



MediaWorks

Print and Digital Media

2019–2022 Ministry Review



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Margret moved to the Himalayas with the promise she would help print God's Word for the minority people group there. Today, she designs media that shares the gospel and strengthens believers in the region and beyond.

MediaWorks

Formerly known as OM EurAsia
Support Team (OM EAST)

Operation Mobilisation (OM)

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MediaWorks

We support OM teams and other Christian organisations with media for people groups who have very little or no Christian print and digital media available in their language. MediaWorks is a creative team that loves to make it possible for ministries to use media effectively, but who lack the time, people and skills to get started. That's where we can help—by partnering together to bring the hope of Christ to communities around the world!

"We need to create powerful, relevant content that will build God's church—God-honouring content that's available in the homes or pockets of nearly everyone. The Word of God cannot be bound."

— Lawrence Tong, OM Director



"It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work."

— 1 Cor 3:7-8 (NLT)

Dear friends,

I am excited to share this latest ministry review with you! It attempts to capture a glimpse of what we have witnessed God doing over the last years in, and through, the life and work of MediaWorks, and, more importantly, in the lives of those we seek to reach. Whilst much has changed for us as an organisation, the passion and zeal for bringing hope to the least reached has not.

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard wrote: *'Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.'* This review helps us to do just that. Looking backwards, it helps us understand how God has faithfully answered the prayer of many in transitioning OM EAST into its new vision as MediaWorks. The foundations are now in place to expand media support for seeing vibrant communities of Jesus followers established globally among the least reached.

Living life forward reminds us firstly of the need to keep in tune with what God wants us to do: We need to faithfully steward the resources we already have, and to trust Him for all those yet to be given. Secondly, we can only do this work together with brothers and sisters in Christ from around the world, and with other ministries that share the same values. We plant and water the seed *together*, and it is God who makes the seed grow and brings people into a living relationship with Himself.

As you read through the following pages, join us in praising the Lord for *all that He has done and is doing*, and ask Him, the One who is in charge of the harvest, to send more workers into His fields.

May God bless you and continue to encourage you in your service of Him!

David

David Fry
MediaWorks Leader

MediaWorks leadership

David started out in fibre optic research in the UK before moving overseas to invest his skills in Christian radio and digital media. Almost 30 years later, his heart for serving in missions remains. Leading OM's MediaWorks team since 2020, David lives in Austria with his wife and two of his three daughters, based within reach of the local MediaWorks office.

Simon has a background in graphic design and leads MediaWorks' media production, in addition to serving on the leadership team. He joined in 2001, first based with the local team in Austria and now working remotely from his home country of Switzerland, where he lives with his wife and family.





October 2022

Realignment and transition

In 2018, OM Europe leaders encouraged OM EAST to shift their ministry focus to align more closely with OM's redefined vision "to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least reached." Recognising the potential, leaders prompted the OM EAST team to expand their geographical scope beyond Eurasia and challenged them to develop their print and digital media ministry by producing a greater range of media in the heart languages of people groups around the world.

The team began by researching needs and identifying key areas to develop. A survey sent to OM teams and partner organisations helped discover how OM EAST could better equip them with media in the future. Responses confirmed a great need for media support and a desire for more digital resources.

CONTINUING TO PRAY AND SEEK GOD'S WILL, THE FOLLOWING PLANS WERE MADE FOR 2019 AND THE YEARS AHEAD:

- Starting to support teams in the Himalayas (p. 28) and Middle East (p. 36)

Geographical area: OM EAST will broaden their geographical remit to serve OM and Christian partner organisations globally with print and digital media.
- Develop digital media:** We will respond to the results of a survey sent out to OM teams and partners by producing digital media resources that share the gospel in innovative ways.

Developing Apps (p. 11)
Building LightNet (p. 24)
Launching a new digital library (p. 25)
Creating animation (p. 36)
- Vision, mission, strategy and values:** The local OM EAST team and board is formulating new vision and mission statements, and defining future strategy and values with input from OM leaders, OM workers and OM EAST partners.

Vision, focus and services (p. 19)
- Name:** The team is thinking of a new name that accurately describes the ministry.

OM EAST becomes MediaWorks (p. 23)
- Recruiting additional specialists:** Further specialists will be recruited to build on the current work and develop the range of digital media offered.

Needed workers join the team (p. 22)
- New field leader:** OM EAST's field leader, Edwin Keller, will come to the end of his second term in December 2019 and has decided not to continue for another term. OM leaders and OM EAST board members have requested and received nominations for candidates to be considered. Once a new field leader has been appointed, Edwin hopes to begin to hand over his responsibilities in autumn 2019.

New team leader appointed (p. 12)
- Please pray for the OM EAST team and OM leaders to continue recognising God's direction and trusting in His provision. Pray for wisdom in writing their vision and mission statements, and in choosing a new name. Please pray God will bring the right field leader and additional specialists at the right time.*

Give thanks for answers to prayer and please continue to pray for God's leading, wisdom and provision.

"It is a privilege to be able to look back and see how our prayers have become a reality despite challenges," said Simon, MediaWorks production coordinator. "God has prepared the works for us to walk in. To see how He builds His kingdom leads us to give thanks and marvel at what He has done and give God the glory."



August 2019

Defining needs and designing solutions

OM EAST is in the midst of a research process called “Design Thinking”, led by a facilitator. It has nothing to do with graphic design, but is a research model that supports, for example, non-profit organisations to find out how they can help people in the most effective way. It encourages them to empathise with locals, work together to define their needs, and then provide solutions to meet these needs.

OM EAST is building on the results of an initial survey they sent out to their partners and OM teams around the world; the response showed that local ministries would greatly benefit from resources that support them in sharing the gospel. Now, through in-depth research, OM’s media team is seeking to answer the question:

HOW MIGHT OM EAST EQUIP LOCAL BODIES OF BELIEVERS WITH MEDIA TOOLS AND CONTENT RELEVANT TO THEIR CONTEXT AND APPROPRIATE TO THEIR NEEDS?

OM EAST does not just want to produce Christian media. They wish to release relevant print and digital media in innovative ways. So far, some interesting patterns are coming to the surface as a working-group gathers information from the field.

A case study of two very different ministries has revealed similarities in the needs they see and their thoughts of how to respond. Both expressed that those they reach out to are asking questions such as, “Is there hope for me?”, “Will I be forgiven?”, and “Am I loved?” They think that stories or personal testimonies communicated through custom-made, culturally appropriate media could help share what Jesus can do in someone’s life. However, both outreach ministries lack time, equipment, skills and content; this hinders them from producing resources themselves. Another key insight has been the importance of designing solutions with, as well as for, the intended users so there is local ownership.

During the months ahead, the working-group plans to develop further strategies, prototype ideas, test them and, if necessary, go back to the ideation stage again. The findings will prepare the ground for OM EAST to expand their ministry to serve OM teams with print and digital media globally.

Give thanks for the opportunity to be guided through the Design Thinking process. Please pray God gives insight and inspiration that will ultimately help believers to tell others about Jesus in their communities.

Media Strategy

OM EAST benefitted from the Design Thinking concept in planning for their future ministry. They now offer similar strategic coaching for partners on creating and using media effectively to further nurture and build conversations about faith among those they seek to reach.

“Giving ministries media to leave with the people they are trying to reach, opens the gate for further conversation and increased engagement,” described David, OM EAST’s leader. “However, we don’t want to just produce stand-alone content, but rather encourage teams to develop a media strategy.”

OM EAST not only seeks to equip ministries with print and digital media, but also help them maximise its impact. “Before launching into production, it is important to assess what is needed and how media will complement their long-term strategy,” said David.

September 2020



In 2020, the team welcomed Bob, who has taken on the role of media strategist.

He offers ministry teams training and tools, which helps them better understand the people groups they are reaching out to. This prepares the ground for developing or selecting content that is relevant and connects with individuals’ hearts.

“It energises me when we see the connection between the media we are delivering and how God is using it!” said Bob.

Bob has been seconded to OM EAST from FEBC (Far East Broadcasting Company) where he served in areas of engineering, management, ministry development and content development over the past 30 years in Asia and Africa.

January 2022

Erja joined the team in January 2022 driven by questions such as:

HOW CAN WE TRULY REACH PEOPLE FROM A SPECIFIC PEOPLE GROUP? HOW DO WE KNOW IF OUR EFFORTS HAVE A LASTING IMPACT?

Her vision is to work alongside local teams, listening to them and supporting them to use media effectively in their ministry.

Together with media strategist Bob Bartz, Erja will facilitate our Media Strategy initiatives, helping teams explore the deep needs of the people they minister to.

Her role also focuses on finding effective ways of evaluating the impact of the media on the people they are seeking to reach. “I want people to know Jesus,” she said, “but I don’t know the language, culture or context of the least reached. Local workers do. I want to enable them to do the work they are passionate about.”



From Finland, Erja’s background is in pre-school education, project management, evaluation and media research. She has been seconded from Sansa where she worked for the past ten years.

“We recognise this is only the start of the journey—thank you for giving us such a good framework and tools to plan and move forward,” said an OM participant. “We appreciate all the time and effort you have put into this and for investing in our ministries in this way.”



Before Easter 2019

Believe to receive—sharing the hope of Easter

BY INGER R. | EUROPE

In Central Europe, OM EAST partners and OM workers go out each week to speak to ladies in brothels and on the street. During Easter, they have planned special outreaches to reach more women, bringing them gifts together with a leaflet produced specifically for individuals in red light areas.

The leaflet, entitled *Maria*, was designed by OM EAST and written by an outreach worker. The fictional story of a woman called Maria was inspired by the life of Mary Magdalene. It describes her brokenness and how, one day, she met Jesus Christ who told of a new kingdom where you can become a child of God through faith in Him. Maria expresses the wonderful change in her life as she experienced her Saviour's acceptance, forgiveness, love and comfort.

"I was thinking about the verse in Matthew chapter 21 where it says those trapped in prostitution will enter God's kingdom ahead of others because they believed," reflected an OM EAST worker. "This gives such hope that women today would also put their faith in Jesus and receive new life in Him!"

The *Maria* leaflet has been translated into nine languages, including Romanian, Hungarian, Bulgarian and Chinese. OM EAST will print a total of 4,700 copies to help outreach workers offer hope to hundreds of ladies this Easter.

Please pray many women read the Maria leaflet and believe in Jesus and His promises. Please pray they would trust their Saviour to provide them with a way out of prostitution. Please pray individuals receive the healing, restoration and freedom only Jesus can bring.

