



# *Victory* IN CHRIST AT THE **WORLD CUP**

Report on Mission Eurasia's 2018  
World Cup Scripture Outreach

*... So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. -Isaiah 55:11*



# Thank you for helping to provide 600,000 copies of God's Word that 400 evangelical churches distributed in Russia during the World Cup!



Thanks to your generous support, enthusiasm, and faithful prayers, over half a million people were offered the chance for victory in Christ during our 2018 World Cup Outreach. Partnering with **400 evangelical churches** in more than **50 cities** throughout Russia, our School Without Walls (SWW) students and other Next Generation leaders placed **600,000 Russian-language copies of God's Word** in the hands of men, women, children, and youth in need of Jesus.

From June 14 to July 15, as hundreds of thousands of people in Russia gathered to watch the World Cup matches, our SWW students and church partners prepared special outreach events to share the Good News and put into practice the evangelistic strategies they have learned in the SWW program. At the heart of the outreach were the live screening events that hundreds of churches hosted. As they projected the games onto big screens and shared snacks and refreshments with those who attended, our SWW students and church partners struck up life-changing conversations about faith and handed out specially designed copies of Scripture and evangelistic literature. Other churches hosted a variety of creative outreach events to coincide with the World Cup, such as soccer tournaments and soccer-themed day camps to reach out to children and youth. One church in Volgograd partnered with our SWW students to pass out evangelistic resources in Arabic to young Muslim people during the match between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

With the increasing restrictions on religious liberty in Russia, our ministry and our partners saw the World Cup as an unprecedented opportunity for a widespread evangelistic outreach before the doors to evangelism in the country close any further. God clearly blessed this outreach and protected those who participated, and we trust He will continue to bring to fruition the seeds of faith planted in thousands of hearts during the World Cup. **We would like to give a special thanks to our outstanding partnering organizations ShareWord Global, Samaritan's Purse, Pocket Testament League, The Voice of the Martyrs Canada, Bibles par Internet, and all other ministry partners, including the national church in Russia, whose generosity and support provided the life-changing Scripture resources that were distributed during the World Cup Outreach.**

In this report, you will read how your generous support of our World Cup Scripture Outreach is changing lives and invigorating churches and believers across Russia. **Thank you for sharing our dreams for Russia—that the country would experience true, lasting spiritual transformation as the Good News is proclaimed by our faithful brothers and sisters in Christ!**





# A New Boldness for Sharing the Faith: The Spiritual Impact of the 2018 World Cup Scripture Outreach

*I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. –Philippians 1:6*

The enthusiasm for the World Cup Outreach was contagious among evangelical churches and believers in Russia, whose zeal for evangelism spilled outside the doors of the churches and onto the streets, where these courageous believers also shared the Good News publicly through skits and presentations and gave out copies of God's Word and prayed with the crowds on the streets.

"While the full impact of the outreach is yet to be seen, one result is already clear," shared Pavel Tokarchuk, Mission Eurasia's director in Russia. "Many Christians in Russia have found a new courage and boldness for sharing their faith because of the World Cup Outreach."

Overall, we estimate more than **3 million people** will be impacted by the gospel in the future because of this outreach. We expect the churches that participated will form an estimated **1,800 Bible study groups** to follow up with the people reached during the World Cup and will host sports and day camps for up to **15,000 children and youth**. Our School Without Walls (SWW) students and leaders are also planning extensive follow-up initiatives—such as evangelistic camps, home Bible studies, and youth outreaches—to continue watering the seeds of faith planted during the World Cup.



Sergey Sipko, a local pastor and church planter in Moscow, shared how participating in the World Cup Outreach ignited his congregation's zeal for sharing the Good News:

"You have reignited enthusiasm for evangelism within our church. Some people think that in the world of technology, the printed word is outdated. But through this outreach we saw firsthand the hunger people have for printed copies of God's Word that they can hold in their own hands as they seek to know God's truth.

