

the Bulletin

News from
Biblica Europe

February 2025

WATERPROOFING THE WORD

Frontline Bible innovation in Ukraine



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About Biblica

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

We are Biblica Europe

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

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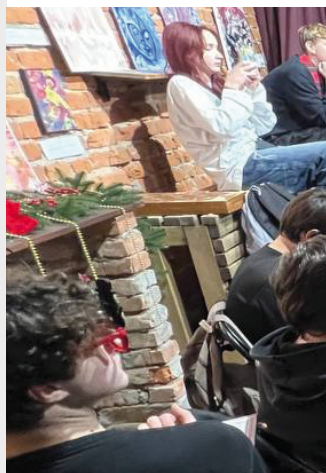
Biblica is the translation sponsor of the New International Version Bible.

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Welcome



Dear friends,

I'm delighted to introduce our first Bulletin for 2025.

As we move into this new year, I'm so excited by the innovative ways God is using you to reach people with His Word.

Through our Christmas appeal, He's used our Bible Buddy scheme to give precious copies of the Word to people who would otherwise never have one (p.4-5). He's reaching soldiers in the muddy trenches of Ukraine through incredible waterproof Bibles (p.6-7). He's touching the hearts of Muslim tourists through our outreach teams in the Swiss Alps (p.8). And He is using skilled translators and intrepid evangelists to save souls in Africa and inspire youth in Central Asia (p. 9-10).

We can only do this in partnership with you, our valued supporters. Through your prayers and generous giving, we're breaking new ground in Bible translation through cutting-edge digital technologies while bolstering our established, on-the-ground activities.

Your support and encouragement underpin the amazing Kingdom work we report on through this publication. Together, we're reaching and discipling those who most need the hope of the Gospel.

As always - thank you!

Yours in Christ,

Geof Morin

President/CEO, Biblica

Ukrainian young people
gather together to study
the Bible.



Christmas Roundup

Bible Buddies & Tinsel in Tehran

You're sharing the Word with those who need it

We can often take our Bibles for granted. But the global facts are sobering:

Over a billion people around the world don't have the whole Bible in their language.

Millions of Christians haven't yet got hold of their own copy. For instance, only 2% of Ethiopia's Christians have a Bible of their own.

None of these people can read about Jesus' birth at Christmas, or His death and resurrection at Easter.

This past Christmas, we launched the Bible Buddies scheme to help tackle Bible poverty around the world.

Through our festive campaign, we encouraged our supporters to donate £8 to 'buddy' a Bible. This covered the cost of providing someone on the other side of the world with their very own precious copy of the Word in their heart language.

Thanks to everyone who gave selflessly to provide someone with their very own Bible. With your help, we were able to buddy up to send new, heart-language Bibles to 683 people.

683



Bibles
buddied

Underground worship in Tehran

If you walk the streets of Iran's capital over the festive season, you might be surprised to see bright tinsel, trees, and gifts in shop windows and local houses.

It's 'Christmas' but not quite as we know it.

Although the trappings of Jesus' birthday are on display, public worship is forbidden. Christ can't be called 'Saviour' in the open.

However, this isn't stopping people encountering God and committing their lives to Him in private. Far from it.

Hope beamed to homes and phones

Biblica partners with Heart4Iran and SAT-7 to enable powerful satellite television and social media evangelism over Christmas, bringing the Word to Iranians. Digital programming and content are helping share the Good News with thousands of previously un-reached people through TVs, laptops and mobile phones.

Many are coming to Christ!

Biblica's audio Bibles and teaching resources are being shared through our partners' channels, equipping individual believers, as well as local underground church leaders.

Colleagues from SAT-7 run online social media response teams, who answer questions from new believers and help connect them secretly and safely with other Christians in their neighbourhoods. These underground networks are energised and motivated, seizing the opportunity to support their new brothers and sisters to grow in their relationship with Christ.

“Iran is the fastest growing underground church in the world”

Heart4Iran



20% GROWTH

No. of Evangelical Churches in Iran
(Source: www.joshuaproject.et)

Please pray for Biblica and our partners Heart4Iran and SAT-7 to continue to innovate and harness new technologies to give Iranians hope through satellite and digital media.



