



OM EAST

Literature and Media

2017 Ministry Review

Bringing hope to the least reached

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OM EAST

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LITERATURE AND MEDIA

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*Name changed

42
DIFFERENT
PUBLICATIONS

19
LANGUAGES

THOUSANDS of
people and communities with
their own cultures and languages
have **NEVER HEARD ABOUT**

WITH GOD'S HELP THERE IS NO

TOO HARD, NO PEOPLE TOO FAR AWAY

LANGUAGE TOO DIFFICULT; we believe that

GOSPEL HAS THE **POWER** TO CHANGE

EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING. As individuals

MEET JESUS at their point of need, LIVES

ARE **CHANGED** AND COMMUNITIES

TRANSFORMED.

105,000
PRINTED COPIES

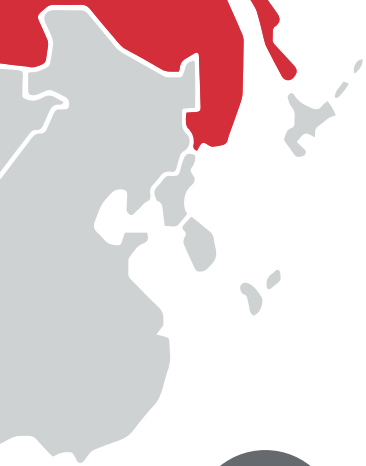
36
eBOOKS

"...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55: 11



2017 OM EAST STATISTICS

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12,600

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accomplish what I desire and



"Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name;
make known among the nations what He has
done, and proclaim that His name is exalted.
Sing to the LORD, for He has done glorious
things; let this be known to all the world."

Isaiah 12:4b-5

We would like to thank our brothers and sisters around the world for your partnership in making the name of Jesus Christ known among nations in Eurasia!

With your help over the past year, it has been a privilege to release media in people's heart languages, telling them the Good News of what God has done.

We look back and praise God for His faithfulness, enabling us to produce 42 different publications, with 105,000 copies printed and 36 eBooks created. In 19 languages, God's truth is reaching indigenous people groups in Siberia, segregated Roma areas of Serbia, women trapped in prostitution in Central Europe, refugees arriving in Europe and many more. It's exciting to know that people are hearing about Jesus and that small under-resourced churches are being strengthened.

As we reflect, we also consider the challenges faced in 2017. We continued to experience visa issues, which prevents non-EU citizens from staying on our team longer-term. One publication, a book about believers' testimonies, was banned as extremist literature in an area of Russia. Looking ahead, we have an urgent need for new graphic designers and a bookkeeper to join our team based in Austria.

Remembering the Lord's past provision and the way He is touching lives in Eurasia, gives us confidence to call on Him, trusting Him for our needs and anticipating even greater things in the new year ahead!

We value your continued support and prayers. Wishing you God's blessing!

Edwin Keller
OM EAST Field Leader

We want to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least reached.

OM EAST'S literature and media ministry produces high quality print and digital media in over 25 languages. Always working with local partners, we seek to share the gospel, strengthen churches and bring hope to people groups throughout Eurasia.



Georgia

The reason to stay

A woman called out a greeting when she spotted OM worker Jana* in a street of run-down apartment blocks in Georgia's capital, Tbilisi. The two ladies seemed to share a joke. "She always laughs when she sees I'm still here," Jana commented to an OM EAST worker on their visit to the city. "She cannot understand what I am doing in Georgia as my husband is Western and I could leave."

WORD REJECTED

Jana and her husband live in a remote mountain settlement of Georgia, in a place where there are no shops, no doctors and no known believers.

"I feel a black cloud or something dark that stops hearts or minds from receiving God's Word," Jana expressed, describing the challenges of telling villagers about Jesus.

**"I feel a black cloud
or something dark
that stops hearts or
minds from receiving
God's Word."**

Jana translates Christian literature into the Georgian language and teaches English in the local school. Once she showed her pupils an evangelistic comic she had worked on. The following evening a man appeared at their house, holding a knife. "You can teach at school but you can't touch this subject," he threatened.

