



Train to lead. Equip to serve.

ANNUAL
REPORT | 2023

A YEAR OF CHALLENGE — AND

Victory





Sergey Rakhuba,
President

*“But 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 (ESV)

PERSEVERING WITH GOD’S HELP

Dear Friend,

The Bible passage quoted here is a bold declaration of faith in the face of pain and struggles. As the psalmist knew, it can be easy to trust God when life is easy. But He uses adversity to draw us closer to and increase our reliance upon Him—and make us stronger.

The relentless war in Ukraine has certainly tested us at Mission Eurasia. Our resources have been stretched to the limit. In 2022, our headquarters in Irpin, Ukraine was destroyed—along with tens of thousands of Scripture copies. We set about rebuilding and replenishing our lost resources. And we kept going.

The mothers, children, and entire families that flooded out of the war zone needed our help. Not only did we not turn them away, but we also redoubled our efforts to serve the refugees and displaced people wherever we found them—in Poland, Moldova, western Ukraine, and elsewhere.

Even in the midst of the tumult, we couldn’t neglect the normal ministry activities that mean so much to people throughout Eurasia. Our leadership training, church planting, children’s ministries, and evangelism continued with full vigor and confidence.

Through it all, God has met our needs and encouraged us, especially through the support of generous partners like you. I cannot express how grateful I am for your support!

You’ve helped to train and equip the young people in our School Without Walls and Next Generation Professional Leaders programs. I wish you could see the faith, love, and boldness these brave believers exhibit daily. They will be carrying the light of the gospel into the future. And seeing their dedication, zeal, and courage, I can assure you the message is in good hands.

Through our Summer Bible Camp and Gift of Hope programs, we reached the most vulnerable victims of war and dysfunction—the children. The loving care and nurturing they received went a long way toward healing the wounds inflicted by a cruel world. And many of them experienced the joy of entering into a relationship with Christ. This is what makes all our ministry efforts worthwhile.

The work of God was victorious in 2023! With your steadfast support, we will continue to share His love far and wide in the coming year and beyond. Thank you for sharing in this awesome task and privilege with us.

Most gratefully in Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Rakhuba', with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT: A YEAR IN REVIEW

This 2023 Annual Report offers an overview of the transformative impact achieved through your generous support of Mission Eurasia’s ministries during Fiscal Year 2023 (October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023). Throughout this period, we have diligently pursued our strategic mission to train and equip the Next Generation of Christian leaders who are dedicated to frontline transformational ministry across Eurasia and Israel. These Next Generation leaders have been instrumental in driving significant changes and impacting countless individual lives, communities, and entire nations. They have fostered church growth and contributed to the overall spiritual transformation of the post-Soviet region of Eurasia.

Our strategic ministry efforts have extended across diverse and challenging settings, from remote, rural communities disrupted by ongoing war to bustling urban centers, each facing unique challenges and opportunities. The ministry initiatives/programs summarized in this report illustrate the breadth and depth of our holistic ministry outreaches, which have addressed immediate needs and have strategically laid strong foundations for the sustainable growth and development of churches and communities.

We extend our deepest gratitude to each of you—our supporters, partners, and volunteers. Your unwavering commitment has been vital in our efforts to transform the landscape of Eurasia for Christ in 2023. Through your partnership, we have seen remarkable expressions of hope, renewal, and growth—evidence of God’s powerful movement in this region.



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

— Psalm 46:1



IMPACT

In 2023, Mission Eurasia's School Without Walls (SWW) program expanded its training and outreach, impacting 14 nations of Eurasia and Israel. SWW engaged 1,260 students from 117 churches in 62 training centers, who, during their training, were engaged in over 50 outreach ministries, reaching over 700,000 people with the gospel. In 2023, SWW had 686 graduates and launched 30 new locations. In addition, 590 training seminars were held, and national SWW coordinators organized 10 youth conferences, equipping over 1,000 young Christians to lead many outreach ministries in their communities.

