

# UNLIMITED

## NEWSLETTER

# UNLIMITED SERVICE

*“And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.” (Matthew 20:27, KJV).*

We need to tell the world that Grace is God's unimaginable generosity.

If the gospel were something trite, such as 'Be good and God will save you,' it would barely travel outside its hometown of Legalismville. If instead, the gospel is grace, and the gospel is joy, and forgiveness and power, and fruitfulness, and mercy, and a thousand other good things, then we can understand how one day it will take wings—how it is taking wings today, as God's people facilitate it. When the gospel is understood, it takes wings; it crosses all barriers.

People long to hear that God is a God 'who justifies the wicked' (Romans 4:5), who 'welcomes sinners' (Luke 51:2), who promises that 'people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy' (Matthew 12:31 NRSV).

We need to tell the world that grace is God's unimaginable generosity. It led God to give us Christ, God's 'gift that is too wonderful for words!' (2 Corinthians 9:15, CEV). It led God to promise to supply as we need it 'exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think' (Ephesians 3:20 KJV).

Remember the paralytic being lowered into the room where Christ is preaching (Matthew 9:1-7)? The suffering man hopes for physical restoration. What does Christ, the generous Saviour do? He not only gives the man what he hopes for, but also something more wonderful. 'Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven' (Matthew 9:2, NIV). Now remember the starving prodigal son in his tattered clothes and almost broken spirit (Luke 15:11-32). He is reinstated in his father's house! This is a picture of divine grace in action. Anyone who understands grace can only be joyous and strong. It's not surprising that after the gospel was preached in the city of Samaria we find the cheerful record, 'There was great joy in that city' (Acts 8:8, NIV).

There's another thing the Bible tells us about grace: 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich' (2 Corinthians 8:9, NIV). Our Lord Jesus Christ exchanged all heaven for a cow-shed and a cross. As we behold that, what shall we withhold from him?

Jesus also described those who are truly happy in the greatest sermon ever preached, the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-9). Note that his blessings are pronounced according to what people are, not according to what they have. Jesus also told us of our responsibility to serve him in preaching the gospel 'to all the world'. May we become like him in our service and in our giving.

▼ DES FORD

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# SERVICE AT THE FRONT LINE

*Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to every creature (Mark 16:15).*

It is so amazing to live with the hope Jesus has given to us. GNU's passion is to tell as many people as we can about the hope that is available to them. With your help, GNU is sharing the Gospel through the YouVersion app worldwide, through radio in Australia, and is taking the Good News to communities all across the globe. People from all walks of life are discovering the joy of having their lives transformed by the Saviour.

What a hope we can share with the world!

But there is so much more that needs to be done. So much more we could do. So much to which we say 'No', because the

funds simply aren't available. We rely on our donors, and on the many people who help out.

I pray that the Lord will provide you with the means and the desire to support his work. And the 'front line'? It's at home and right across the globe, for everywhere the cry goes up "Come and help us! Give us hope!"

Remember those beautiful words spoken by Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*? He says, "*You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it.*" Just for a moment, let's touch down in two special parts of the world, and climb inside the skin of our brothers and sisters who are calling out for hope and help.

First stop India, where you've climbed into the skin of Pastor Joseph Usala. It's 6am, and you can smell your wife's cooking pots. She's preparing food for the children at the Good News Care Centre. They're always hungry, those kids. But what a pleasure it is to feed them with physical and spiritual food, to see their little faces light up! You remember the beginning of the Care Centre. They were so needy, these "untouchable" children. And how could a child ever be untouchable when Jesus said "Let the little children come to me and don't stop them."

But feeding and educating 55 children! It's a challenging kind of joy; scary at times when your funds are stretched very thinly, but you believe the Lord will provide, for it is his work. Already, students have gone on to other studies and some have returned as teachers.

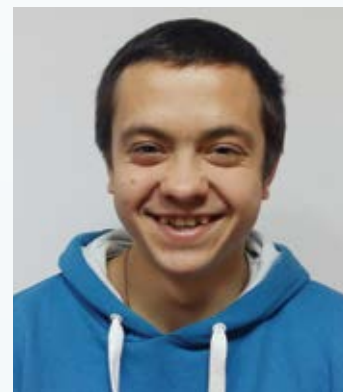
When you arrive at the Care Centre, two of the teachers are singing as they clean the little building. You join in and they wave a welcome to you. You dream that one day the school will have a choir, singing beautiful songs about Jesus, perhaps touring around the countryside to other untouchable villages, sharing the Gospel in music as well as in words.

Oh, the other villages! You mentally count those where you've held Gospel meetings, where there's now a small core of dedicated Christians carrying the torch for the joy and hope of the Gospel. But there are so many more. So many people living in darkness. You walk across to the Blessy Old Age Care Centre, where Lakshime greets you with her characteristic smile. Her life centred around her Hindu practices until she learned the Gospel and started a new life in Christ. She fastens an expectant eye on you: "Pastor Joseph, where are you preaching this week? Are you going to a new village?"

