

UNLIMITED

THE MAGAZINE

I WAS THE PRODIGAL SON

Oleg's Story (page 8)



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**DESMOND
FORD:**

“When God looks at us, he sees us wrapped in the robe of righteousness that our Saviour has placed around us.” (Excerpt from *Jesus Only*)

A NEW PENTECOST

Dear Friend,

The gospel dramatically changed the world on the day of Pentecost. The disciples, full of the Holy Spirit, proclaimed their crucified and risen Lord, and thousands poured into the kingdom of God. The day of Pentecost displayed the incredible saving power of the Gospel.

And today, when you and I embrace this message of good news, we understand the day of Pentecost. And we experience its power to save sinners like us.

Centuries before Pentecost, the prophet Joel described God pouring out his Spirit. He spoke of old men and women dreaming dreams and young men and women seeing visions. He says, in those days,

...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Joel 2:28–29, 32).

At GNU, we have dreams for the gospel and visions of what will be through the mighty power of God—absolutely huge dreams and visions.

We want to be part of God's universal church, helping to spread the Word fast and finish the gospel proclamation throughout the world. It's been long enough, don't you think?

The stories of transformed lives – some of which you will read about in this issue – are only the tip of the iceberg, or the ‘first fruits’ as the Bible calls them. We rejoice for them, but we won't rest until every sinner has a chance to find joy in the gospel of Jesus Christ – until Jesus comes again in glory!

We thank you because you share and enable our gospel dreams and visions to be reached: souls snatched from the grasp of Satan through the mighty power of the Cross... and millions of the redeemed in heaven!

Thank you for your prayers, your messages of encouragement and your generous gifts. This is how the dreams and visions that we all share in Christ will become reality. This is how Pentecost will finish in glory.

Grace and Peace

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

Senior Pastor,
Good News Unlimited



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EDITORIAL

Christ has given us an assignment. This assignment is so crucial to the growth of his kingdom that he promises to be personally present with us as we seek to do his bidding (Matt 28:19-20). He will also come between us and anything that will threaten our ability to fulfil this assignment, whether it's a venomous snake (see Acts 28:1-6) or a terminal illness (Php 2:25-27).

Over the centuries the Christian Church has substituted other commissions for the one that Jesus gave us. While some of these human assignments have been laudable, such as spending time alone with Christ in the desert, in a mountain cave or a monastery, none of these was the brief given us by Jesus in his last words before he returned to the Father.

In fact, when one man, whose life had been radically changed for the better by Jesus, begged the Lord to let him accompany him from that time forward, Jesus refused him and told him that it was now his foremost responsibility to go home and tell his family what Christ had done for him (Mark 5:18-20). This missionary did not immediately realise that if he did as Christ

...make it your mission to tell others about the one who died for them on the cross so that all their sins would be blotted out and they would be given life overflowing.

Ritchie Way
Executive Editor



commanded, the Lord would be with him just as he wanted. So he went and told his family about the good news of the transforming grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you cherish the great honour of having Jesus at your side all the time? Then make it your mission to tell others about the one who died for them on the cross so that all their sins would be blotted out and they would be given life overflowing.

A MESSAGE FROM ELENNE FORD

Des' daughter and a board member of Good News Unlimited.

We appreciate so much the way that you have prayed for us, volunteered, and given us your financial support. In these ways you have expressed your faith in Christ and shared it with others.

In addition to this, some friends also choose to include Good News Unlimited in their will in the form of a bequest. Doing so ensures that some of the wealth they leave behind contributes directly to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with a dying world through the ministry and mission of Good News Unlimited – creating a legacy that affects lives far into the future.

My father and Gill have left a bequest to Good News Unlimited for the preaching of the gospel. In fact, after bequests to the family, most of their estate will be given to Good News Unlimited. I am also making provision for Good News Unlimited in my will, and I know that other board members are doing the same.

If you would like more information explaining how to include Good News Unlimited in your will, please contact Eliezer at GNU on 0413 473 043 or admin on 02 4721 9051.



WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

Venerated scientist Loren Eiseley says this about Darwinism:

After having chided the theologian for his reliance on myth and miracle science found itself in the unenviable position of having to create a mythology of its own, namely the assumption that what after long effort would not prove to take place today had in truth taken place in the primeval past. (Cited in *Discover Yourself*, p. 127).

Consider this: if evolution ever truly happened, it must have stopped a considerably long time ago. If, as Darwin taught, all the multitudinous living things in our world today are the result of development from earlier forms over huge stretches of time, where is the fossil evidence?

Darwin himself thought about this problem. Historian scientist Janet Browne, describes how

Darwin then proceeded to list the major difficulties in accepting these ideas.... The inability of species to cross-breed was one: if hares and rabbits were originally the same animal, how had they become mutually sterile? The origin of a complicated structure like the eyes was another.

There were no transitional forms in the geological record. There was no evidence of intermediate forms living in the present day. The intricate social structure of ants and bees seemed impossible on an evolutionary scheme (p. 438).

Adrian Desmond and James Moore's biography (*Darwin*) makes the same point:

His other problem was the fossil evidence for evolution. There was hardly any to speak of (p. 288).

Perhaps the most well known statement is that from Stephen Jay Gould:

The extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as the trade secret of paleontology. The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches, the rest is inference, however reasonable, not the evidence of fossils (Evolution's Erratic Pace, *Natural History*, May 1977, pp. 12, 14).

Well-known leader in evolutionary thought, Dr. C. Patterson, wrote the following in a personal letter to Luther D. Sunderland:

I fully agree with your comments on the lack of direct illustration of evolutionary transitions in my book. If I knew of any, fossil or living, I would certainly have included them. ... I will lay it on the line - there is not one such fossil for which one could make a watertight argument (April 10, 1979).

Thomas Huxley wrote that if these gaps were a reality through all known time, that fact would be fatal to the doctrine of evolution (Three lectures on Evolution, September 18, 20, 22, 1876, p. 61).

In the New Scientist, 26 March, 1981, p. 802, John Reader stated that "preconceptions have led evidence by the nose in the study of fossil man."

Then why do so many believe in Darwinism? Because if you don't believe in God (and most of the Western world does not), it's the only game in town.

But we who have been led by the Spirit to the Cross of Calvary can rejoice in the certainty that we have not followed "cunningly devised fables".

DES FORD

Founder, Good News Unlimited

Dr Desmond Ford is the founder of Good News Unlimited, a transdenominational and international gospel ministry. He has been a teacher, minister and theologian for more than sixty years.

