

STORYLINE UKRAINE DREAM

Meet Stan Watrich. He attends our church and is also the Founder of Master's Foundation. A man with a dream.

A dream of miraculous proportions to see children in the Ukraine have a Bible that they could call their own.



CHURCHLIFE:

Tell us a little about your history in printing?

STAN WATRICH:

When Henry and I began with a tiny printing company we never thought we would reach such extra ordinary opportunities to carry the gospel to the land of our parents and grandparents. Harmony Printing grew from 2 employees to over 50 employees and a large part of the business was printing for Slavic missions. The burden for our homeland grew and when an offer came to purchase the company, we realized God had placed a new yearning in our hearts and The Master's Foundation was formed.

CHURCHLIFE:

What was your greatest discovery as a publisher?

STAN WATRICH:

Through a Christian mission, a manuscript of a Ukrainian Children's Bible came into our hands. With 500 pages and 130 full colour illustrations, the book covered all the major historical events of the Bible. It was written in an easy to understand contemporary Ukrainian language, and was the result of a joint effort by many denominational leaders in Ukraine. Included in the book were special selected readings such as the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. Most important was the section at the back of the book on "How to receive Jesus as your personal Saviour".

CHURCHLIFE:

How did you see your faith in action?

STAN WATRICH:

The timing was perfect as Glasnost, "Perestroika" was on the horizon. We took our first step of faith and printed 6,500 copies of the Bible. That was all we had money for. We didn't have the funds for shipping and God moved upon a mission in Edmonton, Alberta to pay for the shipping. He then moved upon another mission in Toronto to look after the logistics of smuggling the Bibles into Ukraine. And praise God every Bible arrived.

CHURCHLIFE:

What was the reaction in the Ukraine?

STAN WATRICH:

When the Bibles arrived in Ukraine, word spread like wild fire, the people had never seen anything like this. Letters came to our office from non-believers alike, from those of orthodox faith, Catholics, priests, and especially children, and all with the same request: "Can we have a Children's Bible?"

CHURCHLIFE:

So, what was the next step?

STAN WATRICH:

We then took our next step of faith to print 50,000 copies. Again we didn't have the funds and borrowed them from a Christian business man. When the Bibles arrived in Ukraine, the reception was the same and the requests came greater than ever. Hospitals, Schools, Churches were clamouring for them. In an unprecedented move, the government gave permission to place the Children's Bible in every school and schools began to use it as part of their curriculum.

CHURCHLIFE:

I heard you had a run in with the law.

STAN WATRICH:

On one of our trips to Ukraine delivering the Bibles, our chauffeur driven van was stopped for a minor traffic infraction. The police officer, recognizing the missionary vehicle by its license, instead of handing out a ticket, asked for a copy of the Children's Bible. When I asked him why he wanted a copy, he replied, "I don't want our children to be as stupid as we were and grow up not knowing God". Wherever we went, to the schools, churches, parks, handing out the Bible, pandemonium always broke out as people begged for a copy of the Bible.

That is when the dream and desire began - a million Bibles - to give every child in Ukraine a Bible. But how, as we certainly did not have that kind of money, only a dream and desire.

CHURCHLIFE:

Tell us about the dream coming to life.

STAN WATRICH:

Then the miracle happened! The Canadian Bible Society was aware of the Children's Bible as they had received requests from the Ukrainian Bible Society in Ukraine. Out of the blue so to say, I received a call from CBS and was asked how soon could we print 150,000 copies for them for Ukraine. I was overwhelmed and there were no words to express my surprise and joy at what I had just heard. Then the orders flowed. A request was soon made for another 123,000 and the following year 405,000. It continued to 1.3 million copies. Rights were also given to other mission organizations to publish in the Russian language and resulted in 250,000 copies being published.

What a miracle, a total of 1.5 million Children's Bible for Ukraine. Only and only God could have done this. He gave beyond our wildest dreams and it all began with a dream!