"Jesus said to them, 'I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did.'" – Matt 21:31a–32a

After Easter 2019

Answer to prayer request shared before outreaches!

Strength to overcome

BY INGER R. | EUROPE

"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." – 1 John 4:4 (NKJV)

"Before we go out to speak to women on the street and in brothels, we always pray the verse, which says: 'Greater is He that is in you than he who is in the world,'" shared OM outreach worker Sara*. "It's a declaration that the light of Jesus in us is stronger than the darkness we go into."

Sara and OM partners held on to this truth during special Easter outreaches in Central Europe. Small outreach teams talk to ladies each week; however, on this occasion they sought to reach more women, bringing gifts to over 750 individuals. They offered Easter eggs together with a leaflet, which communicates the hope found in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. The leaflet was designed by OM EAST's literature and media ministry and written specifically for those in red light areas.

"The ladies definitely received our gifts happily and we had quite a lot of personal talks," reflected Sara. "It was hard work, but God gave us strength."

In one brothel, Sara found Janka* alone. Sara has known Janka for years, but, for the first time, they were able to have a deeper conversation without being watched. "I came to faith through the literature you gave me," Janka told Sara, sharing some of her journey from the past few years. "Later, in my despair, I called to Jesus; I asked Him to help me and He heard me." Janka felt Jesus' presence and she received strength and hope. Since then, she has taken steps towards being able to leave prostitution.

Easter 2021

Easter eCard created for ladies in red light areas and for those who have managed to leave prostitution but whose recovery is a long process.

"I sent it to contacts in my phone," shared outreach worker Sarah*. "It was lovely to receive so many positive replies."

The eCard is available in around ten languages.

"I believe in God—He is real and obviously leading me," she added.

"It was special to meet Janka," said Sara. "Usually it is a long road for individuals leaving prostitution because they are traumatised and there are many consequences. The Holy Spirit needs to, and can, help them—we have seen this happen."

"For people coming out of prostitution who were not protected from many things, there is a lot more to deal with from the past," considered OM worker Simon, who designed the leaflet. "But it's like all of us who come to faith; we decide to follow Jesus and then the process of growing starts, like a plant that needs watering and nurturing."

Sara and her colleagues continue to speak to ladies, build trust and give them contact details. "Relationship is key in helping healing take place—that's why we do

**"I believe in God—
He is real and
obviously leading me,"
Janka added.**

what we do," she said. Recently Sara gave her name and phone number to Nadia*, pronouncing her name clearly. "No," Nadia replied. "Your name is 'mama,'" and proceeded to type "mama" into her phone.

"Even though we don't see it, we know Jesus is in us," said Sara, referring again to the verse of Scripture. "It is His kindness, friendliness, love and life reflected in us to those we meet."

Praise God that in Him there is light, strength and hope! Give thanks that Jesus hears prayer and responds to people in their time of need. Please pray Janka and others will experience God's provision in enabling them to find freedom.





May 2019

A secure path for the Altai

BY INGER R. | SIBERIA

The Altai people worship gods in trees, rivers and mountains. In mountain passes, it is traditional to perform rituals for safe passage. Workers in Siberia want the Altai to know their Creator God who alone offers the security they seek.

“I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.” – Psalm 121:1-2

The Altai people, a minority group of 76,000, are traditionally hunters and fishermen. They live in the mountainous Republic of Altai in Siberia, located about 500km south of the Russian town Novosibirsk and borders Kazakhstan, China and Mongolia. The Altai practise animism and shamanism by worshipping gods in nature—in trees, rivers and mountains.

“You often see white ribbons tied onto trees on the top of mountain passes, which are dedicated to local spirits,” described Anna*, an OM EAST partner based in Siberia. “It is traditional to sprinkle vodka on these passes to thank gods for safe passage.”

Anna wants the Altai to know the maker of heaven and earth, who alone is worthy of worship. She encourages them to look beyond the hills for their help—to God who alone offers a secure path, a path that leads to eternal life through Jesus Christ.

To communicate this message, Anna and her colleagues have translated a Bible storybook into the southern Altai language, spoken by around 65,000 of the Altai population. OM EAST provided the layout of the illustrated Altai-Russian publication, *My First Bible*, adapting its original design to reflect the local culture. OM EAST partners plan to record the stories for an app so that individuals can listen to, as well as read, the text on their mobile devices. The storybook’s aim is summed up on the back of the publication: “Teach a child to

“There is only one other Bible storybook in southern Altai...” explained Anna.

choose the right path, and when he is older he will remain upon it,” Proverbs 22:6 (TLB)

“There is only one other Bible storybook in southern Altai, which is intended for older children and teenagers,” explained Anna. The New Testament is available and Anna is working on the Old Testament together with her colleagues. “*My First Bible* can help parents explain truths of God’s Word to their young children,” shared Anna, who estimates there are 500–1,000 Altai followers of Jesus. Anna has started giving the Bible storybooks to church leaders to distribute further.

OM EAST has produced *My First Bible* in 16 languages so far. Their partners have found this book an accessible way to introduce Scripture to those who have never heard about Jesus. It bridges the gap until a complete Bible becomes available in the local language.

The recent Altai edition reminds Simon, OM EAST’s production coordinator, of when they published the Bible storybook for the Bayash Roma in Croatia. “It was the first Scripture

stories printed in the Bayash Roma language and it is a beautiful example of what has happened since those early beginnings,” said Simon. During the past decade, small Bayash Roma churches have formed. Now Roma believers are sharing the gospel in Roma communities. “Of course, it’s not because of the Bible storybook,” stated Simon. “It just plays a part—like a puzzle piece that is part of the whole.”



God’s work among the minority Roma group inspires Simon in reaching the Altai. “I hope to look back in ten years and see Altai believers building the church and serving their people,” he said with emotion. “Our part is to give out God’s truth, but the Lord needs to move hearts. I hope many more will turn from rituals, shamans or other gods to acknowledge God and honour Him!”

“I hope to look back in ten years and see Altai believers building the church and serving their people,” Simon said with emotion.

Praise God that He is the maker of heaven and earth. Give Him thanks for making Himself known through creation and Jesus Christ. Please pray the Altai people would seek help from their Creator and choose to follow Jesus the Saviour.

October 2020

Android app Bible story for the Altai in Siberia

My First Bible in the Altai language is the first Android app with audio produced and published by OM EAST.

“I met a Christian family who have 5 boys—twins aged 8, a son aged 5, and twin babies aged 9 months,” shared translator Anna *, an



OM EAST partner in Siberia. “Their boys love reading *My First Bible* storybook every night before bed, and in particular, they like to listen to the app and follow along on Dad’s phone with the yellow highlighting. They ask to listen to these stories on the app every night.”

Change in leadership

OM EAST is pleased to announce that David Fry has been appointed as their new leader. David will take on the role from Edwin Keller on 1 January 2020. After leading the team for eight years, Edwin has decided not to continue for a third term. Edwin and Hanna Keller have planned to take a sabbatical and they look forward to how God will lead them in the new chapter that lies ahead.

“We want to welcome David and his wife Marlene into the OM family and express our sincere gratitude to Edwin and Hanna for their faithful service over the years,” conveyed Hans van Baaren, leader of OM in Europe.

David has worked in missions for nearly 30 years, most recently with Trans World Radio (TWR) in the area of broadcast, distribution and scalable digital solutions.



October 2019

David will lead OM’s media team as they expand the ministry and further develop the vision for effectively using, creating and delivering print and digital media in the heart languages of people around the world.

Give thanks for all Edwin and Hanna have invested in OM EAST during the past two terms of leadership. Praise God for providing David Fry as the new leader. Please pray for the team in this time of transition as they desire to trust God and seek His guidance for the future.

Passionate about media in missions: interview with new leader

BY INGER R. | INTERNATIONAL

“I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.” – 1 Corinthians 9:22 (ESV)

Whether living in the UK, Seychelles or in Austria, working in fibre optic research, radio broadcasting or now leading OM’s media team, David Fry has found his home and purpose in being where God wants him to be. In an interview, the new OM EAST leader shares the team’s vision to help OM ministries use media to share the gospel with all nations, in all languages and in all cultures.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM AND WHERE IS HOME?

David Fry: I grew up in the old Roman town of Bath, in England. I loved the place and it was very much home. However, home for me is where you make it. We have “family” wherever we have lived—in the UK, Seychelles and now in Austria. My perspective of what we think of as security changed when my wife and I lost our young son. His accident made me very much aware that security is being where God wants you to be, in the centre of His will.

WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO GO INTO MISSIONS?

David: It was literally a telephone call. At the time, I was enjoying my secular job in fibre optic research.

Out of the blue, my pastor’s wife phoned me, saying: “I think your skills and gifts are wasted; I think God has something else in store for you—I don’t know what it is, but I think you should consider it.” I was shocked. I had zero inclination for missions, thinking that it was for those who can learn languages and for up-front people. However, it made me start exploring options in ministry or missions.

YOU HAVE WORKED IN MISSIONS FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS, MOST RECENTLY WITH TRANS WORLD RADIO IN BROADCAST, DISTRIBUTION AND SCALABLE DIGITAL SOLUTIONS; WHAT HAS KEPT YOU IN MISSIONS?

David: I came to the conclusion that I can do a stressful job in missions because I believe in it, but I can no longer do a stressful secular job because my heart is not in it. We are light and life where we are, whether we are called to missions or to secular work. I like OM’s vision of including people who are in secular work to be part of missions and of involving churches as partners. This reflects the beautiful diversity of the worldwide church.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO JOIN OM EAST AND TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE OF LEADERSHIP?

David: One night in 2013, when I came home from work, I had a vision about how to use media in missions. Inspiration came for a media exchange platform and it clicked how this could come together. I was trembling and tears ran down my face because I knew that to realise this vision would be painful. I prayed, “Lord, if you want me to, I will do this; I will follow.” When I met with OM EAST in 2019, I found they shared that same vision and discernment of what was needed. Later, I was invited to apply for the position of team leader. It is not comfortable or easy, but when I looked through the job description to see if there was one excuse to say “no”, I found none. I saw that God was opening this door.

COULD YOU SHARE OM EAST’S VISION FOR THE FUTURE?

