

# OM EAST

EurAsia Support Team

**2016 Ministry Review**



Bringing hope to the least reached

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EurAsia Support Team

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\*Name changed



“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Psalm 100: 4-5

Thanksgiving and praise are a daily choice. It’s often a decision to worship Christ in the midst of difficulties; it is an act of trust, which changes our perspective and lifts our hearts.

The media bombards us with news of wars, exploitation, discrimination, poverty and hopelessness – hardships affecting people groups we seek to reach. Yet, there are still many reasons to thank God.

Reflecting on the past year as a team has encouraged us to focus on God’s goodness and His awesome deeds. Recounting our experiences and considering all the literature and media that has gone out to individuals throughout Eurasia, we were astounded by the impact we could have in thousands of lives by the Lord’s grace. The more we shared, the bigger our God became.

As you read the following stories about reaching a minority group in Georgia, Roma in Eastern Europe, refugees arriving in Europe, and families in remote Muslim villages in Bosnia-Herzegovina, I hope you will be inspired by signs of His goodness, love and faithfulness.

“The more we shared, the bigger our God became.”

We serve a mighty God; let us continue to expect great things and then magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Immanuel, God with you.

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.





## Europe

# No longer stranded but firmly grounded

OM worker Kiet started life as a refugee. In 1980, his parents fled communist rule in Vietnam after the war, leaving two successful businesses and selling everything to buy passage on a boat. With no food on board, the TV148 circled the South China Sea before arriving at the Island of Bidong off the coast of Malaysia. Thousands of refugees camped there on one square kilometre of dry land. For nine months Kiet's family was stranded, living in a makeshift shelter before resettling in the UK when Kiet was two years old.

"Lots of boats sank, just like what has been happening in Europe," Kiet said. "While we were on our boat, my sister and I were ill and other children were dying; my mother thought we wouldn't make it. It's amazing we survived."

During the past eighteen months, Kiet has been serving with OM EAST at a time when thousands of refugees travelled through the Balkans

and Eastern Europe, many of whom survived a similar life-threatening journey.

A graphic designer with OM EAST's media ministry, Kiet has been involved in designing a small card and a website to help other OM teams and partners share the gospel with refugees. Written in six languages, the card asks, "Are you looking for hope?" In answer, it directs individuals to a new website, called *Love4refugees*, which provides links to Christian resources in the Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Kurdi, Pashto and Urdu languages.

"I see the hope card as a tool somebody can easily use to strike up conversation or offer even without a conversation," Kiet explained.

"You can give it to someone whom you want to communicate God with and they'll know what to do." Since most people own smart phones, they can easily access literature, talks and videos online, including the Jesus film.

**"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."**

2 Corinthians 4: 17-18

"The question 'are you looking for hope?' connects with them," Kiet emphasised. "They view each country they go to as a place that can offer them this hope, but we know it cannot give them that complete source of hope. The card directs them to a better place."

Although Kiet was too young to remember what his family went through, as he grew up he often heard his mother and father talk about their experience with strong emotion. Their story helps Kiet grasp how difficult it was and to understand in some way what refugees are facing now. His family's testimony reflects the important role local churches have in supporting individuals and families to resettle.

"We came to the UK with just what we were wearing," Kiet stated. The local Chinese church responded to the needs of ethnic Chinese refugees, including Kiet's family. "The biggest need for my parents was community," Kiet said. "They found it in the local Chinese church. Meeting someone who spoke their language instantly connected them, and they felt cared for by those who visited them." Through teaching English in their home and providing practical assistance to overcome fears, friendships deepened. The family of four started joining Sunday services where they heard about Jesus for the first time.

"We used to have a box hanging on the wall with a photo of my grandfather - a little altar for ancestral worship," Kiet explained. "One day I noticed the box was gone. I didn't realise the significance until later; it was then my parents decided to give their lives to Jesus and no longer worship other gods."