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THANK GOD YOU HAVE NOT SEEN WAR

A SPECIAL REPORT FROM UKRAINE



Eliezer Gonzalez and Philip Rodionoff (3rd and 4th from the right) shared the gospel with recovering drug addicts at a local rehabilitation centre.

If you live in a country where there is peace, then thank God that you have not seen war. Now we know how horrific it is. Please pray for us and please don't forget us. Pray that God will never bring you through these trials, but if he does, be faithful and know that Jesus will always be by your side.

This is the message the beautiful people of Ukraine sent to you through Dr Eliezer Gonzalez and Dr Philip Rodionoff as they said farewell to this war-torn country. Eliezer and Philip were privileged to spend more than a week sharing the gospel with the people of Poltava, whose population of 300,000 has been swelled by over 10,000 refugees from the conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

The Lord provided GNU with significant opportunities, not only to share the hope and joy of the gospel with these people, but also to minister to their material needs, providing financial support for some of the refugees who had fled their homes with virtually nothing.

Dramatic stories emerged as people opened to the gospel. People with backgrounds of crime and misery, as well as alcohol and drug abuse, found hope and healing in the gospel of Jesus Christ. You can read some of their stories of transformation in Christ in this magazine and also on GNU's website.

GNU held two meetings every day to preach the gospel: Philip shared evidence-based reasons why people can believe in God, and Eliezer presented the gospel-based teachings of the Bible.

They also distributed copies of *Jesus Only* in Ukrainian, and a store of these books has been left in Ukraine to further minister to these beautiful and needy people. As a result of GNU's gospel evangelistic campaign, 65 people accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, 28 people were baptised and more are planning baptism. These included many refugees, as well as some drug addicts from a local drug rehabilitation centre.

These are people whose lives have been shattered. They have lost loved ones in horrific circumstances, their homes have been destroyed and their lives threatened.

Ludmilla, a refugee lady who was later baptised, received the gift of *Jesus Only*, promising to pay for the book when she was able. "I used to be a businesswoman in Luhansk," she said. "I feel ashamed to have to receive help. I will find a way to work again and I will repay the money."

Eliezer said to her, "It's a gift, like the gospel. You will never need to repay it."

On the final night of the campaign, Eliezer and Philip led a special time of prayer for the peace of God to come upon Ukraine, and particularly upon the hearts of those who have lost loved ones and homes in this war.

GNU is currently exploring other ways to further the gospel ministry to refugees and others in Ukraine. This country has endured great suffering during its history, but the people are warm-hearted and eager to receive the gospel and learn more about the Bible.

▼ ELIEZER GONZALEZ

Senior Pastor, Good News Unlimited

Eliezer Gonzalez is the Senior Pastor and CEO of Good News Unlimited. He is an international speaker and author, and is simply passionate about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Eliezer has done a bit of study in theology and also in early Christian history. He lives on the sunny Gold Coast in Australia, with his astonishingly beautiful wife Ana, two teenage children whom he never, ever embarrasses, and a crazy dog called Theo.

IF WORDS COULD

If words could scream when they are abused, then the word 'gospel' should cause us to wear hearing protection!

Christians give many meanings to the word 'gospel'. If the gospel is the good news about how we must be saved, then it is important to understand clearly what it means. But 'gospel' is one of the most misused words in Christianity.

Confusion Galore

The word 'gospel' literally means 'good news', so for some people, the gospel is any good news they find in the Bible. In that way, everything can be part of the gospel if you want it to be.

For other people, the gospel is whatever their church says it is. So if the church has articles of faith, or a creed, or fundamental beliefs, then they are all part of the gospel.

Because God blesses his children in many ways, and that's 'good news' also, many people define the gospel in terms of the earthly blessings they receive. Others even equate the gospel with politics!

Some people find experience most real, so for them, the gospel includes the work of the Spirit of God in giving us gifts and in transforming our characters.

In these and other ways, people too often focus on the results of the gospel, rather than on the gospel itself.

Back to the Source

As Christians, we must consult the Book of Christ first—the Bible—when we want answers. Romans chapter one contains the Bible's only definition of 'the gospel';

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:16, 17).

What Paul is saying here is not difficult. The gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. In other words, it is the power of God through which sinners are saved.

It is not our power. It is the power of God. Some people read this verse and immediately think of their own power as Christians, and even of sanctification. That is not what this verse is about.

In fact, it was when Martin Luther understood the meaning of verse 17 that the Protestant Reformation was ignited. The gospel, he saw, was that we are justified solely and entirely by

faith. Good works are important, even essential in the Christian life, but they are the result of the gospel - not the gospel itself.



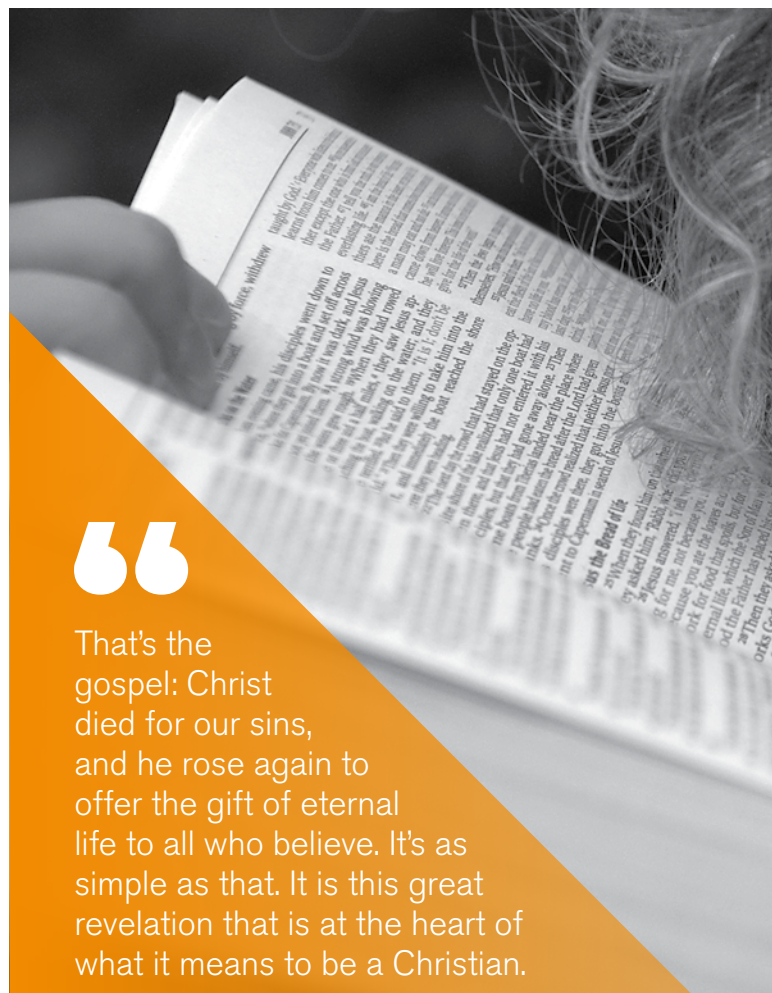
The gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. In other words, it is the power of God through which sinners are saved.