David: Media is very powerful. We need to learn how to use it well and equip ministries to release that potential in their situation. Giving them something to leave with the people they are trying

to reach opens the gate for further conversation and increased engagement. However, we don’t want to just produce stand-alone content, but rather encourage teams to develop a media strategy. We seek to complement the work of the teams, helping them help themselves—like being a conductor in an orchestra, enjoying the music and seeing it take off!

OM EAST IS REDEFINING ITS VISION, PREPARING TO SERVE OM TEAMS GLOBALLY AND PLANNING TO CHANGE ITS NAME; CAN YOU DESCRIBE ANY OTHER NEXT STEPS?

David: OM EAST is already well equipped to provide graphic design and layout for print and digital media. Now we want to further develop in the area of digital media, including pursuing the dream of a media exchange platform, a tool that will have huge ramifications because it enables ministries to share content easily. Practically speaking, clearing out the office is a physical representation of the transition we are going through. We acknowledge and build on the past, giving thanks and praise, but also accepting a new role with new impetus. It will look different; the world has changed and so has communication.

HOW WILL OM EAST CONTRIBUTE TO OM’S OVERALL VISION OF SHARING THE GOSPEL AMONG LEAST-REACHED PEOPLE?

David: I see a huge opportunity to play a role in supportive media. I have heard in OM that what we have to offer is desperately needed. There’s a sense of new possibilities to work together. When I took on the leadership role, my question was, “Will OM’s top leadership endorse this?” Their support now opens huge doors. I am passionate about the vision and it gives me joy to see the readiness for it!

HAVE THERE BEEN ENCOURAGEMENTS DURING YOUR FIRST MONTHS IN THE ROLE?

David: There has been a great welcoming culture and many affirmations. At the leaders’ conference, one speaker said: “Never let me hear any of you say, ‘OM did this’; it is God’s work and we are His labourers in His harvest field.” This is a foundation that excites me! Let us lay a good foundation and be faithful. Let us not be afraid of taking the risk of doing what we believe God is calling us to do!





NEWSLETTER JULY 2020

Dear friends,

I hope this finds you well and that you are experiencing God's grace amidst any hardship related to the coronavirus crisis.

The past months have not been without challenges for OM EAST. One of our team members and his wife were particularly affected as they became very ill with COVID-19. We are thankful that they are recovering after around two months of suffering from the virus.

During lockdown, our local weekly team meetings in Austria moved online, which made it possible to include team members who work remotely from Finland, Germany, Switzerland and USA. Taking the opportunity to connect as a wider team has been a blessing and a positive change since we will be recruiting a more global network of specialists for our media ministry. We praise God for many exciting recent developments and would like to share a few in this newsletter.

Thank you for your partnership in making Jesus known!

David Fry
MediaWorks leader

June 2020

Food for the body and soul

BY INGER R. | ASIA

"Man does not live on bread alone but on every Word that comes from the mouth of the LORD." – Deut 8:3b

Pyotr* lives in an area of Asia where it can be hard to follow Jesus and Christian literature in his language is scarce. He expressed to an OM EAST team member, Trevor*, that the books he received a few years ago had a huge impact. Pyotr's wife, in particular, experienced a significant change in her life after reading the literature.

The COVID-19 pandemic made life more challenging for Pyotr's family as they suffered a loss of income. In June 2020, Trevor asked OM EAST to pray for Pyotr, whom he would speak to online that afternoon. As they chatted, his friend shared how he had used the last of his money at the market that day to buy supplies for his large family.

"I remembered that my daughter asked to bring eggs," Pyotr described. "I stopped my car in front of the market and opened my wallet and said: 'Lord, you are aware that I don't have money to buy, but you are my provider.'"

A few minutes later, a friend called Pyotr, urging him to come and see him. "He didn't tell me what it was; he just said, 'I have something for you,'" Pyotr continued. "Then I saw [a vision] where God showed me who sent me the gift and how much." When Pyotr turned up, his friend passed on a financial gift from someone who had felt God put it on his heart to give to Pyotr. "I was surprised when my friend gave me the envelope and said the person's name, which was exactly who God told me a few minutes ago."

"He was so excited to share with me how this miracle happened to him!" Trevor related. "This was all happening during the time that we as a team were praying for Pyotr—God is so good!"

OM workers have noticed an increased hunger for Christian media in this region of Asia since the COVID-19 pandemic. Please pray for more people to be sustained by God's Word and experience His provision for physical needs at this difficult time.

November 2022

More precious than silver and gold

BY INGER R. | ASIA

"The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold." – Psalm 119:72

Paul* observed the dingy apartment block in the capital city of a country in Asia. The OM literature distributor followed a local believer inside to deliver Christian publications to her mother, Lily*. The poorly clad woman welcomed her daughter and the foreign guest into her home, where the old furniture revealed further signs of hardship. After giving the titles he had brought, Paul offered Lily money to help pay for her needs. Her unexpected response has had a lasting impact on Paul.

"Don't bring us money," Lily replied. "Bring us Christian books."

"It was very humbling," said Paul. "What an example. There she was with almost nothing, and she didn't want money. It also showed me that our Western solution of: 'If someone is in poverty, we can help financially' wasn't her solution at all."

Since this encounter ten years ago when Paul went to meet OM EAST partners in Asia, he continues to support brothers and sisters in Christ to receive God's truth in their heart language.

"When you look at the quantity of Christian publications in the West and look at the quantity [believers in parts of Asia] have, it's pitiful," he stated. "Why should we have these resources and they don't?"

Paul coordinates media publishing, copyright and distribution and has pioneered the training of a few believers to print books themselves. Once trained, Mina* printed her first book as Paul looked on. "You could see in her eyes her desire to go out and give it to her neighbours and knowing she never could," he



described. Paul saw Mina's joy in what she held, accompanied by the disappointment of not being able to share it freely. Jesus followers must be wise in communicating the gospel therefore the copies are mainly for circulation among churches.

A CALL TO KEEP EQUIPPING THE CHURCH

For the past decade, Paul has been working with a local church. This year when he supplied SD cards containing Christian media, he noticed a difference compared to his first visit. "Because of what they now have access to, they know what they don't have," explained Paul. "Today, the need is just as great, but they are now able to voice their needs and ask for specific titles and topics." Believers are currently asking for resources to print more books in-country and requesting material on discipleship to help individuals grow in faith.

While visiting the region, Paul again witnessed how hard life is. Financial pressures increase as prices rise, and those experiencing health issues suffer due to poor medical care. During the pandemic, congregations faced loss as church members died of COVID-19. God's people need His daily provision and protection as they seek to live out their faith in challenging environments.

The stories of people like Lily, who wanted spiritual nourishment more than financial help, or the special moment as Mina printed her first book, spur Paul on. "If the brothers and sisters are willing to keep pressing on and paying the price, I am willing to press on too, as long as I have health and strength," said Paul, who is past retirement age yet still working. He is looking for someone to take up the baton and continue providing biblical media and encouraging believers in Asia. Could you play a role in equipping the church in Asia with media in their heart language?

Contact: info.media@om.org



November 2020

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

Dear friends,

Mary believed the angel’s message. Joseph trusted the dream. Shepherds searched for the baby. And wise men followed the star. These key individuals in the Christmas story all took a step of faith, which led to a life-changing encounter with Jesus.

We desire that people today would experience this same transforming encounter with our Saviour. It was special to recently hear how small churches and families from indigenous tribes in Siberia are responding to Bible storybooks in their own language.

As we expand our media ministry to help share the gospel in more places, we praise God for calling workers to join us and for new opportunities to support OM teams in North Africa, the Middle East and the Himalayas.

When I think of the very uncertain times we are in, aware many have suffered personal tragedies or loss of income, the words that come to mind are: Immanuel—God with us. We want to hold on to the promise of God’s presence and faithfulness, giving us courage to go where He is leading us in the new year.

Thank you for your partnership in making Jesus known!

David Fry
MediaWorks leader

Bible storybook for the Tuvan people in Siberia

SIBERIA

A local believer has been distributing the new bilingual Tuvan and Russian illustrated children’s Bible storybook among small Tuvan churches in Siberia, including in remote areas. OM EAST provided the design and layout for the freshly printed *My First Bible*; their partners in Russia worked on translation.

“Churches were very happy to receive the *My First Bible*,” said the local believer. “Pastors and church leaders are asking me for more copies.”

Please pray the Bible storybook would help children and families know Jesus better. Please pray that families who will be given a copy for Christmas will understand Jesus’ love for them.



December 2020

Moving to Mongolia

BY INGER R. | MONGOLIA

From a least-reached people group herself, Tuvan translator Buyana wants Tsaatan reindeer herders to hear about Jesus and know the God who changed her life.

“My son and I travelled very far to reach the Tsaatan reindeer herders,” said Buyana*, describing their journey from the Tuvan Republic of Russia to a remote valley in Mongolia. A three-day road trip was followed by an eight-hour horse ride from the nearest Mongolian village. In a country where horses outnumber people, the animals are an essential part of everyday life and a common way to travel, especially to areas where there are no roads.

For three months in the summer of 2019, Buyana and her seven-year-old son, together with a short-term outreach team, lived among the Tsaatan reindeer herders in their settlement of tents. “They accepted me and called me their own person,” she said. The nomadic tribe originates from Buyana’s indigenous group, the Tuvans in Siberia, and they also speak the Tuvan language. She offered a children’s programme and worked with teenagers during their visit, drawing on her experience of serving in her home church.

CALLED TO THE TSAATAN REINDEER HERDERS

“I had asked God to show me if there is a people group I should go to,” remembered Buyana. “As I prayed, the desire in my heart grew and grew.” Her prayer had been prompted by a conference on bringing the good news to Shamanist communities. Then a believer in Mongolia phoned Buyana, telling her they needed someone to go to the unreached Tsaatan reindeer herders. “I understood that God has called me,” she said. Her first outreach further confirmed this direction. Since then, she has made two more trips to the Tsaatans. “If it’s not a calling from God, it’s very difficult to work in such places,” she emphasised.

Sent out by her Tuvan church, Buyana and her son plan to return for three years where she will invest her skills in educational teaching, translation, and children’s ministry. Once the borders are no longer closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, she can relocate and

hopes others will join her as she picks up the baton from the previous believer who served there. Mother and son will be based at the Mongolian village closest to the reindeer herders' camp and again ride on horseback to stay with them for extended visits.

