**SINCE 1975** 

# Mission Outreach

### **MONTHLY REPORT**

nzmo.org

### **MAY 2022**

## **Love Without Borders**

As war rages in Europe, something extraordinary is happening in Ukraine and Russia – an amazing and heart warming display of unity and love between believers whose countries are at war with one another - love that knows no borders!

Many Christians in Russia are praying for their brothers and sisters in Ukraine, who are also on their knees praying for their fellow believers in Russia!

Russian pastors in Ukraine and Ukrainian pastors in Russia continue to

meet together and pray on both sides of the border. Many churches and families in both countries are interconnected. It is a picture of God's Kingdom operating in man's broken world.

Instead of local churches hastily retreating amongst the war machines and artillery shells, they are courageously entering the very heart of the crisis to help uprooted and traumatized families, refugees and children.

These faithful followers of Christ know how to endure intense suffering with joy and thanksgiving because their years under communism taught them to embrace



severe hardship as divine providence. Their faith has been tested by fire in more ways than we can imagine.

Their passion for the Gospel and unrelenting love and concern for others have lead them into the war

zone armed with nothing but Christ's compassion. As rockets explode near orphanages and children's home, thousands of abandoned and traumatized children are being comforted by these faithful followers of our Lord Jesus.

This fearless love is on display right in the midst of the Ukraine-Russia crisis. It's a love that breaks through spiritual borders and reaches into the very heart of those who are being ministered to.

It challenges us to be thankful for all that we have and to give of ourselves without holding back and to love without borders!

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### Life-giving Word

### Just a few months ago, Shirin, a single mother in Iran, started reading the New Testament.

Inside the front cover of the New Testament was a written a phone number to call, should the reader want to know more. Shirin had many questions so she sent a message to the number and waited.

Zahra replied to Shirin's message and began explaining who Jesus is. They communicated for a few weeks and Shirin put her faith in Jesus. She then made an unexpected confession: she had found her copy of the New Testament in a stolen handbag.

"I am a handbag thief," Shirin explained. "I used to steal eight handbags each day. But in the past two weeks, since I've been learning about Jesus, I can't steal bags anymore! I've stolen one bag recently and I feel so bad about it."

Zahra has since helped Shirin find work so she can look after her three children without stealing. Shirin has begun a discipleship journey and is connected to a house fellowship.

Shirin's remarkable story reminds us that God is powerfully at work, convicting hearts and drawing people to Himself, through His Word.

### **Healing & Redemption**

Carlos's guilt weighed on him. The shame he felt over his crime held him back. In prison, he was invited to participate in Prison Fellowship Chile's Sycamore Tree Program, which helps offenders understand the harm caused by crime and pave a way to healing and redemption.

But Carlos believed he was irreparably broken and was afraid to join the program.

Many prisoners believe they are beyond redemption. And many justice systems perpetuate this belief. Prison Fellowship International believes no one is beyond redemption and is creating programs that prove it.

"As time passed, I saw how my peers who participated in the course were changing. They began to live more joyfully and that caught my attention," says Carlos. One day, Carlos asked a fellow inmate what they talked about in class. The answer surprised him.

"What happens in class stays in class," the inmate said. "That was exactly what I needed to hear," says Carlos. "I needed to know that no one else—outside those in the course—would know about my problems.... I could trust [them] when talking about my crime."

Carlos decided to join the eight-week course where he learned about personal responsibility for his crime, how

### Afshin and Saloumeh lived in a committed yet troubled marriage.

When Afshin was given a Persian New Testament, he was surprised to find himself intrigued as he read the Christian Scriptures, since he had grown up with dreams of becoming a mullah. He reached out to some believers, and as they talked his questions were answered. It wasn't long before he decided to follow Jesus.

As Afshin began his discipleship journey, he was excited to share the Good News with others - including his wife. When Saloumeh also surrendered her heart to the Lord, she couldn't stop crying. She explained that God's love was like no other love she had ever experienced.

For Afshin and Saloumeh, finding Jesus brought the experience of love, healing and purpose. Their relationship has also been healed and restored as they have walked in Christ.

Thousands of New Testaments have already been given out across the Iran region by courageous Christians. We have the exciting opportunity to help supply more New Testaments to the people of Iran as part of Pearl 22.

to make amends with those he hurt, and how to forgive himself and heal. Carlos began to transform from the inside out. "The Sycamore Tree Project changed my life and spirit!" says Carlos. "This course has helped heal my heart by removing a great weight that I carried inside. That's the most beautiful thing of all."

Change doesn't stop in prisons. Prisoners can be a powerful force for good. Today, nearly 19,000 prisoners and victims are repairing the harm caused by crime through the Sycamore Tree Project. As their hearts are transformed through Jesus' love, they rebuild connections with their families, communities, and God. They spread radical love, acceptance, and transformation throughout some of the darkest, most broken corners of the world, healing some of the most wounded and broken people, just like Carlos.