To learn more about the impact of SWW, visit: <https://missioneurasia.org/leadership-training>

SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS (SWW)

“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

— Philippians 4:9

EMPOWERING LEADERS, TRANSFORMING EURASIA FOR ETERNITY

Mission Eurasia's School Without Walls (SWW) program continues to effectively train and equip the Next Generation of Christian leaders across the countries of the former USSR/Eurasia.

By providing biblical knowledge, mentorship, strategic insights, ministry skills, and essential tools, SWW prepares Next Generation leaders to spread the gospel within their communities and throughout post-Soviet nations.

This nonformal leadership training program is tailor-made for Next Generation Christians who navigate the unique cultural, political, religious, and economic contexts of the former USSR, enabling them to profoundly impact their societies, despite significant challenges.

The ongoing success of SWW underscores its strategic effectiveness in addressing the critical needs of the evangelical communities across Eurasia, ensuring a lasting legacy of faith-driven community leadership.



“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”

— Philippians 2:14-15

EQUIPPING PROFESSIONAL LEADERS, EMPOWERING CHANGE

In the shifting landscapes of the former USSR and Eurasia, the demand for grounded, visionary Christian professionals has never been more critical. Mission Eurasia's NGPLI, with its strategic missiological concept, stands at the forefront, empowering Next Generation Christian professionals to wield significant Christian influence in their respective fields across the marketplace and contemporary society in all 14 nations of Eurasia.

Since the onset of the conflict in Ukraine, the region has experienced a substantial exodus of professionals, leaving behind crucial gaps in services and leadership. In parts of Ukraine, for instance, the only remaining professionals are doctors who have stayed behind to tend to the wounded. This drastic change necessitates a strategic shift in NGPLI's approach to ministry.

To tackle these challenges, Mission Eurasia's NGPLI has adapted by utilizing a blend of in-person training events, seminars, roundtables, and other platforms to ensure that these young Christian professionals are not only prepared, but are also equipped to serve effectively as ambassadors for Jesus Christ in their hurting communities. This adaptation has enabled these professionals to lead in responding to urgent community needs with integrity and Christian values, making a transformative impact across Eurasia.



IMPACT

In 2023, Mission Eurasia's Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI) significantly advanced its strategic mission across Eurasia, impacting communities in 14 nations through training and empowerment programs for NGPLI leaders. Thanks to your faithful support, NGPLI hosted nine primary "Mission in Profession" conferences, engaging over 350 NGPLI participants each, and conducted four roundtable consultations, mobilizing 280 leaders from various fields. Additionally, 15 online and video conferences engaged around 1,000 NGPLI participants in vital ministry discussions. Overall, our 42 specialized training seminars equipped over 4,000 professionals in key areas such as medical care, trauma counseling, education, and entrepreneurship, among others. Through this ministry, Mission Eurasia trained and enabled 4,105 NGPLI leaders to impact approximately 72,000 lives with the gospel, demonstrating our commitment to developing leaders who are prepared to enact transformative change within their communities.

To learn more about the impact of NGPLI, visit: <https://missioneurasia.org/leadership-training/>





CHURCH PLANTING AND CHURCH GROWTH

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

— 2 Timothy 4:2

FROM SEEDS OF FAITH TO CHURCH GROWTH IN NEW TERRITORIES

Mission Eurasia remains dedicated to addressing the spiritual needs of remote communities devoid of vibrant church life, where new believers often lack opportunities for fellowship and encouragement. This commitment has propelled our efforts to plant new churches, led by Next Generation church planters and leaders trained to serve communities that are both hurting and hopeful.

Our Church Planting and Church Growth Initiative has gained significant momentum, driven by the outreach initiatives of young leaders from our School Without Walls and other leadership training programs.

These leaders, well-trained and committed, have taken up the mission to evangelize and nurture new believers by establishing new churches throughout Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, and across Eurasia. Moreover, the recent surge of refugees into Europe from Ukraine has intensified the demand for spiritual homes, highlighting the critical role of our ministry in providing support to those who have newly embraced Christ through our outreach efforts.