Kiet too heard the gospel at Sunday school and later at a youth camp, when he chose to follow Christ. Since then he recognises how God has guided decisions and challenged his life aspirations, recently leading him to a point of praying, "Lord, lead me to whatever you want me to do".

"I never thought I would be here working with OM EAST in graphics," Kiet reflected. "Looking back, I can see how God has placed me here."

Within the past nine months, over 160,000 hope cards have been ordered by OM teams, other Christian organisations and churches throughout Europe and beyond.

"To have a response like that is awesome," Kiet said, after hearing how an Arabic speaker in Austria grate-

fully accepted a card offered by another OM EAST worker. "It makes me think others can respond in the same way. Knowing it can instantly connect with somebody is great news."

The commitment of believers to support refugees in a time of transition and uncertainty has lasting value. Just as Kiet's family were pointed to a place where they discovered a new identity and home in Christ, God is using the Church today to bring refugees the message of true hope for the future, a hope which extends into eternity.

"I keep coming back to the verse that talks about fixing our eyes not on what is seen but what is unseen," Kiet shared. "It reminds me that life is not just about this world. Life is so much more. We are strangers in this land, like refugees, where our home is ultimately in heaven."

*Please pray individuals receiving the cards will access resources online and find complete hope in Jesus Christ. Pray for wisdom and opportunities for churches to reach out in their community.*

To order hope cards contact: [info@love4refugees.com](mailto:info@love4refugees.com)  
Love4refugees website: [www.love4refugees.com](http://www.love4refugees.com)



## New comic for refugees in Europe

*Light in the Darkness*, a comic illustrated by a former OM EAST graphic designer, is now available in Arabic and Farsi. Based on Patricia St. John's novel *Star of Light*, it tells the story of Hamid who runs away with his blind little sister to prevent his stepfather from selling her. Fleeing their mountain village in Morocco, Hamid reaches a city where a believer helps them and points them to their true Saviour and refuge.

OM teams plan to offer this new edition to refugees in Europe. Previously published in the Crimean Tatar, Georgian, Russian and Serbo-Croatian languages, *Light in the Darkness* is an accessible way to communicate the gospel.





Georgia

## Paving the way in the Caucasus

Joining a local OM worker to bring God's truth into marketplaces in the country of Georgia, OM EAST worker Inger considers how God uses His Word and His people to be part of someone's journey to faith.

"Look!" Jana\* uttered quietly but fervently. "I see the books! They are reading – it's so exciting!" I sensed her thrill. We had entered the area of a market in Georgia's capital, Tbilisi, where other OM workers had already offered literature to sellers. There, under the shade of a large corrugated metal roof, surrounded by displays of vegetables and the aroma of fresh herbs, a man stood paging through the children's Bible storybook he just received.

"When I offered the children's Bible to an older lady," one of our group told me afterwards, "she looked puzzled at first, but after I explained it was a Christian book, she kissed the cover, touching it to her forehead and to her heart - she was delighted!"

Carrying bulging backpacks and strained plastic bags, four OM EAST workers and I helped Jana, an OM worker and translator in Georgia, to distribute resources produced by our media ministry. During our week-long visit in August, we gave out children's Bible storybooks, illustrated New Testaments, DVDs sharing faith stories, and cards promoting free downloadable eBooks, to individuals from a minority group working in three markets.

Earlier in the week, Jana, Robert and I made our way through long uneven stone-paved passages of a bazaar that boasted hundreds of shops. I had never before distributed evangelistic materials to strangers in an unfamiliar culture with linguistic limitations. But, confident I held an important gift in a country that still has few Christian resources, I followed Jana and Robert's example, initiating conversation with a smile.

One young woman greeted me first. With smiles, gestures and faltering Russian, our only common

language, we chatted. She happily accepted the copy of Bible stories and a DVD about Jesus' life in her native language. After friendly goodbyes I moved on, encouraged by her openness and thankfulness.

