

Gift of Hope

Your generous gift
helps bring smiles and hope
to the children of Eurasia.

Bringing the true message of Christmas to the people of Eurasia

As much of Eurasia languishes in war, poverty, and dysfunction, Mission Eurasia's Gift of Hope program is like a refreshing breeze blowing over the land. Children can smile again as they open their colorful packages filled with toys, sweets, and a children's Bible, where they learn—often for the first time—about the God who loves them. And their parents, weary from endless conflict and trouble, can take heart, remembering that there is still good in the world.

This is the legacy of your generous support, which enables us to bring the **Gift of Hope** to the people of Eurasia. Your impact is being felt by people across the Eurasian continent.

Thank you for making this important program possible again in 2024-2025.



MISSION
EURASIA

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
—Acts 20:35

Gift of Hope Distribution 2024–2025



Thanks to you, Mission Eurasia reached **105,690 children** with Gifts of Hope in 2024–2025.

- **2,815 volunteers** in **8 countries** helped to distribute Gift of Hope boxes.
- **146,800 Scripture pieces** were distributed at **572 Gift of Hope events**.
- **266,350 people** were reached—in addition to the children!



Ukraine

UKRAINE



The devastating full-scale invasion of Ukraine is now entering its third year with no end in sight. Children are the ones who suffer the most. The trauma of war, including the loss of loved ones, friends, and homes, has brought overwhelming anxiety and deep despair to many young lives. But what seems hopeless to the world's eyes is a wonderful opportunity for us to demonstrate the love of God. The Gift of Hope program has brought joy—and real hope—to the children of this beleaguered land.

Christmastime on the Front Line

Misha and **Sasha** are 7-year-old twins. They live with their 6-year-old sister, Masha, and 11-year-old sister, Anya, in the frontline city of Zaporizhzhia. The horrors of war are a constant reality for these children. They hear air raid sirens almost daily, and have to retreat to a bomb shelter for safety.

Yet, moments of happiness are possible even in this dark environment. This past Christmas, these siblings received Gift of Hope boxes, each one with a beautifully illustrated Bible. It reminded them how their mother used to read to them from the Bible when they were younger. Now, with their own Bibles, they immediately began searching for the Christmas story. This is how God provides comfort and hope even in the hardest moments.



Receiving their Gifts of Hope, the children received a momentary respite from the horrors of war.



Bibles Instead of Bombs

Maksym and **Olena** lived with their three children in a small village in the Kherson region of Ukraine. The war came to them in February 2022 when they were awakened by terrifying explosions nearby. Three days later, some soldiers came and took Maksym away. He returned four days later, beaten and exhausted.

That trauma was enough to prompt the family to leave their home. After a long, harrowing journey, they finally found refuge in the western Ukraine town of Mykolaiv. There, some Mission Eurasia volunteers came to wish the family a Merry Christmas. They brought Gift of Hope boxes for the children. Little **Alina** was especially delighted to receive a children's Bible. *"I can't read yet,"* she said, *"but I ask my mom to read to me. I know for sure we'll be reading this before bed tonight!"*



Alina looks forward to hearing stories from her children's Bible.

Denis Gorenkov, Instructor at the Chaplaincy Institute of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and Special Project Coordinator at Mission Eurasia., works with the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in Kyiv to distribute Gifts of Hope to the children of fallen soldiers, helping them recover from the trauma of war.



A Welcome Gift at the Right Time

Olena was worried about her daughter, **Kira**. Only 3 years old, the little girl was so traumatized by war that she nearly stopped eating and drinking. In desperation, Olena took her child and fled, passing through five Russian checkpoints and finally arriving in Warsaw, Poland. When the fighting seemed to recede in their home province, they returned to Ukraine. But then their village sustained another attack. A shockwave from the shelling blew out the doors and windows of their home. They had to move to the city center for safety. The nightmare had begun again.

Then at Christmastime, some Mission Eurasia volunteers arrived with Gift of Hope boxes. Olena describes the relief and comfort it brought to her family: *"My daughter had to go through a lot... She really needed to feel the joy of Christmas again, the joy of a small miracle. The Gift of Hope was just that little miracle for Kira. I saw how her eyes lit up, and I am so grateful for that spark."*

Kira's Gift of Hope brought comfort in a time of distress.



Adjusting to a New Life



Victoria's family once enjoyed a peaceful life in the Kherson region of Ukraine. But things changed when the dam at the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant exploded. The resultant flooding damaged 40 towns and caused more than 50 deaths. Victoria's family had to evacuate to Kharkiv, where they live now.

Adjusting to a new life in a new environment was hard for Victoria. But one day, some Mission Eurasia partners arrived at her door with a Gift of Hope box.