The Revelation of God's Righteousness

Verses 16 and 17 are connected with the word "For..." This gives us the reason *why*: in the gospel, the righteousness of God is *revealed*.

So if we want to understand the gospel, the question is, "How does Paul understand that the righteousness of God is revealed?" Paul explains in a later chapter of the same letter:

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,



That's the gospel: Christ died for our sins, and he rose again to offer the gift of eternal life to all who believe. It's as simple as that. It is this great revelation that is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian.

OULD SCREAM...

even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness (Romans 3:21–25).

Paul Defines the Gospel

This is Paul's direct commentary on Rom 1:16, his definition of the gospel:

1. The gospel is the revelation of God's righteousness apart from the law. The law was certainly a revelation of God's righteousness, but that revelation could not save us. We needed another revelation of God's righteousness to be saved.
2. This righteousness is through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. The saving revelation of God's righteousness is through the person of Jesus Christ, to whom all the law and the prophets testified. The revelation of God's

righteousness in the person of Jesus Christ has saving power because it is credited to all who believe in him.

3. The gospel involves being justified freely by the grace of Christ. 'Justified' is a legal term, meaning that we are accounted as righteous. We aren't righteous in ourselves, but God credits perfect righteousness to our account. This happens as a totally undeserved and free gift from Christ because of his goodness towards us.
4. The basis of this justification is the propitiation made through the blood of Christ. The reason we can be accounted as righteous before God is that Christ lets his righteous life stand in the place of our unrighteousness. Christ does that as our representative, dying where we should have died, so we may live eternally as he deserves to live. That's what 'propitiation' means. It's all about the blood.

“There are people who focus on the gospel, and there are people who focus on its results. If you focus on the gospel, you will see the results.

Clear and Simple

Paul summarises this in his accompanying definition of the gospel in 1 Cor 15:1–4:

... I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:1–4).

That's the gospel: Christ died for our sins, and he rose again to offer the gift of eternal life to all who believe. It's as simple as that. It is this great revelation that is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian.

There are people who focus on the gospel, and there are people who focus on its results. If you focus on the gospel you will see the results.

▶ ELIEZER GONZALEZ

Senior Pastor, Good News Unlimited



FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)

John 3 tells us that God loves us and has provided salvation so that his children can come home. "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

Parallel to God's love and because of it, "God [is] rich in mercy" towards us (Eph. 2:4a). He can be rich in mercy "because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved" (Eph. 2:4-5).

Miles Coverdale lived from 1488 to 1569, and he wrote the first complete printed translation of the Bible into English. He is the one who translated the Hebrew word '*keseḏ*' or '*chesed*' as loving-kindness.

This word has no real equivalent in English and has been translated as 'mercy', 'steadfast love', 'great kindness', 'favour', and sometimes 'loyalty'. The nearest New Testament equivalent is '*charis*', the Greek word that means 'grace'. 'Grace' means 'unmerited and unconditional favour'.

Here is one example of the use of the word '*keseḏ*': "But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in **steadfast love** and faithfulness" (Psalm 86:15).

'*Keseḏ*' is not a word used loosely. It is covenant language and involves the idea of love and loyalty. God made a number of covenants with individuals - Adam, Noah, Abraham, David, Solomon - and the nation Israel. Though God was faithful, all of his covenants before Christ were an unequal yoke with man being the weak link.

The Bible always contrasts God's steadfast reliability with man's changeability. "Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades. But the word of our God stands forever" (Isa. 40:8).

The Book of Jeremiah (31:31-34) predicted that God would make a New Covenant with his people, because of the

continual failure of Israel to obey. Christians believe that God's New Covenant with Christ was instituted at the Last Supper when Jesus and the Disciples celebrated the Passover Festival.

"This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:19-20).

The essential form of the covenant did not change from the Old to the New Testament. What changed was the partnership in the covenant. Before, God had always been in covenant with



Because the New Covenant has two steadfast partners, you can depend on God's *keseḏ* - his grace and steadfast love for you. We enter this new covenant by faith.

fallible human beings. Now, he has made a covenant with his Son - Jesus, 'holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens' (Heb. 7:26).

Because Jesus always obeyed his Father in life, and because he died an atoning death on our behalf, God has accepted his atonement for our sins. Because the New Covenant has two steadfast partners, you can depend on God's *keseḏ* - his grace and steadfast love for you. We enter this new covenant by faith.

▼ GILL FORD

Wife of Good News Unlimited Founder - Desmond Ford

Gillian Ford and Desmond Ford have been married for nearly 45 years. When she is not working on Des's books, Gillian likes to write her own material. She wrote and recently published Jesus Plus Zero especially for the lady saints of Rwanda - both in Africa and Europe - who survived the Rwandan genocide and who belong to gospel cells begun by the ministry of David Kayumba of Brussels, Belgium. This article is extracted from a chapter of the book.



THIRTY PASTORS AND THEIR CHURCHES JOIN GOOD NEWS UNLIMITED



In recent weeks 30 pastors and their churches in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh have joined the ministry of Good News Unlimited. People there are thirsting for the simple Bible truths of the gospel.

These pastors have been drawn to the ministry of GNU through Good News Unlimited's weekly gospel television programme presented by Pr Joseph Usala. They love the gospel teachings they are hearing and want to play their part in sharing this wonderful message.

The pastors who have approached us come from a range of Protestant denominations as well as non-denominational Christian churches, and together they represent many hundreds of Christians coming together with GNU so that the gospel might be spread fast.

Pastor Joseph joined the work of GNU approximately two years ago, not long after God called him to ministry in his home state of Andhra Pradesh. Pr Joseph travels from village to village, preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ in the open air and on the roads, wherever he can get a hearing. In each village, he starts a new group of Christian believers. As he preaches, he feeds the poor and clothes the needy, usually out of his own pocket.

When I visited Pr Joseph and travelled from village to village with him last year, I realized that he was a great preacher. So when the Lord opened the door for Good News Unlimited to commence broadcasting a weekly gospel programme in the region in which he lives, we asked Pr Joseph to be the presenter of this programme.

