

SPECIAL REPORT ON GIFT OF HOPE 2018-19



THANK YOU FOR HELPING US SHARE
THE PRICELESS **GIFT OF HOPE** IN JESUS
WITH **81,746** HURTING CHILDREN IN
EURASIA AT CHRISTMAS!

THANK YOU FOR SAYING YES TO HOPE THIS PAST CHRISTMAS!



According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ ... to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:3b-4

With your joyful prayers and support, you responded with a resounding YES to hope this past Christmas, making it possible for our School Without Walls (SWW) students and leaders, in partnership with hundreds of national churches, to deliver Gifts of Hope and Scripture to **81,746 children** in need in Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Belarus, Armenia, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

Every year, our Gift of Hope Christmas outreach shares the love of Jesus and gift boxes—filled with toys, treats, warm mittens or socks, and a specially designed Scripture piece—with the children most in need of hope. Since each gift box is filled with items purchased from local shops, Gift of Hope boosts economies in impoverished regions throughout Eurasia. This special outreach is one of the best opportunities available to impact suffering communities with the love of Jesus, and each Christmas season Gift of Hope unites national churches in Eurasia with international churches around the world as we share the Good News with as many hurting children and families as possible.

Your generous faith in action this past Christmas provided **105,910 copies of God's Word** to these children and their families. Each priceless piece of Scripture placed in the hands of a young

boy or girl, hungry for hope, presented the gospel message and will nurture him or her in faith for years to come.

Many of the young lives our leaders reached through Gift of Hope had never heard of Jesus or even held a Bible in their hands before, such as children living in the largely Muslim regions of Kyrgyzstan and Russia's North Caucasus or the remote, unreached territories of Arctic Siberia where superstition and paganism rule. And many others are growing up in unimaginably painful circumstances—such as refugee children displaced by the war in eastern Ukraine, orphans with special needs in Belarus, and children from the poorest villages of Moldova.

When children like this receive a special Christmas gift and beautiful Scripture piece that shares the story of God's incredible love for them in Jesus, they're receiving the greatest gift of all. **It's the kind of gift that changes lives forever.**

In this report, you will read unforgettable stories that show how the eternal hope of Jesus is overcoming despair in the hearts of thousands of Eurasia's children *because of your faithful support of Gift of Hope.*

Thank you for saying yes to hope at Christmas and helping us share the life-changing message of Jesus with 81,746 children throughout Eurasia!



YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK: GIFT OF HOPE 2018-19 IMPACT SUMMARY

Number of children reached through Gift of Hope:	81,746
Number of Scripture pieces distributed:	105,910
Number of volunteers, helpers, and participants (including our School Without Walls students and leaders):	5,029
Number of churches that participated in Gift of Hope:	491
Number of orphanages, shelters, and other institutions reached through Gift of Hope events:	596
Estimated number of people reached apart from the children (parents, family members, caregivers, orphanage workers):	124,070

SHARING THE GIFT OF HOPE IN JESUS WITH UNREACHED FAMILIES

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

For boys and girls growing up in spiritual darkness—such as the predominantly Muslim regions of Kyrgyzstan and Russia’s North Caucasus—Gift of Hope is one of the best opportunities we have to reach them and their families with the light of Jesus

and share God’s message of love and salvation through His Word.

Over Christmas, our Next Generation leaders traveled to villages throughout Russia’s turbulent, often violent, North Caucasus to share the hope of Jesus with thousands of Muslim children and families who had never heard the Good News. Thanks

to your support, entire families and villages in this challenging region are being transformed with the light of the gospel because of Gift of Hope:

Akhmetik’s Story: Two Hearts Touched by the Gospel in Chechnya

Akhmetik is eight years old and being raised by his mother Zarema after his father passed away. Recently, Akhmetik was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and needed urgent treatment. Our leaders have been helping care for him in partnership with the local church, and at Christmas, they brought a Gift of Hope and children’s Bible to Akhmetik and invited him and Zarema to the special Christmas service at church. They both attended the Christmas service, where their hearts were touched by the

gospel message, and they are now reading Scripture together and learning more about Jesus because of the love and care they experienced from our leaders.