Victoria was delighted and took a special interest in the Bible that was inside. *"It's so bright and smells so nice!"* she said. *"Grandma once told me that you can find answers to any question in the Bible. I really hope that's true."*

For Victoria, her new Bible was the best part of her Gift of Hope.

Poland

POLAND



According to the United Nations, more than 6 million Ukrainians have fled to neighboring European countries to escape the war. And at least 1 million have arrived in Poland. In response, Mission Eurasia's refugee assistance efforts, including our Gift of Hope program, have focused on Poland as a primary area of ministry. As you'll see, the people and stories we've encountered there have been heartbreaking—and inspiring.

A Child's Dream Come True

Vira left her home in Kyiv, Ukraine with her family and came to live in Warsaw. There, for the first time, she attended a Christmas event with her two brothers and received a Gift of Hope. *"Today," she said, "on my way here to this event, I prayed that the gift would contain the toy of my dreams. When I opened the box, I saw that exact toy. That is a miracle! Thank you so much. I loved it!"*

Now, Vira wants to attend Sunday school with her brothers. She is eager to learn more stories about Jesus and to continue studying the Bible. Since that Christmas event, her family has begun attending classes at the church as well.

"I really loved the gift, because inside the box, I found a toy I had dreamed of for a long time!"



Excited about God's Word



Liza and her brother **Sasha** came to Warsaw with their family three years ago. When some neighbors invited them to a Christmas celebration at church, they were delighted to go.

There, they received Gift of Hope boxes with Bibles included. Liza recognized her Bible as the very same version she had been reading in her English lessons. She exclaimed, *"I can't wait to show this book to my teacher and tell her that now I can read all the stories in it!"*

"Thank you so much for the gifts and for the event! We will ask our parents to bring us here again."

A Ray of Light in the Darkness



Bohdan is quiet and shy. But he wasn't always that way. His grandmother says it was the war that changed him. After seeing and hearing the explosions in his homeland of Ukraine, Bohdan's mental and emotional state deteriorated. Now, as a refugee in Poland, he comes with his grandmother to events at Mission Eurasia's Ukrainian refugee assistance center. But he has trouble making friends. And he still wishes he could go home.

When Bohdan came to the Gift of Hope Christmas celebration, things changed for the better. He received his Gift of Hope that included a Bible, and he was overjoyed. *"I wanted to ask for a children's Bible back in the summer,"* he told one of the team members, *"but I was too shy to say anything!"* Now, Bohdan can often be found reading his Bible. *"I love reading this Bible,"* he says, *"because it has stories about different people. I learned about David and Goliath, Samson, and kings. I want to write my own book in the future."*

Bohdan's grandmother was deeply affected by the outpouring of love she witnessed. And she expressed her gratitude for all those who made it possible: *"I saw so many happy children today, and here, in Warsaw, they continue to believe in Christmas miracles, living under the warm protection of God, who calls people to do good. With confidence and gratitude, I want to say: You do so much for positivity, kindness, and the future! God's blessings to all of you."*

Bohdan's life changed when he received his Gift of Hope that included a Bible.



Moldova

MOLDOVA



The tiny nation of Moldova is situated adjacent to Ukraine, near some of the worst fighting in the ongoing war. As a result, Moldova has had to absorb more than **1.8 million refugees**¹, many of whom remain to this day.

Planting the Seeds of Love

Nikita, 10, moved with his mother and stepfather to Chisinau from the Odesa region in Ukraine. Beyond the disruption of being uprooted from his home, Nikita faced some challenging issues in his family.

But he experienced a moment of joy when he received his Gift of Hope at Christmastime.

He is naturally drawn to the church and is interested in learning about God. Mission Eurasia volunteers are now working to build a strong relationship with his entire family.



A Gift of Hope brought little Nikita a moment of joy.



Timofei surprised everyone with his eager response to the Gift of Hope Christmas celebration.

A Response That Surprised Everyone

When **Timofei** came to our Gift of Hope Christmas celebration in Chisinau, his mother explained that he has autism and wouldn't feel comfortable staying for the event; the noise and activity would be too overwhelming. She thought it best just to receive his gift and leave. Ministry worker **Inessa** brought Timofei his Gift of Hope outside the building. She has experience with autistic children, so was able to quickly establish a bond with the boy. As they conversed, Timofei heard the music coming from inside and expressed a desire to join. To everyone's surprise, he sat in the back and began singing along. Later, he even participated in a contest on stage. This was not his usual behavior! His mother was moved to tears. It was clear that this occasion would have a lasting impact on one of God's precious children.

