



REACH A VILLAGE

Fishers *of* Men



Thailand

ANNUAL REPORT
2023

DOING MISSIONS DIFFERENTLY

Greetings from the President



One of the greatest joys during my 53 years in ministry has been to meet some of the greatest people on earth! The Christian leaders who make up our network of international ministries represent the best of their countries' citizens, cultures and followers of Jesus.

Another of my greatest joys is connecting with the brothers and sisters who earnestly pray and sacrificially support Reach A Village's ministry and leadership. Thank you for your necessary and valuable partnership, fellowship and friendship!

Our global network supports the one cause that unites all of us. We are to be "fishers of men"—men, women and children—reaching those who need Jesus desperately and may have never heard His name.

I have often pondered why Jesus chose four fishermen to be among His first disciples. My 12 years of experiences as a missionary in the Philippines, where fishing is a common job, gave me some amazing clues.

Peter, Andrew, James and John did not just fish for sport. Fishing was their livelihood, their purpose in life. They were feeding not just themselves, but many others who also relied on them. They fished with nets, working as a team, not with just a single hook. They had to know the environment and habits of the fish. They consistently went out, day after day. And when they were not on the sea, they were constantly working on mending nets and maintaining their boats.

These attributes also describe those who are part of our Reach A Village team. Thank you for your faithful help in sharing the Gospel!

Each year as we look back at what God brought into our nets we are in awe of what God does through all of us in 365 days. This year, we thank God for the resources, leaders and believers He has provided to reach more people in more places with the Good News.

"The World's Greatest Rescue Mission" debuted this year, consisting of five lessons designed for use in children's ministry settings. This resource was developed by Andrea Hildebrant, Reach A Village's Assistant Director of Partner Relations; Rachel Riquelme, a children's pastor; and Amy Tedder, RAV's graphic designer.

**“COME, FOLLOW ME,”
JESUS SAID,
“AND I WILL SEND YOU
OUT TO FISH FOR PEOPLE.”**

—MATTHEW 4:19

In 2023, Reach A Village's ministry partners reached 137,395 new believers with the truth of God's Word. They began 2,925 new churches where believers now gather regularly for worship, prayer and Bible study. In this report, you will meet

- Armen, who met Jesus because he wanted a bicycle in Armenia
- Jakub, who found Jesus inside a prison in Poland
- Asen and Milka, who shared the Gospel with Vasil just before he died in Bulgaria

Two areas of our world continue to need our prayers: Myanmar and Ukraine. Our ministry partners and local believers in both countries live in uncertainty. But the Gospel continues to go forth and bear fruit!

• Myanmar's military rulers refuse to halt attacks, and the country's internal conflicts continue to intensify. A peace agreement from 2021 still hasn't been implemented. Despite the extraordinarily difficult conditions, 349 new churches were established over the past year!

• Russia's attacks on Ukraine, which began in 2022, continue to escalate. The country is suffering under the weight of devastation of property and loss of lives. Yet, our Ukrainian ministry partners reported that 24,661 new people participated in Bible studies!

Your gifts to Reach A Village in 2023 made it possible for 787,595 people to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Find the entire financial report on page 5 of this report.

Thanks for going fishing with Reach A Village. As we are faithful to the ministry God has commanded us to do, we will see our nets filled to overflowing. Just like those four brothers did while fishing on the Sea of Galilee.

Serving our Lord with you,

Robert Craft

Bob Craft
Reach A Village Founder and President

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2023 Cumulative Results

AT-A-GLANCE



2,925
Churches started



787,595
People who heard the gospel



1,591,513
Scriptures* provided



391,253
New people in Bible studies



137,395
New believers



83,445
People who attended training events

*Scriptures includes Study Bibles, Bibles, New Testaments, Children's Bibles and materials, and Scripture portions.

