

# MINISTRY

GREAT COMMISSION MEDIA MINISTRIES

WINTER 2025



**Joyous Christmas Story for Nomads of Mongolia  
Christmas 2024 in Ukraine**



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# The Star of Bethlehem And Great Commission Media Ministries

The Christmas story would be incomplete without mentioning the star that led the wise men to baby Jesus in a stall in Bethlehem.

The wise men from the East asked Herod: "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and are come to worship Him."

And so, traditional Christmas celebrations include a tree with tree topper stars.

Stars are mentioned often on the pages of the Bible. God created the stars on the fourth day of the creation narrative. (Genesis 1:16) It is God alone who directs the stars of heaven in the universe. (Job 9:7)

## Look Up and See

In Psalms 8:3-4 David writes: "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?"

It's doubtful that a star ever had as important a role as that of the night when Jesus was born.

The Psalmist tells us (19:1): "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Visible to the naked eye, a person at best can count a few thousand stars in the heavens.

## 100 Thousand Million Stars

Astronomers can count the number of stars in the known universe using high-resolution

devices that measure space electromagnetic fields.

- NASA estimates that there are about two trillion galaxies in the observable universe.
- It is estimated that every galaxy has on average, 100 thousand million stars.

## 100 Thousand Million x 2 Trillion

Multiply two trillion galaxies with 100 thousand million stars. The number is so large that astronomers describe the result with a special term, ie.  $2e + 23$ . Regardless of the size and location of the star, God's fingerprints are visible in each of the  $2e+23$  stars. The Bible says, God has determined the number of the stars and calls them by name. (Psalm 147:4) We call the star on the first Christmas night "The Star of Bethlehem!"

The Prophet Isaiah said: "Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name."

One can only imagine the euphoria and enthusiasm of the kings from the East when they saw the star, whose one and only task was to lead these oriental dignitaries to the Savior of mankind.

Some have said that the "star" was nothing more than a supernova, a planetary formation, a meteor or an errant comet.

But this star did not travel across the sky at random! It moved purposefully. It appeared with intentionality and disappeared for a calculated moment in time as well.



Meanwhile, the wise men sought further clarification from King Herod in Jerusalem as they continued their search for the new-born king.

According to the Scriptures, the star appeared again and led them to Bethlehem—precisely to the place "where the child was." The star never appeared again. It had fulfilled its mission. The star had led the kingly seekers to the King of Kings.

## Our Mission This Christmas

Today, the body of Christ continues to show the way to Jesus. Just as the star of Bethlehem led the wise men from the East, GCMM continues to fulfill the mission of the star of Bethlehem.

The Story of Christmas is simple. The angel said to Mary: "and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins."

Thank you for making it possible for GCMM to minister to countries and peoples in Asia, the Middle East, Israel, and Africa and Ukraine again this year.

On behalf of Laura, myself and our GCMM Board of Directors, the management team and the staff, may every day, this Christmas season be richly blessed. We are so thankful for your financial support and your prayers this past year.

Hannu Haukka  
CEO and Chairman of the Board



# The Story of Christmas Touches Nomadic Mongolia

When shepherds kept the night watch over their flocks in the fields of Bethlehem on that first Christmas night they were spellbound by what they saw—a heavenly host of angels proclaiming the message that we proclaim today among the nations of our generation. The angel of the Lord said: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people. Today, in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”





The angel was joined by an angelic choir singing God's praises: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and goodwill toward men!"

When the angels had left, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to witness the birth of the Savior of the world. The Story of Christmas continues to be shared through the centuries to our day.

### **Bethlehem's Message to a Land of Shepherds**

GCMC has had the awesome privilege to facilitate the speeding of this message proclaimed in the night sky of Bethlehem to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem to the nomadic nation of Mongolia.

Again this Christmas season, throughout Mongolia's remotest provinces and together with Mongolian believers we will preach the

message of God's Son becoming flesh to save us of our sins.

Multitudes of Mongolians have personally heard and received the gospel message. The first weeks of the campaign saw the first church plant of new 45 believers on a hillside slope of Ulaanbaatar. Many other churches have been planted since. The Gospel continues to advance and there is more to come. Thank you for your financial support and prayers.





# People Living in the Darkness Have Seen a Great Light



The nomads of Mongolia have enthusiastically embraced the gospel message in the distant Uvs province, where tribes conduct a traditional nomadic way of life.

The evangelism campaign events have been sizably attended. This has been encouraging to see as it has been reminiscent of the revival that IRR-TV experienced in Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s.

