# YOUDELIVERED JOUNDALIVERED



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

#### Dear Friend,

We know that when you give generously to translate and mobilise God's Word around the world, you don't do it to be thanked by Biblica ... or to be honoured by your friends, family, and peers. You do it in response to God's grace in your life and so that more lives will be transformed by His Word.

That's why we're so excited to share this year's Annual Report with you. It's a remarkable testament to what God does when your radical generosity meets His miraculous activity in some of the toughest environments on earth, where suffering, poverty and persecution keep so many cut off from hearing the Gospel.

In 2023, Biblica launched five new Bible translations, which resulted in an incredible 283 million scripture engagements across the frontline church. Even more humbling, 51 million of these scripture engagements were with children and teens in crisis. The work of Biblica is making a real difference in people's lives, but this kind of impact isn't possible without your support. With your help, Biblica can continue to reach people who are marginalised, traumatised or without God's Word – the least reached.

We meet people serving God in tough places such as Uzbekistan, where young pastors in their 20s & 30s are being arrested whilst they tell those in their community about Jesus. We have heard stories of Yemeni & Sudanese fleeing for their lives but open to talk about their trauma and listen to the ancient story of a wealthy landowner who lost his family, land and health – yet was kept by God.

As we mark the second anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, we are working with partners across the country to bring God's Word of hope and peace through trauma programs such as Survivors and Becoming Whole. Ministries like Steiger are using the New Ukrainian Translation in outreach to young adults through their community house program as well as taking audio bibles to the front line. More than 70,000 people have come to faith in Jesus through just this one partner since the start of the war.

Partners like Olga (pictured with Geof and me) who leads the Children's ministry of the Ukrainian Baptist Union are running weekly groups for refugee children where they discover more about God through our Treasure Hunt Bible. There are many stories of children holding their new Bible as their most valued possession.

Thank you for your prayers and faithful support of all the ways we have been serving and partnering across the world, some of which you can read in this report. I hope you see your part in the stories of lives that have been transformed. Stories that share what has been done by God across our region of Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and through the global family of Biblica.

Yours with Gratitude,

#### Mark Finnie

Vice President, MENA Eurasia

P.S. You can access exclusive ministry videos in our digital version of this report.

