

ANNUAL REPORT



Good News in a Time of Trouble

2022

Shining God's Light in the Darkness



Sergey Rakhuba,
President

*“For God, who said,
‘Let light shine out of
darkness,’ has shone in our
hearts to give the light of
the knowledge of the glory
of God in the face
of Jesus Christ.”*

— 2 Cor. 4:6, ESV

Dear Friend,

As I surveyed the burned-out wreckage of our field ministry headquarters in Irpin, Ukraine, I couldn't help but think of all the wonderful ways God had used that beautiful building in the past. It was the site of countless innovative planning and strategy sessions, retreats, training events for emerging leaders, and a prayer movement to empower the national church. We obtained it through the generosity of our faithful partners—people like you. It served as our ministry hub for years for the entire ministry throughout Eurasia.

And now, it was all gone.

The Russian attack had destroyed our headquarters along with our warehouse where we stored tens of thousands of copies of Scriptures. Those Scriptures were meant to be distributed to the people of Ukraine and elsewhere—people who are hungering for truth amidst the horrors of war. And now, that, too, was gone.

Ukraine is my homeland. It breaks my heart to see the death, suffering, and destruction that have rained down on my people there. But beyond the unspeakable grief I feel, I'm now more convinced than ever of God's purpose in leading us to minister in this troubled land. Through your generous partnership, we have brought the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ to millions of hungry souls throughout Eurasia. We've been able to demonstrate God's love in practical ways, serving people with food, medical care, shelter, counseling, and simple human kindness. Thank you for standing with us in this important work!

The war in Ukraine has demanded the utmost courage, determination, and effort from our dedicated teams. And their heroic efforts in the face of tremendous opposition have been amazing to watch. They have truly reflected the light and glory of God in the darkest of circumstances. Their fruitful efforts extended far beyond Ukraine into Moldova, Poland, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and other places. I know you would be proud of them as I am.

Far from deterring us, the setbacks we've encountered have only strengthened our resolve to continue pursuing God's work. I'm reminded of another person of faith who encountered deadly opposition and persevered, fulfilling God's plan through her obedience. The Bible tells us of Queen Esther, who risked her life to save her people. In her moment of fear, she was encouraged with these words: "... *Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?*" (Esther 4:14). My friend, God has prepared us—and you—for *such a time as this*. **This is our moment to shine the light of God's love and truth as never before.**

Recently, my son and I returned to the site of our former headquarters in Irpin. Our team there is still using the property to serve the elderly and other vulnerable people in the area. They have set up a mobile kitchen to serve food to the hungry. As we joined our team members in distributing food and Christian literature to the grateful residents, I was reminded, once again, that God's work cannot be defeated. As the Bible says, "Love always perseveres." Seeing our Next Generation leaders in action reminded me that, although our building was destroyed, our ministry impact has been multiplied many times over through the strategic vision God gave us to train the Next Generation of Christian leaders who are now on the frontlines of this crisis.

Our ministry headquarters has now been relocated to Moldova through which our work in Eurasia will be carried out. With your continued partnership, we will continue to persevere, in Jesus' name. Thank you for the vital role you continue to play in bringing God's message of hope to this fallen world.

Most gratefully in Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Rakhuba'.

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“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

— John 1:5



School Without Walls (SWW)

Young Leaders Put to the Test

Training young Christian leaders has always been at the heart of Mission Eurasia's approach to ministry.

We believe that God has invested the future of the gospel in the young people He is raising up. So, we strive to give them the best possible training through our School Without Walls (SWW) program.

That training was put to the test in 2021-2022, as multiple crises placed enormous demands on these young believers.

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

– Romans 12:2



UKRAINE

The ongoing war in Ukraine dominated the events of the past year. Desperate refugees, fleeing the horrific Russian onslaught, flooded into neighboring countries: Moldova, Poland, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan. Our SWW teams were there, providing practical help and bearing witness to God's enduring mercy and love.

As it became clear that the war in Ukraine would not end quickly, Mission Eurasia had to change our entire approach to ministry. Most of our training centers in Ukraine are now on the frontlines of the war zone or under Russian occupation. In March of 2022, our field headquarters in Irpin, Ukraine was destroyed by Russian forces. This was our hub for planning and coordinating all ministry activities, so its loss was devastating. Our nearby warehouse containing tens of thousands of copies of Scripture for distribution was also destroyed.

In spite of these setbacks, we knew God wanted us to persevere and that He would never abandon us. So, after much prayer, reflection, and analysis, we concluded that the SWW program would continue. We decided to create new centers, based on a holistic model in which young leaders are trained, while simultaneously helping the flood of internally displaced people.