## **Powerful Campaign Continues**

The Mongolian campaign has been exceptionally successful. Although the country is vast and far, the proclaimed gospel message has reached the outermost villages and has received a widely acclaimed response.

Churches are already planning the city-wide evangelistic event at the largest stadium in Ulaanbaatar for next summer and will be inviting 60,000 guests to attend.

Mongolian churches continue moving forward with a clear vision of reaching their nation with The Gospel.

## **GCMM's Mongolia Campaign National Director Boloroo's Latest News**

"We are very grateful to God and the mission of GCMM for providing the opportunity for churches in Mongolia to carry out such a big media evangelism campaign!"

"In October/November 2023, we first thought this campaign



would only last for a month or two. But God guided us according to His own heavenly will. We could not have imagined such a profound move of God. The campaign lasted for over 6 months. And now, a year has passed, and the campaign continues.

Many local churches and communities joined together for the campaign—including the Mongolian Evangelical Alliance, the Missionary Department of the Mongolian Evangelical

Alliance, the Association of Evangelicals, and the Society of Mongolian Doctors.”

#### **Faith and Prayer is Still Needed**

GCMM now supports ten young Mongolian evangelists with a focus on church planting across the country.

The work has also spread to Inner Mongolia, where the conditions are challenging and is currently occupied by the People's Republic of China.

Regardless of the obstacles,

God's kingdom work is moving forward with certainty.

We thank everyone who has supported the mission of GCMM both financially and spiritually. Both forms of support have been greatly needed.

Let us remember the people of Mongolia in our prayers, especially during this Christmas season. Together, we can be part of this revival among the nomads of Mongolia.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men!”



# Mongolia Evangelism



1)

1. The Mega City Media Campaign “heroes” shared personal testimonies of their faith journey and how greatly it changed their lives on television in Ulaanbaatar.



2)

2. The prisoners in Mongolia also had the opportunity to hear the Good News that God had sent Jesus to proclaim liberation to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind. Jesus said: "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

3. To the highways and byways, the streets, the alleys, the fences, and mountains—the message of salvation rang out loud and clear. Photo: A street kiosk where residents could hear about the campaign message.

4. The Gospel was received with joy. The campaign books were a hot commodity, more had to be printed.

5. The Ulaanbaatar Palace was a large concert hall in the city center. The Gospel was proclaimed to a full house.

6. The largest hall in the region, in the capital of Uvs province. Mongolians were interested in hearing the gospel message.



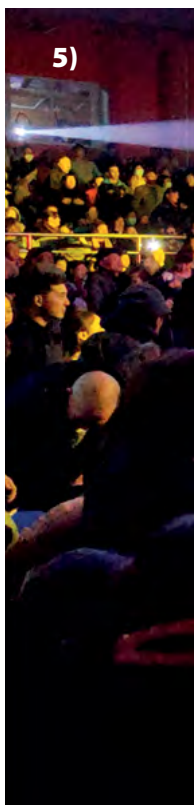
6)



3)



4)



5)



# Campaign Highlights





## ISRAEL

# War in the Middle East Disrupts Traditional Christmas Celebrations

**GCMM has been ministering to Jews since the early 2000s. The first media training seminars were organized for congregations in Haifa.**

Successful media campaigns followed in Hebrew, Russian, and Arabic in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa.

As a result, one core ministry of GCMM has developed to reach Russian-speaking Jews in Russia, Ukraine, and Israel.

### **Media Conveys Campaign Message to Millions**

Media campaigns covering the whole of Israel have resonated with tens of thousands of people. Additionally, several local outreach and evangelistic campaigns have taken place. People have been directed to local congregations for follow-up ministry

through call centers, having received campaign books. Over the years, thousands of Jews have had the opportunity to experience the living God! New congregations and small groups have emerged.

### **TV Programs on YouTube**

We have produced several evangelistic program series for TV in Russian for over ten years. This includes programs filmed on location, such as “Getting to Know Israel” and the talk show series Shabbat Shalom.

A weekly news program produced by Jerusalem Dateline CBN is modified into a Russian

version in Kyiv. During the war in the Middle East, the program’s viewership figures on YouTube have grown exponentially.

### **Helping in Times of Need and Resisting Antisemitism**

We comfort those suffering during Jewish crises and wars by providing humanitarian aid in both Israel and Ukraine.

Likewise, we oppose the growing anti-Semitism in the world by sharing correct information about Israel and teaching the importance of the spiritual roots of our faith in God at this critical time in history.