Full 2023 Ministry Results

Children's Ministry

People Who Attended Youth Training Events	11,842
Youth Who Heard The Gospel	293,508
New Youth In Groups/Classes	207,041
New Believers	54,254
Youth Baptized	4,858
Churches Started	207



Church Planting and Adult Discipleship

People Who Attended Adult Training Events	71,603
Adults Who Heard the Gospel	494,087
New Adults in Groups/Classes	184,212
New Believers	83,141
Adults Baptized	24,388
Churches Started	2,718



Scriptures Provided

Bibles	67,368
Study Bible	3,295
New Testaments	231,936
Portions/Selections/Booklets	1,038,175
Children's Portions/Selections/Booklets	210,486
Children Story Bibles	40,253

Financial

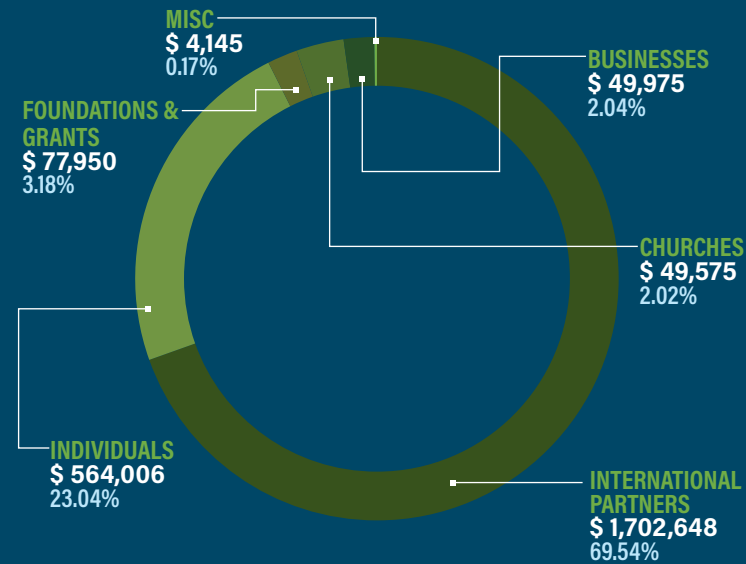
Our partnership in sharing the Gospel continues to bless countless lives worldwide. Ever since Reach A Village's ministry began in 2012, we have maintained our commitment to reaching unreached villages with the Good News about Jesus. Thank you for your financial and prayer support on this journey.

The reality is that Reach A Village regularly receives more requests for funding than our budget allows us to meet. With your help, we are often able to extend our reach beyond our original plans.

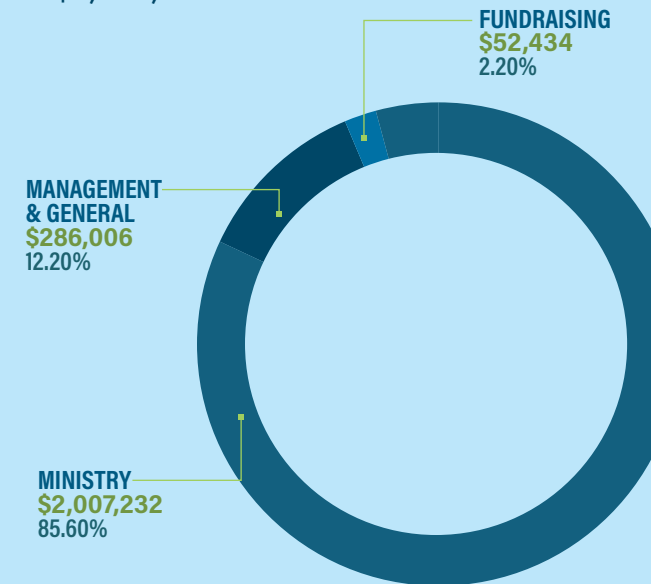
Be assured that your gifts are used for sharing the Gospel and building God's Kingdom. Bible League Canada and Reach A Village continue a long-standing partnership of faithful service. Reach A Village is accredited by ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability). Continue to give with confidence, knowing that we are fully committed to ministry integrity, transparency and proper financial oversight.