Every week Pr Joseph faithfully translates and adapts the messages that Des and others preach at Milton and put on GNU's website. Then he preaches these messages to a television audience of many hundreds of thousands of people. As a result, the reach of GNU is exploding in this region.

So how will Good News Unlimited deal with this wonderful blessing? We have appointed Pr Joseph Usala as Evangelism Coordinator, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Good News Unlimited is not a church, but rather a gospel ministry, dedicated to helping spread the Word of the Gospel fast through media, churches, and individuals who love the gospel. As a result, GNU does not seek to control these 30 churches. They will remain entirely autonomous and GNU will provide support to these pastors through training in evangelism, advice, and gospel resources.

Pr Joseph has started meeting with these pastors every month to pray with them, encourage them, provide them with resources, and help to coordinate their efforts for the gospel so that together they may be more effective.

In recent times the Lord has been doing miraculous things for the spread of the gospel through GNU. This is simply the latest miracle. This now brings the number of gospel fellowships associated with GNU to approximately 60 around the world. We stand in awe and humility at what the Lord is doing so that his Word Spreads Fast.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**
Senior Pastor,
Good News Unlimited

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In recent times the Lord has been doing miraculous things for the spread of the gospel through GNU. This is simply the latest miracle.

I WAS THE

My name is Oleg. I am 25 years old and I lived in a town near Luhansk in Eastern Ukraine. One day in late August 2014, I came home from work to find that separatist rebels had shelled the apartment block I lived in. Under the rubble was my mother, who had been killed, together with many other people – over one hundred. The rebels showed their superiority and control by refusing to allow the rescue teams to look for survivors until the next day.

I had no one, so decided to travel to my grandfather in Central Ukraine. It took me three weeks to get to Poltava - walking and travelling on the platforms of the freight cars in the open. When I arrived, I found that my grandfather had died six months earlier. I was all by myself and did not know what to do.

Some people on the street told me to go to the monastery to ask for food or work, but the priest there said it was a women's monastery and they didn't have any jobs. However, he fed me and gave me 20 hryvnia (approximately \$1.00).

This money did not go far, and I didn't know where to go. So I spent time sleeping on the night trains.

Then I went to an Orthodox church and saw some people working there, and I offered my help. They said no, but they heard my story and they gave me a hat, because it was winter and very cold.

I was very hungry and had not eaten for two or three days. Then I saw a notice offering free housing in return for taking care of pigs.

“ I was so hungry, I took some of the pigs' grain and tried to cook it to make a cereal, but it didn't come out very well. The man caught me doing this and began yelling at me...

I called the owner, and he said OK. At first it went well. But then he stopped giving me food and money. I was so hungry, I took some of the pigs' grain and tried to cook it to make a cereal, but it didn't come out very well. The man caught me doing this and began yelling at me that I had stolen from the animals and left the pigs hungry. He had 15 tonnes of grain and I had taken less than a kilo.

There was another refugee family from the Luhansk area staying with him. A pastor had invited them to come to some



Oleg, shown here with Eliezer, is just one life changed because of your support. Thank you for helping impact so many lives like his!

gospel meetings. They said to me, “Come with us. Maybe you will get some help.” So I went to the meetings, and the pastor gave us some food. Finally, it was enough food for my hunger. Even this refugee family, who had four children, was fed.

I asked the pastor about Bible studies, and he put me in touch with a man who could give me Bible studies. My employer said, “If you need to go somewhere, you can go, but I won't give you money for your bus fare. You can walk.”

I was hungry and weak, and I despaired that I would not be able to make it into the city to learn about the gospel. I always carried a prayer written down with me and I read this prayer before going to bed. Then I felt better. In the morning I did walk into the city, and as I walked, I read this prayer and it strengthened me. It took me six hours to walk the 32 kilometres into the city to study the Bible. The man who studied the Bible with me gave me money so I could catch the bus home and return by bus for more Bible studies. He was kind and also gave me something to eat.

Finally my employer said, “Get out of here!” It was winter and very cold. The man with whom I was studying the Bible said to me, “I know a man who can help. He has a job and a place to stay.” So I went to him and I have been with him ever since.

OLEG'S STORY

PRODIGAL SON

All these people helped me. If not for them, I don't know where my life would be. Everybody helped with what they could.

I have decided to be baptised. I have cancer of the thyroid, and have to go to Kiev for surgery. This is a bad case of cancer and I would like to be under God's protection when I travel to Kiev.

It was so hard at some points in my experience that I thought I would die. I was in so much danger, and I suffered so much hunger. However, I believe that God has sent me trials to strengthen me. And now I have given my life to Jesus Christ.

I know that many people who will read my story live in countries where there is safety. I would like to wish for believers everywhere in the world to never experience what war is really like, and what its devastation and destruction is all about.

My fellow-believers should know that our Almighty God helps us, regardless of the trials he may send. I lost my mother and my home. I have nothing. When things like this happen, you can be tempted to think, "Why do you need to live like this? It is better to kill yourself." I had my struggles, but now everything is OK.

I love the Word of God. When I read it, I feel like what it is saying is really taking place in my life, so I really understand what it is talking about, because I am living it. I want to live for Jesus, not just to do him lip service, but be always with him. The Word of God gives me faith to believe that no matter what trial may come in the future, I am a child of God, and I am loved.



The Word of God gives me faith to believe that no matter what trial may come in the future, I am a child of God, and I am loved.

Note by Eliezer Gonzalez: Oleg shared his story and was baptised into the Kingdom of God on 3 March 2015. Until his departure for Kiev, Oleg had been eagerly coming to GNU's gospel evangelism meetings. Good News Unlimited made a financial contribution towards Oleg's travel to Kiev for treatment for his cancer.



... separatist rebels had shelled the apartment block I lived in. Under the rubble was my mother... together with many other people – over one hundred. The rebels... [refused] to allow the rescue teams to look for survivors until the next day.

HOW AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JOINED GOD'S GANG!

RUSLAN'S STORY

My name is Ruslan Yenchinka and I am 40 years old. I was born in Poltava, Ukraine, and I was addicted to hard drugs from the age of five. I got involved with a gang and we committed crimes to get money to buy drugs. I believed in God and I even prayed to him, but only to ask him for things I wanted. But I can say that God certainly protected my life many times.

I was finally arrested for my crimes. I knew that I could be executed by firing squad, but thanks to my mother's efforts, most of those charges were dropped.