IMPACT

In 2023, with your faithful and strategic support, Mission Eurasia’s Church Planting and Church Growth Initiative achieved significant progress in expanding our ministry across Eurasia. Our dedicated teams, led by trained and equipped leaders, successfully established 35 new churches and home groups. This expansion includes nine home groups in Kyrgyzstan, three in Armenia, nine churches in Kazakhstan, seven churches in Poland, and four new congregations (three churches and one home group) in Israel. In addition, we trained 16 pastors and missionary team leaders, alongside 35 leaders in various ministry areas, ensuring church growth/support for these new groups and congregations. To further bolster church-planting and church growth efforts, Mission Eurasia hosted two national conferences, one regional conference, and numerous online training sessions, collectively equipping 485 leaders for this vital ministry.

TRANSFORMING YOUNG LIVES THROUGH GOSPEL OUTREACH

For millions of children living in Eurasia, violence, poverty, hopelessness, and despair remain grim, daily realities. That's why Mission Eurasia continues to focus on developing and implementing innovative, strategic ministries that are designed to bring hope, healing, and transformation to these young, hurting lives who represent the Next Generation and future of the post-Soviet world.

SUMMER OF HOPE BIBLE CAMPS

Our Summer of Hope Bible camps have always served as a welcome respite for vulnerable children living in troubled environments. But during the past year, they have become more important than ever as we ministered to thousands of children escaping the horrors of war in Ukraine, Armenia, Moldova, and Poland as well as hurting children living in other countries of Eurasia. Millions of Ukrainian children are haunted by memories of war, cruelty, explosions, and violent death. Other children may not be war refugees, but many of their lives are torn by religious strife, family discord, addiction, and abuse.



IMPACT

In 2023, thanks to the generous support of our friends and supporters, Mission Eurasia's Next Generation leaders successfully organized and led 540 Summer of Hope Bible camps, reaching 35,409 children and teens across several nations. Ukraine hosted the highest number—24,150 children of war — who received care and trauma counseling at most of the 271 camps held there. These Summer of Hope Bible camps also took place in Moldova, Poland, Belarus, Israel, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Mongolia, Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. A total of 212 national churches partnered with Mission Eurasia in this ministry to create a nurturing, gospel environment where children could learn about Jesus and grow in their faith.



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

— Matthew 19:13

GIFT OF HOPE

Each year, through Mission Eurasia’s Gift of Hope program, our young Next Generation leaders who were trained through School Without Walls and our Empower Initiative, partner with hundreds of national churches during the Christmas season to prepare and deliver Gifts of Hope to children, many of whom are learning about Jesus for the first time. These colorful gifts convey the story of our Savior Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem. Each Gift of Hope contains items that all children love as well as a children’s Bible, bringing God’s message of hope directly into young hearts.

This program is especially impactful for children affected by war and conflict in Ukraine and Armenia, and among refugee communities in Moldova, Poland, and other countries. Through Gift of Hope, these vulnerable children find joy and a tangible reminder that they are not forgotten, pointing to the hope that Jesus gives, even during the most challenging times in their lives.



IMPACT

In 2023, because of your generous support, Mission Eurasia’s Gift of Hope program achieved remarkable success by distributing 100,000 gifts to vulnerable children across several Eurasian nations, with a particular emphasis on children from Ukraine and Armenia who were affected by war and displacement. Mission Eurasia delivered 70,000 Gifts of Hope in Ukraine alone, significantly impacting young lives during these challenging times. These beautifully designed gifts, generously provided by supporters like you and lovingly packed by our volunteers, offered joy and a tangible reminder of hope in Jesus.

To learn more about the impact of Mission Eurasia’s children’s ministries, visit: <https://missioneurasia.org/childrens-ministry/>

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

— Acts 16:31

BUILDING FAITHFUL FAMILIES, STRENGTHENING SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS

Amid challenges such as the wars in Ukraine, Armenia, and Israel, and moral decay across Eurasia, Mission Eurasia’s “Family as Mission” initiative plays an essential role in preparing national churches and their leaders for effective family ministries.

This strategic ministry strengthens Christian families by teaching them strong biblical values and nurturing faith in their children, enabling them to become pillars of moral and spiritual integrity within their communities.