¹ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/europe/moldova_en

A Lifeline for a Young Family

When war broke out in the Odesa region of Ukraine, Lilia and her family were forced to flee from their home. They arrived in Moldova and received a warm welcome at the Mission Eurasia Refugee Assistance Center. At the Christmas celebration, their three children received Gift of Hope boxes. Here is their story in Lilia's own words:

"We've been in Moldova since February 2022, arriving shortly after the war began. We left Odesa hoping to return as soon as possible, but we've now been waiting three years for that long-awaited moment. On Friday, we were delighted to attend the wonderful celebration. Our daughters thoroughly enjoyed it—they happily participated in the activities, danced, and eagerly answered questions. But the most memorable part, the one that truly touched their hearts, was realizing that not all children receive gifts for Christmas. So, our oldest daughter found someone [who didn't receive a gift] to share her Christmas spirit with. Thank you so much! The bright, kind faces of the young people who organized such an engaging event left a lasting impression. We wish you all the best and hope all your dreams come true!"



Lilia's family found a welcome refuge at the Mission Eurasia Refugee Assistance Center.



Armenia



Christmas is an important time of year in Armenia. Mission Eurasia partnered with 14 local churches to hold Christmas celebrations there for children in 15 cities, impacting 10,000 people with the love of Christ. The children always look forward to receiving their Gift of Hope boxes at these events.

A Transformative Experience for Mother and Daughter

Eliza is only 12 but surprisingly mature in her attitude toward God. After attending a Gift of Hope Christmas celebration, she said, *"I am so happy to be part of a big family and to have made new friends. Along with the gifts, toys, and sweets, I now have my own children's Bible. The sweets will be gone, and the toys will wear out, but the Bible will always stay with me. I have decided to read the Bible every day for myself and for my mom, so I can know Jesus Christ well."*

Eliza's experience deeply affected her mother, Armenui, prompting her to renew her own relationship with God:

"... As I grew older, my connection with God faded, even though it was fragile to begin with. I didn't read the Bible or pray. Now, I give glory to God that the church is restoring my spiritual life through my children. It is so symbolic that my children and I started attending church at the same age. Reflecting on my past, I don't want my children to stop going to church as they grow older. I understand the responsibility I have as a mother, and I also thank God for the opportunity my children have to visit the church. I have made the decision to restore my relationship with God and attend church with Eliza. This is also a guarantee that my children will remain under God's protection."

The Gift of Hope Christmas celebration deeply affected Eliza—and her mother, too.



A Daughter's Faith Inspires Her Mother

Mariam lives with her mother and brother in a state-issued container home, one of many provided for victims of the devastating 1988 earthquake. Several years ago, Mariam's father left home to find work—and never came back. The family lives on a meager government allowance, which is barely enough for bread. Despite the hardship and emotional struggles she has endured, Mariam maintains a strong faith in God. Her mother, **Meline**, has also struggled, but seeing her daughter's strength has inspired her. *"Thank you for the faith you've instilled in my children," she shared, "and for the smiles you've brought to them this Christmas season. Mariam's positivity has inspired me as well. She loves reading her children's Bible and shares the Bible stories with me. This is the greatest gift you have given her, and it will serve her for life."*

Mariam's faith and positive attitude inspired her mother.



Azerbaijan



Learning About the God Who Always Provides

Samir lives in a small village with his mother, grandmother, and brother, **Ramiz**. They are members of the Udi, a tiny ethnic group with its own language. The family relies on government assistance to survive. The boys' father died in the Second Karabakh War, and they all miss him deeply.

When the brothers received their Gift of Hope boxes, they learned that they have a Heavenly Father who would always care for them. On hearing this, Samir burst into tears. "Thank you for telling me this," he said. "Maybe it was my father who sent Him to take care of us."



Along with their Gifts of Hope, Samir and Ramiz learned about their Heavenly Father.

Reaching Traumatized Children With the Love of Christ



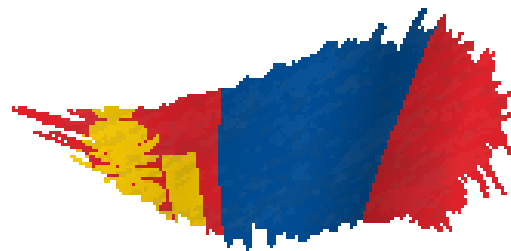
Ibrahim, 28, is a youth pastor at a local church in Azerbaijan. He is also one of the Next Generation leaders in Mission Eurasia's School Without Walls (SWW) program. Here is his description of the Gift of Hope program in the community he serves:

"This Christmas, we were invited to participate in a project aimed at bringing joy and hope to children by giving them Christmas gifts. We also had the opportunity to serve not only the children of believers but to go to places where the Lord has already begun His work and distribute these gift boxes there as well. You can't even imagine what a blessing it is to give a child a gift and see joy light up his or her face during such a difficult and sorrowful time—one filled with uncertainty and discouragement."