### (Excerpt from 'No Shame for Carlos'. Used with permission from Prison Fellowship International)

Prison Fellowship International (PFI) is a fruitful ministry to those in prisons which offer prisoners hope, repair broken lives, protect children and ignite change and are life transforming. The prison programs called Prison Journey and Sycamore Tree Program are enriched by the supply of Journey Bibles to the prisoners. Partner with MO in Pearl 22 to support the supply of Bibles to grow and encourage these new souls in Cambodia.

"For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart." - Hebrews 4:12 (AMP)



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### **PROJECTS IN FOCUS**

#### **CURRENT PROJECTS**

#### <u>PEARL 22:</u>

How do you fund one million bibles? One bible at a time! Please join us on this epic journey to help build God's church in Asia and beyond.

#### Uganda Bibles

The need for Bibles in Uganda is greater than ever to bring encouragement, give instruction, direction and transformation for individuals, couples, families and communities. What an honour to be able to meet this need. Price per bible is currently \$15. **Pearl22 Project Goal: 50,000** 

### Chinese Bibles

Project Pearl in 1981 was significant for Eddie and the many others who helped with this epic delivery of Chinese bibles. As the need for these has not diminished, we believe bibles for China are as important now as they were then. The price per bible is \$4.50.

#### Pearl22 Project Goal: 100,000

#### **Telugu Bibles for India**

We have several contacts for India who all have a need for bibles in the churches they work with. The church in this nation is growing rapidly, as fear and persecution have opened the door for the Lord's people to reach out and share the gospel of Jesus. The cost per bible is \$5.30. **Pearl22 Project Goal: 50,000** 

#### **New Testaments for Bhutan**

We are excited to have two contacts who are able to help provide New Testaments to the Bhutanese church. The approx. cost is \$6.00 each. **Pearl22 Project Goal: 600** 

#### New Testaments with Q&A for Nepal

As part of our Pearl 22 One Million bibles, MO has committed to help supply 10,000 Nepali New Testaments with Psalms, Proverbs with approximately 240 Questions & Answers. These are common questions and biblical answers with references. This is extremely valuable for the young people and those who have converted from Hinduism. Cost per New Testament is \$3.80 **Pearl22 Project Goal: 10,000** 

#### **Bibles for Pakistan & Afghanistan**

We are excited to have another contact to distribute bibles into Pakistan and Afghanistan who are able to purchase them for \$5.30 each. **Pearl22 Project Goal: 10,000** 

#### Journey Bibles for Cambodia (NEW)

PFI operate two programs - Prison Journey and Sycamore Tree which help new believers journey to liberty and a life with Christ. A Journey Bible is critical to their spiritual growth. Cost per bible to be advised.

#### Pearl22 Project Goal: 3,000

#### **Ukrainian New Testaments (NEW)**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has forced 6.48 million people to flee the country. In cooperation with VoM we wish to help feed these hungry souls with New Testaments. Cost of these is \$4.80 each. **Pearl22 Project Goal: 10,000** 

#### Iranian Bibles (NEW)

We are excited to be working with a new partner to help with the provision of Iranian bibles. Cost per bible is \$7.60 **Pearl22 Project Goal: 5,000** 

#### **RESPONSE COUPON**

#### **MAY 2022**

Name:		Pakistan/Afghanistan Bibles (PKAFPRL22) Bhutan New Testaments (BHTPRL22) Cambodian Journey Bibles (CAMPRL22) Ukrainian Bibles (UKPRL22)	\$ \$ \$ \$
Email:		Bibles for Iran (IRNPRL22) Pearl 22 Where Most Needed (WMNPRL22)	\$
Pearl 22: Chinese Bibles (CHPRL22)	\$	Nepal CMTC Bible College (NPBC)	\$ \$
Uganda Bibles (UGPRL22) Nepal NT with Q&A (NPNTPRL22) Telugu Bibles, India (INDPRL22)	\$ \$ \$	Tibetan Leaders Support (TIBLDRAH) China Pastors (CHPSTR) Where Most Needed: (WMN)	\$ \$ \$

Payments can be made from our website at: nzmo.org or via online banking to our BNZ bank Account number: 02 0466 0034018 00. Please specify your preferred project or funds will be allocated to 'Where Most Needed'.



### PRAYER CALENDAR

#### PEARL 22

1 Praise God for contacts in Poland, Iran, India, Bhutan, China, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uganda and Nepal. Praise God for His continued leading in this epic project. Pray for every "soldier" (believer) to have a "sword" (Bible) and use it for great victory.

#### PERSECUTED CHURCH

2 Praise God that He faithfully helps His people, even as they walk through waters and fire. (Isa.43) Pray for their encouragement, that the Word would be quickened to them and that their souls would know freedom even in their darkest moments.

**3** Pray for spiritual maturity and the thriving of believers, for grace and faith for every situation, that they would not be captive to doubt and fear, but be overcomers. Praise the Lord that he is our Song, Victory, and the Breaker of Chains.