In prison, I began reflecting on my life, praying that I might be spared from death. My cellmate had a book called *Jesus is Your Friend*. I read it over and over. Then I read the gospels and became friends with God. I had prayed for God to set me free, and he did, but not in the way I had expected. He set me free from sin.

I was sentenced to seven years in jail. I was able to bear my prison sentence because I knew that God must have a plan for me.

I witnessed for God during my prison term. When I was freed, I studied drug rehabilitation and set up a drug rehabilitation centre for men in Poltava. The government provides us with medicines, food, salary, housing, and we provide the psychological, social, and spiritual elements to the men. The government is not happy that we teach the gospel, but because of our good results, I tell them this is the way it is, and I will continue teaching the men about the love of God.

Between 5,000 and 10,000 men have spent time at this drug rehab centre. Many hundreds have completed the program,

and there are at least 500 who are today clean. They were criminals, gang members, and heavy gamblers. Many have become Christians as a result of our witness.

We invited some of the men to the GNU evangelistic program. They liked it very much and are getting a lot from your presentations.

We have many needs. Many men cannot afford the small fee that helps with our costs. We need sponsors for these men so they benefit from this program and hear about God's love for them. We would also like to start a program for the many women addicts.

We would like to open a recovery centre for people who are traumatised by the war in Ukraine. These are great dreams, for great needs. We will continue to do the work of God and we will continue to cast our bread upon the waters, knowing that he will provide.

We would appreciate any assistance from Good News Unlimited. We need your prayers and we need resources to share the gospel. We would like to share *Jesus Only* with the men. I know that already Good News Unlimited is a conduit for God's blessings to us here, and I hope that this will continue for the future.

Ruslan Yenchinka told his story to Eliezer Gonzalez through an interpreter. Three men from this drug centre accepted the gospel and gave their lives to Christ at the evangelistic meetings. Good News Unlimited is providing the drug centre with copies of Jesus Only, and is exploring other ways to help Ruslan's ministry.

“

The government is not happy that we teach the gospel, but because of our good results, I tell them this is the way it is...



Ruslan and a patient outside the drug rehabilitation centre. Frontline gospel work at is best thanks to friends like you!

INTERNATIONAL POP STAR FINDS PEACE WITH GOD

MISCHA'S STORY

I was the lead singer in a pop group that was famous throughout the former Soviet Union. I was a 'star' from an early age, but I became an alcoholic. When I got married, my drinking became a real problem for my family life.

I knew I was a sinner needing to repent. I became a Christian, but didn't really understand what that meant. I enjoyed going to church with my wife and son and became a musician for the church. I thought I was growing spiritually, but I still drank and I had much pride in my heart that I hadn't surrendered to God.

“ I became a Christian, but didn't really understand what that meant.

I committed adultery with a member of the church, and the shame of this made me drink more. I became a hypocrite, critical of others, noticing all their faults. Eventually, I left the church with my family and went fully into the world. Then, in addition to alcohol, drugs came into my life. The worst thing is that I also involved my wife, and we both became addicts. My wife died as a result of drug abuse.

I was distraught and I didn't want to live. The courts deprived me of my parental rights. Finally, I discovered the Christ-centred "12-step program". There, I learned that by myself I could do nothing. My sponsor told me I needed God before I could get better. In my pride, I said to him, "I have God." He told me I needed to work on my relationship with him.

I finally surrendered everything to God. A few months later I met my wonderful Svetlana, who is now my wife. Two years later my son from my first marriage came back to me. These were miracles, affirmations of God's love for me, and I began to find a solid foundation for my life.

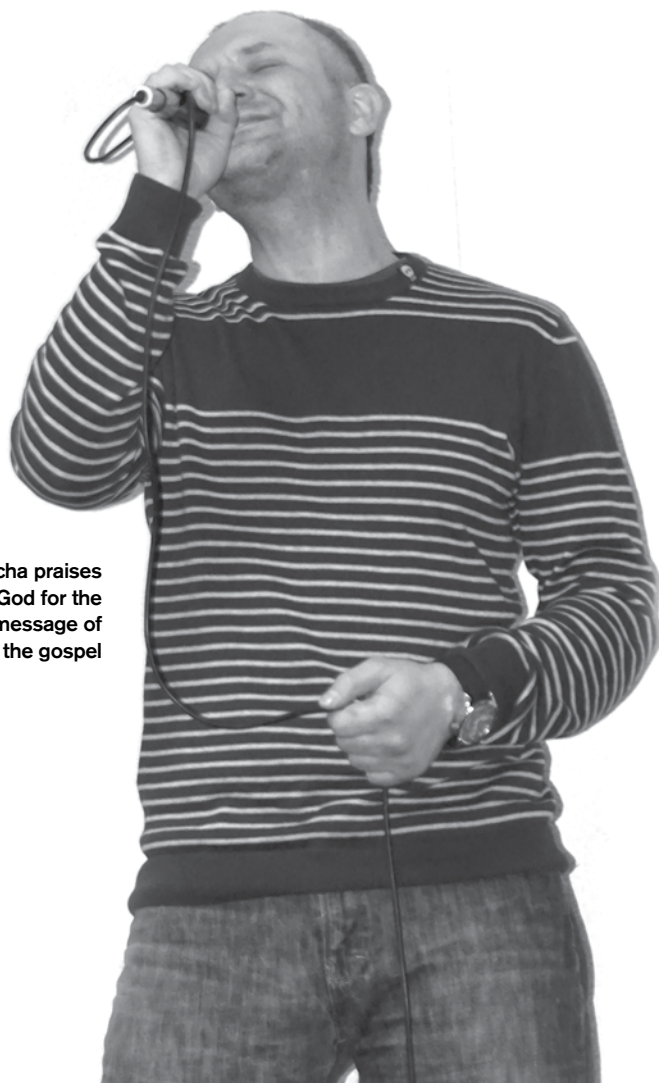
I was invited to attend the meetings being presented by Dr Eliezer Gonzalez and Dr Philip Rodionoff and I am enjoying them enormously. I thought I knew the gospel, but now it is finally all making sense. Every evening after the meetings, my wife and I go home and discuss everything we hear.

It has been a long time since I took part in communion with God's people. God has guided us gently to this point and to these meetings, and I know that we will join this Christian community.

I know that without God, no one can be happy, and I am glad that he is in my life. Every day I come to Jesus in my prayers and talk to him like a friend. I know he hears me, I know he loves me, and in his love he helps me live a better life.

Christ has given me salvation, and I must respond. Now I am helping other addicts in Alcoholics Anonymous and a drug rehab group. As a musician, I know that God has brought true harmony into my life. All I can do is to be humble and give glory to him.