Also, the “Family as Mission” initiative equips Christian families to use their example of faith to impact non-Christian families in their communities. By developing specialized resources and hosting conferences and training events across the region, Mission Eurasia equips pastors and the Next Generation of church leaders with the necessary vision, resources, and practical tools to cultivate strong, resilient families that are deeply rooted in biblical Christian values.



IMPACT

In 2023, within the framework of the “Family as Mission” initiative, significant progress was made in family-oriented ministries across Eurasia. Through this initiative, Mission Eurasia conducted 26 seminars under the School Without Walls and NGPLI programs, and an additional 11 training events and conferences on family topics throughout the region. This training was crucial for equipping the Next Generation of leaders with a biblical foundation, vision for family ministries, and skills to serve families and parents effectively. Furthermore, two seminars were specifically aimed at training pastors in pastoral care for families, and a methodological manual was published, focusing on the care of widows and orphans during wartime.

As a result, over 400 leaders, pastors, and family counselors were trained. Additionally, a strategic partnership was established between Mission Eurasia and the Institute for Postgraduate Education in Kyiv, aimed at providing psychological assistance to ministers and their families affected by the Russian occupation.



“For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

— Matthew 25:35

HEALING AND HOPE IN CRISIS: PROVIDING FAITH-BASED HOLISTIC CARE FOR REFUGEES

Mission Eurasia's iCare Ministry to Refugees strategically tackles the profound impact of conflicts on families and communities by deploying a network of well-trained and equipped Next Generation leaders, volunteers, and church networks dedicated to hands-on, practical ministry.

This initiative is crucial in providing essential support to conflict-ridden regions such as Ukraine, Armenia, and Israel, all of which face severe humanitarian crises. Amidst the devastating Russian invasion of Ukraine — the largest European conflict since World War II — iCare has played a pivotal role in assisting those affected, with over 11,000 civilian fatalities and millions displaced.

Similarly, in Armenia, the resurgence of conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region has resulted in over 120,000 displaced individuals. In Israel, in partnership with local messianic congregations, iCare is responding to the horrible attack by Hamas by offering comprehensive support, including the provision of basic necessities and spiritual care to families and the displaced.

This concerted effort by our iCare Ministry to Refugees to mobilize resources and support across these regions demonstrates Mission Eurasia's commitment to partner with the church to carry out holistic gospel ministries that shine the gospel in the midst of tragedy and destruction, bringing hope, healing, and tangible help to families devastated by conflicts within their communities.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION: iCARE FAMILY FOOD PACKAGES

In 2023, recognizing the widespread humanitarian crises throughout Eurasia, Mission Eurasia's iCare Ministry to Refugees continued to address both the physical and spiritual needs of those impacted by these crises.

With the faithful support of donors and ministry partners, Mission Eurasia significantly expanded its iCare outreach efforts in Ukraine, Israel, and Armenia.

IMPACT

During 2023, Mission Eurasia received, packed, and distributed 120,000 family food packages, each designed to sustain a family of three-five people for a week. In addition, each family food package included copies of Scripture for adults and children. This comprehensive approach not only has provided essential nourishment but also spiritual guidance, reaching and impacting over 1 million people. Through these efforts, Mission Eurasia has delivered tangible help and a message of hope to refugee and displaced communities across these regions, demonstrating a profound commitment to holistic care in times of crisis.



SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION: DELIVERING HOPE AND HEALING THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD

In 2023, Mission Eurasia significantly expanded its Scripture printing and distribution ministry in response to the increased spiritual needs caused by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Amidst the conflict, the demand for Bibles and New Testaments in the Ukrainian language surged, reflecting the population's deep need for comfort, strength, and guidance.



IMPACT

To meet these needs and restore hope among those affected by the war, Mission Eurasia has published and distributed a variety of specialized Scripture editions and Christian literature, including full Bibles, New Testaments with Psalms and Proverbs, children's Bibles, and custom devotionals for children and teens. Additionally, a Ukrainian prayer booklet, "Molitvoslov," was created to offer prayers suitable for wartime. These resources focused on discipleship and spiritual comfort, helping both adults and the younger generation during these challenging times. Altogether, 2,147,651 copies of Scripture and Christian literature were distributed to the Ukrainian people in 2023.