**4** For countries where Bibles are forbidden to be printed or imported, pray that God would make a way for His people. Pray for divine strategies and covering on those involved in Bible distribution.

#### UKRAINE/RUSSIA WAR

**5** Praise God for the church of Ukraine who is risking their lives to help the abandoned. Praise God for the church in Russia who is joining in prayer with fellow believers in Ukraine, and for pastors from both countries meeting to pray together. Declare the blessing of God on these nations and on the aid endeavours because of unity.

**6** Pray that those involved would not give in to intimidation and fear, but stand in courage and faith for truth and righteousness. Also break the power of the religious spirit, that the Spirit of life and peace would reign.

7 & 8 Praise God for missionaries who are rescuing people trapped in Ukraine. Pray these missions are covered and effective, and pray for the families for their healing, restoration and peace. Pray that those missionaries who are captured will be released without harm.

**9** Pray for wisdom and discernment of mothers fleeing with children to guard against human traffickers at Ukraine borders posing as pastors seeking to abduct children. Pray that this deception would be exposed.

**10** Pray for those experiencing trauma, that they would be healed to the core, and receive 100 times what was lost.

**11** Pray for miraculous protection of the Ukrainian men who have stayed to fight, so that families can be reunited.

#### UGANDA

**12** Praise God that pastoral training schools are full. Declare these with spiritual hunger would be filled like a sail and moved in the power of the Spirit with Father's heart for his people.

**13** Pray for Marty and family as they minister the heart of God, that their health, equipment and travels would be covered under the Blood of Jesus. Pray for an increase of anointing on them.

**14 & 15** Pray for grace and wisdom to carry Pastor John and Ruth as they minister in so many ways. Pray for Ruth, 43, for healing and wholeness to replace diabetes brought on by stress. Pray for more believers to join their team.

**16** With so many people needing tumours removed, pray for surgeons to be available, and that every surgery is successful with no further problems. Declare wholeness over the nation.

#### AFGHANISTAN

**17** Praise God that in the midst of food shortages and many dangers, the Holy Spirit is moving powerfully in revealing Jesus, and meeting needs. Declare God is greater in this nation than any trouble.

**18** Pray for Christian women to shine as they stand for righteousness and truth. Pray for the spirit of Esther to rest on them, that they would rise up in courage, confidence, dignity and influence.

**19** Declare God be glorified despite Taliban oppression. Declare abundant life and freedom over families. Pray for revival.

#### IRAN

**20** Pray for the safe supply of 20,000 New Testaments. Pray for a powerful and significant impact of the Word on this nation to fuel the fires of revival there.

#### **INDIA**

**21 & 22** Radical Hindu nationalist are seeking to reconvert Christians back to Hinduism, threatening to remove government assistance and benefits if they refuse. Pray for Christians to stand

strong in their faith knowing God will provide.

#### **NEPAL**

**23** Praise God for new believers in East Nepal who have recently been baptised. Pray for their continued discipleship and strengthening of their faith, and that they too would win many more to Christ.

24 Praise God for 30 women recently joining hundreds more who have graduated the Deborah Women of Purpose Bible course, which also includes sewing and pattern drafting training. Pray for the spirit of Esther over them to obey what God is calling them to and make history for the Kingdom. Pray for the two Deborah Schools to always be at full capacity both in numbers and in the fruitfulness of women reaching their potential in the Lord.

**25** Praise God for new Bible School students in East Nepal. Declare the transforming and igniting power of the Word over their lives, and that many will be drawn to the Spirit in them.

**26** Praise God for the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> medical clinics opening up this year to serve and minister the gospel of love to people. Pray for all needs to be met in the process, so that nothing would hinder the work of the Kingdom.

**27** Pray for the doors to open to be able to send a team to Nepal to support Samuel in the training of pastors. Pray for blessing and miraculous provision on travel arrangements.

#### MYANMAR

**28 & 29** Pray that many in the army would see the countenance of Christians and turn to Jesus. Break off witchcraft, deception and all hindrances to the gospel in the military leaders, so that they can receive the light of the truth in Jesus.

**30** Pray that in the midst of homes and churches being destroyed that the Christian community would be strengthened in their love for one another, and that this would shine as a witness.

<u>NZ</u>

**31** Pray for Lifetalk radio to receive all they need regarding antenna and technical needs so that they can reach further and wider with the gospel to the Hindi speaking people. Praise God for the right connections.



<u>Weekly Prayer Meeting:</u> Join us on Monday nights to pray for the nations at 'The Sanctuary' 159 Durham St, Tauranga at 7:30pm or via ZOOM. Email: <u>alan@nzmo.org</u> for an invite. <u>Legacy Giving:</u>

A bequest to Mission Outreach in your will is a way to leave a lasting impact of eternal value - contact <u>wendy@nzmo.org</u> for more information.

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