"We won't be able to live there in winter as it is too cold and we are not used to it," Buyana stated. Accustomed to the Siberian climate that can drop to -40°C does not qualify them for withstanding the harsh conditions of sheltering in a tarpaulin tent while temperatures plummet to -50°C. Though the Tsaatans keep a stove burning in the tent's centre, the indoor temperature doesn't rise above freezing. "It's a four-hour walk to collect firewood," added Buyana, explaining that the nomadic tribe allow the reindeer to determine their camp's location, a practice that reflects their animistic beliefs.

TRAINED TO TRANSLATE INTO THE TUVAN TONGUE

"I want to have something I can give them," said Buyana. "It's important to share the gospel in a simple and relevant way." She volunteers alongside Bible translators in Russia; together, they are currently preparing oral Tuvan Bible stories and gathering media to take to the Tsaatans.

Buyana's passion to translate began after her degree in history education, continued while training as a lawyer and remains today in addition to her employment at a school. "I was inspired by a love for my own language and a concern for my people," she expressed. "I translated Bible courses because giving people the whole Tuvan Bible was too overwhelming and difficult for them to read." The Bible course helps individuals to read and understand the Tuvan Bible, which has been available since 2011. A Tuvan children's Bible storybook, recently published by her colleagues in partnership with OM's media team, helps Buyana teach in Sunday schools.

"It's great to translate resources," she said. "But the main thing I wish to give is God's love."

CHANGED BY JESUS' HEALING TOUCH

Buyana was raised in a village at a time when remote Tuvan regions were untouched by Christ's message and many practised Shamanism and Buddhism. At university in the city, she visited two churches with the aim of writing down her observations. What started as a history assignment turned into the beginning of following Jesus and belonging to God's family.

"I used to be a very lonely person," reflected Buyana. She grew up in a family of four children, but by the time she was a young adult, she had already suffered the loss of both parents and two siblings. "In Jesus I found someone who will never leave me, and in the church I received a new family," she described. "I lived with deep wounds and unforgiveness in my heart," she continued. "But God found me and gave me strength to forgive. He has given me a new heart, a new life, high goals and joyful days."

Buyana often visits small Tuvan churches to encourage believers. "Our churches are about 15 to 20 years old and there are not many," she said. "Nevertheless, God has changed the lives of many others and there are committed workers." Some people ask her: "Why go to Mongolia, when the whole of Tuva is not saved?" Jesus' example convinces her to take this step. "Jesus left His own people to go to others so they would know Him too," she replied.

Just as she experienced in her life and nation, she longs to see the body of Christ grow among the Tsaatans. "I pray their hearts would be ready to receive God's Word," said Buyana, who knows of only a few Tsaatan believers in the village. "I really want there to be Tsaatan translators, leaders and pastors," she declared. "Then they can disciple their people further and share the gospel with other peoples!"

"But [Jesus] said, 'I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.'" - Luke 4:43



End of 2021

After waiting for COVID restrictions to lift, Buyana and her son were able to move from the Tuvan Republic of Russia to Mongolia at the end of 2021. "The Tsaatans have not forgotten me and my son. They sent us a photo on Facebook with a greeting," described Buyana. Their warm welcome encouraged her as she begins to go to the camp where she will serve in educational teaching, translation and children's ministry.

Once the new team leader arrived in 2020, the new vision statement was finalised.

Our vision

We equip local ministries around the globe with relevant print and digital media that helps them share the gospel and strengthen believers in their communities.

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

Our focus

Partnering locally
We work with you to find out how media can best complement your ministry.

Bridging the gap
We open the door to a wide network of media experts and providers.

Curating with integrity
We help navigate copyrights and licensing so you can use what is already out there and share your original content.

Creating in context
We design media for specific people groups to match their culture and resonate with their heart.

Distributing effectively
We suggest ideas for getting life-changing messages into the hands of those you connect with.

Engaging proactively
We help you use media to start a conversation and encourage a response.

Multiplying ministry
We provide ways for you to easily build on what others have done and let others benefit from what you create.

Our services

MEDIA STRATEGY
How can I use media to start a conversation and encourage a response?

Our media ministry not only seeks to equip ministries with print and digital media but also helps maximise the impact of those resources among the intended audience. We offer training and coaching to help ministry teams better understand the people groups they are working with, and prepare the ground for developing—or selecting—content that is relevant and connects with each person's heart.

share the gospel and strengthen believers, especially among least-reached people groups.

We design apps, books, booklets, flyers, leaflets, logos and websites and are developing in the areas of animation, video editing, storytelling and features for social media campaigns. Local partners can translate material into additional languages and help adapt media to suit different cultures as needed. A wide network of partners are willing to collaborate.

MEDIA CREATION
How can I create media for specific people groups that matches their culture and resonates with their hearts?

Once the content criteria have been identified, we support ministries by creating resources that help

MEDIA DISTRIBUTION
How can I get the life-changing message of Christ's love into the hands of those I connect with?

Once you know what you want to communicate to the people you work among, we can support you with ideas of how best to share that message and which channels to use. We also help navigate copyrights and licensing so you can use what is already out there and share your original content.



March 2021

My First Bible in the Shor language

BY PATRYCJAK | SIBERIA

My First Bible, a Bible storybook for children, has been published in many languages. One of the latest versions was published for the Shor people living in southern Siberia, Russia.

“The people in one region were very excited to receive *My First Bible* in the Shor and Russian languages,” said Anna*, who represents a partner of OM EAST in that part of the world. “We pray that the Word of God will bring much fruit in the lives of children and adults who received it.”

OM EAST workers also pray for other projects for this people group, such as the oral Bibles story project and videos for kids, done by partners.

The Shors traditionally earn their living through gathering tea or mushrooms, farming, hunting and raising stock. Some live in towns practising other professions.

The team prays for God’s transformation and healing power to be at work among them, especially those struggling with alcoholism and depression.

The Shor’s dominant religion is a mix of animism and orthodox Christianity.

“We pray for the Shor Christians, who are still small in numbers,” said one team member. “We pray that they would boldly share their faith with their people. We pray that some of them would follow God’s call to serve as pastors and mission workers. Please, join us in prayer for the Shor people.”



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2021

Dear friends,

Few words were needed. The images and video we recently received from our local partners in Siberia expressed so much. The difference in the scenes could not have been greater and I was deeply moved as I watched. The video first shows the Shor people practising shamanistic rituals. In contrast, we then see a small outreach team worshipping the Creator of the Universe and interceding for the indigenous tribe. This little group of believers were on the move, bringing God’s love and giving out Bible storybooks in the Shor language.

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave His disciples the great commission: “Go into all the world” – Mark 16:15a. To this day, His commission has lost none of its relevance and we need to remind ourselves to “go out...”

Over the past year, we have also seen individuals answering this call to “go out” as they joined OM EAST’s growing media work, which helps to share a message of hope with the least reached. I am extremely grateful for all the skilled workers who were willing to go. Each person has their own exciting story.

And so, our team, together with many others, has the privilege of playing a small part in fulfilling Jesus’ tremendous and ongoing commission. As we go forward, we rely on His equally great promise: “I am with you always” – Matthew 28:20.

Thank you for your partnership and support.

Simon
MediaWorks production coordinator



November 2021

Heaven rejoices

BY INGER R. | CAUCASUS

In the valleys of the Caucasus mountains lives a people group who, until recently, had no alphabet for their minority language, no Scripture in their native tongue and no known followers of Jesus.

Over the past few years, Bible translator Peter* and his colleagues have created an alphabet and begun making God’s Word available to the ethnic group. In collaboration with OM EAST, they have worked on producing a literacy app and publishing educational material to help prepare individuals for being able to read the Bible.

Since the involvement of local translators is essential, gifted individuals were selected to help, including Murad* who knows three languages spoken in his country. While translating Bible passages, Murad recognised he was reading God’s Word and understood its truth.

“I believe in God and want to live with Him forever. How can I be saved?” Murad asked Peter. After reading

verses together about having faith in Jesus and the need to repent, Murad responded in prayer to accept Jesus as his Saviour. Remembering the account of the tower of Babel, he prayed in his own language, knowing God would understand him.

“Rejoice! There is a big celebration in heaven!” expressed Simon, OM EAST’s production coordinator. “You are praying for unreached people,” he continued,

encouraging those who support OM EAST’s media ministry. “We are experiencing that people are coming to faith. What a joy to see what God is doing!”

Praise God that the translator from an unreached people group believes in Jesus and has accepted the gift of salvation! Please pray he would grow

in faith and play a key role in sharing the gospel in his community. Please pray for God’s protection over him, OM EAST’s partner and their continued work.

“There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

– Luke 15:10b

New Workers

For years, the OM EAST team prayed and searched for suitable co-workers. “Now they are suddenly knocking on our door”, said Simon, OM EAST production coordinator.

“Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will.” – 2 Corinthians 8:3b-5

Many years ago, an OM EAST team member felt God put these verses on her heart as a prayer for needed staff. During 2020, OM EAST has been particularly experiencing this verse become reality; nine new workers attended OM’s online orientation confer-



ence this summer with still others currently exploring opportunities to serve.

“People are making themselves available to God and He is leading them to us in very different and interesting ways,” explained Simon. “And they are bringing exactly the qualifications we need. It’s amazing!”

Praise God for sending mission-minded individuals with the right skills! Please pray God would provide all the financial support they require.

Dear Friends,

Autumn is a season of change: the maturing sun, the cooler days, leaves transitioning through shades of yellow, orange, red, and brown. Yet the fields near my home are full of vines laden with fruit. *The harvest is ready!* A symbolic tree, with its lower branches removed, calls labourers to the harvest field. *Now is the time to reap!*

Likewise, OM EAST’s transition through many changes is now also reflected in our new name: **MediaWorks!** Yes, **media** done well **works** to help communicate the gospel, to connect with the least reached, and to build relationships. As you read on, rejoice with me in what God is doing as Lord of the harvest, in seeing people come into a living faith in Jesus, and pray for Him to send more workers into His fields (Matt 9:38)!

David
MediaWorks leader

OM EAST becomes MediaWorks

OM EAST has changed its name to “MediaWorks”. The new name reflects the broadened geographical area of impact beyond Eurasia, and a shift in focus to enabling ministries to use media effectively in sharing a life-changing message with specific people groups. Redefining the focus is part of OM’s wider vision realignment to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least reached.

“Media done well works to help communicate the gospel, to connect with the least reached and to build relationships,” expressed David.

Give thanks for God’s leading in expanding and developing MediaWorks’ ministry. Please pray for wisdom and inspiration for the team based in Austria and those working remotely as they offer training, design resources and provide distribution solutions.

