



A PIVOTING EXPERIENCE: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

READ Ministries never anticipated what 2022 would bring in the way of our ministry making a pivot from providing theological resources to responding immediately to war-time needs for our partners. We give thanks for the tremendous finish to 2021. Among the unexpected gifts we received, one essential donation was from a long-time regular donor couple, who left a significant legacy gift to READ Ministries in their estate planning. Thus, God has allowed us to be in a solid position financially to respond to the significant and ongoing humanitarian needs in Ukraine. So, we pause to thank Him and acknowledge the truth of Psalm 5:12, experienced this past year: *"For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield."* Praise God for preparing us for such a time as this.

A FIRST FOR READ MINISTRIES

United Theological Seminary (UTS), located in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, is one of READ's newest ministry partnerships. When Emil Osmonaliev, Director of UTS, requested collaboration and funding to publish *Basic Theology* by the late Dr. Charles Ryrie, little did he know that Bill Arvan and Charles Ryrie had a student/professor/friend connection when Bill was attending Dallas Theological Seminary decades before. Little did Bill know then that this connection would play a part in God's plan decades later. This first development of indigenous language theological resources is now complete. Currently, Almaty Bible Institute in Kazakhstan is in the process of translating this book into the Kazakh language. This initiative is important and has a critical role in establishing the Church in Central Asia. *Praise God for bringing to READ these new opportunities to continue to fuel faith in Eurasia!*

FIRST VISIT TO EURASIA IN TWO YEARS

In Summary:

- For over 22 days in Oct/Nov of 2021, a team of READ's leadership ministered in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan.
- It was thrilling to meet with our ministry partners from Bishkek and Almaty and hear and feel their commitment to the indigenous translations.
- The vision of Kremenchuk Evangelical Seminary (KES) to take theological education to students by establishing training locations in four strategic areas is a plan that READ can continue to embrace. KES and READ can leverage their historic partnership (of over 20 years) to provide the needed training and the required tools for equipping believers for their roles in growing and establishing the Church.
- By the end of this trip, it was clear that Executive Director Steve Eckert had fully internalized and taken ownership of the vision and mission of READ Ministries. Steve's passion for articulating READ's ministry was evident at events while in the field. By the grace of God, the baton was passed successfully!



THE PIVOT FROM THEOLOGICAL FAMINE TO WAR-TIME RELIEF

READ Legacy Partners:

Refugees Helping Refugees



Lucya Ovcharenko, with sons David and Sasha say goodbye to Ivan Ovcharenko, **Rector of KES**, at the Moldova border. Ivan stayed in Ukraine to coordinate refugee assistance at KES. The family is now in Poland with many other refugees.



KES and Spring of Life Church refugees hold their first Lord's Supper service in Turek, Poland. Part of adjusting to life as a refugee involves serving in refugee centers. Food, gifts and the Gospel are shared with all. *The Easter Sparrows* and other Gospel message books were given to families on Easter.



At **God's Design Church**, Kyiv, Pastor Oleg shares the Gospel to a receptive crowd as they wait to enter for food and necessities that are prepared daily.

God's Design Church has been serving the people displaced by war 24/7 with food and clothes, and delivering food and medicines to the homebound. They have a full house every Sunday during worship. Many are accepting Christ. On Easter, they began renting a larger space due to twice the number in attendance.



THERE IS SUFFERING, GRIEF, AND HOPELESSNESS - BUT THE STORIES FROM OUR PARTNERS AND FRIENDS SHOW THAT GOD IS USING HIS PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH TO DO INCREDIBLE THINGS DESPITE THE EVIL. WE CAN REJOICE THAT GOD IS AT WORK IN MANY HEARTS, REVEALING HIMSELF AND HIS GREAT LOVE.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING AND PRAYING. THOSE WHO RECEIVE HELP ARE EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE THROUGH YOUR GIFTS AS OUR PARTNERS TRANSPORT, FEED, HOUSE, AND COMFORT OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.

RIVNE REGIONAL BIBLE COLLEGE



CHERKASSY BAPTIST UNION



CHURCH OF CHRIST THE SAVIOR, DNIPO



ZAPORIZHZHYA BIBLE SEMINARY



RECIPIENTS OF READS

UKRAINE RELIEF FUND

"Many people at this time were able to receive various assistance- food and spiritual. People are confused, and we talk to them about God and eternity - gives them the opportunity to see the way God is paving in His love."
Spoken by a refugee serving refugees.

- Cherkassy Baptist Union (ECB)
- Church of Christ the Savior, Dnipro
- Evangelical Baptist Church, Yarmolyntsi, Khmelnytsky
- God's Design Church, Kyiv
- Evangelical Baptist Church, Khorol, Poltava
- Khmelnytsky Baptist Union (ECB)
- Kremenchuk Evangelical Seminary
- Kremenchuk Area Refugees in Turek, Poland
- Rivne Baptist Union (ECB)
- SMIRNA Publishing, Cherkasy
- Tavriski Christian Institute
- Zaporizhzhya Bible Seminary

WHEN WILL READ RETURN TO THEOLOGICAL BOOK DISTRIBUTION?

THE PIVOT
BACK

With That Question Looming, GOD OPENED A DOOR!

On April 6, SMIRNA Publishing House in Cherkasy, Ukraine, notified READ of 1140 copies of *The Easter Sparrows* they had in storage [providing Easter books to children is a project near and dear to our hearts]. After determining these books would be a blessing to families with children who now live as exiles in Central Poland, READ worked diligently with God's help to get these books to Poland in time for Easter celebrations. Hallelujah!

Help & Healing From the Traumas of War

Included in this distribution were 600 other books on the topics of pastoral counseling on the psychological traumas of war, evangelizing books, and children's scriptural coloring books. At a Ukrainian pastors meeting held in Warsaw on April 19, thirty of these pastors said they would be grateful to have topics such as these for their churches and the work with refugees - Christian and non-Christian. *Note: there are 400,000 refugees in Warsaw alone!

More Books Needed

There are an estimated 3 million refugees in Poland. Ukrainian churches and schools are being formed. More Christian literature will be needed. This offers the opportunity to partner with Ukrainian churches in Poland for book distribution. Sadly, it is impossible to use SMIRNA Publishing as our resource for printing books as their paper source in Kyiv was bombed. Thankfully, they are open to cooperating with READ to find a reputable publisher in Poland to print books using files supplied by SMIRNA! This is good news. By the grace of God, READ can bring help and healing to those whom the war in Ukraine has victimized.

Travel to Poland

We will take a fact-finding trip to Poland to learn how READ can help with continued humanitarian aid and Christian literature for counseling and outreach, such as VBS. Bill Arvan, Steve Eckert, and Dave Melin will be in Poland from May 25-June 6. Todd and Sarah Magnuson will join them on June 1. The initial itinerary is: Arrive in Warsaw on May 26 to attend a Ukrainian pastors meeting with 30 pastors and ministry leaders; May 28-June 1 to visit with and encourage KES families in Turek; June 1-3 in Krakow with SEND International and Mission Eurasia representatives to focus on a working relationship for book distribution efforts in Poland; June 4 & 5 in Warsaw for Sunday worship, returning home on June 6.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS.
WE ARE HUMBLLED BY YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT



READ MINISTRIES

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EQUIPPING THE EURASIAN CHURCH FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY ... *Fueling Faith in Eurasia*

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