God is working in all of us to fulfill His good purpose. Let's keep working together for His glory.

Total Funding Sources \$2,448,299 100%



Total Expenses* \$2,448,299 100%



*Ministry expenses include a 4.2% fund balance to be used in the next fiscal year.

Armenia • Belarus • Bulgaria • Cambodia • China • Georgia • Indonesia • Laos • Latvia • Lithuania • Moldova • Mongolia • Myanmar • North Macedonia • Philippines • Poland • Romania • Russia • Serbia • Thailand • Ukraine • Vietnam

Year in Review

SEP-22

- In Cambodia, children study the Bible in a new house donated by villagers. While learning English, 60 children are also learning about Jesus. Believers are praying for land to build a school there.



- In Moldova, more than 600 children participated in Bible study groups led by our ministry partners.

OCT-22

- In Mongolia, our ministry partners led two children's camps, where 170 children heard the Gospel.



- In Cambodia, ministry coordinators representing all 25 provinces met together.



- In the Philippines, 9,835 students learned about Jesus at their schools.



- In Indonesia, Ellis Craft, our VP of International Ministry, and John Uong, the National Director of Cambodia, visited our ministry partners and attended a conference.



NOV-22

- In the Philippines, the Values Education leaders conducted a Coordinators Leadership Summit.



DEC-22

- In the Philippines, volunteer orientation at Lord of the Nation Church in Cagayan province.



- In Cambodia, Christmas outreach in Prey Phachum village.

JAN-23

- Erin Menke-Assam, Director of Partner Development, represented Reach A Village at the annual missions conference held at First Christian Church in Cape Coral, Florida.



- National leaders from across Southeast Asia gathered for a meeting in Phetchabun Province, Thailand. This was the first time several of them had met one another. What a blessing to have the entire team together!

FEB-23

- In Thailand, our ministry partners visited 72 new villages and studied God's Word with 357 new believers in the Nakhon Sawan province.



Ministry Updates

Holy Spirit Happenings in Thailand

We continue to stand in awe of the life-changing moves of the Holy Spirit in Thailand. In this nation of 70 million people, we are seeing great progress for the Gospel. In 2023, 1,208 people were baptized on May 10th and 1,765 on May 12th. That is 2,973 people who took this step of faith within a few days. Another important milestone was reached. Every one of the 852 villages in Phichit Province — one of the least reached provinces in Thailand — has been reached with the Gospel.

Join us in thanking God for the Free In Jesus Christ Church Association (FJCCA), Reach A Village's ministry partners, and FJCCA's vision of reaching Phichit Province with the Good News about Jesus. Based in neighboring Phetchabun Province, FJCCA answered God's call to go to nearby Phichit Province, a farming area located in the heart of Thailand.

Equipped with ministry training and resources provided by Reach A Village and other partners, local believers began sharing the Gospel there in 2022. By early 2023, they had reached all of the 852 provincial villages, and every village had at least one new believer. By May, every village had at least one group of believers meeting together regularly for worship, prayer and Bible study.

Now, Phichit Province is one of the most reached provinces in all of Thailand in terms of there being a presence of a local church in a village. As of August 2023, there are 1,437 churches, and 18,548 people have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Glory be to God!



Miracles Needed in Myanmar

The military takeover of the government in February of 2021 has caused 3 million people to be displaced with thousands killed during village bombings and in response to protests. The church planting network our Burmese partners are part of has seen numerous friends, relatives, and other church planters harassed, arrested, tortured, and even killed. They continue to minister to their nation one broken heart at a time. The Gospel is the only good news and hope for this nation.

Most church planters added humanitarian relief to internally displaced people (IDP's), which has opened the hearts of many to receiving the Good News. However, so many villages and areas remained closed due to extreme fighting and closed roads. It is very dangerous to even do this, because church planters can be



accused and arrested for providing aid to those opposing the government, even though that is not their intention.