When Hamas terrorists attacked, murdering, raping, and robbing one hundred thousand inhabitants of the villages around





Gaza they had to flee to other areas of Israel.

Since then, around 80,000 people have had to be evacuated from their homes under Hezbollah's rocket rain.

In the early days of the war, we supported the village of Jad HaShmona near Jerusalem, founded by our Finnish partners. The village received refugees who needed accommodations, clothing, food, and psychological support.

The congregations in the Ashdod region are involved in extensive relief work for both new immigrants and war victims. We provide support as resources allow.

### **Together We Can Do More**

Thank you for praying for Israel and the Jewish people—as well for supporting our work financially also.

Pirjo Karttunen

# Israeli Jews Arrive in Finland After Hostilities of War

**At the beginning of this fall, many Israelis who had experienced the horrors of wartime terrorism arrived in North Karelia, eastern Finland.**

Initially, a retreat had been planned to accommodate 25 participants, however, because of the war, most flights were cancelled out of Tel Aviv. A total of 16 participants were able to arrive.

More than anything, the retreat attendees needed spiritual care and consolation.

### **From the Kibbutz of Death to Safety**

Among the participants were Jewish youth who had been at the kibbutz of the deadliest terrorist attack. The youth hid in a hole in the ground for 12 hours, watching how young women, men, and children died around them. When they finally got out to safety, they followed funerals in mass,

where they had to say goodbye to their friends.

### **God's Love and Embrace**

Instead of many Bible seminars, a lot of time was spent talking, hiking and taking in the beautiful scenery of Karelia.

The presence of the Holy Spirit was powerful throughout the entire week. It did not touch only the Israelis but everyone, including the Finnish kitchen and service staff. Prayer was born as if by itself around evening campfires and nature trails, and God blessed it. Those who were at the camp for the retreat and all of Israel still need our intercessory prayers. The Bible assures us: "Indeed, he who watches Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."





# “Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men” Will be a Distant Dream and a Fervent Prayer in Ukraine

Christmas celebrations are being held across North America. Trees are being decorated, and candles are being lit. Families are coming together, enjoying wonderful Christmas meals. Gifts are being given to loved ones. Many will attend Christmas services, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

But sadly, for many in Ukraine, Christmas will be anything but a celebration. A nightmare is unfolding.





### A Disaster at Hand

The situation is dire. The Ukrainian energy sector was beginning to recover from the last two years of missile strikes, but as the cold weather has arrived, strikes have intensified.

Ukrainian authorities have warned that should Moscow carry out further strikes against Ukraine's three nuclear plants as winter temperatures plummet, the situation will be catastrophic.

Sweeping power outages in the larger cities are expected, whereby sources of heat to keep warm, cook food, and for hygiene are a challenge this winter.

### Buildings Without Power

Roksolana lives in a high-rise in Kyiv. She says: "Power outages mean no running water on the upper floors. When the elevators don't work, children and the disabled cannot reach the underground bomb shelters in time."

Roksolana continues: "Our whole life, our whole civilization, is built upon having access to electricity. All you have to do is destroy the power grid of your enemy, and they will no longer have an economy and no life."

Ukrainian energy advisor Ryabtsev says: "There will be blackouts. The only question is their duration and frequency." For now, three nuclear plants in Ukraine are producing power, though at 25% of the 2022 capacity.

In villages and cities in the war zone areas of eastern Ukraine, however, the situation is more dire.



### Most Difficult in Eastern Ukraine

Many villages haven't had electricity since summer. Families with children and senior citizens cannot survive in freezing conditions without a source of heat for warmth, cooking, and hygiene.

As a result of the war and the Russian missile strikes, children go to school in basements, bomb shelters, and subway station tunnels.

Ukrainian energy engineers announced that Russia continues to attack the

energy sector. Russian missiles have destroyed churches and have struck power stations and grids across the nation, leaving untold thousands of families in frigid temperatures without electricity. We are witnessing a humanitarian crisis unfolding before our eyes.

Please pray for the thousands of families whose husbands, fathers, and sons are again at the frontlines this Christmas.

Thank you for your continuing prayers for peace to arrive in Ukraine.





## Pastor of the Moscow Pentecostal Church Arrested

**On October 19th in Moscow, Evangelical Pastor, Nikolai Nikolaevits Romaniuk of the Holy Trinity Church was arrested after the Sunday service.**

The arrest included a thorough home search, conducted in a very rude manner. Pastor Romaniuk is being accused of collaboration with Western intelligence services.