Change of chairperson

MediaWorks would like to thank Christa Deinlein for serving on the board over the past 15 years.

“We praise God for bringing Christa to serve on the board of OM EAST in November 2006. Since then, she fulfilled many roles as vice-secretary, secretary and, in 2008, as treasurer. In 2011 she became the chairperson and led the organisation through what was arguably one of the most significant periods of change and challenge since our foundation in 1968.

“Dear Christa, we deeply appreciate your passion for the ministry, your heart for the lost and your concern for the welfare of the team. On behalf of the whole team, I would like to thank you for serving so faithfully over many years and wish you God’s rich blessing for this next phase of life.” – David, Field Leader

We are pleased to announce Florian Poinstingl as the new chairperson. Florian previously served on the

board before he, his wife and two daughters moved to South Sudan for three and a half years, where Florian worked as a pilot with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Since returning to his home country of Austria, Florian’s heart for missions remains, and he desires to continue serving as part of the body of Christ in any way he can. “I want to support the persecuted church and unreached people,” shared Florian, who has flown workers from a like-minded organisation to the Sudanese border on several occasions. “I want to be used where Jesus wants me to be.” After reconnecting with the team, Florian was keen to be involved in governance again alongside his job as a pilot for a business jet based in Austria.

Give thanks for Christa’s service to the team, and please pray God’s blessing over her retirement, health and family. Give thanks that Florian has taken up the baton. Please pray for wisdom and insight in this role and God’s blessing and protection over him and his family.





December 2020
Work starts on LightNet

Creating LightNet; connecting gospel resources to the unreached

BY MACKENZIE Z. | INTERNATIONAL

Compelling and effective digital networks are not established overnight. They take time to sprout, take root, and eventually grow and bear fruit. LightNet is no exception. The first ideas about such a system and tool date back to 2013 from David Fry, now team leader of MediaWorks. He shares that this idea “combined with the vision that OM EAST has independently had, brought to fruition what is known as LightNet today.” Following David’s appointment as MediaWorks team leader at the end of 2019, the Lord provided specialists who could take the work forward. Since December 2020, Daniël, Clayton and Jamie have been hard at work on this vision.

THE VISION OF LIGHTNET

“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.” – 1 John 1:7a

When MediaWorks supporter Sally heard about the digital tool in progress, she suggested the name ‘LightNet’ as she thought of it helping bring light into the world through a network. Meanwhile, MediaWorks leader David had been using the analogy of the earth viewed from outer space at night with lights shining brightly from inhabited places where people were connected. It turned out that the representative photo he had shown in presentations described exactly what Sally had in mind.

The image resonates with Jamie, a systems architect developing LightNet. “This is a picture of the world through God’s spiritual eyes,” he explains. “Every Christian is a light and as they have relationship with other Christians, it makes lines of light.” While reading 1 John 1:7, Jamie found it echoed LightNet’s name and vision: to give light and to nurture networks of relationships, which bring individuals into fellowship with Jesus and with each other.

One practical obstacle the LightNet team seeks to overcome is that after “an online book or video is created, it’s extremely fragmented across ministries,” Jamie illustrates. “[LightNet] will eventually [enable] resources to be shared.” A material’s impact exponentially grows when it can be used over a variety of ministries and contexts. Jamie loves using his decades of experience and skills working on this “exciting kingdom tool,” as he says, that will help support and further the church among some of the least-reached people groups in the world.

THE CAPABILITIES OF LIGHTNET

Daniël, one of the software designers, describes this new system’s capabilities:

“[LightNet] will enable ministries and churches to create tailor-made apps and websites (webapps**)

within as little as an hour. The webapps will serve as platforms to share curated Christian media that engages with specific people groups.

“Alongside the creation of webapps, LightNet will provide ministry teams with a place to catalogue their unique media library and manage permissions, access rights and licensing. Over time, we will add functionality so that ministries can share media with each other, allowing access to a rich media library network.

“With the new digital tool, we want to simplify creating webapps, lower maintenance costs and bundle hard-to-find (and expensive) software craftsmanship between ministries. Webapps created with LightNet can operate offline, work on mobile phones, function as a mobile app, are fast, support multiple languages, and support flexible media and content types.”

THE WORK ON LIGHTNET

Clayton is another software developer helping to build and create LightNet. In an interview, he shares about his role and how LightNet will help support the spread of the gospel in all languages and in all cultures.



What gets you most excited about working on this product?

Seeing the potential of so many ministries and churches being able to benefit from this project is the most exciting thing to think about. Especially the small ministries and churches that don’t have resources to develop something like a website to manage their media themselves. Being able to build and then give

them the tools to further their ministry and further God’s kingdom is exciting.

How have you seen God at work while you’ve been working on it?

God has been working in some big elements such as how the team is composed and its various skills and backgrounds. He’s worked in my life and my family’s lives personally in arranging finances to enable working on the project, housing arrangements and previous working experiences. But God also works in the little things. There’s a lot of trial and error involved with building a piece of software from the ground up, and in working with new technologies. This type of trial-and-error work can be very discouraging at times, but God in His love and mercy offers small victories at just at the right time to stave off discouragement and keep things moving. It’s great to see God in the day-to-day too.

What does it mean to you to be able to work on LightNet?

It’s a great privilege to be able to work on such a project for such a cause. I feel very grateful to be in this position, working on this project with these people. It’s a blast.

Do you have software development experience and want to use those skills for the kingdom’s sake? We would love to connect with you about the possibility of joining the MediaWorks team!

***Known as a Progressive Web Application, which is a website with extra functionality such as offline capabilities and an icon on your mobile Home Screen.*

May 2022

MediaWorks launches new digital library

The first expression of LightNet is the new eBooks website that MediaWorks launched this year.

The eBooks library is the beginning of a really exciting kingdom tool!” said Jamie, a systems architect who has been working on LightNet.

There are currently over 200 eBooks and resources in the digital library with 38 different languages repre-

sented. We look forward to adding additional material. The eBooks are free and accessible to people and ministries alike. Ministries can use this platform to search for resources and curate a digital library that matches their context and culture.

Check out the new eBooks website.





April 2022

Good news spreads quickly

BY INGER R. | CAUCASUS

“God has not only opened the door to His Word—He has thrown it open!” declared Peter*, a MediaWorks partner. After two years of quietly translating God’s Word into the heart language of a minority group in the Caucasus, Peter and his colleagues were unsure how it would be received. Committing their efforts to God in prayer, they started introducing the published Bible storybook and advertising the accompanying app with audio, which MediaWorks designed. The response took them by surprise.



“When [people] found out [about] the book and an app with Bible stories, they invited us to the

TV, radio and newspaper to tell the whole republic that they could have such a treasure!” Peter announced. Peter and other believers met with a university professor, schoolteachers, kindergarten teachers and librarians, which led to requests to present the new resources through regional media channels.

“We couldn’t believe this book would grab the attention of the local people so much,” expressed Peter. Some schoolteachers wished to play the audio stories in their lessons. Kindergarten teachers invited the outreach team to visit again.

A newspaper editor posted the information on Instagram, where their subscribers gave positive

feedback and asked questions. Individuals who have responded to further online posts of the Bible stories are now communicating with believers.

“But not everything was so simple,” acknowledged Peter after a religious leader asked them to stop distributing copies. However, understanding that not everyone will welcome this development, the outreach team followed Jesus’ example and continued to share the good news.

“I’m very inspired by the Bible stories in my language,” said Anton*, the only Jesus follower in his remote mountain village. “Thanks to the stories, I learnt to preach.” Anton dreams of a family of believers coming to help him organise a small group in his village.

“People are now reading and listening to the Word of God in their own language,” shared Peter. “Local

churches have begun to serve these people even more. They want to organise home groups for the study of Bible stories.” The church is small, and Peter emphasised the need for workers to join them to build on what has started. “We see that the local people are hungry for the Word of God,” he said. “We see that the harvest is ripe.”

“God has not only opened the door to His Word—He has thrown it open!” declared Peter.

MediaWorks and its partners praise God for the encouraging reaction to the Bible stories. May readers and listeners in the Caucasus encounter Jesus, including the actor who voiced the audio stories. We pray that Jesus will sustain the only

believer in one village whose family is going through an extremely difficult time after experiencing tragic loss. We ask God to provide workers to go and support churches as they seek to establish Bible study groups and share the gospel in their communities.

September 2021

Luke’s Gospel for the Roma people in Croatia and Serbia

BY PATRYCJA K. | EUROPE

The Gospel of Luke has been translated into four Roma languages! Our partners have been working on the translation for years and it is now complete along with 50 Bible stories. One of our graphic designers helped design the covers and we’re excited to see it in the hands of Roma people.

“One of the young men took Luke’s Gospel in his language,” shared Todd, a MediaWorks partner. “I noticed that immediately he started reading it, engrossed in what he was reading. Later I asked him if he understood it, and he said he understood it all. Hallelujah. That is why we do what we do, so that people may read and hear God’s Word, so they can obey and honour His name.”

Luke’s Gospel and 50 Bible stories are available in print, as an eBook and in audio format in four Roma languages: Bayash, Vlach Čergarski, Vlach Gurbet and Vlach Western Arli.

Praise God for Scripture in four Roma languages! Pray that the Bible translation team makes good progress to translate



more of the Bible for these people groups. Pray for the distribution of these publications, that they will be read and people will experience God’s love through them.



March 2022

Speaking in their language, designing for their culture

BY INGER R. | HIMALAYAS

Margret moved to the Himalayas with the promise she would help print God's Word for the minority people group there. Today, she designs media that shares the gospel and strengthens believers in the region and beyond.

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?" – Romans 10:14–15a

GOD'S PEOPLE SENT OUT

Margret* was living in a fourth-floor apartment in Europe and stuck at home with a broken leg. Aware of her limited mobility, friends called and offered to shop for her or wash her clothes. Margret caught herself wishing they would simply ask: "How can I help you?" so she could tell them what she needed. At this thought, she felt God challenge her in return, asking: "Why can I not ask you to go [to the Himalayas]?"

While working with OM in her European home country, Margret spotted information about a small team in the Himalayas who were translating the Bible for a minority people group. An interest in the region that had been sparked on a trip to Asia years before resurfaced. She decided she wanted to go. A trained

graphic designer, Margret also sensed God telling her He wanted her to print the Scripture that her colleagues were preparing.