You are! There's always a new village to go to. And Raj is coming! What a passion this new Christian has for the Gospel since he heard it on the GNU TV Program! You're especially thankful for Raj's beautiful singing voice. You smile again. Music for the Gospel meetings, your vision for a children's choir. The sweet music of the Gospel of Jesus Christ flowing through the poorest villages of India. You pause, as you do many times every day, to thank God for providing his Greatest Gift, and for the generous people who make it possible to spread the Word to those who need it desperately.

Your second stop is Ukraine, where you see through the eyes of a young man named Sergei. You're standing at a window of the Poltava rehabilitation centre, looking out over the town. You shake your head. You can't believe you're still here. That you're alive, and not a victim of the drug habit that claims so many lives. It's hard to believe that today, you are 105 days clean. It had been a goal you'd talked about, but never really imagined what it would be like to be there. To be *here*.

You walk through the centre, slowly, as if you're tasting unfamiliar but delicious food. Staff members stop to congratulate you; a few of them, who know a bit about your story, throw an encouraging arm around your shoulders. One hundred and five days. That's really something.



You choke back tears. So much pain, but so much gratitude. There are the local church members and GNU pastor who generously paid for your third month of treatment when you could no longer pay for yourself. If it weren't for them, you would have quit, and returned to the deadly lifestyle you had lived for the last decade, a never-ending lottery of survival. Who gives such a gift to someone they don't even know? Where does this amazing kindness come from?

They tell you it's because of Jesus. You have been hesitant, unsure about a relationship with God. Your only knowledge of God comes from your early childhood memories; from your grandmother, who prayed to religious icons for forgiveness. Religion has always seemed just a distant ritual.

Now, for the first time, you feel a longing to move towards this God who radiates such love and compassion. You are finally able to anticipate the future with optimism, no longer seeing the world from inside the prison of your addiction.

You settle into the morning's Bible study. As you hear more about Jesus, you can sense him healing you and setting you free. Your mind wanders and you permit yourself to dream a little. Perhaps you will find new employment, or go back to study, or you might even be able to volunteer at the rehabilitation centre, helping others in the same way that you were helped. There are so many possibilities.

With God in the picture, you can't wait to see what's next.





The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.

# HOW TO SHRINK THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL

When you read this, I'll probably be far from home. During most of February and March, I'll be inspecting our Gospel work in places like India and Ukraine, and running a number of evangelistic programmes. When I'm in places like these, I'm often overwhelmed by the need of the people to hear the wonderful truth about Jesus Christ. My heart breaks for them.

Jesus said that *"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few"*(Luke 10:2). The work that we must do together is vast.

There is, however, a way you can shrink it and make it small. Just do your part. After all, God doesn't ask you to do the work of someone else: just your work. And when you do what you can do, **God has promised to bless you and to bless your work**, and to multiply it for his glory.

I'm thinking specially about Ukraine, a place I know well.

**GNU needs \$29,000 this February to continue sharing the Gospel in Ukraine, and other countries, with the outcasts and rejects of society.**

Your ministry in Ukraine through GNU is an amazing one. In this desperately poor, war-ravaged country, we are able to work with some of the true outcasts of society, drug addicts, ex-criminals, and refugees.

Think of Sergei, whose story is featured on the page opposite.

Think of Victor, pictured above. He was put in prison at 18 for his violent crimes, and then spent the next 15 years in and out prison, and heavily addicted to drugs. As a result of drug use he found himself HIV positive and near death. Now Victor regularly attends the GNU Bible study at his rehab centre. After 25 years of drug addiction, he has been clean for just 30 days.

**At least three times God has rescued me from death, he says, and I believe that somehow God will achieve his purpose in my life.**



*Every day is a miracle for Victor, thanks to you.*

Will you pray for Victor with me? But you can do more than pray. By giving generously, you can help us reach many more people with the Good News about Jesus Christ.

## GNU Plans For Gospel Television in Ukraine & Russia

By faith, we have launched a new project to get a gospel programme onto Ukrainian television, and from there, perhaps into Russia. We've already invested significant funds into translation work for this. However, as it stands, we don't have the means to continue.

As I mentioned earlier, the work is vast, however you can shrink it by doing your part, by being generous with God and others for the love of Jesus.

I wish you could travel with me. If you could see what I see and meet the people I meet, I'm sure that your heart would break also. However, I know that you are with me in spirit.

I also know that the Holy Spirit will inspire your prayers for me and our work, for which I am always grateful. And He will also inspire those of you who can give, to be generous so that this work may continue and expand until Jesus comes.

Because we love the Gospel, we share it. It's as simple as that!

So, please give generously to the ministry of GNU, **by completing the reply slip below and mailing it back to us in the envelope provided.**

Grace and peace in Jesus

**Eliezer Gonzalez** Senior Pastor, Good News Unlimited

## my gift to do the work of Jesus

Eliezer, I want to give a gift to help desperate people in Ukraine and around the world learn the joy and hope of the Gospel!