A Miracle for a Young Family in the North Caucasus

Aishat and her husband have two young daughters. When our leaders visited them to deliver Gifts of Hope, Aishat shared that she was pregnant with her third daughter, and her husband was urging her to get an abortion because he wanted a son. Our leaders prayed and talked with her for a long time and shared Scripture with her before they left. A few weeks later, she called and asked them to visit again. This time, Aishat was a completely different person—filled with light and joy. She had been soaking up everything she read in God’s Word, and she shared that her husband had a complete change of heart, and he was no longer pressuring her for an abortion. Recently, she called our leaders again to let them know she had delivered her baby, and her husband had welcomed their new daughter with love. Only God could have brought about this miraculous change of heart!

Thank you for making it possible for our leaders to share the eternal gift of hope in Jesus with Muslim families throughout Russia’s North Caucasus and other unreached regions!



CARING FOR EURASIA'S FORGOTTEN CHILDREN THROUGH GIFT OF HOPE PARTNERSHIPS



Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18

Each Christmas season, our Next Generation leaders trained through School Without Walls (SWW) travel far and wide across Eurasia to bring the hope of Jesus and the love of Christian community to the children and families who have been abandoned, abused, or forgotten by the rest of society: orphans, children with disabilities, homeless youth, and families living in crushing poverty.

This year, a dedicated short-term mission team from Canada and the UK, sent by our faithful friends and ministry partners at ShareWord Global, visited Moldova to work alongside our national SWW students and leaders and share the Gift of Hope and Scripture with over 1,000 children in impoverished villages. Moldova is the poorest country in Europe and has soaring rates of human trafficking. Many of the children we work with in Moldova are at high risk of being trafficked due to poverty and broken families. For children who have been forgotten by the rest of the world, Gift of Hope delivers the incredible message of their Heavenly Father's love

for them and welcomes them into the care and hospitality of the local church community. Our national leaders look forward to building more strategic gospel partnerships with the international church in the future as we work together to share the hope Jesus with the poorest regions of Eurasia.

Thank you for helping us show God's love to Eurasia's forgotten children—because of the caring relationships built with our leaders and the church through Gift of Hope, these precious little ones will never be forgotten again!

“During those bitter cold winter days, there was one thing that warmed our hearts: the glowing eyes and happy faces of the children we met, who hugged their precious gifts and eagerly opened their hearts to the love of Jesus. On this mission trip people from all over the world—Canada, England, the United States, and Moldova—came together to share the joy of Christmas and the message of Jesus with the children of our hurting country. Our Gift of Hope outreach transcends cultural or language barriers and gives every child and family the priceless gifts of love, joy, and hope.”

—Igor Syrbu, Director of School Without Walls in Moldova



GIFTS OF HOPE FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN IN WAR-TORN EASTERN UKRAINE

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights. James 1:17

With no end in sight to the war in eastern Ukraine, thousands of refugees and families displaced by the conflict continue to suffer from the loss of homes, jobs, and livelihoods. Our School Without Walls (SWW) students and leaders have been working since the beginning of the conflict to share God's love and life-saving humanitarian aid with suffering people in this region.



One aspect of our holistic ministry in eastern Ukraine is Gift of Hope, which delivers special Christmas gift boxes—filled by national volunteers with toys, treats, and warm mittens or socks—along with Scripture, clothing, and nutritious food packs, to hurting children and families who cannot afford to put food on the table, much

less buy Christmas presents. This initiative, led by our national SWW students and leaders, provides vital support to the local economy because the items for the gift boxes are purchased from shops in the region.