"I was 36 years old, and everyone thought it was a crazy idea," Margret remembered. "I also thought it was a crazy idea." So, she discussed the matter with God. "I asked Him to give me a good reason to do it," she continued. "Then I broke my leg." While confined to a cast, the counter-question from God convinced Margret to trust Him and go.

GOD'S TRUTH PASSED ON

Margret left Europe behind and entered a culture almost completely untouched by outside influences and largely unreached with the gospel. As she began studying the difficult local language, Margret met with other university students. She observed that life was hard for the women as they sought to follow their beliefs, which are strongly tied to their customs and identity. Margret told them that God loves them and of the hope she had experienced in her life. "The amazing

freedom to know it's about Jesus, not about me," she shared. "It's not about them and how good they live their lives; it's about what Jesus did for them."

The moment came for Margret's team to publish the New Testament in the minority language. They initially released the translation online as an app, while Margret designed and laid out the print and eBook versions. "I see my promise fulfilled," said the graphic designer, who applied her cultural knowledge in creating the publication. "I feel I was called to do this, and I saw it happen in my lifetime."

"The printed New Testament is a sign of the reality of Christian belief," Margret described.

Completing this significant task was a comfort when, after over a decade, Margret had to return to her homeland when her visa was not renewed. Margret joined OM's media ministry, MediaWorks, where she continues to design resources that believers can use to communicate the hope of Christ in their communities, including in the Himalayas.

GOD'S SON BELIEVED IN

"We gave out a lot of seeds," Margret said, reflecting on sharing God's truth abroad. "Very few became believers, and I think many understood, but in their society, it is hard [to openly follow Jesus]." However, the development of publishing God's Word in the local language has an added meaning for Margret. "The printed New Testament is a sign of the reality of Christian belief," she described. "It's real and here!" In

the absence of visible churches, the tangible Scripture represents the existence of Jesus followers among the minority people group.

Since the New Testament became available as an app in 2016, the digital edition has been downloaded over 100,000 times. It makes a difference for people to read passages in their heart language as it's easier to understand. With no established churches to disciple them, the small groups of Himalayan believers are asking: "How, now, should we live?" In response, the Himalayan ministry team, Margret and her MediaWorks colleagues have been designing apps and publications, that equip locals to study God's Word by themselves and grow in their faith.

Considering her own journey, Margret turns the focus away from her and her ministry. She emphasises it's about following Jesus even when you don't always understand the reason He wants you to do something. "Jesus is just asking us to look to Him," she said. "And to do what He is asking."

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
– Romans 10:15b

Would you like to create media that shares the gospel with least-reached people groups? Contact us!

February 2022

Learning from the Sermon on the Mount

BY MACKENZIE Z. | HIMALAYAS

Wilma from MediaWorks has been designing and creating the layout of a Bible study book for a minority people group in the Himalayas. Entitled *Jesus Gives Us New Life* the resource is written in the local language (which is widely understood in the Himalayas) alongside an English translation. Focusing on the Sermon on the Mount, there are explanations of the scriptural text as well as questions to deepen the practical application. The study aims to strengthen local believers and help them share their faith.





NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

Dear friends,

I was recently out walking in the forest. The winter had left the ground brown, lifeless and covered with old leaves. A harsh wind was blowing. But here and there, amidst the barren and sparse forest floor, I discovered signs of life. A closer look revealed small, white flowers that were beginning to sprout beautifully.

When we look at the world events, it's a bit like looking at the barren forest ground. We see first the misery—the war, the fear and the great uncertainty. Yes, there is a harsh wind blowing. But likewise, when we look closely, we discover small and wonderful ways in which God is creating something new and his kingdom is growing.

In this newsletter we would like to share with you how, despite challenges, there are new developments at MediaWorks and God's Spirit is bringing life and hope in diverse regions of the world.

I wish you a blessed Easter celebrating that Jesus is alive!

Thank you for your interest in MediaWorks and for your ongoing support!

Simon
MediaWorks production coordinator

It all matters to God

BY PATRYCJA K. | EUROPE

Patrycja, from Poland, usually works with OM's MediaWorks team based in Austria. In March, she travelled back to her home country to serve with OM in Poland at the Ukrainian border for two weeks.

It's a cold day in March at a Polish-Ukrainian border crossing, and a young mother with two children crosses into Poland from Ukraine. We welcome them and offer food and a warm place to get some rest. Talking in a mix of Polish, Ukrainian and Russian, we soon find out that her husband is trying to cross the border and join her. After a long wait, the devastating news comes: he has to stay behind. No words are needed; one look into her eyes is enough to see her sorrow and suffering. She takes her children, packs her luggage into the next bus going to a reception centre for refugees, hugs us goodbye and goes into the unknown of a foreign country, with a foreign language, alone.

At the border, we meet many people with similar stories. The OM team provides a warm place for mothers with small children, where they can feed them, change diapers, get warm and talk. We have helped other humanitarian organisations provide food, hygiene products, support and general information to the refugees arriving in Poland.

In the 'quiet times' when fewer refugees are arriving, we also talk to volunteers and other workers involved in the relief response. Sometimes, we ask them how they cope with the pain and suffering they see there. Usually, they say they do not want to think about it now but know that the memories will come back later and need to be dealt with. Sometimes they ask us how we cope, and we share about our faith in Jesus Christ. How do I keep the right perspective when surrounded by pain and suffering? How do I cope when I realise that these people have only what they carry with them, no home to go to, and many left their family behind in a war zone?

"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" – Matthew 6:22–23 (ESV)



God encouraged me through this verse and conversations with other team members. Our perspective is so important. It is so crucial what we look at and what we focus on. If we see only the negative, the evil, the suffering and despair and look at the darkness outside through these lenses, the darkness is overwhelming.

But we can also look at the Light of the World, fill ourselves with His Word, with His hope and peace. Then, even though there is darkness, we have light that overcomes it; light that we can share with others.

Going to serve at the border was a challenge for me. I am a very introverted and shy person. One evening, in the beginning of my time there, I prayed that God would give me a breakthrough to talk to people. He is faithful. He gave me the breakthrough and strength

that I needed to share His love with others. Looking back, I see how God prepared my heart and skills for this time. Previously, I had prayed for an additional ministry area outside of my work in the office. Little did I know that God was preparing me for ministry among Ukrainian refugees.

"Even though there is darkness, we have light that overcomes it; light that we can share with others."

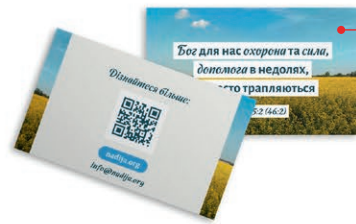
Returning to Austria, people asked me why I am so happy and why I want to go back and continue working at the border. There is joy that comes from knowing that you are doing what God has called you to do, no matter how small, big, easy or difficult it is. You can serve a cup of tea to a refugee, create a website, donate, provide accommodation or simply offer a kind word—it all matters to God, even the smallest act of kindness.

Ukraine crisis response

EUROPE

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." – Psalm 46:1

The war in Ukraine has moved many volunteers and organisations to help those who fled their homes. OM teams in Ukraine and neighbouring countries offer help and hope to people in need by providing shelter, food and hygiene products and caring for the most vulnerable. To support OM's ongoing relief efforts, MediaWorks is providing media resources that seek to strengthen, comfort, and give hope to individuals at this challenging time.



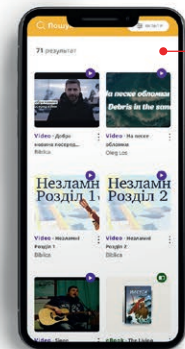
Printed cards and banners, displaying Psalm 46:1 in Ukrainian, direct people to the website where they can find Christian resources.



New Testaments and the Psalms.



The Action Bible in Ukrainian.

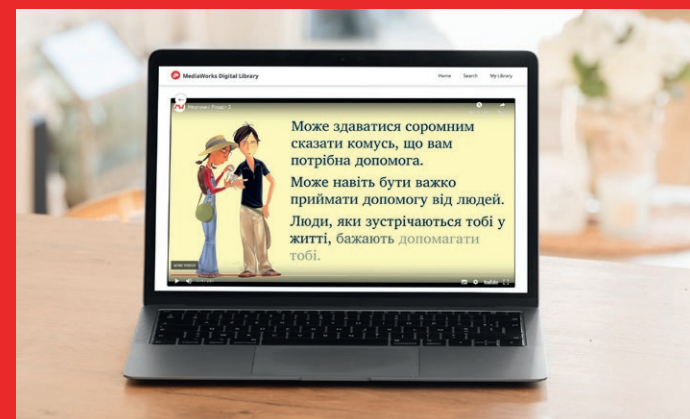


A website with Christian media resources in Ukrainian such as eBooks, videos and music.



Powerbanks are available from Trans World Radio (TWR) and OM with Psalm 46:1 and a link to the website created by MediaWorks on them. Another link invites people to access TWR's Voice of Hope website with audio resources in Ukrainian.

by Free-psd-templates.com, Pixeden.com, MrMockup.com, OriginalMockups.com



The Survivors is a brief survival guide designed for refugees and those that have experienced disasters in their lives. MediaWorks is producing an animated version of the book to distribute among Ukrainian refugees to encourage and equip them in their current situations. Having the book available in digital and animated format will allow for wider distribution with greater accessibility. Due to the digital video format, the content can now be heard and viewed, widening its impact, and those unable to take extra baggage will still be able to keep it on digital viewing devices.

EUROPE

Together with partners, we facilitated the printing and distribution of 45,000 New Testaments and 5,000 Action Bibles, all in Ukrainian, and distributed them across Europe. "What a miracle at a time when there was a great paper shortage!" said Simon, MediaWorks production coordinator.



From the MediaWorks base in Austria, Edwin coordinated the logistics of distributing 10,000 copies of the New Testament and 5,000 Action Bibles in Ukrainian.



OM teams and other Christian organisations order, and in this case collect, the resources.



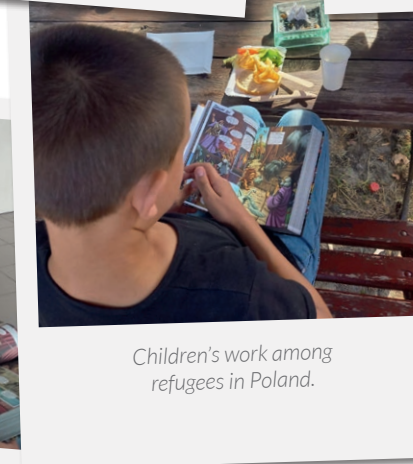
God's Word delivered to Ukrainian speakers in over ten countries in Europe including Greece, Portugal, Switzerland and the UK.