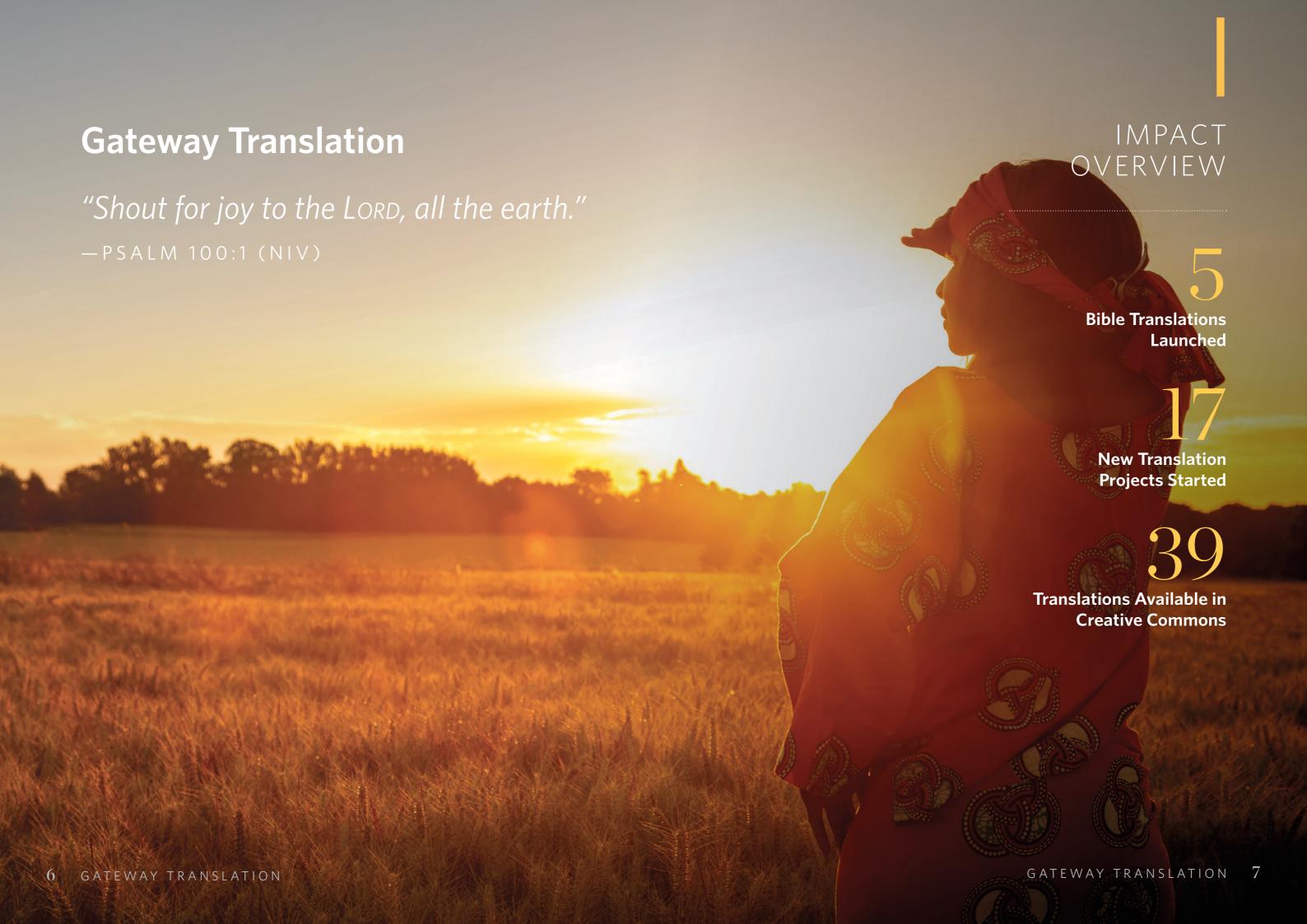
Just visit biblicaeurope.com/annualreport or scan this QR code.





You should see the spiritual revival happening in Ukraine in the midst of war. In 2023, Geof Morin, our CEO and President and myself had the honour of visiting our heroic Gospel partners on the frontlines. Be sure to read the full story on page 14 to see what God did through your generosity.





## YOU DELIVERED DANCING

Pastor Tim Timberlake, a global ambassador for Biblica, shares about his powerful experience attending the launch of the Contemporary Ndebele Bible this year.



Zimbabwe

#### Do you understand the language of Ndebele?

I'm guessing you don't! It's spoken by roughly 2 million people in Zimbabwe and neighbouring countries.

(My wife, Jen, certainly had a hard time sharing her heart with the people of Zimbabwe through a translator!)

But if you had been there with us in June for the launch celebration of Biblica's contemporary Ndebele Bible, I'm confident you would have understood several languages spoken by the Ndebele people:

The language of laughter. The language of singing. The language of dancing.

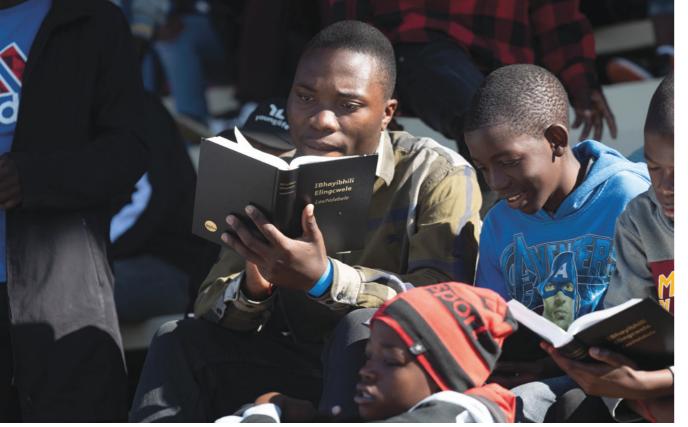
That's the God-given response when people finally receive God's Word in a language they clearly understand — in the language that speaks to their hearts.

