

# HOPE FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES AMIDST WAR-TORN DEVASTATION

**VOICELESS VICTIMS** of the all-out assault on Ukraine are not left unscathed by the atrocities of a war which none of them asked for. Devastatingly, more than a third of Ukrainian children (2.2 million) are left scattered amongst the shrapnel – but an unlikely friend from across the Mediterranean has come with the goal of bringing hope through the gospel.



Sami Yacoub, Regional Director of Focus on Family Middle East, heads Focus' Associate Office 3,000-miles away in Cairo, Egypt. He also owns Eagles Printing, a global publishing company, and travels all over the world to share the good news. Sami's journeys ultimately led him to a small print shop in Ukraine.

Seeing a need in the beleaguered nation, Sami and his team had 25,000 *Jesus Storybook Bibles* (JSBB) translated and distributed to children across war-torn areas.

Charles, a ministry partner overseas aiding with distribution, says Ukrainian children are the most effected:

*"The children lose their fathers to the frontlines, their homes and belongings are destroyed... they've lost friends, and now their schools are demolished and being used as refugee centers – which means all normal routines and education have stopped."*

Distribution was coordinated through over a dozen ministries and a network of 400 vehicles approved by the Ukrainian Bible Society; **little did they know, this was just the start.**

When Sami shared this ministry opportunity with the team in the U.S., Focus on the Family stepped in to help provide an additional 30,000 copies to be distributed right in the thick of the war zone.

In a message thread between Sami and Focus on the Family's VP of Global Ministry Development, John Bethany, he even described how the gospel message in the JSBB impacted Alexander, the print shop manager in Ukraine:

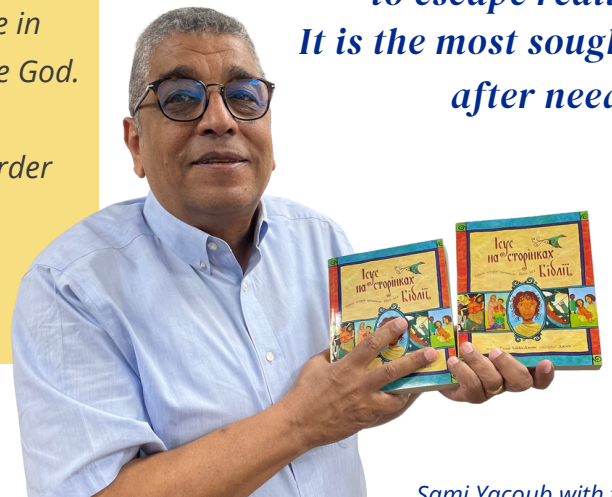
“

*Unfortunately, I grew up in an environment where they do not believe in God... because I was born in the USSR. Children are not taught to love God. But, I am sure that he exists and loves me, and I love him, because he helped me many times – and sent us you, with a [print] order in this difficult time.*

***You have no idea what a help this is to our business, employees, and country. I thank God for people like you."***

This is living proof that the Lord's arm is not too short to save, provide hope, and comfort the brokenhearted (Isaiah 59:1).

*"They read the storybooks to escape reality. It is the most sought-after need."*



*Sami Yacoub with the Jesus Storybook Bible, by Sally Lloyd-Jones*