"What do you think of these glasses?" Jana asked, holding one up to inspect its gold-patterned trim. Taking time to look at items, she did not rush to start up conversation. Watching her interact, I could clearly tell that Jana loved being out among the people, inviting them to read about Jesus for themselves. Her passion for our joint literature ministry was beautiful to see.

**I appreciated afresh how God uses His Word and His people to be part of someone's journey to faith.**

really special," Robert enthused. "The Word of God is quick and powerful; we trust that some are on a spiritual journey and that God is at work." Jana, too, expressed the potential for it to prepare someone's understanding to follow Jesus and to prompt deeper dialogue when she returns.

I appreciated afresh how God uses His Word and His people to be part of someone's journey to faith. In different ways at different times, we can each help point others to His invitation to walk along a new path, a path which leads to life.

Later as we retraced our steps, we stopped at a family business where the father gladly took a Bible storybook from Jana. Meanwhile his son, appearing from the back shop, seemed to recognise Robert. Seeing the book in his father's hands, he thanked us, holding his hand to his heart in sincere gratitude. "I offered it to the boy earlier," Robert explained eagerly as we walked on. "He was on his own then, but when he saw it was a Bible he smiled and politely declined, telling me he couldn't take it because he is Muslim, but now his father was happy to receive it; may God use this!"

We left shopkeepers tending their wares. I thought about what I had seen and heard, wondering how God would use these small encounters. "Seeing those big smiles when people received the literature - that was

We cannot know who will respond. In my mind I still picture one woman sitting between stacks of patterned pots, who put on her glasses to read the illustrated New Testament, and the man selling Persian rugs, oblivious to his neighbour's attempts to claim his attention because he was already engrossed in the children's Bible. Or the lady who stood behind a small table of vegetables and asked us, "how much does it cost?" surprised to discover we were holding out a gift. May God's Word be a lamp for their feet and a light on their path.

*Please pray individuals will discover Christ as they read God's truth and access the range of downloadable Christian eBooks in their language. Pray for Jana as she goes back to follow-up and continues to build relationships and share the gospel in Georgia.*





## Croatia

# Roma believer writing for the Roma

**B**iljana, a Roma believer, has written a story for Roma children in Croatia, such as those she works among in the Northeast village of Darda.

“This is significant!” an OM EAST worker said. “To have an author who understands what the children, particularly the young girls, are going through now.”

### PAGES FROM THE PAST

When Biljana was 14 years old, her mother forced her to leave Serbia and marry a Roma man in Croatia, where she has now lived for 21 years.

“It was hard,” Biljana reflected. “I didn’t want to get married. I tried to seek help but I was told: ‘it is just the Roma culture.’”

The young bride lived with her husband, Djeno, and his large extended family who lived a chaotic lifestyle. After less than two months Biljana ran back to Serbia, not knowing she was pregnant.

Biljana’s family rejected her so she lived with a couple in their home instead. However, the husband soon turned his attention to Biljana, causing his wife to move out. Biljana fled after giving birth because he had started to beat the child that was not his own.

At the age of 15, Biljana stood alone on the street in the cold and rain with her one month-old son. Crying and struggling to breathe, she called out to God.

“As a child I had learned a song with the words: ‘I have a phone that reaches up to heaven. When I have a problem I can call Jesus,’” Biljana explained.

In that moment, a local Serbian woman opened her door to offer food, dry clothes for the baby, and shelter until the rain stopped.

Biljana returned to her husband in Croatia to raise their child together. Angry that another man had named their son, Djeno started to beat Biljana and sent her out on the streets to beg.

But God had not finished answering Biljana’s prayer for help.

### CHAPTER OF CHANGE

Biljana came to faith in Jesus when the local pastor’s wife befriended her on the street and invited her to their church service. There, she found an acceptance she had never experienced anywhere else.

The pastor spoke of Jesus’ offer of forgiveness and love.