You see, it's one thing to hear about the Bible in a different language. It's another thing to turn the pages of a Bible written just for you. It's one thing to hear about Jesus. It's quite a different experience to meet Jesus for yourself — to hear Him speaking words of love in your language.



Thanks to your prayers and generosity, the next generation of Ndebele speakers in Zimbabwe now have a Bible they can understand and treasure in their hearts. With more than 1,000 people in attendance, the launch event was filled with singing and dancing.

gateway translation g



Through both print and digital publishing, your support ensures that people can start engaging with God's Word as soon as a Bible translation is completed — just like these youth in Zimbabwe.

I had the incredible privilege of praying over the new Ndebele Bible at the launch celebration. I gave thanks for the Ndebele Bible translators who poured out time, sweat, and tears to bring God's Word to life for their people. I asked God to send the seed of His Word into villages, towns, and hearts that we can't even imagine yet.

And I thanked God for you — yes, you! Heaven will be populated because of generous givers like you who make lifechanging moments like this possible.

Serving with you in this mission is one of the greatest joys I could ever have. How many more people can we impact eternally with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

#### **Tim Timberlake**

Biblica Global Ambassador & Pastor of Celebration Church



WATCH THE FULL STORY AT:

biblicaeurope.com/annualreport

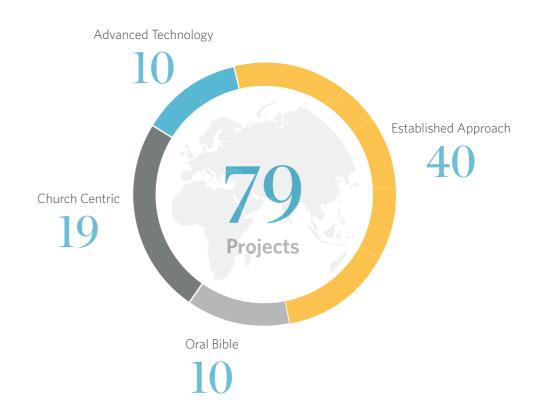


**Digital Spotlight:** The Launch Before the Launch

15,000

The Ndebele Bible launch wasn't the starting line for Bible engagement. Our digital app of the contemporary Ndebele Bible was downloaded by 15,000 people during the six months leading up to the official launch event in Zimbabwe.

#### **2023 Biblica Translation Portfolio**



Biblica is part of the illumi*Nations* collective impact alliance, dedicated to eradicating Bible poverty in this generation.