Story recorded and transcribed (from a translation) by Eliezer Gonzalez. "Mischa" is the Russian diminutive for "Michael"



**Mischa praises
God for the
message of
the gospel**

WHAT NOT TO SAY TO SOMEONE WHO IS SUFFERING

There is no 'easy' answer to the 'why' of tragedy. I would warn every sufferer against some of the pat answers.

It has been said:

Well, trouble is good for building a strong character.

There is some truth in this statement, but we have to acknowledge that many troubles sour, rather than sanctify. Not all trouble is sanctifying. We cannot say it is all character building, though in a measure that is true. Without trouble our characters would deteriorate.

Neither must we ever say:

Well, he or she must have done something terrible, and it's catching up with them.

That's the most hoary fable about pain and tragedy that's ever been perpetuated. One of the books in the Bible, the book of Job, explodes that one. Job was a perfect man, says the first chapter, yet look at all his troubles. The Sabeans drove off his oxen and his asses, the Chaldeans stole his camels, the house collapsed on his children, and he was afflicted with boils – this perfect man of the East!

Never say that all trouble comes on a person as a result of his or her sins. It is true that all trouble is a result of sin. But is it not also true that we often suffer for other people's sins? There is such a thing as vicarious suffering in our world, and many of the great sufferers of history have been blameless.

Neither should we say:

If only they had enough faith they could be healed.

That is a terrible blasphemy when we have a Bible that speaks of the greatest of the apostles, who asked three times that the 'thorn in the flesh' might be removed, only to be told that God's grace would be sufficient for him.

God is there. We see darkly. We stumble. We wonder in our pain. But we see a God who loves supremely, who is there, and cares. And we realise that tears are often the birth pangs of greatness. And tragedy must start to be seen in a new light.

From "How to Survive Personal Tragedy"

▼ DES FORD

Founder, Good News Unlimited

Dr Desmond Ford is the founder of the Good News Unlimited, a transdenominational and international gospel ministry. He has been a teacher, minister and theologian for more than sixty years.





ADOPT A GOAT AND CHANGE A LIFE

In India, the lives of widows and orphans are particularly difficult. They regularly feel the pain of hunger and the lack of proper clothes. In the villages of Andhra Pradesh where he ministers, Pr Joseph feeds and clothes as many of the poor as he can, often from his own few resources.

As I travelled and ministered with Pr Joseph last year, I saw the poverty—the elderly widows living in mud huts on the outskirts of villages, and the many children. These are the core of his ministry, and as he ministers to these whom society considers the ‘least’, our Lord, who also loves these people, continues to bless Pr Joseph’s ministry.

I told him that I receive multiple weekly requests from around the world for financial help from GNU. And multiple times I have to say, “No.” I emphasized that GNU is not a ministry that focuses its resources on providing direct monetary help to the needy, but focuses on the work of the gospel.

He responded, “I understand, pastor, and this is wonderful and much needed. We must preach the gospel. But you have seen and met the people. How can I preach the gospel if I do not feed the poor? How can you say that the work of the gospel does not also include the words of Jesus:

I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me.... (Matthew 25:33–36).

My heart broke for these people, and an idea came to my mind. Pr Joseph had bought several young goats with his own money, and he was paying a widow a small amount each month to care for them. His plan is to sell each goat when they are adults; the profits will support one widow or child for one month. The goats

forage and essentially look after themselves. This also provides employment for one of these people for a month.

I liked that. And so the idea for “Adopt-a-Goat” was born.

Pr Joseph can easily organize for more goats to be cared for. And he certainly has many more mouths to feed. What he doesn’t have are the funds to purchase more goats.

GNU’s simple Adopt-a-Goat Programme works like this:

1. Your donation of \$60 (Australian) will purchase one goat.
2. With your donation, please name your goat (give us a boy’s and a girl’s name).
3. You will receive a certificate with your goat’s photo and name.
4. After a happy time of five or six months with other goats in the villages, the goat will be sold and the proceeds will be used to feed a widow or an orphan who would otherwise not be able to eat.
5. If we receive too many donations for goats (more than Pr Joseph can care for), we will offer you the option of a refund.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**
Senior Pastor, Good News Unlimited

LETTERS *from our readers*



GNU is a meeting of minds from a wide range of church affiliations and therefore opinions expressed in our articles may differ from those of our readers. Recognising that opinions can differ and we all have much to learn and unlearn, we encourage our readers to participate in this forum.



R.A.
Australia

Dr. Ford, thank you for imparting the Gospel. The Lord led me to your Ministry to teach me the Gospel. It changed my life for good. Thank you! God's continued blessing on all the efforts of GNU.

R.A.



Caroline Murugl
Choguria Meru, Kenya

This is a new era to your ministry for the good news you send to us through the radio.

The message is really inspiring and every time it's on the air, I am encouraged to grow in Christ.

I want to tell you that you are inspiring not only to me but also to others.

*I am yours in Christ,
Caroline Murugl*



Joseph Mukaraku
Meru, Kenya

Dear Dr Gonzalez

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour.

It is a wonderful opportunity to serve with you. I have been blessed by your broadcast on radio. Its message has really impacted on my life and I have told many friends of your ministry.

*I am in His holy name,
Joseph Mukaraku*



R.B.
Australia

To Good News Unlimited,

Thank you for your inspirational magazines and I wish you the continuance of God's blessings as you spread "The Good News."

*Thanking you,
R.B.*



S. Joseph
Andhra Pradesh, India

I am very interested in always watching your television programme. It is a great blessing to me and to my family. I have been learning about the gospel, and your programme gives my whole family great spiritual strength.

I am very, very happy that now you are telling about the gospel through the television.

S. Joseph



Lewis Munitani
Nairobi, Kenya

Greetings to you through salvation of Jesus Christ.

Indeed your gospel program on Radio East Africa must be winning millions of lost souls all over the world.

Working together we shall raise the roof of heaven and keep the occupants rejoicing.

Continue and don't lose hope because God is with you all the time.