“My mother didn’t love me; my father didn’t love me; my husband didn’t love me,” Biljana shared. “But then I heard a verse in the Bible that somebody loved me, and not only loved me, but even died for me.”

It’s this same message of hope that Biljana loves to share with Roma children today.

Through the change in his wife’s life and unexpected generous acts of practical help they received from the congregation, Djeno also came to faith.

“When he accepted Christ, everything changed,” Biljana said. “He stopped beating me. He stopped saying bad things and we started to pray together.”

For over two years they prayed every night for God to send someone to work among the Roma in Croatia. Then one day, a Bible verse convinced and challenged the couple that God was sending them. Around the same time, OM EAST partners also started reaching out to Roma villages in Croatia, later supporting Biljana and Djeno in their ministry.

### BOOK OF NEW BEGINNINGS

Now, Djeno is the pastor of a small church in Darda, predominantly attended by Bayash Roma, where Biljana and their four children all serve.

“In the beginning I was asking God: ‘Why did I have to go through all these situations in my life?’” Biljana shared. “But today I know why; the people I am now working with are going through all these situations.”

All of the women she knows are beaten by their husbands. All the girls are getting married very young. All the children are growing up without parents who will protect them.

“It’s not something that I read about in a book,” Biljana stated. “It’s what I went through; I actually thank God for that.”

Now God has given her a mother’s heart and a burden for the Roma.

Drawing from real life situations, Biljana’s fictional book, *The Cat and the Custard*, points its readers to Jesus and addresses some of the social issues and misconceptions prevalent in Roma villages. It tells the story of a little girl called Ana who realised her need of Christ’s forgiveness and discovers a new way to live.

OM EAST and their partners, the Roma Bible Union, will publish the storybook in Croatian this year. They plan to publish it in additional languages to reach more Roma children in Europe.

“It’s a hard job to reach my own people,” Biljana acknowledged. “But God is working!”

“For me the biggest joy is seeing how some of the neglected little girls who used to run after us in the village are now helping us to work among the children in the church,” Biljana said. “I’m really thankful to God for them.”

As more Roma boys and girls receive the message of the gospel, may they put their faith in Jesus and be able to say, just like Biljana did after both she and Djeno chose to follow Jesus:

“That’s when my story really began!”

*Please pray that children and families reading ‘The Cat and the Custard’ will be able to see their own lives reflected in the story and, like the little girl in the story, discover Christ’s forgiveness, love and new life. Please pray for wisdom as Djeno and Biljana serve the congregation in Darda, and as Biljana continues writing for the Roma.*

## Roma Author Biljana’s first book published

A beautiful children’s storybook, illustrated and designed by OM EAST worker, Lenka, and written in Serbo-Croatian by author, Biljana, is now in homes throughout Serbia. In a special outreach promoting reading in segregated Roma villages during the summer of 2016, OM EAST partners distributed over 10,000 copies of four OM EAST publications, including the new fictional storybook *The Cat and the Custard*.

The recent launch caught journalists’ attention with representatives from Serbian national TV and radio arriving to interview the author. Biljana used the opportunity to motivate other Roma to overcome doubts or discrimination and discover their God-given gifts, just as she was encouraged to do. “Don’t bury the gifts God has given you,” Biljana said, “but use them as blessings to other people and to the glory of God”.





Croatia

## Christ's love reaches into a Roma village

Visiting Roma Bible Union partners working among Roma in Croatia, OM EAST worker Inger reflects about Christ's love reaching into a segregated village as the local team shares the gospel through children's clubs.

Removing our shoes at the entrance of an unfinished brick house, we stepped over small well-worn footwear to join around 20 Roma children squeezed into one family's living room. Sitting on the floor I watched as Roma Bible Union (RBU) worker, Željka, narrated the trial and crucifixion of Christ. With great animation she communicated Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

It had only been a short drive from the North East Croatian town where our partners are based. The isolated settlement we visited is simply called 'Roma village' - home to around 2,000 Ludari speaking Roma.