While the Ukraine crisis occupied much of our attention, emergencies were arising in other areas, too. And our SWW teams were on the scene, ready to help:

BELARUS

When violent protests rocked the country of Belarus, SWW teams risked their own freedom to visit families that had been arrested, bringing them food, hygiene items, medical supplies, and the Word of God.

ARMENIA/AZERBAIJAN

During the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, SWW teams received refugees, sharing food and the Word of God with them. They also established "Bread of Life" bakeries so the refugees would have a steady supply of physical as well as spiritual nourishment.

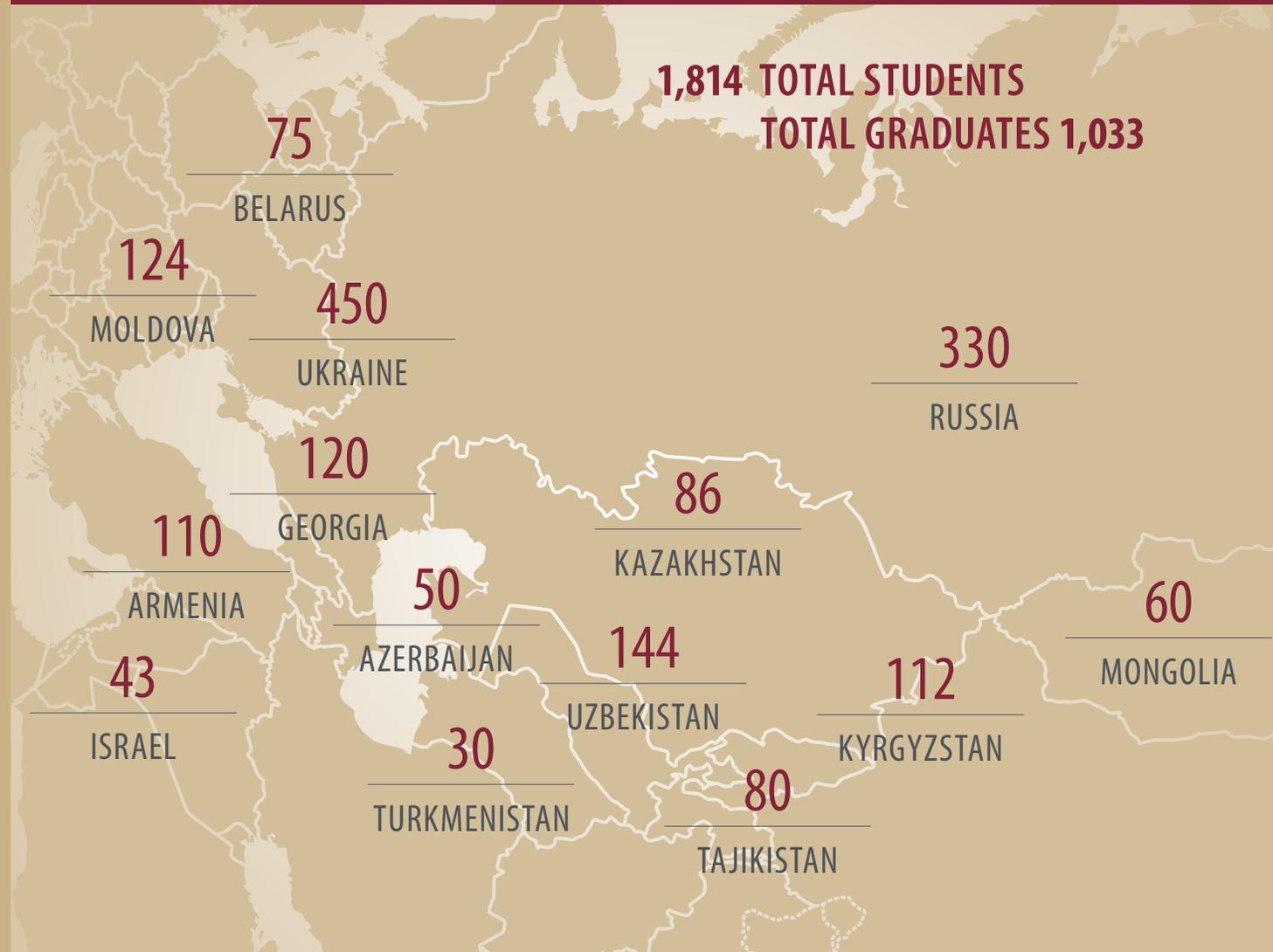


GOD'S WORK IS THRIVING THROUGH CULTURAL, POLITICAL, AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

In 2021-2022, SWW programs took place in 14 countries and 80 cities, training 1,814 leaders through more than 750 training seminars.