"I loved the whole process of the Gift of Hope project. I have loved children since I was young. Having personally fought in the Second Karabakh War, I witnessed so much sorrow during that time that my heart now longs to rejoice and bring joy to others. May the Lord bless all the leaders, ministers, and organizers of this project! Please pray for all the children who heard the gospel through the Gift of Hope project."

Ibrahim views the Gift of Hope program as a way to bring joy in place of sorrow.

Mongolia



Only **2 percent** of Mongolia's people identify as Christian. The Gift of Hope program has provided a unique opportunity to share the Good News of Christ with this largely unreached people group. Working with 10 evangelical churches, our School Without Walls (SWW) leaders held events in **nine locations**, with Christmas concerts, festive youth clubs, Sunday schools, and personal visits to the yurts of families facing hardship.

The Power of Kindness

*"My name is **Altan**. I am 13 years old, and I am from the Dornogovi province. Today was such a wonderful day for me! I live in a remote area and rarely get to visit the city, but today, a friend of mine invited me to a Christmas celebration at her church.*

"At first, I was a little nervous, but all the teachers and people around were so kind and welcoming. I especially enjoyed the games and the time spent connecting with others. Even though I didn't fully understand some of the words in the prayer, I grasped the main message they shared with us: Christmas is the birthday of Jesus! And just like any birthday, we also received gifts afterward. I'm so happy I decided to come to church today!"

Altan responded to the welcoming atmosphere at the Gift of Hope Christmas celebration.



Inspired to Serve Others



*"My name is **Mungunnavch**. I am 11 years old, and I live in the city of Uliastai. I first heard about Jesus at a summer camp. It was there that I made many new friends who I've stayed in touch with, and I was deeply inspired by the teachers and leaders who were with us. That's how I started attending church and learning more about God's truth.*

"Today, at the Christmas celebration, I participated in the program, danced, and sang songs. I felt so much joy knowing that I could serve others. I plan to keep going to church and studying the Bible. Today has also inspired me to find more ways to serve and help other people."

At the Christmas celebration, Mungunnavch was inspired to deepen his commitment to Christ.



A Child's Story of Salvation

Iakov learned about Jesus for the first time at a Gift of Hope Christmas celebration. It had a profound impact on him. He describes his experience:

"My name is Iakov, and I am 12 years old. During the Christmas celebration, I learned about the birth of Jesus and watched a play called 'The Story of Christmas.' Later, at church, they explained where and why Jesus was born. I also received gifts and a book. I found it so interesting to hear other children share their stories about what Jesus has done in their lives. At this celebration, I realized that Jesus was born for us and that He has a plan of salvation for me personally. I invited Jesus into my life that day. Thank you for the gifts and for your care!"

Iakov received the gift of salvation through Gift of Hope.



KYRGYZSTAN



Most of the people in this mountainous country are Muslim. But the Gift of Hope program has provided a special opportunity to share the Good News of Christ with them.

Learning About the God of Love

When **Misha** came to the Gift of Hope Christmas celebration, he was surprised to learn that the gifts were being provided free of charge. For his poor, hardworking family, good things rarely came easily, much less for free.

The generosity he received through the Gift of Hope program sparked Misha's interest. Now, he's eager to learn more about this God of love. As he says, *"It feels like I knew about God deep inside, but now I can see it!"*

Upon receiving his Gift of Hope, Misha began expressing an interest in God.



The Power of Redemption

Although she's only 23, **Vika** has already experienced a lifetime of trouble. Growing up in a broken, dysfunctional home, Vika became addicted to drugs and alcohol. She had a child with an unknown father but then was sentenced to a year in prison, losing her parental rights. Upon her release, Vika's legs gave out, and she ended up in a wheelchair. She began begging on the streets of the city.

Vika met another man and became pregnant again. But when she gave birth, the authorities tried to take her baby away—again.

This is when people in the church met Vika and began telling her about God. The Good News had a dramatic impact: After a week, she stood up from her wheelchair and began walking with crutches. Before long, she was walking on her own, completely healthy. Best of all, both of her children were finally returned to her.

Receiving her Gift of Hope just confirmed for Vika that God truly loved her and had a better future in mind for her.



Vika with her daughters and Mission Eurasia leader Vera.

Spreading HOPE ACROSS EURASIA

Thank you for impacting 105,690 vulnerable children through Gift of Hope.



*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*
—Matthew 19:14

Thank You

Your Support Makes It All Possible

You can see what a big difference your support makes as we reach hurting children and their families with God's love through the Gift of Hope program! Thank you for caring, for praying, and for supporting this work financially.



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