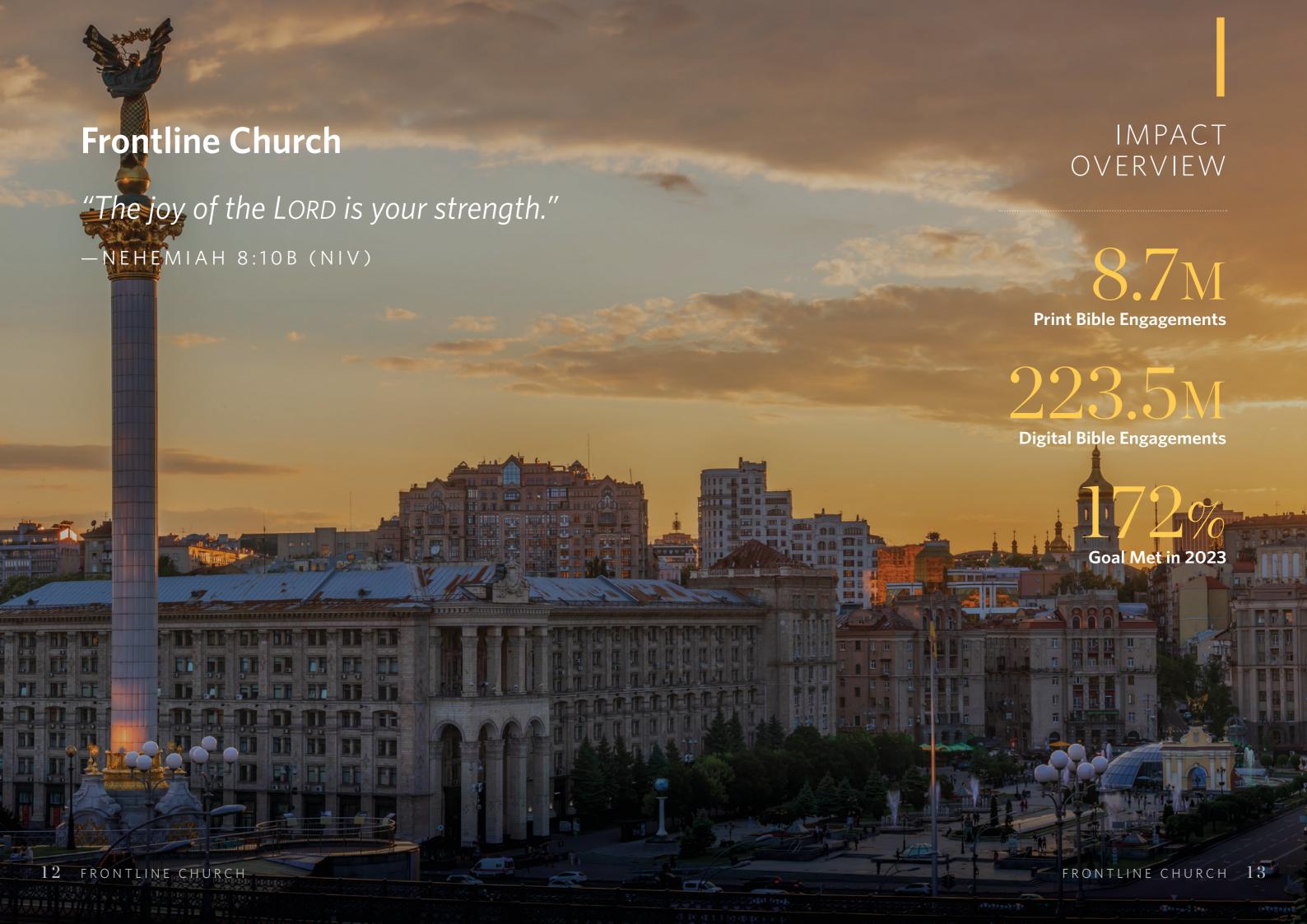








gateway translation  $11\,$ 



## YOU DELIVERED COURAGE

Valerii, a frontline ministry partner in Ukraine, shares about how God is using your passionate prayers and generous support to transform hearts in the midst of war.



#### When you face crisis and death, you start to change your priorities.

That's what I experienced when I saw huge rockets explode about one kilometre away from our house in Ukraine. (I even felt the energy wave from the rocket.) My thoughts started racing:

We could be next. What is my life for? What are my goals?

At that moment, I changed my priorities: To follow Jesus, who experienced even worse than we are experiencing right now. To disciple someone. To be part of someone's life change. These things are worth the sacrifice.

Biblica investors like you are helping us by providing Ukrainian Bibles. People need to be discipled! We have seven different teams who are working on the front. They bring food, preach the Gospel, and give the Bibles to the people. And people are listening. We encourage them to pray and receive Jesus.

I know this is a really crazy number, but over 70,000 people prayed to receive Jesus.



Tanya and Valerii help lead one of Biblica's strategic ministry partners in Ukraine, Steiger International Ministries. Your prayers and gifts provide spiritual strength and precious Bibles to courageous believers in the trenches of Gospel outreach. Thank you.

14 frontline church frontline church 15

"You are helping us by providing Ukrainian Bibles ... and people are listening. I know this is a really crazy number, but over 70,000 people prayed to receive Jesus."

—Valerii, Biblica Ministry Partner in Ukraine

We're not only handing out paper Bibles. We also have MP3 players loaded with Biblica's contemporary Ukrainian translation of the New Testament and Psalms. We give these audio Bibles to soldiers as well as to civilians in bomb shelters. Especially in those places, the need for God's Word is huge — because tomorrow, you can be dead.