**We thank Mission Eurasia and all of your partners and supporters for the culturally relevant, much-needed Scripture resources you provided for us to distribute during this outreach.** From Arctic Siberia to the Black Sea, from Kaliningrad to the Far East, God's Word has been shared with the people of Russia, and many will know victory in Christ because of the World Cup Outreach!"

*Thank you for supporting this exciting gospel movement that is transforming Russia—and the rest of Eurasia—through the power of God's Word and the witness of faithful believers!*





# Lives Changed Because of *Your Support*

*Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'* –John 7:38

## Arsen

"People are much more open to the gospel when they are celebrating together," shared Konstantin, one of our School Without Walls (SWW) coordinators in Russia. "For our SWW students, the World Cup Outreach was a wonderful opportunity to put into practice what they've learned during the school year. Almost every day during the World Cup matches, the SWW students went out to talk with people about Jesus and share Scripture."

Among those impacted by the outreach was Arsen, an elderly shoe-seller in Omsk. Talking with our SWW students, he complained about the Russian soccer team's performance and spoke of the need for a good coach. "We then told him about a team that could change the entire course of humanity, because they have the best coach: Jesus," shared Konstantin. When he was given a copy of John's Gospel, Arsen asked many insightful questions about what he was reading in God's Word, because he wanted to make sure he understood everything correctly. "We can tell that God is working in Arsen's heart in a special way, and he is very open to learning more about faith."

## Andrei

Our SWW students in Krasnodar, Russia hosted a youth soccer tournament with a local church as a way to share the gospel and God's Word with their peers during the excitement of the World Cup matches.

A young man named Andrei attended this event after being invited by a friend, and for the first time in his life, he found himself surrounded by loving Christians. "Even though I trusted my friend who invited me, I was skeptical of going to the tournament because I always thought that Christians just spent all their time saying meaningless prayers," Andrei shared. "So, for me, this event was an awakening, because all the young Christians I met were so open about their faith and how Jesus really changed their lives."

Our SWW students gave Andrei a New Testament and a specially designed copy of the Gospel of John with testimonies from Christian athletes, and they invited him to a summer Bible camp for teens, which he was excited to attend so that he could meet other Christian friends and learn more about God.



## GOSPEL FLASH MOB OUTREACH

Police officers were in every corner of Red Square, but even that couldn't stop the message of the gospel! During the World Cup, a team of 25 of our SWW students in Moscow organized an evangelistic flash mob in the middle of Red Square, **which is the home of the Russian government and the site where the Soviet Union regularly displayed its military power.** The goal of the flash mobs was to share the gospel quickly and spontaneously in a public place (since open evangelism is now illegal in Russia). As soon as the first flash mob started, people from all over the square came running over to watch it. Amazingly, the students were able to do the gospel presentation four different times, and each time they drew a large crowd to watch and listen. Even though a few people in the crowd mocked them for sharing their faith, many others applauded and were open to praying with them and receiving copies of the Gospel of John.

Through the four flash mob performances that day, our SWW students were able to talk with 200 people about Jesus and pray with 80 of them! They also handed out 500 copies of the Gospel of John. Our students shared that 14 people accepted Christ as their Savior that day, and many others were interested in attending church and learning more about Jesus.

Praise God for keeping our students safe during their evangelistic efforts, and please continue praying that the people they impacted during their street evangelism would come to saving faith in Christ!



# Thank You for Making the 2018 World Cup Outreach Possible!

*Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! –Psalm 96: 2-3*



**Thank you again for your incredible support and prayers, which made this outreach possible and provided 600,000 Russian-language copies of God's Word for evangelical churches to share with a hurting and broken country.** Please continue to pray for the people reached by the World Cup Outreach, that each person who received a copy of Scripture would come to know Christ as his or her personal Savior and find a local church home where their faith can flourish.

Even in the midst of the serious challenges facing Russia, God is clearly at work in the country, transforming hearts and lives and spreading His Kingdom through the courageous witness of faithful national believers and the prayers and support of Christians around the world, just like you.

**Thank you for your special role in bringing victory in Christ to Russia during the 2018 World Cup!**







## OUR MISSION

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

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