"They fear leaving their traditions," Jana explained. "They are afraid something bad will happen to them

if they go against their customs.” Although Orthodox Christianity is the state religion, most people have never read the Bible for themselves and there are few evangelical publications available in their language. Therefore, many struggle to distinguish between faith and tradition or superstition.

While those she knows would move to Europe for economic reasons if they could, the spiritual need convinces Jana to stay. It motivates her to point seekers to Scripture and provide literature communicating God’s truth with clarity. Over the past decade she has completed more than 20 titles, with 50,000 copies printed by OM EAST.

WORD ACCEPTED

As a young adult, Jana came to faith during Communist rule, when churches were closed and schools declared that God did not exist. Against her parents’ wishes, she met followers of Christ in someone’s home. Since police monitored attendance, believers subsequently faced discrimination and rejection in communities.

“My father told me, ‘if you go [to the meetings], then don’t come home again,’” Jana uttered, with tears in her eyes. “I left at 18 and rarely saw my parents until around nine years ago,” she continued, now in her forties. “It’s difficult to remember that time.”

A short-term OM outreach 15 years ago stirred a desire to serve in missions. “I found my heart there,” said Jana, who joined OM three years later. “I wanted to visit people, share the gospel in the street and encourage churches.” Now a key Christian translator in her country, Jana loves distributing resources in the city and beyond.

WORD MULTIPLIED

“The arrival of every Christian book in Georgian is a great celebration because there are still so few,” Jana’s husband stated. “They are hungrily received by

believers and evangelistic copies are passed to those who don’t yet know Jesus.”

In a letter, local believer Davit* expressed his response to reading testimonies of those who sacrificed their

“I want Georgians to experience what I have experienced,” said Jana. “To understand that God is very big and not limited.”

lives for Christ. It challenged him to offer his life as they did, even if it meant losing his job, family member or facing torture. “I was always afraid of what the Lord might ask me to give up,” he wrote. “This book helped me decide to give my life and everything in it to Him.”

Regular feedback encourages Jana to do more, knowing that each translation will have a positive impact. However, when moving to the mountains five years ago, she had planned to pass her job on to someone else but could not find the right person. “After a while, I realised why; God was providing me with spiritual food even here and preparing me to teach others [about faith],” she reflected. “So when others say the books influenced their lives—I am one of them as well.”

Jana dreams of a little shop or library and café in Tbilisi where all the publications can be accessed in one place. She hopes for more workers to distribute literature and longs for OM’s ministry to grow.



“I want Georgians to experience what I have experienced,” said Jana. “To understand that God is very big and not limited,” she emphasised. “To grow through situations such as being alone, or in circumstance that bring you close to Him; to find He gives you experiences you never could have imagined nor do without Him—this is the wealth that makes us rich!”

Please pray individuals in the capital and in the mountain village will receive Christ in their hearts and minds. Please pray for wisdom as Jana furthers Georgia’s collection of evangelistic and discipleship materials.



Central Europe

'What are these weird women doing here?'

OM workers Anna* and Sarah* knock boldly on brothel doors in Central Europe, requesting permission to speak to the ladies inside. OM writer Inger reflects on responses they encounter as they come to chat, offer a gift and share a message of hope.

THE UNCONDITIONAL GIFT

I attached a small cloth flower to a pretty bag filled with treats—the final touch to gifts that an OM outreach team would take to women working in prostitution in Europe.

"The ladies love the flowers and keep them," Anna explained to our production line of five, as we helped prepare over 100 presents for an upcoming outreach. "They put them in their hair or display them in their room," Anna continued. "One lady showed us the bouquet she now has."

Anna and Sarah regularly drive to a town that has around ten brothels, often bringing gifts decorated with a flower. I remember driving past the town once; no one spoke as we observed billboard after billboard advertising how many girls were available and how much they cost.

I held another inexpensive flower. The ladies keep these, treasuring them. I thought about the lady who

had accumulated a bouquet. How long has she been there? How little joy must there be in her life to delightedly show off this tiny bunch of blossoms?