That's why people are open to God's Word, especially on the front lines. I remember talking with one soldier who wrote to me and said: "I was an atheist before. And now, seeing all these miracles, watching what is happening, and listening to the Bible, I am not an atheist anymore." This acceptance of God is proof of how things are changing in our country.

Some things haven't changed yet. Rockets are still flying in our city every night. But our decision is the same. We are here in Ukraine. We're not trying to escape all this. God is protecting us.

We feel it's the right time for us to stay not run.

If we leave, who will serve?

#### Valerii

Biblica Ministry Partner with Steiger Ukraine



WATCH THE FULL STORY AT:

biblicaeurope.com/annualreport



**Digital Spotlight:** When War Came to Ukraine

Biblica's generous investors made it possible to fast-track a Ukrainian Bible app for launch the week Russia invaded Ukraine. It was downloaded over a million times, providing hope when print Bible distribution was still impossible.



These Ukrainian children love their new copies of the Treasure Hunt Bible, which uses a cast of loveable animal characters to take them on a journey through the full text of the New Testament. Thank you for bringing the love of Jesus to their hearts and putting smiles on their faces.

We thank God for kingdom partners like these and many more:























16 FRONTLINE CHURCH FRONTLINE CHURCH 17



## YOU DELIVERED HOPE

Emmanuelly and Eduarda, twin sisters living in one of the most dangerous neighbourhoods of South America, share how you brought them the hope of God's Word.



### When you're seven years old, you need your mum more than your mum needs the streets.

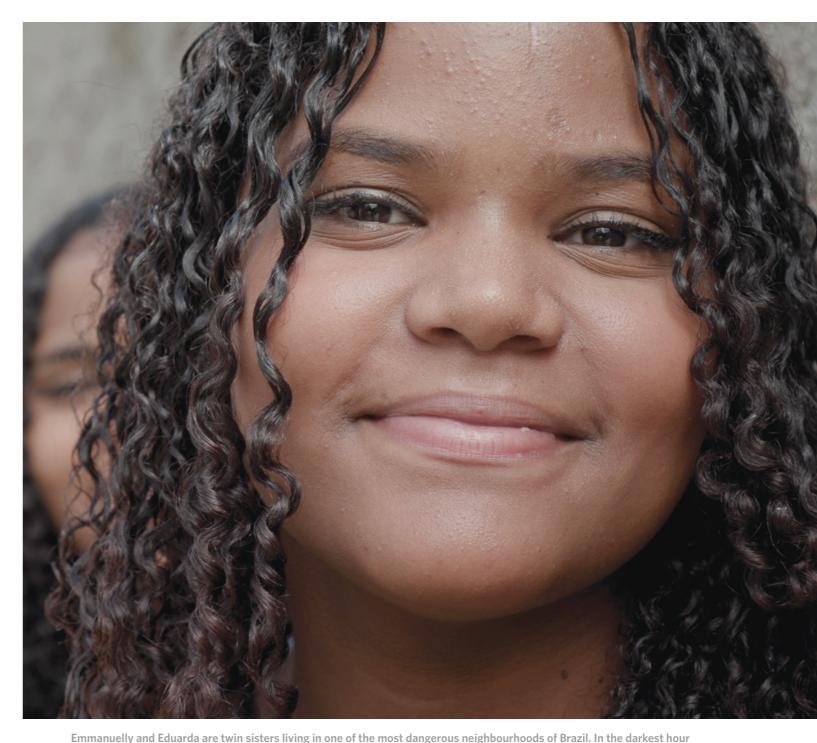
But our mum wasn't there for us when we needed her.

That's the difficult reality where we live. People get lost in the world of drugs. Girls our age get into prostitution. They become pregnant — even girls that are 13 years old.

All of this hurt of being abandoned, I carried it. And as I grew up, the rage grew in me too. I lashed out at people close to me who had nothing to do with this. I hurt people and walked away from people who loved me

But when we came to church, we heard a lot of truth that helped us.

