

An unlikely friendship

God's Word brings
Russians and
Ukrainians together

pages 4-5



Celebrating 215 Years

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A family finds treasure in Ukraine

Seafarers visiting the UK receive God's Word

New Bible app is a hit in the developing world

Hundreds more believe in rural Ethiopia

Your place in the mission

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About Biblica

The mission of Biblica is to provide the Bible in accurate, contemporary translations and formats so that more people around the world will have the opportunity to be transformed by Jesus Christ.

We are Biblica Europe

We are part of the worldwide Biblica family. Biblica Europe's task is to reach people with God's Word throughout Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

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Biblica is the translation sponsor of the New International Version Bible.

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Dear friends,

Dear friends,

Share with the Lord's people was the theme of our Easter campaign, and you ran with the opportunity to share your most precious possession – the Bible – with the many Christians worldwide who don't have their own copy.

There's an update on the total raised and a new story from Ethiopia on page 10. A local missionary recently told us: **"965 people got saved here. Please send any Bibles you have!"**

That first Christmas that Ukraine spent under attack, you also shared God's Word with the children who had fled their homes. You brought the message of hope and love to them by providing free copies of *the Treasure Hunt Bible* in Ukrainian. The ripple effect of this action is still going on, as a wonderful story on page 6 demonstrates.

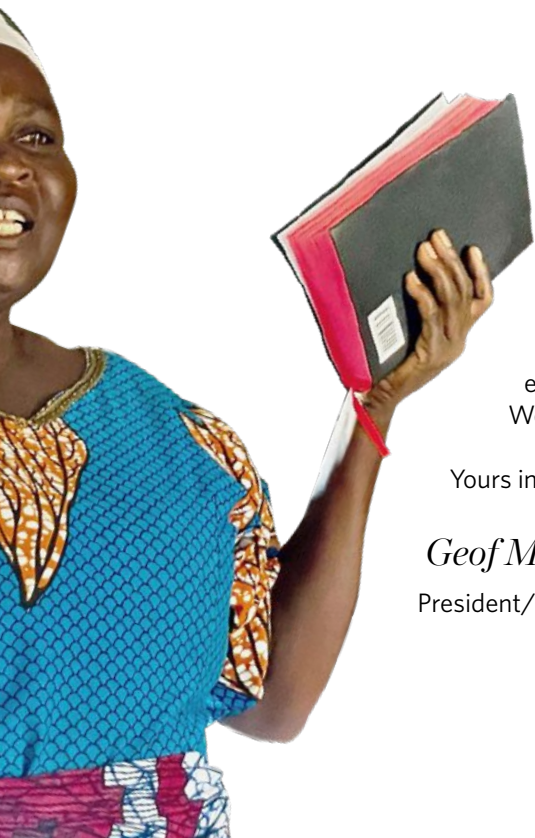
I was thrilled to hear about something else happening in the shadow of that conflict. In Poland, the Prince of Peace is bringing together young people from both sides, as Ukrainians and Russians explore the Bible together. Read about it on page 4.

When we freely give God's Word away, we see lives and communities changed for good. Thank you for being part of the big mission to get God's Word to everyone, everywhere, in their very own language. We can't wait to see what God does next.

Yours in Christ,

Geof Morin

President/CEO, Biblica



Enemies become friends around the Bible

Something wonderful is quietly happening amongst Generation Z in Poland.

Our partners at Steiger International have a mission to love and share Jesus with young people who would never walk into a church. (See Steiger.org)

