



*Report 2020 • Report 2020 • Report 2020 • Report 2020*

### **March 2020 - BIBLE COMPANION APP**

October 2019 saw the launch of our *Bible Companion* app, a major investment which has rapidly justified the work to make it happen. The app allows users to read the text of the Bible with commentary on every verse, listen to the whole Bible and to an audio commentary on every chapter, with a special version for young people. There is also a *Bible Basics* course with the opportunity to answer a wide range of questions online and to privately correspond with us.

In the five months since it was launched, there have been 120,000 downloads of the app in a huge range of countries, with 65% of them retained on phones or tablets; and high usage, with the app being booted up by someone once every 20 seconds. About every hour, somebody begins the *Bible Basics* course and sends in their first answers; and there are multiple requests for hard copies of literature every hour. The app has already played a part in encouraging getting existing contacts to study more and come to baptism; and there have already been baptisms from it of people who came to us through the app for the first time.

A Russian language version of the app was launched in March 2020 and there has already been a huge expression of appreciation from people throughout the Russian speaking world for whom the app is seen as a lifeline. Many live in isolated locations, one of whom lives in Siberia and has written "*Hello, dear friends of mine in Christ! Nothing can calm down my desire to express to you words of deep gratitude for this excellent app. I see your intention is only right - to edify the children of God in our efforts to comprehend the message of the Bible, and follow the Truth we learnt from the holy Scriptures. I want to dearly thank the authors of the app! Thank you very much for your spiritual care for us, which you have manifested through developing this tool!*"

### **January 2020 – UKRAINE**

We supported a visit to a rehab centre in Eastern Ukraine, just back from the former front line of the conflict there, which led to the baptism of three men, each of whom gave amazing testimonies of how God has preserved them and brought them to Himself. We sent a box of Bibles and the Bible study manual to the rehab centre after receiving a request from them last year – they had a great interest in God's word but they had no Bibles. The centre had no facilities for baptism, being in a large wooden building which had been derelict, so we hired a sauna, about the only one in the area. It had a hot steam room, and a very deep plunge pool - which was really freezing cold. After Bible study, prayer and discussion, we went into that

freezing water for the baptisms, and then shut ourselves in the hot room to recover. As we sat there in that hot room... there were some great comments of true appreciation from these men who had been through awful experiences, to come to Christ and the things of the Kingdom in spirit and in truth. We praise God for His working, in such an obscure and humanly forgotten area, to "make up His jewels" and bring more to His saving plan.

***January 2020 – LATVIA***

We continue to support the daily soup kitchen and Bible classes in Riga, where there have continued to be high attendances. Many of those attending have learned about God's message as a result and have committed themselves to him through baptism. We also distribute firewood and other support to a number of folk living in very poor conditions.

On Sundays, we hold English language meetings which have seen a really good attendance of mainly younger folks, typically masters students at the university here, often from India.