Moreover, understanding the critical need for the gospel in Russia and Belarus today where aggressive geopolitical forces persist, Mission Eurasia, together with its partners, also facilitated the distribution of 150,000 Bibles and New Testaments. This effort aimed to support outreach ministries in these countries, helping to spread the Word of God in these nations.

WOOD BURNING STOVES: BRINGING WARMTH AND HOPE TO FAMILIES IN CRISIS

In 2023, as Ukraine continued to grapple with the consequences of Russia's relentless assault on its energy infrastructure, Mission Eurasia for a second year carried out this vital initiative which was aimed at mitigating harsh winter conditions for many Ukrainians by manufacturing, delivering, and installing wood-burning stoves.

These wood-burning stoves not only provide essential warmth by heating an entire room, but they also serve as cooktops for the preparation of hot meals.

These stoves are manufactured at one of Mission Eurasia's regional ministry hubs by individuals who themselves have been displaced by the conflict, adding a meaningful layer of community support to the initiative.

This approach not only meets critical physical needs for heating and cooking, but it also fosters spiritual resilience among communities devastated by the ongoing war, reinforcing the support system within affected churches and families.



IMPACT

In 2023, with the faithful and generous support of our donors and partners, Mission Eurasia successfully manufactured, distributed, and installed 2,060 wood-burning stoves, complete with necessary wood supplies.

This initiative significantly impacted 2,060 families and churches, providing essential warmth and cooking capabilities amidst challenging conditions.

BREAD OF LIFE BAKERIES: FROM LOAVES OF BREAD TO TRANSFORMED LIVES

In response to the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Armenia, which have worsened food shortages and deepened humanitarian crises for displaced persons and refugees, Mission Eurasia's Bread of Life Bakery project provides critical, long-term support to affected families.

Originally launched by Mission Eurasia's entrepreneurial Next Generation leaders, this self-sustaining model has been successfully replicated and expanded to additional regions in Ukraine, Armenia, Moldova, and Tajikistan.

These bakeries meet both the immediate physical needs and the spiritual well-being of thousands of displaced individuals and refugees by distributing freshly baked bread along with copies of Scripture and the Good News of Jesus Christ—the “Bread of Life.” Additionally, these bakeries create vital employment opportunities, strengthening weak local economies and providing tools for outreach and sustenance.



IMPACT

In 2023, Mission Eurasia's iCare Ministry to Refugees expanded its Bread of Life initiative, adding four more Bread of Life bakeries in Ukraine, Moldova, and Tajikistan. Currently, there are a total of 11 Bread of Life bakeries in operation this year, providing an average of 1,000 to 1,500 loaves of bread per day for free distribution to displaced persons, refugees, and the most disadvantaged and needy individuals during times of war and distress. Additionally, two of these bakeries operate in Moldova, focusing on aiding displaced persons by providing free food and spiritual nourishment through personal engagement with volunteers from Mission Eurasia's iCare Center and local churches. Moreover, a new Bread of Life bakery was launched this year in Tajikistan, aiming to assist impoverished families in southern communities as well as refugees from northern regions of Afghanistan. Through the combined efforts of these 11 Bread of Life bakeries in 2023, the lives of 2,500,000 people have been impacted with the gospel.

MOBILE KITCHENS: SERVING FOOD AND FAITH IN TIMES OF NEED

As the war in Ukraine continues, tens of thousands remain trapped in bombed-out villages in the war zone, without natural gas, hot water, food, or other basic necessities. Internally displaced people and Ukrainian refugees, especially the elderly, struggle to survive amid ongoing food shortages, where a hot meal is increasingly scarce.

They urgently need not only hot food but also the message of the gospel that God loves them. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, Mission Eurasia has responded to this increasing need for food by developing and launching the iCare Mobile Kitchens project. This innovative project, initiated by our entrepreneurial Next Generation leaders, refurbishes old Soviet army mobile kitchens, which are operated by School Without Walls leaders and volunteers.