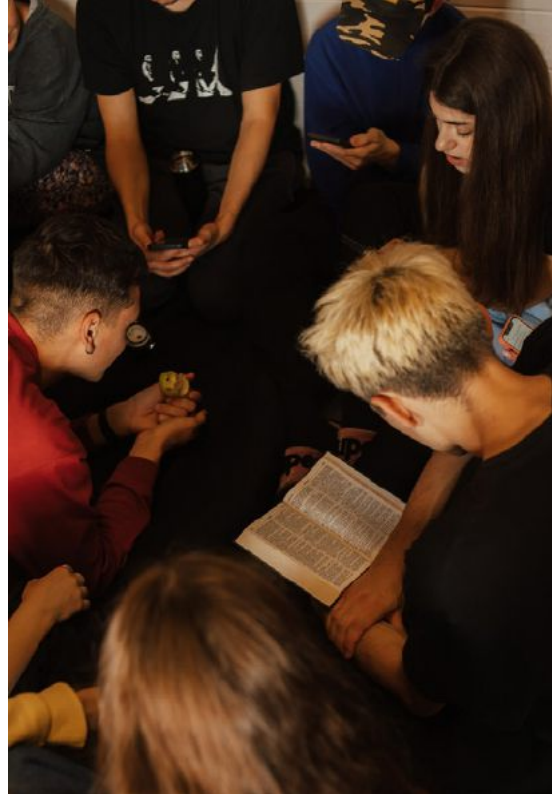
Uncertain times in Poland

Poland has been deeply affected by the war in neighbouring Ukraine. Two million Ukrainians have moved to Poland, and the nearby conflict brings a sense of unease, especially to young people whose plans for the future now feel uncertain.

Ania from Steiger told us that Polish young people are thinking deeply about why pain and injustice happens. Like many members of their generation, they are also looking for a true sense of identity and community in an increasingly lonely society.

Who am I?

To engage with more teenagers, Steiger started to visit Polish high schools.



They've been running creative workshops and putting on performances getting to the heart of teens' questions and showing some of the answers Jesus gave.

Ania says: "At one of the schools, the headmaster told me that even in class the young people don't talk to each other much. They sit alone because they're afraid of being judged by each other; they're afraid of what the person next to them is thinking about them. But the teenagers we met really wanted to talk – about war, suffering, identity – and they all really wanted community." At the end of each workshop, teens are invited to come and study the Bible with the team if they'd like to know more.

Each meetup involves a video testimony from a young person, discussion and Bible study. It's exciting for teens who have never been to church to find hope in Jesus and a genuine community.

Russians and Ukrainians find community together

The team reached out to university students and found a similar hunger for identity and community, and a desire to actually explore what the Bible is about.

One young man who came to a student meeting said: "I had a lot of questions about the Bible. For example, how can it be interpreted? They just explained it all to me. I'm very grateful for that."

This student was from Russia. The Steiger team met him while he was drinking with his friends. All of them said they'd really like to understand more about the Bible and whether there was truth in it.

"He himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility" - Ephesians 2:14

So these Russian students all met up with the local team leader. The only thing is, this leader is from Ukraine.

You can imagine the potential reaction when a Ukrainian sheltering in Poland comes face to face with a group of Russians. But she was truly excited that they wanted to study the Bible.

She invited them to an Easter event happening at a community house where young Polish and Ukrainian Christians live together.

They welcomed these Russian students with open arms to experience Easter together and talk about what it means. That miraculous welcome was a powerful expression of the Gospel in itself.

Now, every second Wednesday, they all meet up to study the Bible together - Polish, Ukrainian and Russian young people finding a new identity outside of their nationalities and a new community of peace.

Help more young people be transformed by God's Word; give a gift at

biblicaeurope.com/donate



We found treasure in Ukraine



Olena (right) and her daughter who led Olena to faith through the *Treasure Hunt Bible*.

My name is Olena. I grew up in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region. In February 2022, my husband and I were expecting our second child, a little boy. Our daughter was four and a half.

On February 24, we woke up to the sound of war. At first it didn't frighten us much, as the war had been very close to us for eight years and we'd heard it all. A few hours later, the city was under heavy shelling. All my friends were sent home from work.

“For almost a month, we lived in complete fear.”

We didn't have a basement, so there was nowhere to hide from the rockets.

For almost a month, we lived in complete fear, hiding with our daughter as best we could, sleeping in the corridors and in bomb shelters. During that month, three houses on our street were completely destroyed.

At the end of March, my doctor told me they were no longer accepting patients, and I'd have to look for a maternity hospital in another city. Volunteers took us out, along with my husband's mother and sister. We didn't have a plan, but they brought us to Poltava, about 180 miles away, where our baby boy was born. It took almost all of our savings to relocate.

About a month later, we were invited to the local church. For several months, we came solely for humanitarian aid. There were always people there ready to talk and support us, but we never took them up on it.

“It all started with a children’s book.”