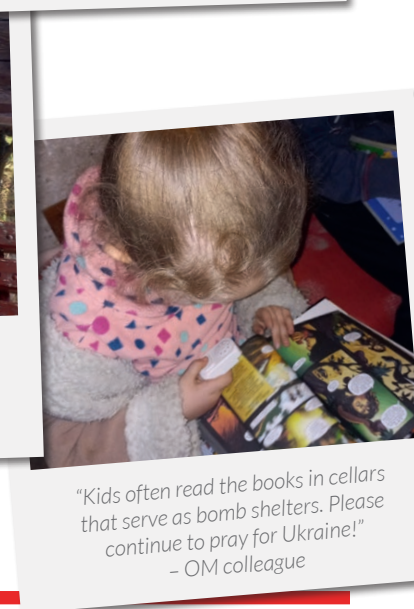
A Ukrainian boy reads the Action Bible in Switzerland.



A Ukrainian girl reads the Action Bible in Hungary.



Children's work among refugees in Poland.



"Kids often read the books in cellars that serve as bomb shelters. Please continue to pray for Ukraine!" – OM colleague

Dear God,

We pray for Your peace and justice to prevail in Ukraine and Russia. Please provide for and give peace in the hearts of people living under constant threat of bombing. We pray for families torn apart by the war—for men who had to stay behind in Ukraine and for women and children who fled the country into safety. May you strengthen and give stamina to OM workers and volunteers helping those in need. And we ask for wisdom in using media effectively to support those seeking refuge throughout Europe.

Amen.



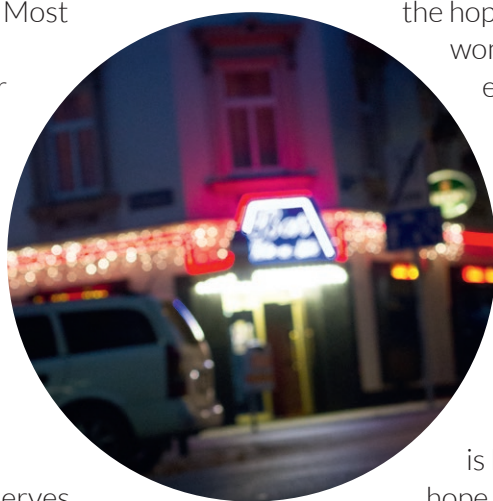
March 2022

Illustrating a true story of redemption and hope

BY MACKENZIE Z. | EUROPE

When God redeemed a woman trapped in slavery, He uses her testimony and the work of an artist to continue sharing the truth and hope of His redemption.

There are women all over the world who have been deceived and sold into slavery. Most of these women don't get to experience a redeemed version of life after they've been trafficked into prostitution, but one woman called Ilona has experienced redemption and freedom in Christ. The Lord rescued Ilona from the bonds of her slavery. Hers is a beautiful story, one with incredible hope in how the Lord called her to Himself. Ilona has written a book about her personal story which will also be created into a booklet. This serves



two purposes: to create awareness and to bring the hope of the gospel and redemption to women trapped in similar circumstances that Ilona once experienced.

In working directly with Ilona, graphic designer Sabrina from MediaWorks has created illustrations that really speak to the heart of this story. Through much prayer for guidance, patience, persistence, and a passion for illustration and the gospel, Sabrina is helping to bring awareness and the hope of the gospel to these women. "It is

incredibly special to be trusted to create art for and layout someone's life story," Sabrina shares, "especially one as powerful as this. It is a true privilege to be used by God in the ways He sees fit. He does not need us, but He wants to use us!"

Illustration has long been a dream of Sabrina's, and the Lord is using her gifts and talents to make eternal impact. One of the team members shared Ephesians 2:10 with her a couple of years ago when she joined the team: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepares beforehand, that we should walk in them." It's been a joy and encouragement to see one of those "good works" that the Lord prepared for her. "It's such a blessing to use your skills to further God's kingdom," Sabrina says. "It's our part in the body of Christ—



everyone plays their part—and we get to provide what the outreach team would use." She is excited to encourage others to step out in obedience and faith to use their gifts in similar ways. She says: "It seems like an enormous step to commit your life, but choosing a few years and seeing what God does is an excellent place to begin."

Our prayer is that these booklets and this book will touch lives—that it wouldn't just be another story, but that people would come to Jesus because of it and those who are Christians would be drawn to glorify and praise God.

Are you a graphic designer, artist or illustrator? We'd love to have you join us as we seek to make the hope of the gospel known all over the world.

April 2022

The resurrection power of Easter

BY INGER R. | EUROPE

We wish you a blessed Easter in the knowledge that the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you!

It is this message of new life through faith in Christ that MediaWorks partners seek to share with women trapped in prostitution. Outreach workers offer ladies the flyer, *Graves into Gardens*, which encourages them to hope again and trust in Jesus, who has the power to heal, restore and renew.

When OM outreach worker Sarah* asked Sue* to edit a booklet before printing the story in her language, reading the testimony of someone's life became a catalyst for Sue's own journey to faith. "She told it back to me, and her eyes were shining," Sarah remembered. "It has been a long journey, but this was the start." The young lady was recently baptised and is experiencing God's provision for her needs as she plans for the future. A network of partner organisations are supporting Sue to rebuild her life.



Praise God! He speaks through His life-giving Word and He completes what He started! Please pray for the women receiving a flyer; pray that they would feel Christ's love and respond to His invitation of hope.

"And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you." – Romans 8:11



September 2022

Communicating spiritual truths in creative ways

ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

OM worker Andrew* asked MediaWorks to create an animation of a story he and other believers usually share verbally in Asia. They tell *The Story of the Contaminated Tea* to demonstrate how good deeds are not enough to earn peace with God.

The analogy involves a cup of tea that gets spoiled, but no matter what good ingredients you add, it does not become drinkable. You need new tea. The story addresses a common belief in the area that forgiveness can be earned through good works.

A MediaWorks animator and illustrator collaborated with Andrew to produce the animation.

"It was special to hear from our colleague that the illustration style was what he was looking for," Inger

shared, after sending Andrew examples of her comic style drawings that express scenarios and emotions combined with humour. "It was special that this style could be used to put a message across in this way." After cultural research and over 30 illustrations later, the completed artwork was passed to Nicky to animate the scenes, add audio and compose the video.

"I think one meaningful thing was the unique style of art it was illustrated in to make it feel like what their culture appreciates in artwork and style," said animator Nicky. "I think that was really special to see, that we're not making a cookie-cutter video. It's actually thought out for these unique people. And not just so it's appealing to them, but so that there are less distractions for them to hear the gospel content."

Andrew will circulate the video through his social media ministry. Viewers are left with an invitation to find out more about Jesus' love and connect with believers. In one country where the animation will be shown, around 1,650 individuals have requested New Testaments in the last year. Since different groups relate to the culture represented, OM will release the video in several languages for broader distribution in Asia and the Middle East.

"We don't want the animation to be a gimmick or just entertainment, we want it to be something that actually makes people think," expressed Nicky. "There are fun parts in it, which is



valuable, but the prayer is that they will recognise their need for the gospel with this story—that they can't do anything by their power to save themselves. Thinking about how someone might be on the other end watching this, and can type in and ask a question, I'm really hopeful and praying that people will respond to it."

Please join Nicky in his prayer for those who watch The Story of the Contaminated Tea.

Are you a ministry team with stories you wish to communicate in creative ways among those you reach out to? Contact us to discuss possibilities: info.media@om.org

The story of the contaminated tea

ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

It's a beautiful day, and a man decides that a cup of tea will make the day even better. He walks to a local café and, before long, he happily sips a steaming brew while enjoying nature's beauty. But then, suddenly, the moment is ruined...

The animation will be produced in several languages for distribution through social media channels.

The English, Russian and Turkish versions are available on MediaWorks' digital library.

Feel free to share the animation with ministry teams or individuals who might find it a helpful resource.

MediaWorks is looking for further animators to join us.



"But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

- Titus 3:4-7



September 2022

The Designer and the designed

BY MILLER LOUTHAN | INTERNATIONAL

Erin discovers how God has shaped her passion for creating and her organisational skills into tools that can be used for His kingdom.

Erin grew up in a small town in Kansas, US, that was surrounded by fields and had a main street only one mile long. Her faith began at an early age, but she had never considered sharing her faith with people in other countries who had never heard about Jesus. “I’m very introverted and shy,” she described. “I can’t see myself being an evangelist on the street or planting a church, so I never thought I could be a missionary.”



A PLACE TO SERVE

It wasn’t until her freshman year of college, when she heard of graphic design internship opportunities at a missions’ conference, that Erin realised her skills could fill a need. Although the idea of putting herself in a role she thought only belonged to naturally extroverted people still seemed daunting, the nudge toward using her design skills to build God’s kingdom followed her throughout college. Looking back to her senior year of high school, when she

first discovered her love for graphic design, Erin sees that God was leading her in this direction even then.

“I was never doing this to make money; I’m doing it because I enjoyed it,” she said, explaining that it never entered her mind to use graphic design for her gain. “That was God saying to me: ‘You’re going to enjoy what you do, and there’s a place for you in missions.’”

A year after Erin graduated college, she found herself packing her belongings to move to Austria to work as a graphic designer with OM. Right away, her skills were used as a graphic designer and later as a project manager. At first, she shied away from the project management role, thinking that surely someone more experienced would be better suited than she was.

Encouraged by her team leader, she realised, though, that she had been led to fulfil this need as well. In this role, she makes sure projects move smoothly, helps designers with each step of their process, liaises with partners in the field and uses her eye for detail in design to make sure projects are consistent and finished well.

“OM showed me this project manager organisational side that I didn’t know I had and, again, I enjoy it,” she said.

A PEOPLE TO SERVE

Designing for people groups with limited access to the gospel and Christian literature, and creating resources that fit alongside a unique culture, draws Erin closer to her own design as well. It requires attention to detail, colour, research, noticing patterns and stepping away from what she thinks is best—letting God’s design of each people group and culture guide her work.

“It’s not about me and what I like. It’s about what they like and what will appeal to them and make them want to read the book and share it with others,” Erin says.