Through these mobile kitchens, teams help meet the immediate physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of children, women, and men forced to flee their homes and communities.



IMPACT

In 2023, Mission Eurasia's iCare Program launched four additional mobile kitchens, equipped by teams of volunteer cooks and evangelists. In total, 12 mobile kitchens have successfully engaged in active ministries, feeding an average of 250 to 350 people daily (five days a week) in needy communities distressed by war in eastern Ukraine. This effort has made a significant impact, providing not only physical nourishment but also encouragement and spiritual nourishment. In total, our mobile kitchens have touched the lives of more than 3 million people with the gospel across 120 communities in Ukraine.

MOBILE MEDICAL CLINICS: MERCY AND HOPE ON WHEELS

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the need for medical ministries has grown significantly, particularly for those in the conflict-ridden regions of eastern Ukraine. In response, Mission Eurasia, in partnership with the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine, has mobilized its extensive network of Christian medical workers trained through NGPLI. This network includes hundreds of trained professionals ready to provide essential medical assistance and share the hope of the gospel in areas close to the front line and in regions where medical help is scarce. To address these critical needs, in 2023 Mission Eurasia launched the strategic and innovative Mobile Medical Clinics initiative. These clinics, housed in refurbished public buses/vehicles, are equipped with an examination room, medical supplies, medical equipment, and a generator, allowing two medical doctors and medical personnel to serve up to 50 patients daily, five days a week.

Each clinic also includes an attached tent used as a waiting area, where Mission Eurasia's School Without Walls leaders and trauma counselors engage with those awaiting treatment. They offer messages of hope and comfort, share copies of Scripture, and communicate the gospel message. In 2023, through this initiative, Mission Eurasia successfully launched 10 mobile medical clinics across Ukraine and Moldova. These mobile medical clinics, which are operated by qualified NGPLI leaders, provide medical assistance and share the gospel with needy communities.



IMPACT

In 2023, with the faithful support of our donors and partners, Mission Eurasia's entrepreneurial Next Generation professional leaders launched the Mobile Medical Clinics project to deliver life-saving medical care, medicine, and the gospel to the suffering people of Ukraine. Six mobile medical clinics have already been launched. They are staffed by 12 volunteer medical personnel and evangelistic teams who have effectively reached 60,000 people in need of medical and spiritual assistance in 1,125 distressed communities of Ukraine and Moldova. Three more mobile medical clinics are in the process of being refurbished and equipped, and will be launched during the summer of 2024.

To learn more about the impact of Mission Eurasia's iCare Refugee Ministries, visit <https://missioneurasia.org/humanitarian-outreach/>



“I was in prison and you came to me.”

— Matthew 25:36

ADVOCATING FOR LIBERTY: DEFENDING FAITH AND FREEDOM ACROSS EURASIA

In the majority of nations within the former USSR/Eurasia—excluding Ukraine, Poland, and Moldova—Christian leaders face increasing oppression from political regimes that either favor the Orthodox Church (e.g. Russia) or Islam (e.g. Central Asia and Azerbaijan). In response, Mission Eurasia has strategically launched the Religious Freedom Initiative. This initiative aims to support and empower the church and cultivate a biblical vision and understanding among the Next Generation of Christian leaders through spiritual intercession, practical intervention, leadership training, strategic ministry development, and global community engagement. Mission Eurasia believes that the church cannot only survive but also thrive and expand, spreading the gospel in these spiritually challenging environments.

The prolonged invasion of Ukraine by Russia has led to mass civilian casualties, extensive infrastructure damage, humanitarian crises, and severe violations of religious freedom and human rights. In the Russian-occupied territories of eastern Ukraine, the systematic persecution of clergy, seizure and destruction of church buildings, and escalating threats, interrogations, and arrests—including the murder of pastors and priests—are prevalent.

Mission Eurasia’s Religious Freedom Initiative actively raises awareness, monitors the situation, and provides training for pastors and community leaders to navigate these severe conditions. It also mobilizes support for those defending the Christian community against Russian aggression and advocates for the oppressed, ensuring their plight is recognized and supported internationally.