I looked down at the boxes packed with colourful gifts, each one representing a woman who ended up in a place she didn't want to be. Each providing an opportunity to build trust and leave contact details behind. Each flower is also a symbol that someone cares and came, expecting nothing in return.

THE LOVE LETTER

Sarah told me about talking to Kathrin* in a brothel where ladies live and work in a room for up to two weeks before there is a change-over.

"I offered Kathrin a leaflet published by OM EAST called *You are beautiful, my sister!*" said Sarah. "When she took it, she exclaimed: 'Now I get my own copy!'" When Kathrin arrived in her room, she had found the same leaflet. She believed the previous woman had left it there for the next person.

This was not a hotel room with a Bible, but a brothel chamber with an evangelistic leaflet.

I considered, too, was the other occupant throwing Kathrin a life-line? The leaflet was a letter expressing

the father-heart of God, who longs to give the women a new identity and guide them towards His good plan for their lives. It amazed me again to be reminded there is no place where Scripture cannot reach, and it struck me how much more it meant for Kathrin to receive a copy in person. I hope she will also accept the words within as a letter of love from God the Father, written specifically for her.

THE BEAUTIFUL MESSENGERS

“They think we are crazy!” Anna replied, when I asked what it was like to go into brothels. “The first time we came, the girls thought, ‘What are these weird women doing here? Women don’t come in here!’”

Now, Anna and Sarah regularly speak to ladies in a number of areas in Central Europe. Both in their sixties, they have become mother-figures, often welcomed with the title “Mama!”

“They think I’m the most beautiful woman they have ever seen!” Sarah declared.

“They come and stroke our faces,” added Anna.

I wondered at this. How can it be that women, groomed to appeal, look at two outreach workers and see a beauty never encountered before? The OM workers expressed their wish to be able to communicate Jesus simply by turning up, since Christ lives in their hearts

and His character can be reflected through them. The response makes me think this is happening—that part of the beauty individuals notice is Jesus.

Isaiah 52:7a came to mind, which says, “*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news.*” (NIV)

The beauty of messengers willing to carry the gospel.

A letter of love pointing to the source of the beauty.

And a gift to convey that God has not forgotten them.

It inspires me that there is no knowing what people pick up on when meeting followers of Jesus and no limit to what He can do.

“Prayer is key; we can talk to the ladies in brothels but if it is not carried in prayer, we could just as well go home,” Anna emphasised. “It is only through God’s power that things can really change. He is answering prayer that women will be able to get out and start a new life!”

Please pray for God’s protection over outreach teams in Central Europe and wisdom as they communicate the gospel to those whose lives are marked by abuse, control and fear. Praise God for those who have been helped to leave; please pray they find healing, truth and hope in Christ.

Letter of love to women in Red Light districts

OM EAST and partners have published a leaflet in ten languages, entitled *You are beautiful, my sister*, for women trapped in prostitution.

Written by outreach worker Tanja*, the poem inside tells women of the beauty she sees, a beauty that is more than skin deep. It is a letter of love, expressing the father-heart of God, who longs to offer them new life—the life He intended.



Small teams throughout Europe brought this message to over 1,000 women working in brothels and on the streets during Easter. With 7,600 copies of *You are beautiful, my sister* in print, its truths will reach thousands in the months ahead as workers continue to speak to individuals and offer hope.

“The women have no more dreams,” Tanja shared. “We want to give them new dreams again.”

Please pray for individuals to recognise their true identity and worth. Please pray they find fresh hope to dream, courage to seek help, and discover who God created them to be.



Serbia

New anthem for the Bayash

While a group of OM EAST workers were driving back to their base in Austria, the song 'Hosanna'** played in the car. The OM team had joined a partner organisation and local believers on a visit to an isolated village in Serbia. Quietly, the driver and passengers hummed or sang along in praise and thanks to God for all they had experienced.

A few days earlier, a large black dog had barked and strained against its chain, announcing the outreach team's arrival in Bela Reka, an isolated village in eastern Serbia. The group of OM EAST workers, Roma Bible Union (RBU) partners and believers from the local town, Bor, walked along a grassy track. Passing domed haystacks, they reached an unfinished blue brick house, home to a Bayash-speaking Roma family in the community.