Following Željka's presentation, the group concentrated on activities in Bible story colouring books, which our OM EAST media ministry helps produce for their monthly clubs. Little girls next to me neatly coloured in an image of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, the pictures with text aiming to help them remember and understand the message they had heard. Our host and father of two participants stayed for the afternoon programme, which he has accommodated for four years. I found it very special to see the gospel being brought into and taught from within a local Ludari home, among an ethnic group who are discriminated against.

**"It's love that is impacting the community as the team visit each week."**

At the three clubs I joined, together with three OM EAST graphic designers during our weekend visit in May, over 60 Ludari children heard Christ's offer of forgiveness and love.

Later that evening our partners brought pre-teens to their club, held in a Croatian church in town. RBU team leader, Andy, told me when they first took youth on a trip, they discovered most had never been to the town just a 15-minute drive from their settlement.

As Andy concluded his talk, boys and girls listened closely as he challenged them, "do you want this forgiveness? Do you want to be in the kingdom of God?" A quiet but fervent 'yes!' punctuated each question as some individuals answered immediately. Andy explained to me that Roma children are easily led so they have to be careful not to push them. But this weekend, after speaking about the cross, he felt it important to ask questions, which bring the message of God's love closer to their hearts. It moved me to know God heard their whispered desire and can lead them to follow Him.

The next day we gathered under a porch outside another home for the final children's club. Around 25 children sang 'Lord we lift your name on high', publicly proclaiming Jesus' resurrection for anyone to hear, including two teenage boys playing football next door. Among a people group who believe they are cursed, in a culture steeped in superstition and witchcraft, I saw the significance of voicing Christ's power to overcome sin and death, which brings freedom and life.

Throughout the weekend, I was struck by the RBU worker's love for the children and how the children responded to us because of how established the team is.

On our first afternoon we had not walked far from our van before I felt a small hand slip into mine. I looked down to find a smiling girl walking next to me. Before going on my first visit to a Roma village I had wondered how I would respond. But when I met the children and we laughed together, or when the girl took my hand, instead I wondered, "how can we not receive the little ones? How can we not show them Christ's love?" I thought of Jesus who called the children to come to Him and who calls us to receive them too.

It's love that is impacting the community as the team of four visits each week. Željka told me that working with the boys and girls over the past five years has led to positive relationships with parents because they see their heart for their children. An adult Bible study now meets regularly; during the past two summers individuals from another Roma village in the area asked RBU to run an event for their children.

Motivated by what God is able to do in a complex environment and enriched by meeting the children, I returned to OM EAST based in Austria. That night I had a dream. I don't normally dream about what I will write, but I dreamed I was writing to challenge people to love and cherish the Roma children, just as Christ loves and cherishes us.

There are many ways we can respond. Perhaps it's a change of heart towards the Roma, praying for them, supporting ministries that reach out or using our gifts, all of which help to carry Christ's love into Roma communities.

*"Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all - he is the greatest."*  
Luke 9:48

## First Bible publication for Roma in southern Hungary

The first passages of Scripture have been printed in the Hungarian Munteoni Bayash dialect, a Roma dialect spoken by around 5,000 people living in southern Hungary. The booklet, *Jesus is Lord*, shares five passages from Luke's Gospel, written in both the Roma dialect and Hungarian language, with an explanation that Jesus is Lord over all with power to heal, calm storms, cast out demons and forgive sin.

"For years we have worked on, prayed for and laboured to see this day!" said OM EAST partner Todd Price, Roma Bible Society. "Thanks to God's grace and His using Wycliffe Bible Translators, OM EAST and Roma Bible Society, we were able to receive copies of the first Scripture portion ever printed in the Hungarian Munteoni Bayash dialect. It is such a joy to hold this booklet in our hands! Rejoice with us in this milestone and please pray that when these booklets are distributed in southern Hungary the Lord will use them to draw many Munteon Romato to become fully devoted followers of Jesus who is Lord."