Michael, our National Director says, "If we waited for perfect conditions, we would never do anything." Every month, more volunteers are recruited and engaged in church planting despite very difficult circumstances. There are seven church planting hubs across five states. They

have remained active throughout the civil war and have conducted evangelism, discipleship, and church planting events. Please continue to pray with us for Michael, his team, and the people of Myanmar.

God's Victories in Ukraine

War is a daily reality for the people of Ukraine. The Russo-Ukrainian War remains an ongoing conflict. Tens of thousands have lost their lives, millions fled, and property damage is astronomical. Yet in the midst of the fighting, death and destruction, Reach A Village's ministry partners in Cherkasy and Kyiv continue the advance of the Gospel.

Report from Cherkasy

"Since the invasion in 2022, the spiritual situation in Ukraine has improved," says a Reach A Village ministry leader. "As people lose their sense of stability and security, they begin to seek God and fellowship with believers."

Our ministry partners' greatest need right now is to have God's Word in printed resources they can share with believers. Due to the lack of electricity and instability of internet access, the demand for Bibles and printed Bible study materials is increasing.

There is also a great need for spiritual counseling. Many people are grieving the deaths of relatives and friends. Their families are separated. Depression is rampant. Vitaly, one of Reach A Village's ministry leaders, does a lot of individual counseling over the phone or online. But due to connectivity problems, he needs to monitor and use 11 different phone numbers.

To support ministry leaders, a ministry center building is operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The center has a capacity for only 28 people to receive training, advice, encouragement or simply an opportunity to rest. This past year, 3,400 ministry leaders were served there.

Report from Kyiv

On September 11, 2022, the ministry office in Kyiv had a fire. "We knew the enemy did not want us to work and tell about the love of God in Ukraine," says one of the ministry leaders. "But the Lord did not leave us at such a time. With His help, we have completed the renovation of the office space. We are especially grateful to those part of Reach A Village who helped us financially."

There continues to be a lack of Bibles and Bible study resources in the Ukrainian language. Much ministry takes place in prayer meetings, Sunday schools, children's clubs, children's Bible studies and summer camps. "Resources received from Reach A Village in November 2022 were a huge blessing for us," says one of the ministry leaders.

Summer 2023 was a special time of ministry to children. New volunteers helped share the Gospel during eight summer camps. "We believe that the Lord will use His Word and the Bible study lessons to help the children and teenagers begin their relationship with God," says one of the volunteers.



Year in Review

MAR-23

- In Myanmar, our ministry partners conducted evangelism and discipleship training with members of the Chin tribal group. Attending were more than 200 adults and more than 140 children, representing 100 house churches.

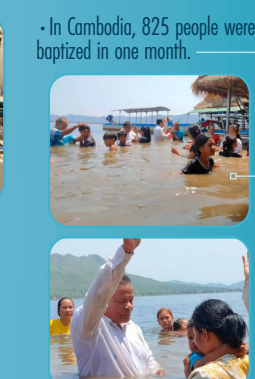


MAY-23

- Reach A Village was represented at the Florida Parent Educators Association (FPEA) Homeschool Convention in Orlando.



- In Thailand, two large group baptisms took place. In total, 2,973 people took this step of faith.



JUN-23

- Bob Craft, founder and president of Reach A Village, was interviewed on American Family Radio's THE CORE with Walker Wildmon and Rick Green.



- In the Philippines, hundreds of students participated in the "No Regrets" seminar in the La Union province. The school principal expressed her full support and gave optimistic feedback about the positive changes in her students.



JUL-23

- In Armenia, more than 1,000 children participated in summer camps organized by our ministry partners.



AUG-23

- The RAV team visited our ministry partners in Ontario, Canada.



- In Serbia, our ministry partners hosted 37 children at Mrcajevo Camp. For many kids, it was their first encounter with Evangelical believers.



