



“... and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

— 2 Timothy 2:2, ESV

SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS: Preparing Young Leaders Today for Gospel Ministry Tomorrow

Dear Friends,

The words above were written by the Apostle Paul while he was in prison near the end of his life. He knew that younger believers, like Timothy, would need to carry the gospel forward after he was gone.

At Mission Eurasia, we have a similar long-term vision. We know we must empower younger believers to continue the work of Christ into the future. This is the impetus behind our School Without Walls (SWW) program.

Through SWW, today’s Christian leaders are receiving vital mentorship, biblical knowledge, ministry skills, and much more for gospel ministry tomorrow. And they’re venturing into a dangerous world where war and persecution are ever-present realities.

Since its inception in 2004, School Without Walls has trained more than 20,000 Christian leaders. They are now bringing the message of hope to 13 countries in Eurasia as well as Israel.

These brave Christians are succeeding by being *flexible*, *adaptable*, and *innovative* in their approach, while holding fast to the truths of the Bible. In this newsletter, you’ll get a glimpse of their amazing work in three major regions of Eurasia: Europe, Central Asia, and Israel. I believe you’ll join me in praising God for their commitment and faithfulness.

Recently, their work in Poland has expanded dramatically in response to the flood of refugees from the war in Ukraine. This is typical of the commitment these young leaders have shown — going wherever the need is greatest and serving tirelessly.

Along with sharing the gospel, they demonstrate God’s love by meeting practical needs: ministering to orphans and refugees, distributing humanitarian aid, planting churches, and leading evangelistic outreaches.

This ministry is only possible because of the support we receive from faithful partners like you. **With all my heart, I thank you for your generosity.** And I humbly ask you to continue your help today.

The new SWW school year is about to begin in September, so your gift now will be especially timely. Every dollar you give will enable us to continue training today’s leaders for tomorrow so that they can continue reaching desperate people with the gospel.



In the Name of Jesus,

Dr. Gordon Balfour,
Executive Director of Mission Eurasia Canada

EUROPE

The war in Ukraine has shattered countless lives, destroying much of the country's infrastructure, and sending a deluge of refugees to neighboring regions. In response, School Without Walls (SWW) has dramatically expanded our assistance and relief efforts in the region.

Our **iCare Refugee Assistance Program** was already going strong in 2022 when Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In response to that catastrophe, SWW leaders have launched a network of refugee assistance centers in **western Ukraine, Moldova, and Poland**.

During the past two years, SWW teams have been actively evacuating people from the combat zones and helping them find housing — while providing them with food, medicine, clothing, and other necessities.

SWW leaders also offer trauma counseling for refugee children and families. Most importantly, they share the Good News with them, printing and distributing Bibles and other Christian literature.

The need for help has increased dramatically in Poland, where more than **2.51 million Ukrainian refugees** have arrived just since the beginning of 2024. In a single day — March 6 — more than **142,000 refugees** crossed the border¹. SWW has responded by opening two refugee assistance centers in Poland and one in Moldova.

In addition, nine regional food packing/humanitarian aid distribution centers and seven local food distribution hubs were opened in Ukraine.

In the first two years of war (2022-2024), SWW workers have distributed **more than 3,000 tons of clothing and 275,500 family food packages containing more than 3,000 tons of food** to refugees in Poland, Moldova, and western Ukraine.

Caring for the Most Vulnerable War Victims

One of SWW's most important initiatives in this war-torn region is our **ministry to orphans and war widows**. Countless Ukrainian men have been killed in the ongoing conflict, leaving their widows and children to fend for themselves.

Newly widowed moms, ripped from their homes and livelihoods, face the unbearable burden of providing food, clothing, and shelter for their vulnerable children. While still emotionally devastated from the loss of their loved ones, they must now struggle just to survive.

¹<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1293564/ukrainian-refugees-in-poland/>



SWW is responding with a wide-ranging program of support that includes:

- Psychological and emotional care
- Pastoral and spiritual care
- Food assistance
- Children's activities
- Medical consultations
- Legal assistance

Through your generous help, the widows and orphans of the Ukraine war are receiving practical, compassionate aid.

Amid horror and grief, they are discovering that there is still a God who loves them.



CENTRAL ASIA

The countries of Central Asia are largely Muslim, and Christians are often cruelly persecuted there. But our School Without Walls (SWW) leaders are standing strong in this hostile environment, demonstrating God's love and sharing the Good News of Christ.