In May, my daughter and I were invited to a children’s club. We began attending these events from time to time. The children usually had their own program, while the parents had their group separately. I appreciated the way the pastor shared the message in a very simple and clear manner, but for a long time, all these stories remained mere fairy tales for me.

It was our daughter who became most interested in God. She always asked questions about Him and wanted to watch cartoons about God. I didn’t know much and couldn’t answer her questions, but when we were invited to a service last winter, my husband and I went together.

Our child was given a New Testament – the *Treasure Hunt Bible*. It was written for children, but we were very interested in reading it ourselves! It had lots of questions in it that we could all think about together.

“We have found the most valuable thing - faith in God!”

Our daughter made us pray and read this Bible with her every day. I thank God that last autumn, my husband came to faith, and in the winter, so did I. We decided not to return home because there is no evangelical, loving church in Kramatorsk.

My husband found a job, we finally found an apartment to rent, our child goes to school, and our little son is growing up. We plan to stay in Poltava. Here we have found the most valuable thing - faith in God! It all started with a children’s book, but now our lives have completely changed.

Do you remember our 2022 Christmas appeal?

Many of you gave generously to send *Treasure Hunt Bibles*, newly-translated into Ukrainian, to children experiencing their first Christmas as refugees. Olena’s little girl was one of them. A £5 Christmas present has changed the lives of her whole family forever. Thank you so much from Olena and us!





Crossing oceans to receive a Bible

You may not have heard of the Naval and Military Bible Society, but they're one of Biblica's oldest partners.

This charity supplies Bibles free of charge to Service and uniformed personnel, seafarers and associated organisations in the UK and in other parts of the world. They have a great opportunity to put God's Word into the hands of sailors and military personnel visiting the UK who would struggle to access it in their home countries. Find out more at nmbs.org.uk

Getting Bibles on deck

Biblica has recently provided a few special translations for the Society to distribute. Firstly, we supplied Ukrainian Bibles that were enthusiastically received by soldiers training in the UK this year.

Secondly, we produced Chinese Bibles for people working on Chinese ships that dock in the UK. It's sometimes tricky to get these to the sailors but incredibly, many have been given out and received with excitement – it's difficult and risky to obtain a Bible in China itself.

Thirdly, Biblica prepared a Filipino New Testament and Psalms, which Filipino sailors have been delighted to receive. The charity also recently supplied Bibles along with warm clothes to sailors on a Filipino ship that had been detained for some time at the Royal Portbury Docks.

Navy cadets treasure their Bibles

"Each year we give the UK Navy chaplains a supply of Bibles for the new cadets starting their training," says Carey Rivers from the Society. "These Bibles aren't forced on the cadets but simply put on the side, and if the young men and women want one they can take them.

"Mostly they clear the decks and there's none left. They all take a Bible, which is really, really encouraging."

To supply more Bibles in creative ways like this, give a gift at

biblicaeurope.com/donate

Bigger than Facebook: Bible App Lite

Smartphone apps play a huge role in improving Bible access worldwide. In many countries, it's much easier and cheaper to buy a smartphone than to get your hands on a paper Bible.

But in the developing world, most people's phones have little processing power or mobile data. That means they can't use complex Bible apps like YouVersion. Until now, that is.

This year, YouVersion partnered with Biblica to design, pilot, and launch *Bible App Lite*, specifically designed for basic smartphones.

The app is much smaller in terms of megabytes, and offers key Bible engagement features offline, including the full text of the NIV.

More downloads than TikTok

After a pilot in Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria, *Bible App Lite* is now used in over 70 countries around the world. More than 16 million people have installed it in the last 12 months, and more than 1 million people use it every day. And in multiple African app stores (Kenya, Uganda, and DRC), this digital Bible has even ranked as the No. 1 app - more popular than TikTok and Facebook!

"God is using this app - not just to get the Bible into people's hands, but also into their hearts," says YouVersion Founder and CEO Bobby Gruenewald. "Our desire is to reach every person with God's Word in their heart language."

Bobby adds, "Our team loves Biblica. We couldn't do what we do without you."

We keep innovating to share the Bible everywhere

Technology like this is getting God's Word to previously inaccessible places. Last year, we also launched 53 more single language Bible apps for basic smartphones. Support from people like you makes this innovation possible - thank you!