*I am yours in the Lord,
Lewi Munitani*



Pastor Francis N Gichunji
Nyahururu, Kenya

*Happy greetings to you and all the people in your ministry.
I think about how hopeless my life would have been without the Lord.
It's only through your radio ministry that I have been able to understand fully what death and resurrection of Jesus means to my life.
Thank you so much!
In Jesus name
Pastor Francis N. Gichunji*



Grace Muraya
Murang'a, Kenya

*Dr Eliezer, I got Jesus Only books you sent me. I read it and I was delivered from bondage. Praise God! Now I am giving them out and sharing the good news in Murang'a, my part of Kenya.
God bless Good News Unlimited!
Grace Muraya, Murang'a, Kenya*



Susan and Husband
Prakash, India

*We are both are very much interested to watch and listen to your messages every week. By listening and watching your programme weekly we have been understanding the gospel and growing spiritually much closer to God. Before, we had some family problems, but now we are at peace and we are very, very happy in Christ. Thank you for your teaching.
M. Susan and husband*



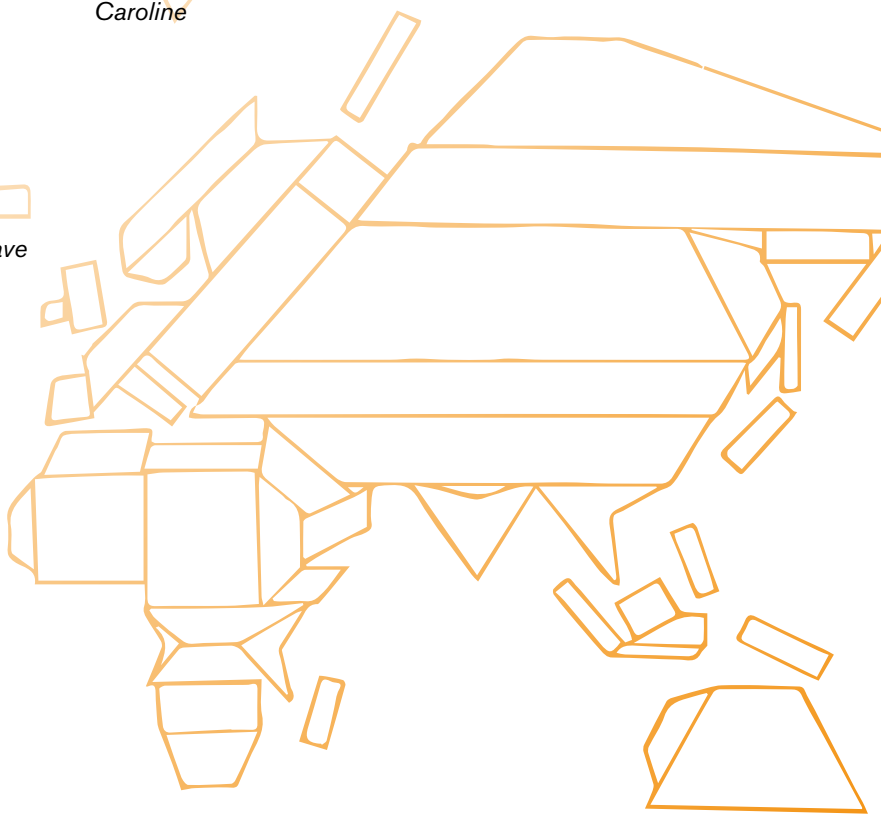
Caroline
Kenya

*Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
I listen to you whenever you are on the air. I have come to love God because of changing me. I hope one day to share his heavenly home.
I am a new Christian but I read my Bible everyday. I would appreciate any Christian magazines you can offer.
In Jesus name,
Caroline*



Kiran
Andhra Pradesh, India

*By watching your gospel programme on television we have decided to come to Pr Joseph's prayer meetings.
Because of what we have learnt, we also want to help to share the gospel.
Please pray for us.
Kiran and Family*



IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH WHILE YOU SLEEP

LIFE TO THE FULL

WITH DR PHILIP RODIONOFF



When I was growing up, sleep was a nuisance. It interfered with getting things done; it seemed to serve no useful purpose, although I certainly noticed if I missed too much, especially around exam time.

Over the years my understanding of sleep has changed - a lot. Recent studies have emphasised how vital it is for our wellbeing. The surprising thing is that it affects almost every area of our health, much more than simply feeling lethargic the next day.

Sleep is important for clear thinking and decision-making. While we sleep, our memories are re-processed and consolidated. During this time, our brain makes new connections, something that is compromised if we have insufficient sleep. Importantly, during sleep our bodies regenerate and repair biological damage that we sustain when awake.

Poor sleep increases risk of heart disease, cancer, obesity, infection and depression. It can interfere with the body's metabolism, resulting in pre-diabetes. It can also reduce the production of various hormones, such as growth hormone and melatonin. We now know that melatonin is not just a sleep hormone, but also an antioxidant with anti-ageing functions.

So how much sleep do we need? Everyone is different, but studies show that approximately 40% of people in the West are sleep deprived. The pressures of modern life are immense, and unless we intentionally make time for sleep, we won't achieve optimal health. Studies show that the optimal level for most adults is 7-8 hours per night. Less than 6 hours can be a problem, and too much sleep may indicate that there is an underlying medical problem that needs investigating. If you suffer from insomnia or obstructive sleep apnoea, it is advisable to consult a health professional.

Sleep is clearly important for our health. Too often our busyness prevents us from giving it the priority it deserves.

▼ **DR PHILIP RODIONOFF**
Friend of Good News Unlimited

Philip Rodionoff is a medical doctor who has a special interest in nutritional and preventive medicine. He also holds a Master's degree in Religion and has presented in many parts of the world on evidences for the Christian faith. He is the co-author of the Davinci Decode. He is happily married with three children and lives on the Gold Coast in Australia.



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Mission Statement

To spread the Word like wildfire through simple gospel content.