In 2021-2022, Mission Eurasia also trained more than 250 young leaders in Moldova and Kyrgyzstan on ministry principles for Christian summer camps through the *Empower* platform.

More than 470 young SWW students are serving in predominantly Muslim countries where their faith is tested daily.



SWW hosted a series of three regional retreats with the theme *"The Path of Generosity."* The meetings involved our entire team of national and regional coordinators and took place in the following locations:



UZBEKISTAN (near Tashkent)
with 25 regional leaders



GEORGIA (Tbilisi)
with 24 regional leaders



MOLDOVA (Chisinau)
with 45 regional leaders



Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI)

Leadership in a Time of Historic Crisis

For years, the Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI) has focused on supporting Christian leaders in professional fields, helping them shine God's light in their various workplaces.

But the events of 2022 demanded a change of direction. The Ukraine war, with its staggering toll of death and suffering, called for bold action on the part of Christians everywhere. And the young leaders supported by Mission Eurasia responded with courage and compassion.

*“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.”*

– Psalm 46:1





Meeting Urgent Needs for Food and Medical Care

The people displaced by war in Ukraine urgently needed food. So, Mission Eurasia's iCare-Ukraine stepped forward to provide lifesaving food for as many refugee families as possible.

The need for medical care in Ukraine is also urgent. NGPLI teams have partnered with the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine (CMA), a network of over 13,000 medical professionals, to rush medical equipment and medicine to the areas most affected by hostilities, including those on the frontlines of the war. In addition to providing medical assistance, these young Christian healthcare workers also share copies of Scripture and Christian literature with those in need. Through your prayers and partnership, the CMA has helped more than 250,000 people with more than 200 tons of medical care, counseling, and copies of Scriptures.

Helping the Traumatized

The psychological trauma of war can be devastating, especially for children. So, NGPLI leaders have focused on helping these most vulnerable victims of violence. In 2022, our team conducted **12 training events** to equip young professionals to provide trauma counseling for war refugees. The events were attended by **450 people** who were already committed to this ministry and wanted to enhance their effectiveness.

In 2022, our teams have trained **1,844 people** in trauma counseling and have printed 13 counseling materials for Christian counselors from **411 churches** in Ukraine, Poland, and Moldova.

Working Together in God's Service

Mission Eurasia has always partnered with other Christian groups to serve people as effectively as possible. In May 2022, a group of Christian doctors from Kazakhstan and America arrived in Ukraine to help internally displaced people from the war zone. Bakytzhan, from Kazakhstan, was one of those doctors.

Here are his observations:

"The Mission Eurasia team invited us to come and serve with a group of young Christian doctors in Ukraine, and we agreed. It was very important for us to help the people of Ukraine with our professional skills, but it was just as important to show our support and tell them that we love them with the love of Jesus. Our team raised funds and bought a large number of medical supplies. Many people in Kazakhstan willingly donated when they heard where we were going. In Ukraine we went to a remote village in the western part of the country and spent two days there. The Baptist church in this village received more than 100 refugees from Mariupol, a city that had been sacked by Russian troops. We provided them with assistance related to exacerbations of chronic diseases, contusions from the blast wave, and our psychologists consulted along with church leaders who prayed for people."

iCare-Ukraine Refugee Assistance Program

Our iCare ministry to refugees and displaced people has always been a vitally important part of our mission. But the calamitous war in Ukraine brought it to the forefront as never before.

New iCare-Ukraine efforts:

- **Three refugee assistance centers** in Poland and Moldova
- **Nine regional food packing/humanitarian aid distribution centers** in Ukraine
- **Seven local food distribution hubs** in Ukraine

At our refugee assistance centers, trained volunteers provide desperate people with food, medical assistance, housing assistance, and job placement. People who were sick or traumatized received prayer and encouragement. Our trained counselors, both professional and volunteer, provided trauma counseling for those who needed it. We also held special evangelistic and worship programs, Bible studies, English lessons, and special teaching events for children and adults.



“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

– 1 Cor. 15:57

Ukraine Emergency Relief Fund

Food is an urgent need for people displaced by war. Mission Eurasia’s Ukraine Emergency Relief Fund is providing iCare food packages for Ukrainians still living in country, as well as those who have fled to neighboring Moldova and Poland. In 2022, we delivered nearly **200,000 food packages**, containing more than **2,300 tons, or 4.6 million pounds**, of food to families in need.