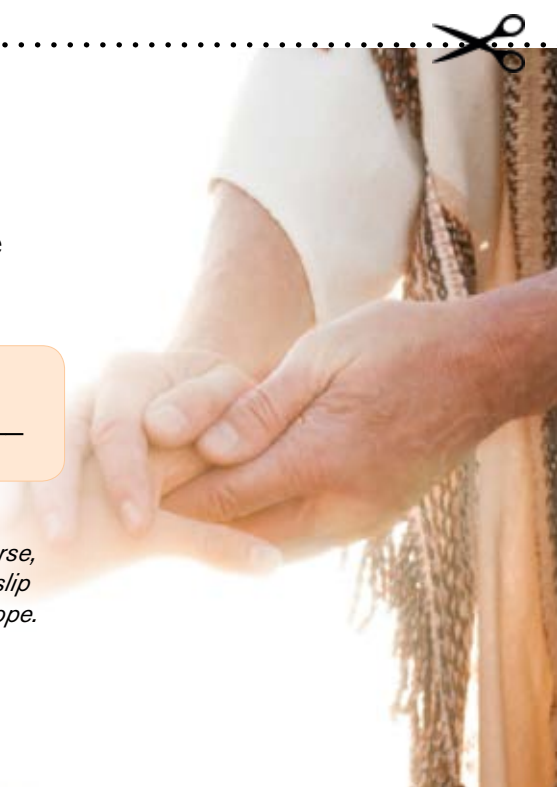
Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please follow the instructions on the reverse, cut along the perforation, and return this slip to GNU in the enclosed reply-paid envelope.*



They tell me this kindness is because of Jesus.

■ Sergei, Poltava, Ukraine



# FROM ELI'S DESK



Dear Friends

I've chosen in this edition of our Unlimited Newsletter to use my little column here as a prayer request. GNU receives hundreds of prayer requests every week, however this is a very special one.

GNU's founder, and my father in the Gospel, Des Ford, is advanced in years, and he is now very unwell. I want to ask you for prayers for Des and for his wife Gill, who is caring for him. Pleasera for strength and peace according to the providential love of God.

I ask that you do not contact Des or his family at all. By all means, I would love for you to contact me if you wish; however, please be aware that from mid-February I will not be contactable by phone because I will be overseas. My email address is [eliezer@goodnewsunlimited.com](mailto:eliezer@goodnewsunlimited.com)

I know that many of you have been richly blessed, and perhaps your life has been transformed through Des' ministry. GNU exists because of his courage in defense of the Gospel, and his tireless passion to share it. He has indeed devoted his life to unlimited service. We owe an eternal debt to God for those such as Des, "who preach the Gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things."

So, please pray for Des and Gill.

Grace and peace

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

## ONLINE GOSPEL

The hope of the Gospel is spreading like wildfire over the internet, and GNU is part of this 21st Century outreach. Readers are accessing GNU's Bible reading plans in record numbers.

We're excited to announce that *YouVersion* has recently released a list of reading plans with the highest ratings and included among the 18 plans listed on their website is GNU's "*Unlimited Saviour*".

Two years ago GNU partnered with YouVersion (bible.com), a Bible reading platform that has been downloaded on over 355 million unique devices around the world. This free, accessible app provides more than 1,810 versions of the Bible, and delivers the Gospel of Jesus in 1,255 languages, taking the Good News further than we could have ever imagined.

GNU's "*Unlimited Love*" reading plan was the first to be launched, and others swiftly followed. GNU's reading plans are now averaging hundreds of new subscriptions every day, as more and more people are seeking out the hope we are so thrilled to share.

There are now ten GNU reading plans on YouVersion. Each plan contains fourteen days of devotionals, supported by Bible



## YouVersion

passages for further exploration. These reading plans allow us to touch lives all over the world, through the convenience of mobile devices. The Good News is appearing instantly in the hands of people waiting for a bus, sitting in hospital, out doing the shopping, pausing for a break at work.

The reach of GNU's plans continues to expand and grow and flourish, and there are over 100 completions per day. To date, over 84,000 reading plans have been completed.

Amidst the clutter and noise of technology, social media, and often-depressing online news, GNU is boldly taking the Gospel to the world. The hope of Jesus is at the fingertips of countless readers, who are about to open the YouVersion app for the first time.

To check out the "Unlimited" Bible reading plans for yourself, go to: <https://goodnewsunlimited.com/unlimited-reading-plans/> and follow the links to read a plan or download the app from YouVersion.



## My gift to help spread the Word of the Gospel Fast

**I would like to give my gift by:**

Credit Card (Please indicate card type)  Visa  Mastercard  Amex

Card Number:

Expiry Date:  /

Name:

Signature:

Cheque/Money Order (Please make cheque to Good News Unlimited Ltd and enclose)

Direct Deposit: Acc Name: Good News Unlimited Ltd BSB: 032-278 Acct Number: 651816  
Ref: Initial, Surname, & 'Donation' Swift Code: WPACAU2S (for international transfers)

**I would like a tax-deductible receipt** (Tax-deductible receipts can only be issued to Australian tax-payers, and only for sharing the Gospel on radio and the media in Australia.)

**You can also give securely online at: [goodnewsunlimited.com/donate](https://goodnewsunlimited.com/donate)**

Please complete the information and return to: Good News Unlimited, PO Box 973, Penrith NSW 2751  
ABN 34 235 659 914



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