Testimonials

Starting New Churches — Bulgaria

Sometimes the people who need to hear the Gospel the most are our own family members. Asen and his wife, Milka — two of Reach A Village’s most faithful ministry partners in Bulgaria — had that experience in their family.

After Asen received training from Reach A Village’s ministry leaders in Bulgaria, he wanted to train as many believers as possible to share the Gospel in their villages. He has led many training classes, in person and online. He even traveled to Germany and trained believers there. He also helped them establish new churches, where more believers can gather for worship, prayer and Bible study.

Asen and Milka are now in the process of constructing a missionary center, where they can provide more training and meeting opportunities for believers. They also lead a church in their hometown. Many of their friends and family members regularly gather with other believers there. As a result of the ministry, 30 people were baptized during the summer of 2022 and another 30 this past summer in 2023!

But one family member was missing from their church. Milka’s Uncle Vasil was known by everyone as a hardened criminal and a leader of other criminals in their town. Many people feared and avoided him. In April 2023, Vasil suffered a heart attack. When Milka heard this news, she and Asen decided to visit Vasil and share the Gospel with him.

“To our surprise, when Uncle Vasil heard the Gospel, he immediately accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior,” Milka says. “He recovered and joined our church. He served the Lord with great desire and dedication.”

Just a few weeks later, Vasil suffered a second heart attack and passed away. “This time, Uncle Vasil was ready to meet his Heavenly Father,” Milka says. “Everyone has heard his story. Asen and I hope that his repentance will lead more of his criminal friends to know the truth about Jesus.”



Children’s Bible Ministry — Armenia

Armen’s dream: to have his own bicycle. For 12 years, he pictured himself riding along the streets of his village, waving to his friends and bringing home groceries for his mother.

As a small boy, he asked his parents many times for a bicycle. They wanted to buy that special gift for him, but their financial difficulties prevented them from doing it. As he grew older, Armen saw how hard his parents worked to provide their family with the basic necessities of life. So he decided to stop talking about the bicycle he wanted so much.

“One day, Sister Hasmik came to our village,” Armen recalls. “She talked to our family about God and prayed with us. I was 12 years old then. As she was leaving our home, I followed after her. I needed to ask her an important question.”

Armen asked Sister Hasmik — one of Reach A Village’s ministry partners — if he could tell Jesus about a dream he had. She assured Armen that Jesus is always there for us and wants to hear our prayers. He asked her for a book that would tell him more about this Jesus who loved him so much. She gave him a children’s Bible and promised to study God’s Word with him.

As Armen learned more about Jesus, he began to pray boldly, asking Jesus for a bicycle. When Armen’s uncle returned from abroad to visit their family, Armen was the first one to greet him at the door. As he opened the door, he saw a bicycle. His uncle had brought this special gift for Armen!

“I was crying tears of joy,” Armen says. “I knew Jesus had sent me this wonderful gift! Now, I tell all my friends that dreams come true because of Jesus. He hears every prayer we pray. Thank you to Sister Hasmik and all the believers who are telling more people in our country about God. Please pray that peace will come to Armenia so no more people will die in the war and so I will never have to be a soldier.”

Please pray for the people of Armenia and peace. In September 2023, neighboring Azerbaijan seized Nagorno-Karabakh, a disputed territory. An estimated 50,000 Armenians have fled the area, according to the BBC.



Discipling New Believers — Poland

In many of Poland’s 150 prisons, the people who are incarcerated do not have the opportunity to read the Bible or pray. So Reach A Village’s ministry partners have to find different ways to share the Gospel with them.

Derek leads Bible studies with incarcerated people by correspondence. He has seen many men become followers of Jesus while still in prison. One of those men is Jakub.

“I was an ordinary boy with an ordinary life,” Jakub says. “As I got older, I noticed the violence in our home. My siblings, my mother and finally I were beaten by my father when he was drunk.”