Waterproofing the Word

You are sharing the love of Jesus in warzones and youth groups in Ukraine

Hope is spreading among Ukrainian soldiers fighting in trenches in the war-torn regions of Donetsk and Kharkiv through special waterproof Bibles that you've helped us print.

God on the front line

Missionaries working in some of Ukraine's most dangerous battlegrounds discovered a problem impacting the sharing of God's Word with soldiers. Many male and female soldiers were coming to Christ after receiving paper Bibles, but on returning to wet and muddy fields, the precious books were being ruined by damp and dirt.

The soldiers had little choice but to discard what was left of the paper Scripture – some even used it for toilet paper.

This presented a significant ministry challenge. But Biblica found an inspired, creative solution by producing resilient, waterproof Bibles and giving these out on the front line instead.

Working with our partners Bridges of Hope and Steiger International, your support has printed and distributed 20,000 copies, bringing hope to thousands of Ukrainians living in the toughest situations. Funds are being raised for 50,000 more.

The gift of love

Steiger is also preaching the Gospel and sharing the love of Jesus through Christmas gifts and MP3 audio Bibles in 20 different frontline locations, reaching over 200 soldiers, 250 children, and 120 civilians.

Some soldiers feel particularly alone at Christmas due to isolation from their families. One young man had not received anything from relatives, because they had all moved away. He was close to tears when a team member took the time to speak to him and give him a gift.

There's always a way to share the Good News!

The benefits of the new waterproof Bible will be celebrated and discussed at Ukrainian Week in Washington DC this month, an important diplomatic event attended by both Ukrainian and Western politicians, business leaders, and charity representatives.

200
SOLDIERS

250
CHILDREN

120
CIVILIANS

Ukrainian young people embrace Jesus

Something incredible is happening in the city of Khmelnytskyi in Western Ukraine.

Hundreds of young people who didn't know Jesus are joining 'non-religious' Bible study meetings where they hear the Good News and can access a Ukrainian or Russian Bible.

The fruit of these outreach sessions has been enormous.

Every Thursday, a local Steiger team invites groups of young people to a city centre meeting point. 30-40 usually attend, coming from completely different backgrounds.

Recently, a girl who practiced black magic joined one of the youth meetings. After attending a Bible study, she was so touched by the teaching and discussion that she decided to give up the occult. Instead, she wanted to start reading the Bible and seek God, because of the freedom and acceptance she felt at the gathering.

The young people are supported to become part of a church. In recent months, every Sunday, two to three young people have given their lives to Jesus in church. They've then gone out with the Steiger team to preach the Gospel on the streets and reach others.

Please pray for the funding to print more waterproof Bibles, and for more young people to encounter Jesus in Ukraine.

Translation and distribution update

Spreading hope to the world's least-reached people through physical and audible Bibles

Reaching oral communities in Africa

In some parts of the world, the Bible needs to be heard rather than read.

In countries with multiple dialects and mostly verbal communications, Bibles which can be understood are often not available.

At least 900 oral communities are awaiting God's word in their language.

Mother Pauline made a personal decision to follow Christ.

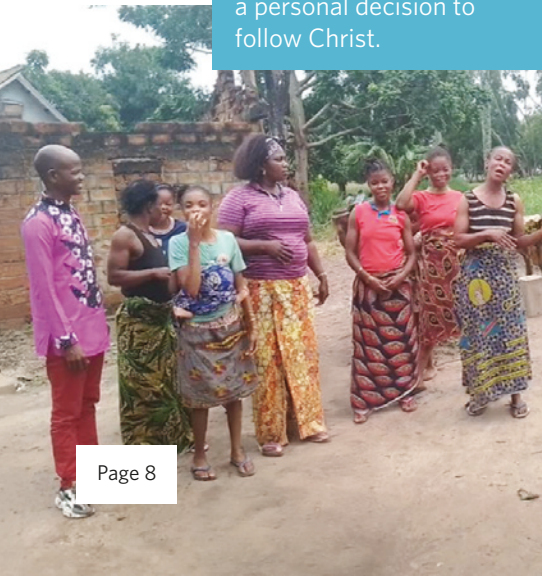
Oral Bible Translation update - Africa

Oral Bible Translation (OBT) is a powerful translation tool which passes on the life-changing Good News of the Gospel by word of mouth and recorded audio.