In particular, the region of Zaporozhye has suffered greatly during the war. Two of our faithful supporters in Canada, Harry and Marlene Penner, have family roots in Zaporozhye, and last fall they gave a generous gift to our Gift of Hope outreach in Zaporozhye. The Penners' gift inspired many other donors with a special heart for the children of Zaporozhye to respond enthusiastically in support, including Gary and Marion Jenkins from Juneau, Alaska, as well as many new supporters who attended a banquet we held in Hillsboro, Kansas in partnership with MB Foundation (Jon Wiebe, President) and Michael Cherenkov, the Executive Director of Mission Eurasia Field Ministries. This compassionate support for the people of eastern Ukraine from the Penners, the

Jenkins, and our friends in Hillsboro multiplied the efforts of our national leaders and contributed toward a total of 7,000 Gifts of Hope and 12,000 copies of God's Word distributed in Zaporozhye and neighboring regions over Christmas.

Thank you to the Penners, the Jenkins, MB Foundation, the Cherenkov family, our friends in Hillsboro, and all our faithful supporters who gave so generously to share God's love and the Gift of Hope with refugee children and families in eastern Ukraine!

New Hope for A Refugee Family

Yulia and Danil live in Zaporozhye, where their family was forced to relocate after being displaced by the war. Even though they lived in poverty, they were a loving and close-knit family. However, after Yulia and Danil's sister died in a tragic accident, the family fell apart. Their father abandoned them, and their mother turned to alcohol to drown her pain. As a result, Yulia and Danil were severely neglected, and many days they were forced to beg for food on the streets.

When our SWW students found out about this family's tragic circumstances, they immediately visited to deliver Gifts of Hope, food packs, and warm clothing. They also talked and prayed with the children's mother, and encouraged her to seek help. Since then, Yulia and Danil have gone to church almost every day to see our SWW students, and the church—a new congregation planted through our SWW church-planting initiative—has been making sure the children always have enough food. We can already tell that the message of Jesus has provided hope and healing to Yulia and Danil in the midst of tragedy. And due to the kindness of our leaders, Yulia and Danil's mother has also been coming to church and seeking help for her drinking. We pray God continues to be at work in their hearts through the loving witness of our leaders and the local church!



THANK YOU FOR SHARING THE GIFT OF HOPE WITH GOD'S PRECIOUS CHILDREN!



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Thank you for your life-changing investment in Gift of Hope, which shared the Greatest Gift of All—the gospel of Jesus Christ—with **81,746** children throughout Eurasia and provided **105,910** copies of Scripture. God used your faithful prayers, joyful generosity, and gospel partnership this past Christmas to richly bless so many of His precious children and bring them to faith in Jesus. Thank you for saying YES to hope!

Words of Gratitude for Your Generosity:

"Thank you for coming to our hospital! No one from outside our village ever visits us. If you hadn't visited, these children would never have heard about Christ. We believe that the amazing story of Jesus' birth at Christmas will give hope to our children!" —Elina, head doctor at a children's tuberculosis hospital in Russia's North Caucasus

"I had never heard the story of Jesus before, and along with my gift, the Christians gave me a Bible. I love to read, so tonight I will ask my mom



and brothers to read the Bible with me. The gift I received is very beautiful, and there were a lot of delicious things in it. I would like the Christians to visit us for every holiday. Thank you!" —Nikita, 10 years old, from Mirnoye, Ukraine

"During the years of violence in Chechnya, many children here died tragic deaths, and they never found joy, only the horrors of war. But today, thanks to your work among our children, they are finding hope, joy, peace, and faith in Jesus. May the Almighty God bless you to do even more good works!" —Adam, a local government official in Chechnya, Russia

"Parents have been calling and thanking us all day for this special Christmas outreach your School Without Walls leaders conducted. They appreciate that you were so kind to their children with disabilities ... Thank you for the joy you brought these families. We are grateful to work with you!" —Tatyana, the director of a ministry for children with disabilities in Belarus



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