### **Fabricated Accusations**

The accusations are fabricated and belong to the traditional FSB (Russia's Federal Security Service) workings and lies.

The names of Laura and Hannu Haukka were also mentioned during the Moscow home search and arrest.

The pastor's entire family experienced great psychological trauma as a result. Such searches and arrests in present-day Russia are unfortunately predictable and to be expected.

### **Heavy Handed House Search**

During the house searches, hood-

ed Russian secret police special forces with loaded Kalashnikovs were on site. The family's children were forced to lie face down on the floor, with their hands behind their heads, for six hours.

### **Refusal to Support the War**

The most prevalent accusation against Pastor Nikolai Romaniuk was that he expressed his disagreement against the brutal war that the Russian Federation is waging in Ukrainian territory.

In Russia, citizens whose lives line up with the truth of the Bible and Christian worldview and even those with a sense of justice will suffer, regardless of their faith or lack thereof.

A fellow pastor shared: "I have known Nikolai Romaniuk since our youth and have known the family well, including his father Nikolai Vasilievich from

the Ternopil region in Ukraine.

### **Soviet Style Persecution Makes Comeback**

During the years of Soviet persecution and oppression, Nikolai's father was a Pentecostal church pastor in Moscow and suffered greatly because of his faith. He was sent to a prison camp in Siberia for 18 years.

Nikolai's older brother Vasili, also a pastor, died under very mysterious circumstances in a Moscow hospital due to an unknown illness.

In 2012, the Romaniuk brothers' church building, where they pastored, was demolished by bulldozers late one night.

The Kremlin regime continues its illegal activities, and one question remains: "God, how long will this continue?!"

While waiting for more information, we ask friends to pray for our Christian brother Nikolai, as he awaits the fate of his arrest.

Brotherly regards, VF





*Pastor Nikolai Romaniuk, at Baikal Lake.*



*Left to right: Pastors Vasili Romaniuk, Bishop Vladimir Murza, Nikolai Romaniuk and Natalia Romaniuk.*

**M**oscow, the destruction of the Holy Trinity Church began in the dead of the night on September 6th, 2012. The three-storey building was destroyed by heavy-duty excavating equipment.

The local authorities had sent workers to cut the phone lines of the church, confiscating the acting caretaker's cell phone, who was then taken to the police station where she was held for three hours during the destruction. The woman was not allowed to contact the leadership of the church while in custody.

Romaniuk concluded, "All this was done under police protection, so state authorities must have been the client."

According to eyewitnesses, about 50 young men were involved in the nightly destruction lasting several hours. The men said they were Druzhinniki who were mainly known to be volunteers, helping control violence and unruly crowds.

In this case, however, they were the ones who rioted, with some intoxicated and prevented access

to the area. The youths were shouting obscenities and assaulted some church members who came onto the scene.

According to Romaniuk, "Members of the congregation who tried to take photos were pelted with a rain of stones. They did not have official authorization or power of attorney documents for what they were doing. The church was destroyed, and the property stolen was worth about 50,000 USD. The damages to the church were at least 350,000 USD."



# MUSLIMS HAVE THE RIGHT TO HEAR

## Viewer feedback



More than 1.5 billion Muslims living in the Middle East have yet to hear the Gospel freely. GCMC continues to fully commit to broadcasting the gospel message to the people of the Middle East on daily broadcasts via 18 satellites. Monthly feedback from about 200,000 viewers each month is inspiring. Here are some excerpts:

### **Yasin, Morocco**

Following his Islamic studies, Yasin worked as an imam in a mosque. During his studies, he noticed some contradictions, mistakes, and issues in the Koran that troubled him. In particular, the verses about Maryam's (Mary's) son and Prophet Isa (Jesus) captured his attention.

Yasin started watching our TV programs and learned more about Jesus. He called and asked many questions because he was seeking the truth. After our team answered his questions, he accepted Jesus as his Savior.

After this, Yasin continued to pray in the mosque every morning and fulfilled his duties as an imam. As a result, however, he did not have full peace in his newfound faith in Jesus.

Eventually, encouraged by our team, Yasin left his position at the mosque. A brother from the team drove late into the night to a rural village to meet him and directed Yasin to a believing pastor who has been helping him grow in faith through God's word.

### **Omar, Algeria**

Omar was a very devoted Muslim who could not tolerate Christians.

He persecuted Christians and tried to convert them to Islam online.

One day, he watched a TV program that touched him deeply and began to seek truth with persistence.