Jakub’s parents divorced when he was a teenager. “I felt like a dog let out of a cage,” he says. “I thought that I could do whatever I wanted to do without consequences.”



He began skipping school and hanging out with a different crowd. He started smoking cigarettes and becoming intoxicated with glue. Those habits led to stealing and selling stolen merchandise. “I thought I was happy,” Jakub says. “But then my friends and I had to reap the fruits of our actions.”

Jakub was sent to a correctional facility. “I

was 14 years old,” he says. “My heart hardened. I still thought I only had to take care of myself.”

After his release, Jakub returned to his hometown and discovered more destructive habits. “I used everything and everyone to satisfy my desires,” he says. “One of the women I was involved with became pregnant. I was trying to break into a store, and I got caught. This time, I received my first sentence.”

When he was released on parole, Jakub and the woman got married. Even becoming a father didn’t make him want to change. “Each time I committed crimes and returned to prison, I became more twisted,” he says. “I joined the prison elite. My wife and son stopped visiting me, and she divorced me. I tried to kill myself in my cell, but the guards saved me.”

One day, Jakub met a former criminal who had become a follower of Jesus. When the man invited Jakub to pray with him, Jakub gave his life to Jesus. “I left the prison elite subculture that day,” he says. “Another incarcerated person gave me information about how to receive Bible study materials from Derek. I received just what I needed from him. A few months later, I was baptized.”

As Jakub studied God’s Word with Derek by mail, he began to behave differently. He began helping others discover the truth of the Gospel and also connect with Derek.

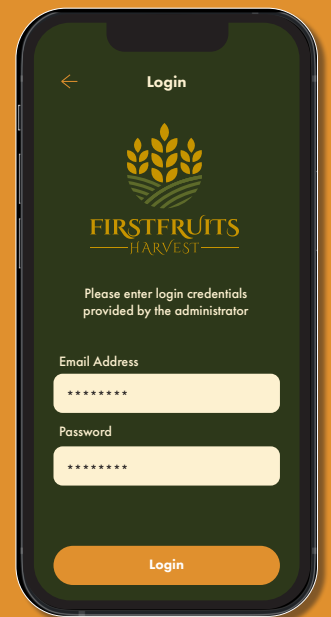
Jakub is still an incarcerated person for crimes he committed in the past. “Thank God, in this dark place, I am able to continue to share my testimony,” he says. “And encourage others to join Derek in Bible study.”

Research & Mapping — App

To track the global spread of the Gospel, Reach A Village collaborates with other worldwide ministries. Using several digital tools provided by the Lord, we are collecting and sharing information. Our ministry partners are contributing data to proven databases. Together, we are helping provide the most accurate information possible for locating and reaching every unreached village with God’s Word.

Recent efforts include an application for mobile phones called “Firstfruits” to help field workers track locations, Gospel-related ministry and scripture resources used. This and other digital tools help our ministry partners manage many tasks related to fulfilling the Great Commission, including reaching specific villages with the Gospel.

With these tools available to them, our ministry partners become better stewards of their time and resources. And more people are coming to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.



Get Involved

Launch of “The World’s Greatest Rescue Mission”

A new Bible curriculum especially for kids, “The World’s Greatest Rescue Mission” launched in 2023. The curriculum is designed for use in various children’s ministry settings, such as VBS, Sunday school, Christian missions, homeschool missions, social studies lessons, chapel and family devotions.

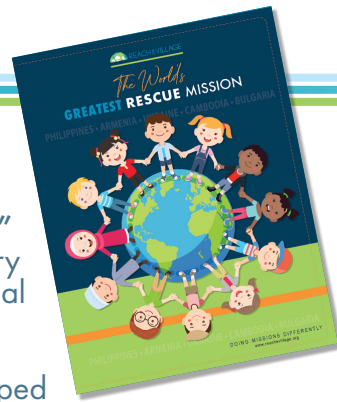
“Ever since founding Reach A Village, our team and ministry partners have helped place Bible studies with Scripture verses into the hands of countless children around the world,” says Bob Craft, founder and president. “Now, we have released our first curriculum for children right here in the USA!”