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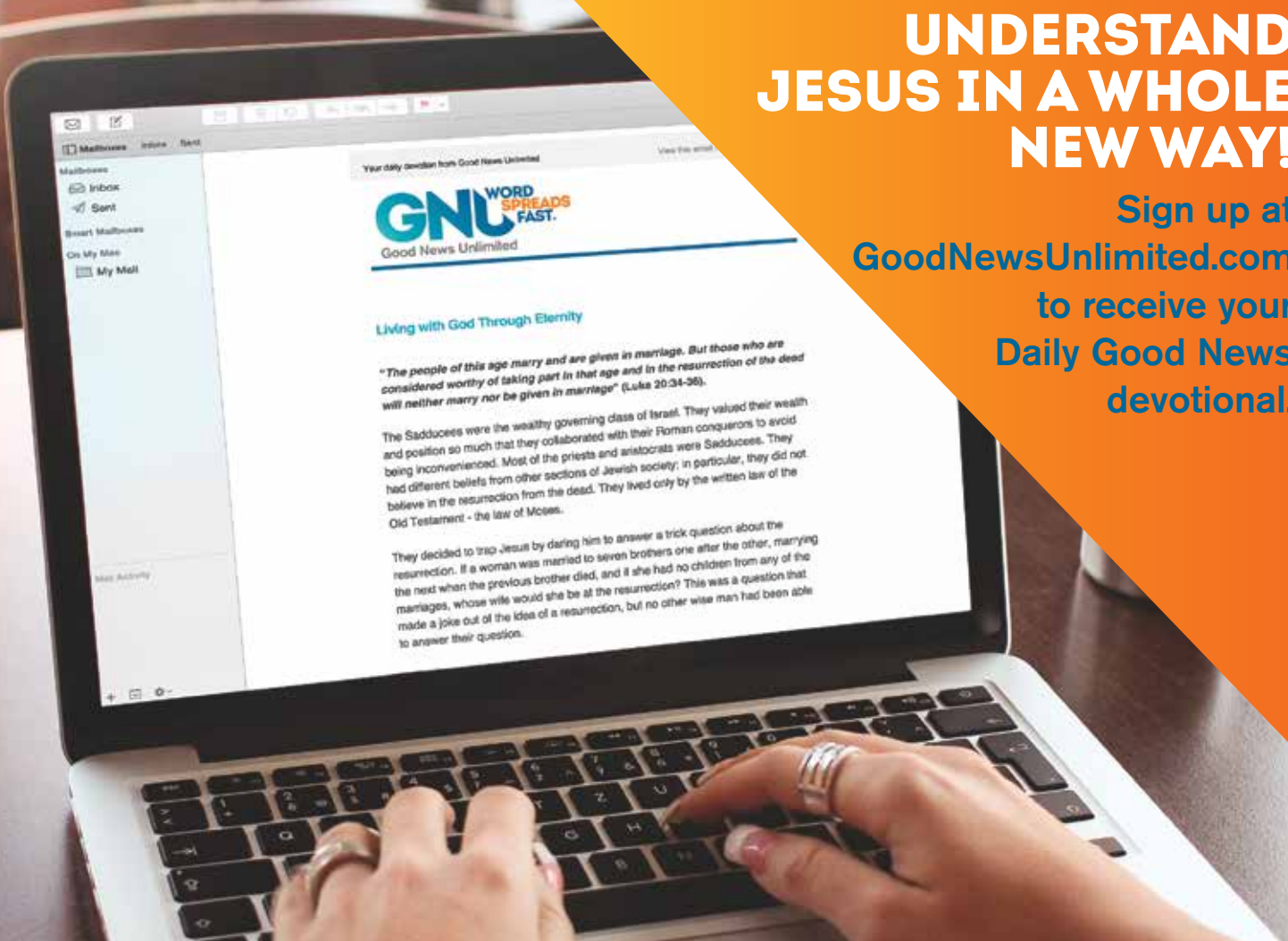
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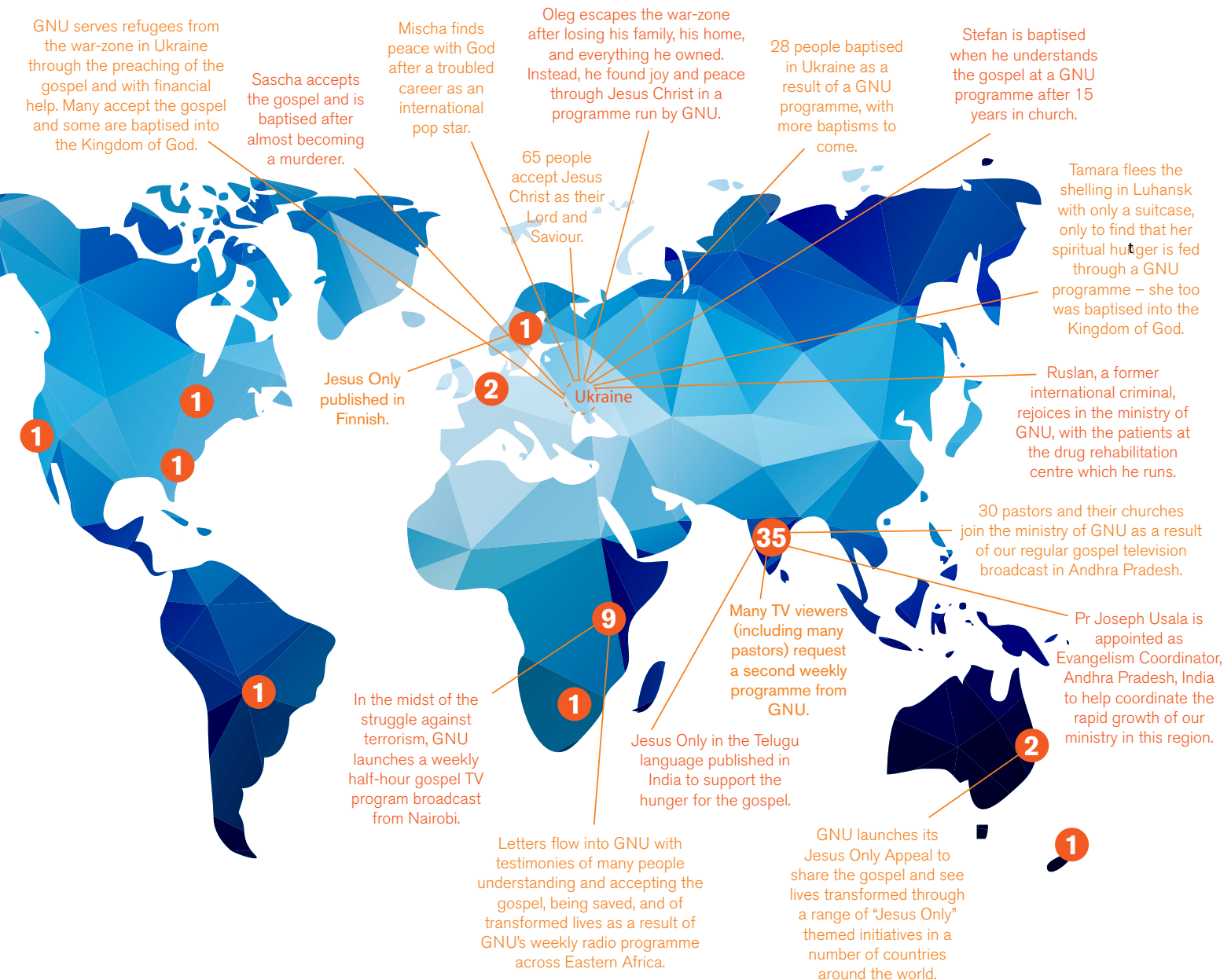
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