This year, some 448 SWW students have received training and are carrying out gospel-centered ministries in the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Their activities include:

- Summer Bible camps for children and youth
- Church-planting
- Scripture distribution
- Small group Bible studies
- Relief ministry for widows, the disabled, the elderly, and poor families
- Prayer ministry

Building God's Kingdom in a Hostile Region

When **Michgona** became a believer in Jesus Christ, her family threw her out of the house. But they couldn't deny the transformation that had happened to her. They were amazed at what a wonderful, loving daughter she had become. Eventually, they welcomed her back into the family.

ISRAEL

The Hamas attack on Israel in October 2023 sparked a war that has captured the world's attention. But the devastation that lingers in Israel has largely been overlooked. School Without Walls is there, training and mobilizing new leaders to meet the profound needs of this beleaguered country.

Israel is home to many Russian-speaking people who fled from the former Soviet Union. They still face poverty, hardship, and, now, disruption of their lives because of the ongoing war.

SWW is reaching them with essential food, water, clothing, shelter — and the love of Jesus. Our teams are working with Congregation Living Israel, the largest Russian-speaking evangelical church network in the country, to provide devastated families with help and hope.

Michgona is showing God's love to the people of Tajikistan through her sewing ministry.



In Muslim-dominant **Tajikistan**, it's common for believers to experience rejection and persecution from their families. Churches are routinely harassed by the government. It's often considered illegal for Christians to hold private prayer meetings or even possess Christian literature².

In this hostile atmosphere, School Without Walls is thriving despite fierce opposition.

Michgona became an SWW student and soon began applying her faith in practical ways. She is proficient in sewing and uses her skill to connect with people and share the gospel. By blessing others, she is overcoming the negative perceptions that many Tajiks have of Christians.

Now, Michgona is married to Ismat, a Christian man who is the SWW coordinator in south Tajikistan. They are opening a new church in their area. She asks for prayer — for God's protection and for the success of their ministry so she can bless even more people.

²<https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/persecution/countries/tajikistan/>

Thanks to generous partners like you, our teams have distributed:

- 6,500 food packs
- 3,000 water bottles
- 5,500 hygiene kits
- 4,000 packs of baby food
- 4,500 sets of clothing
- 1,500 packs of medicine

SWW has also prepared bomb shelters in Rishon Le Zion and Haifa, and helped to move hundreds of people to these places of refuge and shelter. Altogether, since the beginning of the Israeli-Hamas war, we have assisted and shared the gospel with more than **6,500 individuals in 3,000 families**.

“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.”

— Matthew 28:19

FIRSTHAND REPORTS FROM THE GROUND IN ISRAEL

Benjamin is Mission Eurasia’s SWW national leader in Israel and a key leader with Congregation Living Israel. Here is his on-the-scene report:

“There are now tens of thousands of people in Israel who are suffering from war. Because of your generosity, we are at the very epicenter of this tragedy, bringing direct physical and spiritual help to them. We are also organizing events where people come, share their burdens, and find the refuge that only God can provide. We introduce them to Yeshua and share God’s love with them in word and deed. We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed to this ministry! Because of you, God is meeting needs and changing lives for eternity.”

Hanna, an SWW student in Haifa, Israel, shares her personal experience:

“During my SWW training, I heard many times about the need to care for others, love my neighbor, and help those in need. I often thought about how I could best put those biblical mandates into practice. But when terrorists attacked our country last October, and many people suffered as a result, I realized that my SWW training had prepared me well to serve those in greatest need, including people who suddenly left their homes and jobs and have no means of support. It has been a joy to share God’s love in practical and meaningful ways with these people during the last nine months because of the training I received. I would like to thank everyone who has supported this ministry and who has allowed me to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus to my fellow countrymen.”

HOW CAN I HELP?

PRAY

Our School Without Walls leaders are taking the gospel into places that are engulfed in spiritual darkness. They need our prayers as they bring the light of God’s love to desperate people.

- Please pray that God will protect them, guide them, and bless their efforts with success.
- Visit missioneurasia.ca/resources to obtain a copy of our **15-Month Prayer Guide for the Nations of Eurasia**.

You can also join our **weekly prayer initiative** at missioneurasia.ca/prayer-requests.

- Sign up to receive regular updates about current prayer needs at missioneurasia.ca/enews-sign-up.

SUPPORT SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS

Your support now can ensure that School Without Walls continues reaching the people of Eurasia and beyond with the gospel. **A gift of just \$600 CAD can train and equip one ministry leader for an entire year.**

JOIN KINGDOM BUILDERS

Kingdom Builders is our special group of partners who commit to giving monthly to fund essential ministry opportunities. Their consistent support allows us to plan for critical outreach training year-round. Find out more at missioneurasia.ca/monthly-giving-program.

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 national and Western Christians.