I was welcomed although I thought I was alone. Everyone came and hugged me. That comforted me. I was about to give up. I thought that nobody loved me. When I got here, I had friends by my side, and they gave me advice.



of their young lives, your compassionate support helped them experience the love of Jesus in the Bible and in the context of a loving church community. Thank you.

 $2\,0$  Kids in Crisis  $21\,$ 

They gave me the Reach4Life Bible from Biblica. It's so good! We learned a lot of things that we simply have never heard. I learned about the hate in my heart. I learned that this wasn't what I wanted anymore. I learned to love people. I got rid of this pain inside of me.

And I have faith — I have faith that God can create something new in me.

I want to give a huge thank you to the Biblica investors who gave us this wonderful Bible. This is helping a lot of people. Because of this Bible, many lives are being saved. Many teenagers have left behind the world of drugs and prostitution. So, we wanted to thank you — not just from us — but from the whole church for helping us by sending us this Bible.

Thanks to you, God showed me what true love was. His love comforts me every day.

#### **Emmanuelly &** Her Twin Sister Eduarda

14 Years Old



WATCH THE FULL STORY AT:

biblicaeurope.com/annualreport



**Ministry Spotlight:** Celebrating Two Decades of Reach4Life

#### 20 Years and Counting

In January of 2024, we're praising God and celebrating the 20th anniversary of Biblica's flagship Bible ministry for youth. Reach4Life is a comprehensive discipleship program for young people, impacting 3 million youth and counting. Using the New Testament, it reveals God's plan for identity, sexuality, and relationships — helping at-risk youth walk with Jesus and make wise life choices.

"Reach4Life is a treasure for everybody who works with youth. We are teaching the teenagers and children how great is God's love. I want to thank the Biblica donors who help us here in Brazil to have these materials in Portuguese — because these materials are changing lives."

— Pastor Davidson // Brazil



We thank God for kingdom partners like these and many more:





















KIDS IN CRISIS KIDS IN CRISIS 23



## THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

A Conversation with Gillian Fitch (Biblica Europe Board) and Michael Fitch (Biblica Global Board Chair)



#### Q: How long have you been involved with Biblica?

M: We've had a long association with Biblica at lots of different levels — for nearly 20 years now. But it was at an event in San Antonio seven or eight years ago when we really got excited again about what God was doing through the ministry of Biblica. We've always had a heart for the Bible and a heart for Jesus. We just want as many people as possible in the world to have the opportunity to hear about Him and respond to Him.

### Q: There are so many urgent needs in our world today. Why prioritise Bible ministry?

**G:** The first gift that Michael ever gave to me when we started dating was a Bible, so naturally it's always been a priority for us as a couple. Somebody recently asked me, "Why aren't you donating or more involved with giving people clean water?"

While it's surely important that many people around the world contribute to that, our priority is to share the Word of God so people can read it in their own heart language and come to know Jesus for themselves.

M: I think there's a unique place for Christians to invest in Bible ministry. Most of my business friends don't see the value in Scripture. But what does John say? "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).

## Q: What were some highlights from attending the Oromo Bible launch in Ethiopia this year?

G: For me, the big thing was bringing one of our sons with us. We've made this investment of time, heart, and money as a family.

Introducing the next generation to this global ministry was really significant for me.

And even though it was a Bible launch celebration, people were already engaging with the Oromo Bible. (42,000 people had downloaded the app this year!) The young people were so bold in their profession of faith. They were not afraid to proclaim the name of Jesus. That was really exciting to see.

### Q: Why was this translation project especially close to your hearts?

M: Our first investment into the Oromo Bible translation project was the largest financial donation that we had ever made in our lives. And it stretched us! But there was an excitement and a joy about it. It was a response to God's radical generosity to us. We're thankful that along with some of our friends, we were able to help get this project over the finish line.

Talking with the Oromo Bible translators made me realise how language is such a big part of who we are. Translating the Bible for a language group tells them, "God finds you important." Now they can say, "Jesus speaks my language!"

## Q: What advice would you give to someone who may be considering investing in Bible ministry with Biblica for the first time?

