### FEBC EURASIA UPDATE

2024-3

#### **FACTS & STATS**

- ♦ A government facility burned Bibles confiscated from a church in southern Russia.
- ♦ Russian evangelicals were imprisoned for not being willing to go and fight in the war in Ukraine.
- ♦ FEBC is ministering directly to young Ukrainians who have lost their relatives in the war.
- ♦ In Ukraine, 8 out of our 10 radio stations are still operating; one more is under attack.
- ♦ FEBC coworkers are operating undercover in several Eurasian countries, reaching young Muslims.
- ♦ One US dollar empowers us to have a meaningful conversation about Jesus with 10 people over one year. Half of them are younger than 30.

# Hope and the Future of **EURASIA**

by Victor P. Akhterov

"I am only alive today because I reached out to you," wrote Alina, 16, from Pokrovsk, Ukraine, a city that may have already fallen to advancing Russian troops by the time you read this article.

Alina was fearful and suicidal, but then she began listening to our station there. Jesus is her hope now.

Our countries are in turmoil. The brutal and senseless war in Ukraine, authoritarian madness in Russia, the islamization of Central Asia, and poverty in Moldova - young people are affected.

We are bringing the *Good News* directly to the young people of these countries:

- + Engaging programs that explore the Bible for young teens in Moldova, touch thousands.
- + Reaching millions of young Ukrainians who are terrified by the war, and looking for meaning.
- + Helping the youth of Russia to look for eternal meaning, as we help thousands in one-on-one conversations about God.
- + Inspiring the young people in closed countries like Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to encounter Jesus.

Friends, please help us share the Good News in all these countries, as we expand our ministry. This is the time to invest in our young people.







# Young People

## FEBC broadcasters touch lives in different

oung Ukrainians have lost a great deal to this war. Many have lost fathers, and millions are living in broken homes—some separated temporarily, some permanently.

What were already high rates of depression and suicide, grew even higher. We receive calls from listeners who are hopeless, who want to end their lives, who are hurting themselves...

These young people need hope. They are seeing their country being torn apart, and are seeing the same kind of destruction in their homes.

A teenaged listener from Ukraine named Lena called FEBC after just losing her father. "He died four days ago," she said.

"He wasn't a perfect parent, he drank too much. But I can't stop thinking about him. I'm thinking about using Tarot cards to reach out to him."

FEBC's follow-up evangelist shared Christ with Lena, praying for her and her mother as they grieved for her father. **Lena put her faith in Jesus** on this call. He shared with Lena how to pray, and invited her to come to church.

Countless young people are facing this type of situation today in

**Ukraine**, and they need to know that Jesus is the answer to their pain.

Russian teens are faced with the looming fear of being drafted into a war that has seen incredibly high losses. This potential death sentence is hanging over the head of every young man in Russia.

And with the battle reaching into Russian territory now, this threat is only increasing.

People are being forced to deal with reality at a very young age. And they are looking for answers.

Evgeniy, a young man from the **Buryat** region of Russia, wrote a comment under one of FEBC's videos, looking for a shaman.

"You're a shaman, right?" he wrote. He had started to watch one of our videos from a former shaman, but hadn't watched to the end yet.

Many Buryat people will go to shamans for help with their problems. Our follow-up evangelist responded, "No, we're Christians—even better!"

They shared Christ with Evgeniy, and connected him with a local pastor.

FEBC-Russia's broadcasters are



Many of FEBC's broadcasters are young themselves, Jesus's age, and they attract young audiences. "We speak their language," said Igor (right), "and we let them know that Jesus cares for them more than anyone else."

boldly proclaiming the Gospel of Christ as the only hope in what appears to be a hopeless situation.

In **Moldova**, in addition to the fear of a Russian invasion, teens are facing serious cases of **abuse** and neglect.

Heavy poverty leads many adults to leave the country to look for work, leaving their children behind. Other parents turn to alcohol, a common problem in wine-producing Moldova.

These situations leave many teens to fend for themselves, searching for safety and connection. FEBC-Moldova's broadcasters are producing programs for teens that share the Gospel with them in an engaging way.

## Need Jesus Now

### enviroments with one message: Jesus

They invite them to respond, ask questions, ask for prayer, and come to in-person meetings. Moldovan teens are receiving much needed hope and support.

Young people across the **Muslim** world are also **looking for hope**, **looking for answers**. This is especially clear in FEBC's new fields of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan.

We have a great opportunity to broadcast in Uzbekistan, where there is more freedom to share the Gospel. We have put together a new team of young, former Muslims, who are eager to share the Good News with their fellow countrymen and women.

In **Tajikistan**, where people are fined up to 30% of their salary for preaching without a license, our young, bold broadcasters are **happy to pay a fine** in order to gather young people to hear the Gospel and worship together.

It is more dangerous in **Turkmenistan**, where persecution is stronger, and there is less freedom. But passionate believers are **ready** to take the risk to spread the message of Christ.

In the face of these huge spiritual, cultural, and political challenges, our people are risking their lives to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the One who overcame the darkness.

## Tanya, 17,

called us in desperation. She told us her story:

Her mom never wanted her and reminded Tanya about this daily. She was poor and was mercilessly bullied in school. Tired, frightened and anxious, she began looking for answers online, and found FEBC's programs.

Tanya called to tell us that this was the first time that she heard that Jesus loves her.

After several heart-toheart conversations, Tanya gave her life to Christ.

"When I prayed for the first time in my life, I felt that Jesus wants to be my friend. And when I accepted Him as my Lord and Savior, my soul became alive.



We are inspiring young people to follow Jesus in eight Eurasian countries.

Your support is changing thousands of lives.

Averted suicides, uplifted spirits, and, most importantly, salvations are occurring throughout the region.

#### STORY: NEW LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST

Anna lives in the Donetsk region, in a town controlled by Ukrainian forces. She is a newlywed and is 3 months pregnant.

"I don't know if it is my pregnancy, or the fact that our town can be invaded at any moment, or that my husband can be drafted, but I am always worried, and <u>I live in fear</u>," she said when she called FEBC. "In your programs you talk about inner peace; I want that. <u>I need peace.</u>"

After several conversations with trained FEBC evangelists, Anna was saying that she never expected that God would reach her in her small town in such a special way. "I gave my life to Christ, and He's filling my heart - every day!

And every day I am amazed that I matter to Him. He truly gives me a new outlook on life."



#### PROJECTS THAT CHANGE LIVES



#### SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN THE DEVASTATED PARTS OF UKRAINE

Where the pain is raw, and the devastation is unimaginable, our broadcasters bring hope and healing. We do it over the airways, online, and in person.

The biggest need today in Ukraine is the healing Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that's what FEBC is all about. Our mission is to inspire people to follow Jesus, and we stick to that mission. No politics. No humanitarian projects. Just Jesus, in the context of people's lives and suffering. Millions of people are impacted in southeastern Ukraine thanks to your help!

#### PROGRAMS FOR THE YOUTH

Throughout Eurasia, we are reaching hundreds of thousands of young people. The territory of our reach is expanding quickly, and we need your support to reach the youth with the Gospel.

What is especially powerful are short videos that touch a nerve, talking about broken relationships, the meaning of life, and the future. <u>Young people respond by the thousands</u>, and we start conversations with many of them, leading them to faith. We also connect them to a local Christ-centered church.

We need help to produce these programs, and for the follow-up work as we lead them to Christ.





FEBCEURASIA.ORG