In partnership with Faith Comes By Hearing®, trained teams read or listen to Scripture in a familiar language, internalise its meaning, and translate it aloud into a local dialect.

In Nigeria, these teams have nearly completed the translation of Genesis into the Ribina and Buli dialects. For Baraza communities, Acts is awaiting final consultant checks. There is also great progress translating Luke into four other dialects.

In the DRC, the Ngando Project has completed the translation of 1 and 2 Timothy and already witnessed the power of the Word in the local community. During a visit to Benonga, a local woman, Mother Pauline, made the decision to accept Jesus as her personal Lord and saviour.



“They fell in love with the Scripture and began to read as never before... They love this book”

Sozo Bible reaches Russian speakers

In the hard, rugged landscapes of Central Asia, life is tough.

Millions of people barely make ends meet and authoritarian governments tightly control personal and religious freedoms.

Less than 5% of the estimated 120 million people living in the region know Jesus. Although the Russian language unites communities scattered across mountains and deserts, access to Cyrillic Bibles has long been limited.

However – a remarkable spiritual awakening is happening.

Through a powerful partnership between Biblica and our brave missionary partners, hope is being shared - one new Sozo Bible at a time.

The Sozo translation is carefully written and structured in Russian to be accessible and relevant to local people. Our dedicated translation teams are working with Central Asian missionaries on the ground to put over 20,000 Sozo Bibles into eager hands in more than 20 cities so far.



Impacting youth communities

But it's not just the numbers that are so encouraging – it's the lives being changed — including young people who are encountering God's Word in powerful and deeply personal ways.

In Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the Sozo Bible is helping revitalise youth engagement in churches, inspiring young people to learn more about God.

Kanat*, an overjoyed youth pastor exclaims:

“I want to testify that after distributing the Bible to the youth, they fell in love with the Scripture and began to read as never before... They love this book because it is written in their native language. Glory to the Lord!”

*Name changed

Praise him in the heights!

Muslims meet Jesus in the Alps

Strategic ministry

Each summer, hundreds of holidaymakers from countries including Oman, Kuwait and Qatar visit Western beauty spots - and are hearing the Good News.

With just 0.01% of the Gulf thought to be native believers due to state faith restrictions, some years back, Biblica saw a unique opportunity. Partnering with Faith Comes by Hearing and Campus Crusade, we've been sending outreach teams to European tourist hubs like the Swiss Alps to share the Gospel.

With your support, Biblica's outreach teams are sharing the Gospel with Gulf Nationals like Tariq and Mira while on holiday in Europe.

Snowed in

Tariq and Mira had decided to visit the Alps to enjoy the sun and the famed Swiss apres-ski culture.

In a beautiful local mountaintop village, everything was going to plan until a snowstorm blocked the roads while they were out, forcing them to camp in their rental car overnight.

While warming up with a coffee in a deserted café the next morning, they were met by our friendly ministry team, who struck up a conversation.

Surprised by hope

At their table, small talk turned to deeper questions about life and faith. Our team shared the Gospel and asked if the young couple knew about Jesus. Tariq and Mari were shocked and whispered that they didn't, looking round for fear of being overheard.

They subtly, but eagerly, took two Arabic New Testaments. They'd never read God's Word or heard it spoken, and when the conversation ended, the couple held the booklets tightly like a precious gift, and left the café with a new hope to consider.



Your place in the mission

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

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR JOINING IN...
SO ALL WILL KNOW.



Keep informed

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

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

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



Pray

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

Please pray for our translation teams and our partners who help people access and use new Bible materials. Pray that every day many are freed and transformed through encountering Jesus in Scripture.

Visit www.biblicaeurope.com/praying to see how you can partner with us in prayer.



Give a gift

We can't do anything without funding, so giving a gift is a great way to invest in this mission. Your gift will help to translate and take God's Word to people in hard-to-reach places.

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



Help to break new ground with a regular gift

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

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


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

They Dreamed of a Book.

You can help deliver it, this Easter.

In the Middle East, where owning a Bible is illegal in many countries, people are encountering Jesus in powerful ways—through dreams, divine moments, and courageous believers.

This Easter, we'll let you know how you can get God's Word into the hands of those searching for hope.



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

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