The Stats



16

MILLION

total users

1

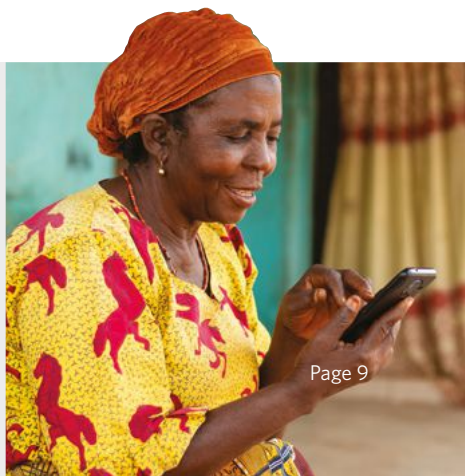
MILLION

daily users

NO.1



app in
multiple African
app stores





Share with the Lord's people: update

Thank you so much for sharing the Bible at Easter.

We told you about some inspiring Christians in remote parts of Zambia and Ethiopia who are passionate about Jesus and sharing him with their neighbours, but don't have their own Bibles at home.

You generously gave enough at Easter to provide almost 1,000 new Bibles to believers like them.

God moves in inaccessible places

At Easter, we heard how a pastor in rural Ethiopia had given out 120,000 New Testaments to local people at beginners' Bible classes, and still needed more to meet the demand. He was longing for full Bibles in the Oromo language, which your generosity will help to provide.

Since then, we've received more news from these amazing local evangelists. One preacher recently travelled to the Ethiopia/Kenya border. He says:

"After listening to the Gospel, 965 people got saved, and 65 of them later got

baptised. In this area there are no local churches. The residents are nomads and have no access to their own Bible, both because they are poor and because it's logistically difficult to get Bibles to this remote location.

"Our team had brought booklets with basic Bible teaching, and some Bibles and other literature. We distributed these to the newly born-again Christians but we didn't have enough for everybody. There are many asking for Bibles. We are planning to go back there for longer next time to preach, teach and train the believers.

"It would be great to get more Bibles and teaching material for these new believers. Please send everything you have!"

You can share with the Lord's people today! Just £11 could provide two Bibles to believers in rural Africa, in their own local language. Give at

biblicaeurope.com/donate

Your gift will help spread God's Word globally through life-changing Scripture translations and resources.

Your place in the mission

If you share our passion to bring God's Word to everyone, everywhere, there are lots of ways you can help make it happen!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR JOINING IN...

SO ALL WILL KNOW.



Keep informed

Each month we share a short story by email about the lifechanging impact God's Word is having around the world. We'd love you to be included.

Email europa@biblica.com, sign up on our website, or send back the enclosed form, and we'll make sure you receive the latest news.

You can also follow and share our updates on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram – find us [@biblicaeurope](https://www.instagram.com/biblicaeurope)



Pray

Praying for this work makes you a partner in everything God's doing to reach and speak to people through His Word.

Please pray for our translation teams, and for our partners helping people to access and use new Bible materials. Pray that many people every day will be set free and transformed by Jesus Christ as they meet Him in the Scriptures.

Visit www.biblicaeurope.com/praying to see where we need prayer more widely.



Give a gift

We can't do anything without funding, so giving a gift is a great way to invest in this mission. Your gift will help spread God's Word globally through life-changing Scripture translations and resources.

If you'd like to help, please fill in the enclosed form and send it back to us, or give a gift online at www.biblicaeurope.com/donate



Help to break new ground with a regular gift

To really invest in the mission, you can set up a regular gift. Reliable monthly income allows us to plan new innovations, translations and much-needed resources. Even £15 per month would make a big difference to our progress.

You can set up a standing order easily through your own internet banking – our account details are: Biblica Europe Ministries Trust, Danske Bank, Sort code: 95-01-21, Account no: 80552763. Choose the amount and frequency that suits you.

Please call us on +44 (0)28 9073 5875 to let us know you've done this.



“Here we have found the most valuable thing - faith in God! And it all started with a children’s Bible.”

— Olena, Ukraine



Celebrating 215 Years

If you'd like more copies of The Bulletin for your church or group, please get in touch

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