- G: I wouldn't hesitate if God has put this challenge in your heart. Just jump in! You don't know where it will take you, but it will certainly be quite an adventure. When you take stock of your life, there's no point in leaving behind diamonds and paintings. (It's just stuff.) But to be privileged enough to give something as significant as God's Word that will change lives? It's thrilling to be able to do that.
- M: There is a real sense of joy and significance in being part of this movement. I would say that in the last five years, it is within the top five most strategic decisions that we've made.
- **G:** [Laughing] I agree, but I'm trying to think what the other four would even be!

#### Q: What gets you excited when you think about the future of Biblica?

M: What I'm really excited about is that we as a global church have identified the significant gaps where people still need God's Word. From a businessman's perspective, I love to know that we're being innovative and strategic in filling those gaps together.

There's a lot of work to be done! At this moment in its history, Biblica has some of the best leadership that it's ever had. What a remarkable group of people. I'm impressed with the strategy as well as the Christ-centredness. I have no problem encouraging my friends and others to invest in Biblica in this season. It's a great, great organisation to be a part of.



## GOD'S WORD IS LITE

YouVersion and Biblica are partnering to break down digital barriers to the Bible.

Although technology has made it easier than ever to deploy God's Word around the globe, most smartphones are less capable and less connected in the developing world than they are in developed nations. This means the average person has remained cut off from digital Bible apps like YouVersion.

Until now, that is.

This year, YouVersion partnered with Biblica to design, pilot, and launch Bible App Lite — a lightweight Bible app specifically designed for people in developing communities.

"Lightweight" means that the app is exponentially smaller in terms of megabytes while still offering key Bible engagement features in an offline context, including the full text of the NIV.

After a pilot in Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria, Bible App Lite is now used in over 70 countries around the world. More than 16 million people have installed Bible App Lite in the last 12 months. More importantly, there's over 1 million people using it every single day. And in multiple African app stores (Kenya, Uganda, and DRC), this

"Our team loves Biblica. They are such an incredible partner for us, and we're grateful that we get to labour together in this mission to engage people with God's Word and to see how it transforms lives all over the world. We couldn't do what we do without you."



Bobby Gruenewald //
Founder & CEO of



YouVersion

digital Bible has even ranked as the No. 1 overall app — even more popular than TikTok and Facebook.

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

Meeting this same need for other language communities, Biblica also launched 53 new Single Language Bible apps this year. We saw 1.3 million users spend an average of 46 minutes engaging with God's Word, all for the low cost of 10 cents to reach a single user.

Thank you for investing in innovation and breaking down digital barriers to the Bible.



SEE YOUR IMPACT IN REAL TIME: YouVersion has now reached more than 700 million people with the Bible App. Visit maps.youversion.com/biblica to see Biblica Scripture texts being read around the globe in real time.

### The New Bible App Lite

16M Total Users

1M
Daily Users

No. 1
In Multiple African
App Stores



#### GENEROSITY REPORT



"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

—James 5:16b (NIV)

Dear Ministry Investors,

I love the two words used in James 5:16 to describe our faith-filled prayers: "powerful and effective." As Biblica's CFO, I can confirm that these words also describe your faith-filled giving to global Bible ministry. Your investment in Biblica is truly powerful and effective in enabling Biblica in our mission to serve the world's unserved.

I would like to convey just a few financial highlights that we hope give you even greater confidence in your ministry investment in God's work through Biblica.

For another year, 100% of your giving went directly to our Bible ministry programs. This focused giving empowered Biblica to grow its ministry investment at an annual rate of 23% over the past five years. That's a sizable increase in lives impacted every year, thanks to your generosity.

During that same period, we also grew our "program ratio" from 76% to 85%, placing us well above industry benchmarks for mission efficiency. As a further commitment to good financial stewardship practices,

Biblica continues to hold sufficient liquidity reserves and does not use debt to fund its growth. These are just a few of the reasons Charity Navigator scores Biblica 100% for Accountability & Finance.