Each food package contains enough food to sustain a family of four or five for a week. So, these packages have helped to feed nearly a million people. And each one is accompanied by a copy of Scripture to provide hope along with physical sustenance.

Training Volunteers

Mission Eurasia relies on its army of dedicated volunteers to bring God’s love, along with practical help, to the people of this troubled region.

These brave volunteers receive training to:

- Evacuate people from the war zones
- Receive refugees at our centers in Poland and Moldova
- Provide trauma counseling and medical care
- Distribute Scripture resources and share the gospel
- Sort, pack, and deliver food
- Lead evangelistic outreach programs, Bible studies, worship services, and English classes.

In 2022, we trained more than 3,300 volunteers, including more than 1,800 volunteer counselors.





Helping People Where They Are

People trapped in the war zones are often deprived of food, medicine, and other necessities.

So, we established regional centers in several locations in Ukraine to bring food and humanitarian aid to people where they are. We now have food packing/distribution centers in Korosten, Lutsk, Lviv, Mukachevo, Chernivtsi, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia.

Our staff and trained volunteers receive, pack, and distribute food, clothing, medicine/medical supplies, hygiene kits, and other essential items for people who desperately need them.

In addition, seven local food distribution hubs are located in Kyiv, Vinnytsya, Lebedyn, Kharkiv, Poltava, Novomoskovsk, and Dnipro.



Humanitarian iCare Fleet

Food is an urgent need for people displaced by war. Getting food, clothing, medicine, and other humanitarian aid to people in a war zone is a great logistical challenge. To make sure our assistance reaches the people who need it in a timely way, Mission Eurasia purchased **24 vehicles** through the generous help of our ministry partners.

This fleet, consisting of 12 box trucks and 12 large-capacity cargo vans, is now being used 24/7 to bring urgently needed supplies to trapped and displaced families.

Bread of Life Bakeries

Since 2016, Bread of Life Bakeries have been bringing comfort, employment, and nutritious food to the people of Ukraine. This ministry started after Russia's first incursion into Ukraine in 2014, and even with the current war, it has only gained momentum.

In 2022, six new Bread of Life Bakeries were established in Lutsk, Mukachevo, Lebedin, Irpin, Poltava, and Kyiv, Ukraine. Each bakery can produce 1,000 to 1,500 loaves per day, five days per week. Along with physical bread, Ukrainians receive spiritual bread as our staff and volunteers share copies of Scripture and the Good News of Christ.

Clothing the Naked

With the coming of war, more than 21 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee, often with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Many who remain in Ukraine have had to endure the frigid winter with no heat, since Russian attacks have destroyed much of the energy infrastructure.

In 2022, along with food, counseling, and medical care, these vulnerable people need clothes. As part of its iCare-Ukraine relief efforts, Mission Eurasia provided emergency winter clothing kits for children and their families. Each kit contains a blanket, a warm coat, hat, mittens, and a children's Bible or biblical literature.



Providing Wood Stoves

In the fall of 2022, Russia launched a campaign to destroy Ukraine's power grid. Without electricity, gas, or other heat sources, thousands of Ukrainians were left vulnerable to the winter cold. Mission Eurasia responded by launching a **wood-burning stove project**. In 2022, through the generosity of a major partner and other donors, we built, delivered, and installed 2,000 stoves for families in the Kherson region, Mykolaiv, Odesa, the Zaporizhzhia region, Kharkiv, Sumy, Poltava, and other regions in Ukraine. But our work is not done. In early 2023, we have produced and will deliver another **2,000 stoves** to people and places in need.

Sharing God's Word

Making the Scriptures available to as many people as possible is our greatest priority. In 2022, Mission Eurasia printed **1,493,529 copies of Scripture** and distributed more than one million of these copies to hurting refugee families and displaced persons. We have also printed and distributed more than one million copies of Scripture-based materials for adults, children, and the elderly.



Persevering Through Hardship

When our field ministry headquarters in Irpin was destroyed, some people might have expected us to retreat or stop ministering altogether. But the attack had the opposite effect. A sign soon appeared on the site of our burned-out building, bearing the following message in Ukrainian and English: *"Even though they destroyed our building, they will never destroy our strategic mission to train the Next Generation of leaders and help those in need."*

Now, Mission Eurasia is using that site to serve the elderly and others in need with food, counseling, and general help. God's work continues, undeterred and undefeated.