“The World’s Greatest Rescue Mission” has five major lessons — featuring the Philippines, Armenia, Ukraine, Cambodia and Bulgaria — designed for children in the U.S. The goal is to help them understand the Gospel and the Great Commission, learn about other nations, and grow in Christian character with five biblical values. The teaching guide provides a plan for the curriculum to be taught once weekly over an entire school year.

Special thanks to the team who developed this curriculum:

- Dr. Andrea Hildebrant, our Assistant Director of Partner Relations
- Rachel Riquelme, a children’s pastor currently working on a doctorate in education with a focus on ministry leadership
- Amy Tedder, RAV’s graphic designer with years of experience in Christian curriculum

Order this resource for your use in ministering to and educating children by calling 833-41 BIBLE or going to ReachAVillage.org



PRAY

Go to facebook.com/reachavillage to see recent prayer requests.



GIVE

- Give online, by mail or by phone.
- Start a Facebook fundraiser.

LEGACY GIVING

- Create a charitable gift annuity.
- Give a gift of stock, property or an IRA charitable rollover.
- Include Reach A Village as part of your estate plan, will or retirement account.

Please consult your legal or financial advisor for more information.



REQUEST A SPEAKER

Speakers are available online or in person for your church, missions fair or event.



BECOME AN AMBASSADOR

Share with others about Reach A Village on social media, in your conversations, during Bible studies or with your pastor.

B4NB BIBLES 4 NEW BELIEVERS

Help others share God's Word!

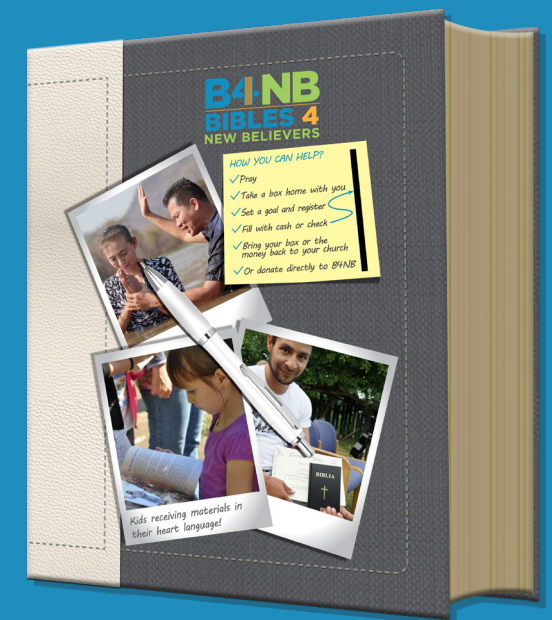
Bibles 4 New Believers **B4NB** is a wonderful way to get your church, family or Bible study group involved in providing Bibles to eager new believers. At no charge, we provide all the display materials needed for a group to raise funds for Bibles. It has been a great way for believers of all ages to help fill this great global need. Since launching in September 2021, enough funds have been raised to provide over 11,000 Bibles. To God be the glory!



“ While preparing for the spring concert, the children participated in a missions project to raise money for B4NB so others can read and learn the Word of God in their heart language. As a multi-cultural congregation, our children understand this well. Children and adults participated in bringing money each week and the final collection was just over \$700—enough to send 101 Bibles to new believers!

I am thankful for the ministry of Reach A Village and how this organization is discipling and equipping churches to go and make disciples of all nations. ”

**TERI VAN DUYN, CHILDREN’S WORSHIP DIRECTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JACKSONVILLE**





Romania



Thank you for partnering with us in 2023 to help spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and transform unreached communities around the world!



The printing of this report was donated by a generous donor partner.

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