I SEE A GENERATION RISING UP TO TAKE THEIR PLACE...

The family welcomed their guests into their yard. Boys and girls gathered around Andrijana, a young Roma RBU volunteer, who began to lead the children's club. Andrijana and other RBU colleagues came from Croatia last September to train church members from Bor to run a monthly club.

Sitting on a blanket beneath a tree, Andrijana gave out booklets and badges. She placed a badge into a little girl's palm, closing the child's hands over the gift. The girl peeked between her cupped hands; a look of excitement spread across her face. She immediately attached the badge to her t-shirt and fingered it, beaming with joy.

Andrijana guided participants through activities in a booklet, which promoted literacy and taught a biblical truth. The children learned about prayer, focusing on the Lord's Prayer. "It was amazing to see their concentration!" said graphic designer Simon, who was encouraged to observe how OM EAST's media materials are being used.

"Ten years ago it was westerners going into Roma settlements; now Roma believers are taking on leadership!" he enthused.

I SEE A NEAR REVIVAL STIRRING AS WE PRAY AND SEEK...

While the children's programme came to a close, a few of the outreach team led worship songs. A follower of Christ in the village accompanied them on a drum, slung from his shoulder. "He played with his whole heart!" emphasised Simon, emotions stirred by the memory. "He made the drum himself—out of rubbish."

"There in the yard, in front of piles of scrap metal and a house that was missing a windowpane, they worshipped God," described OM EAST worker Inger. "It was powerful!"

*God will drive out fear. God will push away the darkness.
We will praise the Lord!*

The lyrics sung during the time of worship proclaimed Jesus Christ's authority—a key truth to bring to Bayash Roma communities who are oppressed by superstition, witchcraft and their conviction they are cursed. This song of faith drowns out the condemning verdict: we are cursed, we are cursed because one of our ancestors stole a nail from the cross of Jesus—no wonder we are cursed, found in the Bayash "national anthem".

Let heaven be opened to Bela Reka, another song declared.

"Normally the words are, 'Let heaven be opened to the Roma,'" shared RBU worker Nina. "But this time they inserted the village name." As individuals hear the gospel, hope for eternity and hope on earth becomes a possibility. For those who ask Jesus to forgive their sins and choose to follow Him, this hope becomes reality.

"It is happening!" Inger said. "Soon after we arrived, somebody told me that a few people have already been baptised."

BREAK MY HEART FOR WHAT BREAKS YOURS, EVERYTHING I AM FOR YOUR KINGDOM'S CAUSE...

"It's a shame they don't have a church," voiced Bajram with feeling. He explained how it was too far and too expensive for the Bela Reka believers to drive 30 minutes to church in town each week. Similarly, the Bor congregation could not afford to offer transport.

Lack of fellowship means it is especially important that believers from town visit regularly. Receiving training to provide a monthly children's programme is a significant development, since RBU finds it is a first step, which can lead to planting churches.

"I love theatre and writing music, but I love Roma more!" expressed RBU volunteer Vedrana, an arts graduate from Croatia. "I just wish they would know God and be saved—this is my biggest prayer. God gives the opportunities; we have to decide how will we respond."

"I was moved by the heart that Roma and local believers have to invest their gifts and lives into reaching the Roma," Inger reflected. The song, *Hosanna*, summed it up for her: "The words were a reminder for me of what

God is doing among the Roma, as well as inviting us to be part of what He will do."

*I see a generation rising up to take
their place... I see a near revival stirring
as we pray and seek... Break my heart
for what breaks Yours, everything I am
for Your kingdom's cause...*

*Praise God that Roma are equipping
others to spread the gospel among Roma. Please pray that
individuals in Roma settlements would grow in faith and
gain the needed supportive community.*

***Subheadings credit: Song Lyrics: 'Hosanna', Brooke
Fraser, 2006 Hillsong Music Publishing*

*OM EAST support their Roma Bible Union partners by
producing booklets, badges, t-shirts, Bible study resources
and Bible storybooks.*



**"I just wish they
would know God
and be saved—
this is my biggest
prayer."**



Eastern Europe

God's loophole in the Iron Curtain

OM celebrated 60 years in 2017. To mark the anniversary year, OM writers presented defining moments during this era. OM EAST, formerly known as Greater Europe, share the story of three men who smuggled Bibles into Eastern Europe and witnessed God work in miraculous ways as they stepped out in faith.