## Slovakia

# Created and prepared for good works

Lenka jumped up and down, almost running on the spot. Each step emphasised her excitement, eyes wide as she envisioned possibilities for a new cover design. This time the Albanian edition of *The Way of the Shepherd*, an insightful guide on leadership, sparked her imagination. “I’m going to draw sheep, and try out different styles!” Lenka happily spilled out her ideas to other graphic designers.

Motivated by the chance to develop skills in graphic design and create literature to present the gospel, Lenka joined OM EAST for two and half years. Having gained expertise and new direction, she recently followed God’s leading to OM South Africa. Lenka reflects on how God used her time with OM EAST’s publishing ministry to reach people throughout Eurasia, meanwhile changing her heart towards her own country, Slovakia.

“When I was looking at different places in the world where OM works, I thought, ‘I’m 100 percent sure I will never do anything in Eastern Europe,’” Lenka admitted, laughing. “But then I met people on this team whose perspective changed mine.”

Lenka grew up in post-Communist Czechoslovakia, one of the areas where OM EAST (formerly OM Greater Europe) smuggled Bibles 25 years earlier. Robert, still on the team, was moved to tears as he considered the significance of someone from a former Communist country joining their ministry. Memories fresh in his mind, Robert told Lenka of police tailing his van in the dark on one smuggling trip in Czechoslovakia, adrenaline pumping as they narrowly evaded being caught.

“Hearing about people risking their lives to share Christ in your nation, makes you realise your nation is important and that you are important because somebody values it that much,” Lenka said. “It’s beautiful.”

OM EAST communicates this same message and value today by producing Christian print and digital media for people groups in Eurasia who still have few resources in their language. Designing publications and flyers in over 15 languages with thousands of copies published, Lenka leaves a legacy that will continue to impact lives for years to come.

“I have seen how women really wanted to read the literature,” Lenka enthused, recalling an outreach to offer hope to vulnerable Czech and Slovak women. “I’ve seen them read it and then approach me to ask questions; it was great to see it hitting a nerve and getting to the core.”

Serving in Ghana during her first year with OM, Lenka discovered a desire to support missions through high quality graphic design. Despite schooling in Art and an aptitude to quickly grasp the technical aspect of design, Lenka struggled with low confidence because she lacked a formal university qualification. However, following training to transfer her artistic abilities into digital form and taking encouragement from scripture, she overcame these doubts.

“A verse in Acts Four really spoke to me where it says, ‘when they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus,’” Lenka explained. “I think that transformation has happened [in my life].” Creative former classmates express their amazement at how Lenka is able to do what she loves and notice

her joy. “It’s because of God,” she tells them. “I didn’t plan this road.”

**“I can only do what God lets me do,” Lenka acknowledges. “It’s not just Him pouring into my abilities, but also ideas.”**

Lenka’s journey of faith began with meeting missionaries in Slovakia; she later put her trust in Christ at a church camp. Over the past two years, Lenka has increasingly learned to say “yes” to God and look to Him as new challenges arise. Amidst sketching sheep or jotting inspiration on an array of yellow post-it notes, prayer is key in her design process. “I can only do what God lets me do,” Lenka acknowledges. “It’s not just Him pouring into my abilities, but also ideas.”

Spurred by the need to share the gospel through media, Lenka encourages believers to use this gift to strengthen small churches or reach minority groups in Eurasia and beyond.

“If you want to see the world changed, start doing something,” Lenka concluded, urging others. “If [graphic design] is what you can do, do it!”

