apostle Paul, to raise up leaders who can carry on the work after we're gone. We're grateful to God that He has made that possible in the places we've ministered.

And the Good News continues to spread—into the unreached areas of the world.



“While participating in street evangelism, my sister Larisa and I were standing by an apartment building. There we met an elderly Buryat woman named Darima with whom we shared the gospel. Even though this woman was rude to us at first, after Larisa spoke to her in Buryat and pulled out a gospel booklet written in Buryat, her attitude completely changed. She listened to the gospel and immediately accepted Jesus as her Savior! Then she invited us to her home so she could ask us questions about Christ. Now, we regularly talk to her, and she recently shared that she wants to get baptized.”

—Raisa, SWW worker

SPREADING GOD'S WORD FAR AND WIDE



Yekaterina (right)
a teacher of business English



“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” —Hebrews 4:12

There is nothing more important than reaching people with God’s Word. SWW has always made this a priority, but it has become more challenging with the arrival of the Covid pandemic. Yet as we have discovered, God always makes a way.

Yekaterina is a teacher of business English who loves talking to her students about God. With the Covid lockdowns she began teaching online and was searching for some resources that would help. She came across the Scriptures in Russian and English offered by Mission Eurasia. “And I instantly knew that they were an answer to my prayers,” she says. “I ordered some copies and sent them to my students. They are great for teaching English. And also, when people receive this gift via mail, they don’t have to think what other students will think. They become more open, and gladly read the gospel.”

“One of my students, Tatiana, started asking me a lot of questions. I answered them as much as I could. She was very worried about Covid affecting her health and the health of her loved ones. I don’t even know how it happened, but one day we prayed together for the first time. Then we read the gospel and prayed together for the next few months. When the churches opened up, Tatiana gladly came to my church and now she has been baptized and is God’s daughter.”

“The pandemic was a challenge for my work and ministry, but the Lord used this challenge as a wonderful opportunity and showed His grace through His Word.”

In 2020-2021, SWW students and graduates distributed 1,815,700 scriptural resources.

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.”

—Matthew 18:10

TRANSFORMING YOUNG LIVES

Gift of Hope

All children love to receive gifts; it makes them feel special—as they truly are, to God. Our Gifts of Hope brought that feeling to thousands of children over the past year, brightening their lives with the hope of Christmas. SWW workers traveled the snowy mountains of Abkhazia, the windswept plains of Mongolia and Siberia, and the war-torn villages of Nagorno-Karabakh to bring these packages of joy to grateful children.



A child who opens a Gift of Hope discovers an array of delights—toys, sweets, warm mittens, socks, school materials, hygiene supplies, and scriptural resources. Children and their families also receive the best gift of all—the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

This year, we reached **126,500 children** in **12 countries** with Gifts of Hope. In the process, we impacted more than **375,000 people**, including children, family members, neighbors, and others.

“I had never heard of Jesus Christ before. Thanks to you and your friends who visited our house, I learned that I can receive salvation and eternal life, thanks to faith in Jesus Christ.” —Hasan, Gift of Hope recipient

Summer Bible Camp

As the spiritual darkness deepens over much of Eurasia, our summer Bible camp ministry has taken on more urgency and importance.

At camp, the children—many of them innocent victims of war, poverty, and abuse—find a haven of love and peace. They can fellowship with other kids in a safe, wholesome environment while they learn the important truths of the Christian faith. They experience Christ’s love in action through the care and attention of our trained counselors. And they partake in something all kids need—*fun*.

For those who can’t get away for a whole week, we offer day camps, weekend camps, and other special events for specific groups.

“... I loved the people. They are very nice. Everyone was so friendly to me, and I opened up to them. I never expected that ... I felt that everyone loved me there and that I had known them for a long time. I never had that feeling before.” —Saba, first-time Bible camp attendee

Here’s a closer look at our summer Bible camp attendance by country:

Country	Camps	Participants
Armenia	7	800
Azerbaijan	8	180
Belarus	17	790
Georgia	6	300
Israel	4	170
Kazakhstan	11	370
Kyrgyzstan	37	2080
Moldova	27	1,300
Mongolia	7	650
Russia	85	3,565
Tajikistan	18	820
Turkmenistan	4	65
Ukraine	90	7,130
Uzbekistan	27	900
TOTAL:	348	19,120

I CARE

“...if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.”

—Isaiah 58:10

Rudik and Julietta



Jesus felt compassion for the suffering people around Him and helped them in practical ways. Besides preaching to them, He healed their sicknesses and gave them food to eat. Through our **I Care** ministry to the suffering, we seek to follow our Lord's example, serving people's physical as well as spiritual needs. And there are so many places in Eurasia where this work is needed!

Christians are being cruelly persecuted in many countries, including some that are nominally Christian. In Muslim-dominant countries, extremists continue to terrorize believers. In other countries, social unrest caused by political corruption, poverty, and the Covid pandemic have made life difficult for millions. And the horrors of war are still fresh in Ukraine, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.



Rudik and **Julietta** had been married for more than 40 years and enjoyed their comfortable life in Nagorno-Karabakh. But everything changed with the outbreak of war. They were forced to board a bus with other residents and leave “for a few days,” as they were told. But their land was seized by Azerbaijan and their exile became permanent.

Settling in a new town, Rudik and Julietta heard about a local church that was aiding refugees like them. They asked for help and were soon visited by a group of Christians who brought a large box filled with food. That was the beginning of a spiritual journey that brought them to true faith in Jesus.

“I believe now,” Rudik says. “The time has come for us to believe. We have to believe...”

Julietta describes how their lives have changed: “We had faith, but we didn't know the Bible. I am so happy and grateful that [Christian] people [came] to visit us, helped us, prayed for us, and shared more about God. They have become like our own brothers and sisters in these past few months.”

This is the legacy of the **I Care** ministry to refugees that is bringing faith and hope to countless people in desperate circumstances.

“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” —Matthew 25:40

YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES

Because of generous partners like you, our School Without Walls leaders are bringing God's light to the dark places of Eurasia. People are experiencing the joy of salvation and the love of God as He expresses it through His people.

Together, we can bring that day closer when the whole world will have heard the gospel—and we can hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

This is the calling we share together. ***Thank you for journeying alongside us in this great work of God.***



ESTIMATED SWW GOSPEL IMPACT IN 2020-2021

People impacted	3,595,000
Churches involved/impacted	690
Communities involved/impacted	450
Copies of Scripture/scriptural resources distributed by SWW students/grads	1,815,700
Bible studies/home groups started	80
Refugees and others impacted by “I Care” Refugee Assistance program	810,000
Children/youth reached through Gift of Hope outreach	126,500
Children in need, orphans, and youth reached through summer Bible camps	19,120

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.

**God's young leaders are standing strong, despite obstacles and opposition.
And through them, God's work is thriving.**



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