**Mission Eurasia's
destroyed
headquarters in
Irpin, Ukraine is
using that site to
serve the elderly
and others in need.**

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

– Mark 9:37



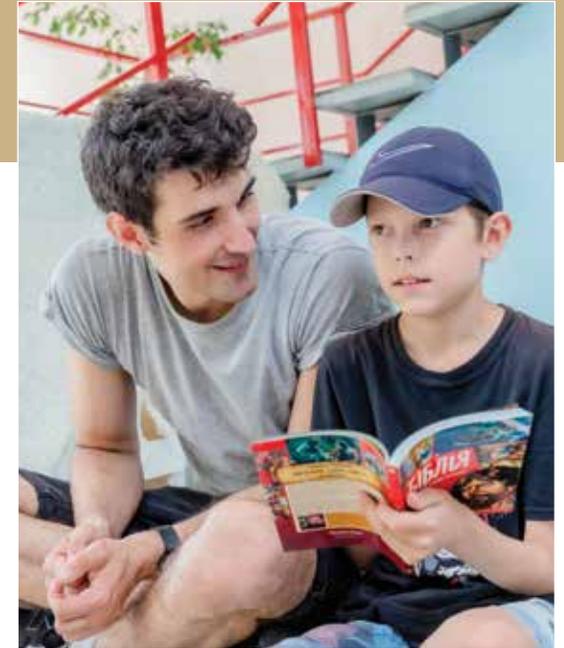
Children's Ministries

Summer Bible Camps

In the summer of 2022, our refugee assistance centers partnered with local churches to hold **344 special Bible camps** in Poland, Moldova, and Ukraine, hosting **21,540 Ukrainian children** displaced by the war. Best of all, **3,400** of those children committed their lives to Christ. A total of **29,830 children** attended **620 summer Bible camps** in **14 countries** of Eurasia.

Gift of Hope

Each year at Christmas time our Gift of Hope program brings the hope of the gospel and packages of delight to thousands of children in Eurasia. Each specially designed, colorful gift box contains toys, school supplies sweets, hygiene items, and a children's Bible to bring the message of hope to young hearts. In 2021–2022, through the compassionate support of our ministry partners, we delivered more than **131,000 Gifts of Hope to children** in **12 post-Soviet countries** still suffering from the COVID pandemic. Many of these children have grown up knowing only war, misery, and deprivation. The joy they experienced upon receiving these unexpected gifts was impossible to describe.



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A Letter from our Board Chairman

Dear Ministry Friends and Supporters,

The war in Ukraine just marked its one-year anniversary. It's hard to overestimate the impact this unprovoked war has caused. It has shaken geo-politics and has killed and wounded hundreds of thousands, both civilian and military. Cities have been destroyed. Ukraine's economy has been shaken. Air-raid sirens pierce the air as Russians lob missiles at targets, both civilian and military.

The war has dramatically impacted Mission Eurasia, too.

Our headquarters in Irpin, located near the first landing place of Russian troops, was destroyed. Our staff had to flee but, by God's grace, they were able to redeploy to other temporary locations.

Perhaps the most graphic illustration of Satan's work was the sight of our Christian literature being gathered up and burned—an effort that did not advance Russia's military campaign at all. Only people motivated by the Evil One hate Christian literature.

God has prepared Mission Eurasia for *"such a time as this."* Our School Without Walls program has built relationships with many Christian leaders over the years. God's church has "branch offices" in every city, town, village, and hamlet of Ukraine. And we knew their pastors. We had a great network to call upon.

As the church has stepped up to be a blessing to the nation where they live, this network allowed us to quickly mobilize. Other organizations reached out to us, asking us to distribute resources they already had.

While Mission Eurasia always coupled its gospel message with ministries to meet humanitarian needs, the challenge of the war has shifted the majority of our attention to relieving the immediate physical crisis.

We've bought and imported bulk quantities of food, set up warehouses, purchased a fleet of delivery vehicles, and mobilized logistics for delivering supplies. We've ramped up multiple bakeries. We've developed partnerships with companies to make stoves for cooking and space heating.

And, in the midst of it all, we've not lost our passion for spreading the Word of God. We've printed and distributed new Bibles and Christian literature to replace those destroyed by those motivated by hate. We're reaching new people by coupling this with humanitarian relief.

We are grateful to our many donors who have supported this effort. We are God's willing hands and feet to provide the light of the gospel to these people in distress. Please continue to pray for an end to this war and its suffering, even as we share Christ's love to Ukraine in word and deed.



Barry Gardner
Chairman



Mission Eurasia Board of Directors

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.

Mission Eurasia's Response to the War in Ukraine 2022



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

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