Compelled by the need, Glenn*, Dale Rhoton and Stuart McAllister smuggled Bibles to persecuted believers and unreached people behind the Iron Curtain. In awe at God's intervention, they reflect on experiences that increased their faith, shaped OM's vision and impacted lives in difficult places.

NUMBED FINGERS

Excited and scared, Glenn and a friend followed God's prompting to take Christian literature into Soviet Russia in 1982. With 52 books taped to their bodies, they approached Russia's border.

"Five men pointed machine guns at me," Glenn said. "My heart was pounding." Beginning to sweat beneath bulky winter layers, Glenn felt the tape loosen. "I thought some of the Bibles would fall out of my

trousers," Glenn explained. "But I kept instructing my soul: 'In Jesus' name, these Bibles cannot be found.'"

A guard searched the young American, squeezing every part of his body, starting at his ankles. "I felt the Bibles press into my skin," Glenn said. "Then the thought came to me: The Word became flesh." As the guard checked around his stomach, Glenn looked out the window, praying silently, not knowing what would happen; possibilities of a Siberian gulag entered his mind. Then, the guard reached Glenn's head and told him, "You can go." "It was the first miracle I experienced," Glenn emphasised. "It changed the course of my life and gave me a special love for people in the former Soviet Union."

Glenn's trip was the catalyst to join OM's Bible smuggling team, Greater Europe, and later initiate work in Russia. Transporting tens of thousands of Christian publications, he saw miracle after miracle.

"When you experience this, you're ruined for life in a special way," Glenn declared, still with OM today. "Our God can do anything!"

BLINDED EYES

The vision for smuggling Scriptures sparked when OM's co-founder, Dale Rhoton, met Pastor Richard Wurmbrand in Communist Romania, shortly after the pastor's release from prison in 1964. Dale scanned the apartment, trying to identify the man who endured 14 years' imprisonment. Unable to pick him out, he asked his neighbour, who "...pointed to a man whose face was shining," Dale said. "His excitement, dedication and willingness to risk his life again overwhelmed me."

Subsequently, he learnt that the pastor had suffered because of betrayal. Later that day, during another visit, a man greeted Richard warmly. "They hugged and kissed in Romanian style," Dale recalled. Walking on, Dale commented, "That's interesting: He has the same name as the man who betrayed you."

"Rhoton! We all make mistakes!" Richard replied emphatically.

"That's how he dismissed the man who betrayed him!" Dale uttered, emotion welling up. "It wasn't a nice warm cell, but a place of torture; he showed us holes in his back, where they had ripped out flesh."

Spurred by Wurmbrand's testimony and believers' desire to receive Scripture even at great cost, Dale started Greater Europe in 1968. They usually concealed books in altered vans, but once Dale simply loaded four suitcases aboard a train to Bucharest; while other passengers' bags were checked, nobody paid attention to his luggage. "When I delivered the Bibles, the local believer was amazed to see how much was in there," Dale said.

CHANGED HEART

"Good literature is vital for a flourishing life," former OM leader Stuart McAllister stated, his conviction

resulting in numerous imprisonments for distribution efforts with Greater Europe from 1978 onwards.

"His excitement, dedication and willingness to risk his life again overwhelmed me."

Stuart and three OM workers spent 40 days in prison in Yugoslavia. "We were amazed at how eager others were to know us," Stuart remembered. Friendships developed and they shared their faith. "We used symbols and stumbling words to convey Christ," Stuart said. "One man in particular showed signs that his heart was stirred."