In all of this, God gets the glory for His generous provision through faithful partners like you. In a world filled with urgent needs and worthy causes to support, we want you to know just how grateful we are of you and your trust in Biblica as co-laborers in the Gospel.

for / ne

**Bruce Trowbridge**Senior Vice President, Finance /
Chief Financial Officer

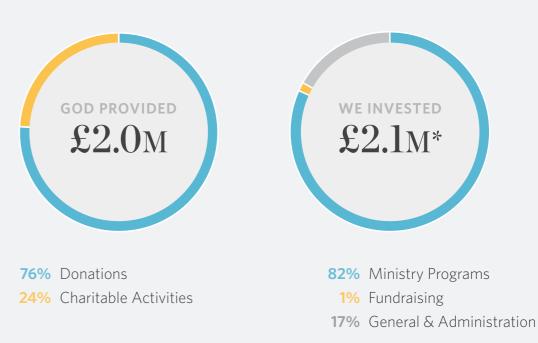
#### Financial Overview - Global

100% of your giving went directly to Bible ministry in 2023.



#### Financial Overview - Eurasia/MENA

100% of your giving went directly to Bible ministry in 2023.



<sup>\*</sup>Note: funds from a surplus in 2022 covered the shortfall in 2023

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR





#### Dear friend,

As you read through this Annual Report, I hope you saw that you did quite a lot for the kingdom this year.

You delivered first Bibles to singing and dancing crowds in Africa.

You braved the most dangerous neighbourhoods in Brazil to tell hurting children that Jesus loves them.

You crawled into Ukrainian bomb shelters with audio Bibles, so that huddled soldiers can hear God's Word comforting them in the darkness of death.

Maybe you're thinking: Wait a minute. Did I really do all that? I'm reminded of a group of disciples in the Bible who ask a similar question of their King. Here's how He responds to them and to you:

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." -Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

I know that when you give generously to translate and mobilise God's Word around the world, you don't do it to be thanked by me ... or to be honoured by your friends, family, and peers.

You do it for Jesus. You do it so that more lives can be transformed by His Word.

This year's Annual Report is a testament to what God does when your radical generosity meets His miraculous activity in some of the toughest environments on earth, where poverty and persecution keep so many cut off from the hope of the Gospel.

As one ministry partner recently reminded me, "God doesn't get the final word, He gets the only word." His plan for the nations to be covered in Gospel hope is unstoppable. And you're a part of that plan. There are people today who have the Bible and a relationship with Jesus because you prayed and you gave.

Yours Gratefully,

**Geof Morin**President / CEO

Geof Morin

#### GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

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#### **Geof Morin**

President and
Chief Executive Officer

#### Jonathan Call

Senior Vice President, Translation, Publishing & Digital Innovation

#### **Dana Hunter**

Interim Senior Vice President, Advancement

#### Aaron LeClaire

Senior Vice President, Impact & Strategy

#### **Bruce Trowbridge**

Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer

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Senior Director, Global Partnerships

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Vice President, Americas

#### **Marius Brand**

Vice President, Global Programs

#### Lavon Coles, Jr.

Vice President, Human Resources

#### **Hans Combrink**

Vice President, Training & Quality Assurance

#### **Ted Draper**

Vice President, Principal Gifts

#### **Mark Finnie**

Vice President, MENA/Eurasia

#### Mark Finzel

Vice President,
Digital Innovation

#### Ioan Giosanu

Senior Director, Global Translation

#### Lydia Munene

Vice President, Africa

#### **Noeline Neumann**

Senior Director, Global Publishing

#### **Marius Roetz**

Senior Director, Rights & Permissions

#### **Gina VonEve**

Senior Director, Global Marketing

#### **Alan White**

Senior Director, Global Partnerships

#### (Identity Withheld)

Global Vice President, Partner Mobilisation

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Partner Global Neurohealth Ventures Scottsdale, AZ

### In Loving Memory

#### **Rob Gluskin**

1946-2023

Rob was a champion of the Bible and served faithfully on the Global board for 17 years. We are confident that as his faith became sight, he heard Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"



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

#### biblicaeurope.com

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