HISTORY OF OM EAST/GE

EURASIA SUPPORT TEAM (OM EAST), PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS GREATER EUROPE (GE)

BRINGING HOPE TO THE LEAST REACHED

1968

VISION LAUNCHED

1968 vision launched to smuggle Bibles and Christian literature into Communist Europe and the Soviet Union. Dale Rhoton starts Greater Europe (GE).

OM co-founder, Dale Rhoton, meets **Pastor Richard Wurmbrand** in Communist Romania, shortly after the pastor's release from prison in 1964. Wurmbrand's testimony and **believers' desire to receive Scripture** even at **great cost**, spurs Rhoton to mobilise a team to take resources behind the **Iron Curtain.**

1968 – 1989 BIBLE SMUGGLING

70s - 80s

CREATIVE WAYS TO SMUGGLE BIBLES

With God's help there is no risk too great, no idea too crazy…

Concealing Bibles and Christian publications in altered vehicles containing secret compartments, and driving across borders into the Eastern Bloc.

Sending Gospels by air via weather balloons, released from OM's ship, Logos, aiming for the shores of Communist Albania.

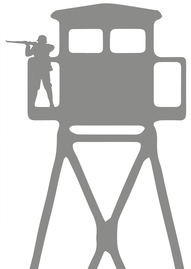
Sealing Gospels in bags and floating them down river from Greece and Yugoslavia into Albania.

1983-1989 Delivering hundreds of thousands of publications by stowing them inside prefabricated wooden huts transported from Finland to Greece, dropping off the hidden load in Communist Romania.

For some OM team members, being caught carrying books considered as "dangerous goods" results in confiscated vehicles, deportation, blacklisting or temporary imprisonment.

OM workers witness miracle after miracle as they succeed in transporting Christian literature into Communist Europe and the Soviet Union.

Early 1980s GE begins in-house publishing to strengthen local believers and help them share their faith.



FALL OF THE IRON CURTAIN

1989

90s - to date

CREATIVE WAYS TO PRESENT GOD'S TRUTH

Making the most of **new freedom and new opportunities**, OM outreach teams intensify distribution efforts. GE expands and develops publishing ministry, working with local partners.

2007 GE becomes **OM EurAsia Support Team (OM EAST)**, producing resources in the heart languages of people groups throughout Eurasia.

With God's help there is…No place too hard, no people too far, no language too difficult…

The hope of Christ is brought into segregated Roma villages in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. First Scripture portions are made available in minority Roma dialects.

Publishing leaflets and booklets written and designed specifically for those trapped in prostitution in Central Europe.

Schoolbags for Bosnia initiative begins in 2005, equipping the church to respond to physical needs in Muslim villages, often enclosing evangelistic literature addressed to the parents.

Bible storybooks reach indigenous groups in Siberia, such as the Nenets living on the Yamal Peninsula, Siberia – "Yamal" means "The end of the earth".

Developing digital media, including downloadable eBooks, to distribute more widely.

Producing comics in Arabic and Farsi, which communicate the gospel message among refugees arriving in Europe.

In addition to sending literature, OM teams transport large quantities of humanitarian aid.

2018

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

"As literature and media has gone out over the past 50 years, a lot of seeds have been sown. This milestone represents the Lord's faithfulness, which continues into the next 50 years – one day we will see a great multitude standing before the throne of God!" – Edwin, OM EAST Field Leader

OM EAST continues to experience that with God's help, there is **no place too hard, no people too far and no language too difficult**; we believe the **gospel** has the **power** to **change everyone and everything**. As individuals meet Jesus at their point of need, **lives are changed** and communities **transformed**.

1985 – 2018 LITERATURE AND MEDIA

1,026	40+	257	6.4M+	55,000	3
DIFFERENT PUBLICATIONS	LANGUAGES	eBOOKS	PRINTED COPIES	DVDS	WEBSITES
This equates to one publication completed every 8 working days since 1985					3 webpages promoting downloadable eBooks for specific people groups

east.om.org