Stuart's wife, Mary, joined one of OM's first outreaches in post-Communist Albania. On a mountain trek, their local guide, Burim*, translated as Mary spoke of attempts to spread God's truth in Communist Albania. When she told how they had sealed gospels in bags and floated them into the country downriver from Greece and Yugoslavia, Burim spoke up. Previously a secret policeman, Burim had collected and destroyed the gospels he found. Curious, he read it for himself, though not responding initially. Once Albania opened up, and he heard individuals preach, including OM workers, he chose to follow Jesus.

"His testimony made me praise the Lord!" shared Stuart, who met Burim later. "He was delighted to know that, even in that phase of his life, God was reaching out to him."

"There are so many places where we can help, give or work. The big question for all is: Who or what has our heart?"

Twenty-five years after the fall of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe, OM teams are based in many of these countries, using the opportunity of greater freedom. An OM publishing ministry produces print and

digital literature, including Wurmbrand's *Tortured for Christ*, to bring hope.

"There are so many places where we can help, give or work," Stuart concluded. "The big question for all is: Who or what has our heart?"



Europe

Calm in the storm

“Although some call it the refugee crisis, I call it the refugee blessing,” expressed former OM Netherlands leader Robert*. “The refugees are a blessing to our church.”

Since Robert’s local church opened its doors to offer a weekly drop-in a year ago, it has become a hub where refugees can stop for coffee and a chat *en route* to or from the supermarket. For up to thirty people coming each Tuesday, it is a shelter out of the cold or rain before cycling ten kilometers or hitch-hiking back to their accommodation to avoid spending a third of their weekly allowance on bus fares.

“Once we began reaching out, we saw our church changing,” Robert said. “Suddenly Dutch believers are interacting with foreigners, loving them and helping them.” One man spoke about his faith with a Muslim for

the first time; before, he had doubted someone could turn from Islam to Christ.

With people from least-reached places in the world now living in their area, Robert makes the most of the opportunity. “All we did was put a welcome poster in their languages outside our building and people started coming in,” he explained. Through conversations and visiting families in the asylum centre, local believers are building relationships. Now some refugees come to church services, youth group and Sunday school, while sixteen adults attend an Alpha course.

“Once we began reaching out, we saw our church changing.”

“When you take time to listen, you are blown away by what they have gone through and have fled from—they would love to be where they grew up,” shared the former OM Netherlands leader, a fluent Arabic speaker from having lived in the Arab world. “It’s

hard hearing their stories—you just cry with them.” Yet in the midst of trauma, displacement or loss, God is meeting individuals at their point of need, as Hamid* recently recounted to Robert at a conference for Muslim background believers.

“In my home country, my brother tortured me when he found out I had been reading the New Testament,” Hamid told Robert, showing him the marks on his body. This warning spurred Hamid on to be the best Muslim he could be. A few years later, he fled violence in his country and boarded a boat headed for Greece.

“The weather was rough and when our boat’s engine broke, I thought we were going to die,” Hamid stated. “But then I remembered the story of Jesus stilling a storm, so I prayed: ‘Jesus, if you can calm these waters, please do this.’” Ten minutes later the water was calm. Again Hamid prayed to Jesus, asking for help. Shortly afterwards, a boat from Greece rescued them. Travelling along the Balkan route, Hamid encountered Christians. On arrival in the Netherlands, somebody explained the gospel to him; subsequently, Hamid gave his life to Christ and was baptised in a bathtub.

“It’s the passion to see God’s Word released that inspires me in my work,” said Robert, who facilitates

OM’s Safe Passage project, an initiative responding to refugees’ needs in the Balkans and Central Europe. To support relief efforts, OM EAST’s publishing ministry

has produced evangelistic resources, including a new comic in Arabic and Farsi, to share the gospel in accessible ways.

Whether serving in refugee camps and drop-ins, welcoming people into churches and homes, or preparing print and digital

media, “you are playing a part in someone like Hamid’s story,” Robert encouraged.

“Making yourself approachable with a smile, saying ‘welcome to my country’, or learning a few words in their language breaks barriers and brings such joy,” Robert recommended, motivating others to get involved. “Opening the door to your home, opens the doors to refugees’ hearts,” he continued, “which opens the doors to who we are as followers of Jesus.”