Omar reached out to the Algeria team through Facebook. He started calling the number and asking questions. A month

later, he gave his life to the Lord. Omar did not want his neighbors knowing about his conversion to Christianity, so he started going to meetings with believers in another village.

### **Kamal, Egypt**

Kamal is an Egyptian man married to a devout Muslim woman. Despite his wife's devotion to Islam, Kamal had Christian friends at work who made him curious. He wanted to know why they were so joyful and ethically moral.

One day, he found our TV programs while flipping channels on satellite TV. Kamal started watching our shows regularly to find out what set our programs apart, having noticed that his Christian friends were different from everyone else he knew.



# THE STORY OF BETHLEHEM AS WELL

Kamal felt that there was something misguided in Islam, but he didn't know why he felt so unsettled about it. He contacted the follow-up team at the satellite TV channel and asked us about Christianity. Our team shared that Christ doesn't want to give him a new religion but wants a personal relationship with Kamal himself!

After communicating with our team for a few days, Kamal prayed with them on the phone and accepted Christ into his heart! He told us that he had immediately felt peace and joy come into his heart.

Together with Kamali, we are reading through the Gospel of Luke. He is hungry to know the truth! Please pray with us that he remains safe and may one day lead his entire family to Christ.

## **Maryam, Middle East**

"I love the heartwarming messages I receive from you, which flow directly from the Lord's heart to mine. I have been in the faith for seven years. I grew up in a non-religious family, and my father was a communist. I have six brothers and two sisters. All of us, including our mother, followed

in my father's footsteps with no sign of God in our family.

I often asked my father questions—what is our identity, why don't we believe in anything, what is the purpose of our existence? He was never able to answer me.

My father was blind, so he had us read books aloud to him. Thanks to that, we were generally well-informed about things.

I became a Christian through a strange event about seven years ago when I was a broken and angry person. I was emotionally exhausted. I watched your programs on the TV. I smoked cigarettes and drank alcohol to make myself feel better. I had an obsessive-compulsive disorder (which I thank God I don't have anymore).

As a part of my regular cleaning routine, I reached up to clean a shelf in the closet where a bag belonging to my son had been for a long time. Right when I decided to open it to look inside, the bag slid down and fell on my head. This unexpectedly led me to a crossroads in my life.

Two books fell out of the bag, one of which was a Bible, and opened to Psalm 71. I had never

seen or read a Bible before, so I sat down and read Psalm 71. It touched my heart, and I began to cry. I called a family member who I knew had become a Christian and told them I needed peace. While they were talking to me, I cried non-stop. He told me that I needed to repent and turn to Christ.

I repented and prayed a prayer for salvation. I went to see my relative, who serves other believers in a village, and he baptized me. Since then, I have been serving the Lord. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing through the word of God."

For the last seven years, I have been especially devoted to hearing the word of the Lord so that by hearing His words, my weaknesses can turn into strengths.

I love Jesus Christ so much that without His presence, I cannot even breathe. I know what it feels like to be in His presence. I am very thankful that I have come to know His truth. Please pray that my three children will find a deep saving faith."

Text:  
Ministry Magazine Editor





Satish Kumar is the pastor and founder of a church in India with 400,000 members and is the second-largest church in the world.



The Chief Minister of the state of Andhra Pradesh in India was among the congratulators at the celebration. He thanked the congregation for its exemplary social work.



The Global Christian Leader Summit brought together 11,000 pastors and leaders from five continents in more than 50 countries.



# Global Christian Leader Summit

The BOC (Body of Christ) Global & Revival Summit was held in the city of Hyderabad, India, in November. Eleven thousand Christian leaders attended from five continents and more than 50 countries.

A birthday celebration during the global summit was held at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium. It was dedicated to the Pastor and Founder Satish Kumar of the church and