IMPACT

In 2023, Mission Eurasia's Religious Freedom Initiative (RFI) made significant strides in promoting religious freedom in Eurasia, with a particular focus on Ukraine's occupied territories following the Russian invasion:

AWARENESS AND EDUCATION: We enhanced public awareness of religious persecution through Faith Under Fire, a report published in both English and Ukrainian, supplemented by public presentations and media engagements.

TRAINING AND MOBILIZATION: RFI mobilized 62 churches in Ukraine, Moldova, and Poland, and 22 in the US, providing in-depth training to church leaders to deepen their understanding of religious freedom issues.

SWW LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM: This program offered specialized training in religious freedom to over 200 students from Ukraine, Moldova, Poland, and Central Asian countries.

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES: We hosted 18 seminars and conferences and conducted nine strategic meetings with Ukrainian authorities, facilitating the support and safe evacuation of 17 church leaders and their families from conflict zones.

MEDIA OUTREACH: Our targeted media campaigns galvanized global opposition to religious persecution by Russian forces in Ukraine.

OVERALL IMPACT: These combined efforts mobilized and trained approximately 400 church leaders and over 100 public officials, significantly enhancing support for religious freedom and actively contributing to the safety and support of communities affected by conflict.

To learn more about Mission Eurasia's Religious Freedom Initiative, visit:
<https://missioneurasia.org/religious-freedom/>



“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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

— Matthew 28:19-20

BRINGING THE GOSPEL AND HOPE TO THE LEAST REACHED IN EURASIA

Since the fall of the USSR, Mission Eurasia has strategically implemented its Unreached People Groups Initiative (UPGI), targeting vast territories across the former Soviet Union and Eurasia. This initiative focuses on equipping the church by training the Next Generation of national leaders, equipped with a biblical vision and specialized skills, to engage effectively with their own communities. This initiative is spearheading efforts to evangelize 120 unreached people groups (UPGs) across Russia and 300 unreached people groups across Eurasia, including western Ukraine, Moldova, Russia’s Far North, the North Caucasus, Central Asia, and Mongolia. This initiative is vital as it mobilizes the national church to actively fulfill the Great Commission, bringing the gospel to those with limited or no access to it, and driving transformative change across these regions and among these unreached people groups.



IMPACT

In 2023, Mission Eurasia significantly advanced this strategic ministry initiative by hosting 25 training seminars for School Without Walls leaders under the Unreached People Groups Initiative (UPGI). These seminars motivated and trained more than 500 young leaders from eight Eurasian countries on the importance of bringing the gospel to unreached people groups. Additionally, two roundtable discussions were conducted for more than 100 church pastors and leaders on overcoming challenges to reaching unreached people groups. A practical guide titled “New Frontiers of Faith—Reaching the Unreached: A Practical Guide to Spreading the Gospel Among Unreached Peoples in Eurasia” was developed and made available for leaders, pastors, and missionaries, providing essential, step-by-step guidance on how to start outreach ministries for UPGs. More than 50,000 copies of Scripture were distributed among various unreached and under-reached groups, including the Roma people in Ukraine and Moldova, Buryats, Mongols, Tuvans, Nenets, Khants, Kabardians, and Karakalpaks, enhancing the spiritual impact across Eurasia.

To learn more about Mission Eurasia’s Unreached People Groups Initiative, visit:
<https://missioneurasia.org/unreached-people-groups-initiative/>

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A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRMAN



Dear Friends of Mission Eurasia,

It has been another year of war in Ukraine and continued suffering for the Ukrainian people—truly, a year of challenge and victory. As you’ve read through this annual report, you’ve seen how your support has been used in remarkable ways, helping believers and not-yet believers alike with food and medicine, refugee assistance, and even wood-burning stoves for heat and cooking. But the greatest need we’ve helped meet this past year has been the need for the hope of Christ to impact lives.

It is one of the great stories emerging from the fog of war that the church in Ukraine has remained faithful and is even growing as people, fighting for survival, search for answers to life’s most basic questions. Mission Eurasia has been and remains committed to helping the church in its mission of proclaiming the gospel and making disciples. Through training, personal contact, printing and distributing Bibles as well as other Christian literature, Mission Eurasia is following God’s call to serve the church.