The Church has a vital role in turning a crisis into a blessing, with the potential to discover, as the Dutch congregation is experiencing, that they too are changed in the process. “The window of opportunity is short—we need to take action,” Robert urged. “Let’s share hospitality and Jesus with them.”

**“It’s the passion
to see God’s Word
released that inspires
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Sharing the light of the world at a refugee camp in Serbia



At a refugee camp in Serbia, OM worker Volker watched a little Afghan girl respond to receiving the *Light in the Darkness* comic in her heart language, Farsi. “She was so happy that she ran away to read it, hiding it from other kids so she could keep it for herself,” Volker recalls. *Light in the Darkness* is an illustrated comic produced by OM EAST. Based on Patricia St. John’s novel *Star of Light*, it is an accessible way to communicate the gospel.

OM Serbia has a tent at the camp where they serve sweet tea and offer friendship to some of the 1,300 refugees living there. “In general, people seem very depressed, as you can imagine,” expressed Volker. “We hope our tent can be a place of joy and encouragement.”

Praise God for this little girl’s eagerness to read. Please pray that the story, which introduces Jesus, would reach hearts. Please pray that the refugees will sense an atmosphere of God’s love and hope in OM’s venue.



Serbia

First Gurbet-Serbian-English picture dictionary

The first Gurbet-Serbian-English picture dictionary caught the attention of the local press in Southern Serbia. They featured a photo of author Goran Saitović holding the new book, designed and published by OM EAST.

Goran speaks a dialect called Gurbet, spoken by a predominately Muslim Roma group in Serbia and other parts of Europe. The author lives in a Roma area of a town named Leskovac, where he builds relationships and reaches out to the community. His vision for this multi-lingual dictionary is to promote literacy among his people, and to help Serbian or foreign believers learn Gurbet so they can tell Roma about Jesus in the dialect closest to their hearts.

"I want to see Roma reading more in their language!" declared Goran. "Maybe this generation is not reading so much but I hope the next generation will." In his hometown, a school teacher has already been using the dictionary's grammar sections to educate students who have chosen to study Gurbet.

"Goran has such a heart for his people," said Simon, OM EAST's production coordinator. "This publication is a tool to help those who will join him in sharing the gospel among Gurbet-speaking Roma, and lays the foundation for future Christian materials."



After fifteen years of serving as a pastor, Goran is now translating the Bible into Gurbet, working together with other OM EAST partners. With great enthusiasm, he voiced plans to translate an illustrated children's Bible storybook and an evangelistic comic book.

"We need Christian books in our Roma language," stated the former pastor. "There are few available and we still need the Bible!"

Praise God for the helpful new resource and the significant step it represents in providing further literature for the Gurbet Roma. Please pray Roma will gain a greater desire to read so they can discover God's truth for themselves.



Siberia

Illustrated Bible stories for the Nivkh in the Russian Far East

OM EAST is working on publishing the first Bible stories in the Amur and Schmidt dialects; these are spoken by the Nivkh people group living in the Russian Far East. Working in partnership with Wycliffe Russia, OM EAST is providing illustrations, as well as design and layout for the translated stories. The goal is to bring the message of Christ to a minority group who practice shamanism and have no Scripture in their heart language.

"A picture is always the first thing that people look at in a book," said Julia Haupt, OM EAST graphic designer

and artist. "While working on the drawings, I have been thinking about how the Nivkh don't know the Bible stories. It's beautiful to think that for many it will be the first time that they have read these stories and held God's Word in their hands. I want the drawings to express the message and speak to the readers."

Praise God for stamina, inspiration and wisdom as Julia produces illustrations that present God's truth. Please pray for God's protection over OM EAST workers and partners as they prepare to make God's Word available to a people group who practice shamanism.



It's beautiful to realise
I can use my gift of
drawing to bring people
closer to God.

- Julia, OM EAST graphic designer and artist

DISCOVER WHERE YOUR GIFTS COULD LEAD...

OM EAST graphic design opportunities:
east.om.org/go



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