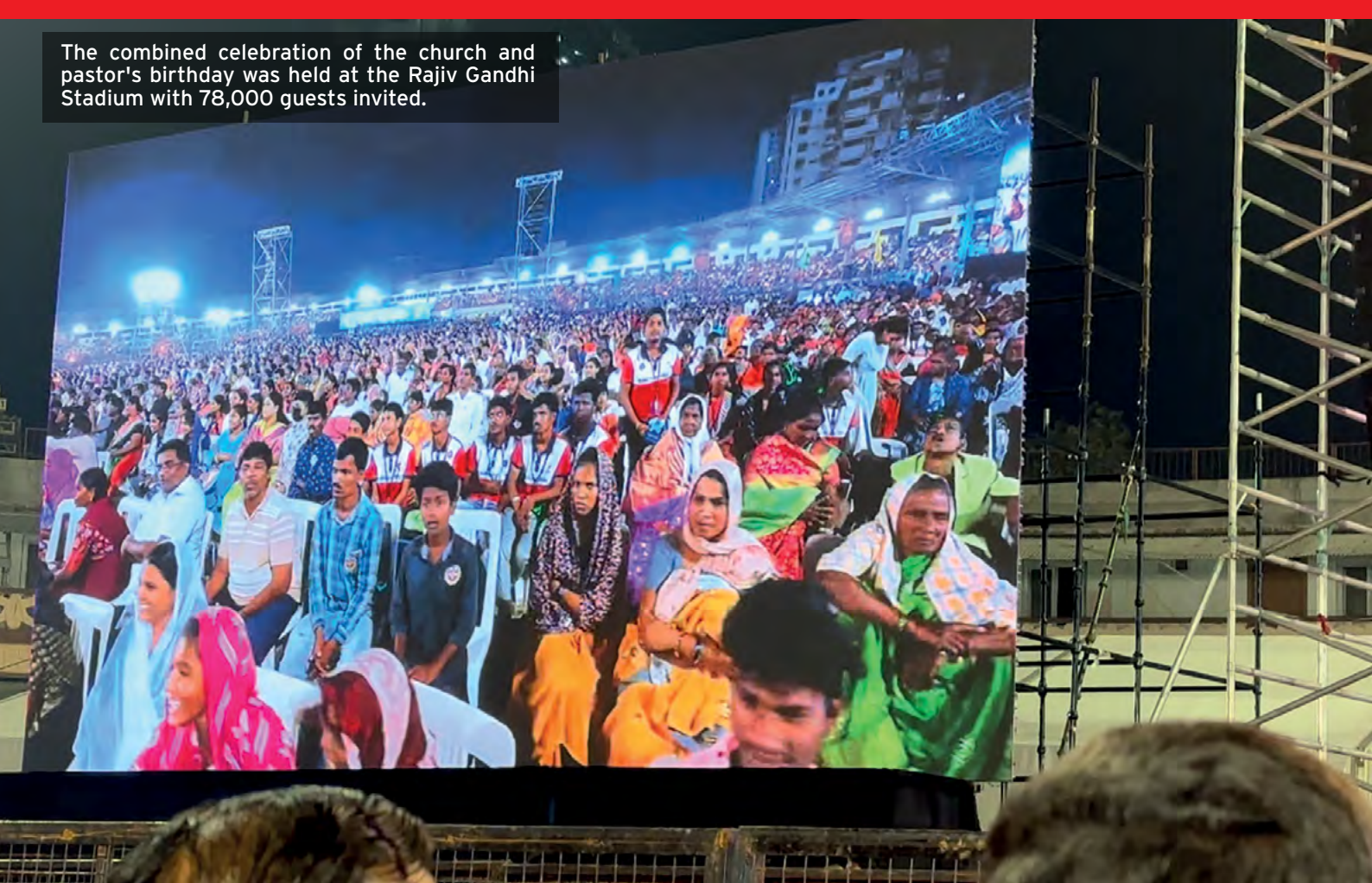
the congregation to which 78,000 guests had been invited.

Among the congratulators at the celebration was the Chief Minister of the Indian state of

Andhra Pradesh, who thanked the church and underlined its exemplary social relief work in the state. Pastor Kumari's church has 400,000 members and is the second-largest church in the world. The growth of the church has been explosive.



The combined celebration of the church and pastor's birthday was held at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium with 78,000 guests invited.



Hannu Haukka spoke to the 11,000 Christian leaders at the Summit on the topic of GCM's media campaigns in the world's largest cities.

# in Hyderabad, India

The church was founded in 2005. At that time, the church had 25 members. By 2012, the membership had grown to 50,000! The church currently has 400,000 active members.

The executive director of GCM, Hannu Haukka, was invited

as one of the keynote speakers regarding the Mega City Media Campaigns conducted by GCM in the world's largest cities.

GCM enjoyed working with Pastor Satish Kumar during the GCM media campaign in Sri

Lanka. In addition, Pastor Kumar was an instructor for pastoral training in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Mexico City. Looking ahead, campaigns for Egypt and Ethiopia, in collaboration with Pastor Kumar, are being discussed.



*May God Bring Peace to Ukraine*



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