Two significant reports were published this year which shed much light on what’s really happening in Ukraine. First, “FAITH UNDER FIRE: Navigating Religious Freedom Amidst the War in Ukraine” focuses on the plight of the church in the occupied regions of the country. Secondly, “Shining the Light of the Gospel into the Darkness of War” is a comprehensive report of Mission Eurasia’s ministry during the past two years of war in Ukraine. Both reports can be accessed through the home page of our website at: <https://missioneurasia.org/>.

But Ukraine is not the only story of our ministry this past year. Essential leadership training programs such as School Without Walls (SWW) and the Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI) continue to greatly impact all of the countries of Eurasia, and we are grateful to God for your support of these important initiatives.

In all of this, I take great courage from Paul’s words in Galatians 6: 9-10, “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

God’s best to you,

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

Wayne Shepherd

GOSPEL IMPACT STATISTICS FOR 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS (SWW):

1,260 students and **686** graduates reached more than **700,000** people with the gospel.

NEXT GENERATION PROFESSIONAL LEADERS INITIATIVE (NGPLI):

4,105 Christian professional leaders impacted **72,000** lives with the gospel.

CHURCH PLANTING:

485 church leaders and church planters were trained, and **35** new churches and groups were planted, reaching **27,000** with the gospel.

SUMMER OF HOPE BIBLE CAMPS:

35,409 children/youth reached through **540** camps.

GIFT OF HOPE:

100,000 children and youth reached across Eurasia.

FAMILY AS MISSION:

400 leaders were trained who impacted **2,800** families, or approximately **12,000** individuals, with the gospel.

FAMILY FOOD PACKAGES:

120,000 family food packages were delivered, impacting **480,000** people with the gospel.

SCRIPTURE/CHRISTIAN LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION:

2.3 million people reached with the gospel.

WOOD-BURNING STOVES:

2,060 wood-burning stoves impacted **2,060** families and churches, or approximately **8,240** individuals, with the gospel.

BREAD OF LIFE BAKERIES:

11 bakeries impacted **1.5** million people with the gospel.

MOBILE KITCHENS:

12 mobile kitchens impacted more than **3 million** people with the gospel.

MOBILE MEDICAL CLINICS:

Six mobile medical clinics impacted **60,000** people with the gospel.

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS INITIATIVE (UPGI):

600 leaders and churches trained and more than **50,000** unreached people impacted by the gospel.

TOTAL ESTIMATED GOSPEL IMPACT: 8,344,649 INDIVIDUALS

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.

CONCLUSION — AND

Thank you

While the limited space in this Annual Report does not allow us to highlight all of our ministries in-depth, we would like to thank everyone who has helped make these ministries possible during another challenging year. Your unwavering commitment and generous support have enabled Mission Eurasia to reach, train, and empower the national church and the Next Generation of Christian leaders across Eurasia. We are immensely thankful to our faithful donors, whose generosity has propelled every initiative, from expanding School Without Walls to pioneering mobile medical clinics in war-torn Ukraine. Your partnership is not only a blessing but also a foundational support for our mission. We would also like to give special recognition to the dedicated Mission Eurasia staff and ministry teams on the ground. Their tireless, fearless efforts and sacrificial service have brought the hope and healing of the gospel to countless lives in some of the most challenging environments. Their courage and commitment in the face of adversity truly embody the love and resilience of the gospel. We are also grateful to all our global partners and prayer supporters. Your prayers and partnership enhance our efforts and extend our reach far beyond what we could achieve alone. Together, we have not only faced challenges, but we have also made significant strides in transforming communities through the love of Christ across Eurasia. As we look forward to the coming year, we are grateful to God for the many ways that He has tremendously blessed our ministry, and we are inspired to carry on the work that still lies before us. We thank you for your continued support and partnership. Let us press on together, united in our vision to save the lost and in our mission to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to every corner of Eurasia and beyond, strengthening the church and shining a light in the darkness.

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