*Please pray individuals would respond to the truths they read about and, like Lenka, discover their God-given gifts and choose His plan for their lives.*

**Are you a graphic designer or web developer with a desire to share the gospel through media?**

Join OM EAST’s literature and media ministry based in Austria, which produces high quality print and digital media in over 25 languages for people groups throughout Eurasia. Use your skills to help strengthen churches and bring hope to unreached peoples. Find out more: [www.east.om.org/go](http://www.east.om.org/go)

“I enjoy the creative space to design book covers and lay out literature for people in countries that don’t have enough resources in their language. It’s so satisfying to hear that people are finding the literature really useful and it is helping direct them to Jesus. I’m really grateful God has given me the chance to be involved in this work.”

– Kiet, OM EAST graphic designer



## Bosnia and Herzegovina

# Investing in education and eternity

“We’re on top of the world!” Amil\* a Bosnian student declared as an OM team and other local volunteers drove up winding roads in North West Bosnia-Herzegovina. Minarets rose frequently on the skyline as they travelled to remote Muslim villages. During two days in September the group of nine, including OM workers Jael, Yujin and Katie, distributed 250 donated new backpacks among disadvantaged children in seven schools.

Two vehicles arriving in a hilltop hamlet stirred the dust on the track as well as people’s interest. One woman appeared at her front door to see who was reversing by her house. Similarly, a man wandered to the edge of his cucumber field for a better view of strangers unloading donations outside their small school. The school director welcomed the visitors inside; passing rows of little shoes, they entered an assembly hall where young children shyly came forward to choose a bag.

In an area where farming is the main livelihood and unemployment high, many families struggle financially. Since parents have to buy all the materials that their sons and daughters need, receiving filled schoolbags brings relief and joy.

“I love seeing the kids’ faces when they take things out of the bags,” Jael said. In a first grade class, a boy stuck his head right into the backpack in his eagerness to discover its contents. Meanwhile, a girl excitedly showed off her pad of A4 paper with its cover picture.

Jael told each class that these gifts were from the church. For most individuals, the OM workers and local church members are the first followers of Jesus they have ever met. “I saw some mums smiling at us,” Yujin said. “Their faces were open as they listened to Jael.” The directors gave permission to enclose a letter for parents containing a Christian novel, published by OM EAST, with an invitation to order a New Testament.

After just one day someone messaged Jael, requesting Scripture.

“The fellowship in our group was important,” Katie reflected. “Those who joined us who don’t yet know Jesus, saw believers working together; they experienced it up close and were attracted to it.” Van driver Dalil\* said he would drive for this project every day if he could, adding, “It’s nice to do good deeds with good people.”

Almost 400 children throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina received essentials for the new term. In the North West, Jael will return with Christmas presents of filled



shoebboxes, continuing to build relationships and reach out.

A teenage girl rang a large cowbell, summoning everyone back to lessons. From windows in another school, pupils waved and called greetings to the distribution team before scuttling back to their desks at their teacher’s arrival. While the term continues, the blessing of schoolbags remains—a daily reminder of God’s provision and love.

*Praise God for donations supplied by individuals and a Swiss company to support impoverished families. Please pray individuals respond to the gospel message and request New Testaments.*

OM EAST is grateful for all those who partner with us to bring a message of hope in Jesus Christ to least reached peoples throughout Eurasia. In 2016, with your help we produced **42 different publications** with **70,000 copies** printed and created **47 eBooks**. God’s truth is reaching hearts and communities in over **23 languages**.  
**Thank you for your continued support.**



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

OM EurAsia Support Team (OM EAST)

You are warmly invited to the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of **OM EAST**, formerly known as **Greater Europe** (GE).

We would love you to join us as we celebrate 50 years of God’s faithfulness and amazing deeds.

**When:** Easter, Friday 30 March 2018 – Sunday 1 April 2018

**Where:** Stockerau, near Vienna

**Contact / Registration:** [50years-ge.east@om.org](mailto:50years-ge.east@om.org)

[50years-ge.east.om.org](http://50years-ge.east.om.org)





**OM EAST**

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