As Erin oversees and completes projects for least-reached people groups, she points out that she and other native English speakers often take for granted the countless books and Christian resources available in their language. To be able to create something for a person’s unique culture and “heart language”, she says, is exciting.



“Just show them that God knows their language—His stories are in that language as well,” she explained. “He knows you, your language, and your people group, and you’re not forgotten, especially by God.”

A CALL TO SERVE

Erin describes her role as a part of a supporting team, now working remotely in her hometown after three years based at the office in Europe. Reflecting on her path from college to OM, she never would have envisioned this role as a possibility.

“Doing graphic design in missions is something I never knew about,” she said. “And I think it’s important for people to know that missions isn’t just planting a church or doing evangelism on the street.”

God’s faithfulness to show Erin how to use her passions to build His kingdom—and the work He is still doing through her to impact communities with graphic design—have built in her a confidence in God’s guidance for her life over the last eight years.

As she encourages others to pray about using their unique gifts in missions, she says, “I think it’s just amazing, because I was not the person that would do this, but He gave me so much courage and peace and bravery.”

“He knows you, your language, and your people group, and you’re not forgotten, especially by God,” said Erin.

Operation Mobilisation is dedicated to the diversity of their workers, using

their unique design for God’s story. The MediaWorks team currently have openings for in-office jobs near Vienna or remote work in graphic design, software development, IT support, storytelling and script writing, bookkeeping, administration and more. To learn more about how your passions can be part of God’s mission, visit the OM MediaWorks website.



December 2022

God's Kingdom come, God's will be done

BY INGER R. | INTERNATIONAL

When Simon joined OM's media team as a graphic designer, he learnt an important life lesson which changed his focus and continues to motivate him to this day.

After getting married, Simon and his wife asked themselves: "What should we invest our lives in?" They knew they wanted to serve God. But that could be through their graphic design and teaching jobs in Switzerland or elsewhere in the world with a missions organisation—a thought that was also on their minds. A tentative enquiry into missions opportunities led them to quit their jobs, move to Austria with their first child and join OM's media ministry, now called MediaWorks. They were excited to help tell many nations about Jesus through media.

GOD'S KINGDOM COMES FIRST

The young couple was ready to serve and give Jesus everything. However, the eagerness turned to boredom as Simon found himself formatting and laying out books in Cyrillic day after day. He couldn't read the letters and it was the type of task he had learnt to do early in his studies. Neither his graphic design qualification nor his experience in an advertising company were needed for this work.

Over time, frustration increased, and he began to argue with God. "Is this what I came here to do?" the young professional questioned. In response, he sensed

Jesus saying: "Is this about you and your own achievement, or is it about My Kingdom?"

Simon learnt that God wanted to do something in his life and is more interested in our relationship with Him than what we do for Him. "I realised, it's not about me and what I can achieve, but about Jesus and making His greatness known," he said. It was an important life lesson, causing the graphic designer to recommit himself and his gifts to God to use in the way He wanted. Following this change of heart over 20 years ago, Simon received more challenging design assignments for least-reached people groups.

GOD'S KINGDOM COME ON EARTH

As Simon designed publications, and later as production coordinator, he got to know local partners and visited those who MediaWorks created print and digital media for. Almost two decades ago, western pioneers started sharing the gospel with Bayash-speaking Roma in Eastern Europe, who had no Scripture in their language and no churches in their communities. Simon remembers joining an outreach to distribute the first Bayash children's Bible storybook, which his team helped publish. "When one woman

realised it was written in her heart language, she couldn't believe someone would make this for her," he said. "Usually, Roma only got what others didn't want."

Since then, Roma have come to faith, small churches have been established and local believers are communicating Christ's love in their communities. "It's amazing to see," expressed Simon. "At the start it was foreigners going on outreaches to the Roma. Now Roma are taking on leadership and the foreigners are taking a step back." Believers are collaborating with linguists to translate the Bible into the Arli, Bayash, Chergash, Gurbet and Ludari Roma languages. While MediaWorks continues to assist with publishing, Simon anticipates the day when media production will move completely to locals. "As the work is taken on more by national believers, we will be needed less and less," he stated. "Then we can keep providing support to places where there are no or only a few followers of Jesus."

GOD'S KINGDOM CANNOT BE STOPPED

"Our focus is on investing our expertise [in creating Christian media] where there is none," continued Simon. A few years ago, pioneers were at the very beginning of translating the Bible into the languages of minority people groups in the Caucasus. They contacted Simon regarding publishing resources and arranged to meet during a visit to their region.

On the day before discussing projects with the translators, Simon was walking along a street when suddenly a stray dog ran out from a backyard, leapt up and bit him in the thigh. "It had an aggressive, dark look that I've never seen in a dog before," he described. "Then it was gone." The wound was deep. However, to the relief of all who had prayed and to the amazement of his doctor back home, the wound didn't become infected. "To me, it was more than a dog bite," shared Simon with emotion. Seeing no reason why the dog would go after him, Simon viewed the bite as part of a spiritual attack meant to "hinder the upcoming meeting and delay collaboration with the Bible translation team for unreached people."

After the initial meeting in the Caucasus, a volunteer, Murad*, who agreed to help translate scripture into his language, came to faith. He understood it was God's Word and accepted Jesus as his Saviour. One of the pioneers phoned soon after, saying: "Simon, Simon, do

you know what has happened?" Murad became the first known Jesus follower among his people.

"God is building His kingdom and it's an unbelievable privilege to be part of it," expressed Simon. The translators went to the unreached people group only to discover God was already at work; Murad had had dreams that he should translate the Bible. "When I see what came out of that first meeting and what happened in Murad's life," said Simon with feeling, "God opened a door that no one can shut."

GOD'S KINGDOM IN HEAVEN

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb." – Revelation 7:9a

Heaven's door stands open to those from every nation, tribe, people and language who put their faith in Jesus. "The picture in Revelation of a great multitude before God's throne giving Him glory is a powerful picture that motivates me again and again," said Simon. "It's the ultimate goal of mission." He keeps the verse displayed on his computer screen, now working remotely from Switzerland after 14 years based in Austria.

Simon, who is on MediaWorks' leadership team, highlights the importance of partnerships where each ministry contributes their skills. "The task is too big. We need to work together," he emphasised. He keeps coming back to the example where God asked Moses: "What is that in your hand?" Moses had a staff, which God wanted to use for His purposes. "God didn't ask Moses for what he didn't have," explained Simon. "The staff represents what we already have. All that matters is: how much will we let God use our 'staff'?" Simon encourages others to allow God to use whatever gifts they have to seek first His kingdom and be part of building His kingdom on earth and, ultimately, in heaven.

"If we place our gifts and talents at His disposal, He will use them for His glory," said Simon. "What do you have in your hand that you can give to God?"

Praise God for bringing more individuals into relationship with Him! As His Word goes out to hard-to-reach areas, please pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." – Matthew 6:9b–10



Are you a software developer wanting to use your skills for Jesus?



A joy-filled life

BY INGER R. | INTERNATIONAL

“Then I realised that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labour under the sun during the few days of life God has given him—for this is his lot. Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God. He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.” - Ecc 5:18–20

HAPPY IN WORK

“What could I do for God now?” asked Onni when he retired from a career in finance almost 10 years ago. He and his wife initially thought of joining a missions organisation in Ethiopia, but that didn’t take off. Through looking at opportunities with OM, Onni reconnected with MediaWorks, the team he had volunteered with as a foreign student in Vienna during the 70s, and offered to be their bookkeeper. “In retirement, I [also] received from God the kind of work to do that gives me joy,” he said.

“God can give each of us jobs that bring us joy,” encouraged Onni, inspired by verses in Ecclesiastes. “When we receive this, we don’t need to keep searching because we know the way we should go.”

“We can serve in different ways,” he continued. “But it’s important that we ask God: ‘What do you have for me to do?’”

A CHEERFUL GIVER

Similarly, as a bookkeeper Onni encourages those he works with to pray about their finances. “The important thing regarding giving is to ask God what we should support and then be faithful in that,” said Onni, acknowledging that there are so many needs in this world.

“It is very important we learn to give regularly in the knowledge that what we give comes from Him,” he explained. “I think when we do this, then we also receive what we need.”

GIVE

If you wish to give to MediaWorks, please visit the give page on the OM website of your country of residence and specify “MediaWorks” as the recipient. Your gift will be used where most needed. If you would like to give to a specific person or media project (e.g. media strategy, media creation or media distribution), please specify in the gift reference.



GLADNESS OF HEART

“Most important of all, is to have a heart for God,” emphasised Onni. “It’s His responsibility how He leads us and uses us.”

Since Onni discovered Jesus over 50 years ago, he has experienced how the joy of knowing his Saviour leads to joy in serving and giving. In turn, his actions reflect his faith to others. “God has given me gifts and I can use them for Him. Through this, people see that Jesus is alive,” he described. As MediaWorks supports ministries to share the gospel through media, more individuals can find gladness of heart through a personal relationship with Christ.

“Being on the team, it’s very good to see what God is doing all around the world,” said Onni. “Nothing has changed from God’s side: He is at work and people are finding a living relationship with Him. I’m so glad to be part of this ministry!”

Onni lives in Finland with his wife Päivi. When he is not managing MediaWorks’ funds, he enjoys playing ice hockey, organising his church men’s group and looking after his grandchildren.

PRAY

Please join us in prayer as we go forward in using media to share the gospel.

Our Lord in heaven,

You are God of the universe. Everything is in Your control, and everything is from You. We thank You Lord for the MediaWorks team, both past and present, and we look to the future with eager expectancy for how You will use this team to glorify Your name.

We place our faith in You and You alone, Lord. You see our needs—needs for positions to be filled and needs for wisdom as our team transitions to more digital content and distribution. We ask in the name of Jesus that You would provide these things so that Your gospel may spread to the least reached and we could praise You for the salvation of those that might hear and respond to Your good news.

Amen

Gwen, Hanna, Hannah, Mackenzie and Patrycja
MediaWorks prayer group

Alternatively, you can give directly via bank transfer to:

MediaWorks
IBAN: AT02 3284 2000 0400 3877
BIC: RLNWATWWSTO
Bank code: 32842

(We will send you a receipt by e-mail, however this receipt is for your own records, it is not suitable for tax benefit purposes)

Thank you for giving so that all may hear about Jesus!



MEDIAWORKS
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om.org/mediaworks

