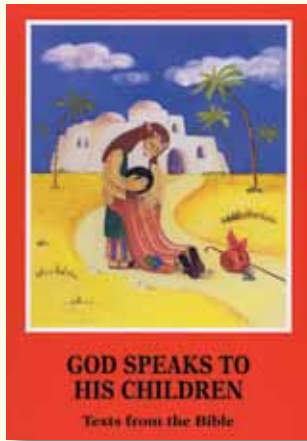


## Feed a Child with the Word of God

Aid to the Church in Need began its Child's Bible project in 1979 – the International Year of the Child. Since then it has printed and distributed over 48 million copies of God Speaks to His Children in 167 different languages. It is the Catholic Church's most successful Child's Bible ever.

## God Speaks to His Children ACN Child's Bible



- 98 Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments
- 44 charming colourful Illustrations by Spanish Nun Sr Miren Sorne

This inspiring book can also teach the Faith here: with your family, godchildren, in your parish or school.

A beautiful gift idea for Baptism, First Holy Communion and other religious occasions.

**A complimentary copy of the Child's Bible is available with any donation to help the work of Aid to the Church in Need for the poor and persecuted Church**

**If you would like a copy please tick the box on the response coupon that accompanies the Mirror newsletter.**

## Be My Hands

A decade ago the new Holy Spirit Seminary in Lviv was just a dream – now, thanks to you, 200 seminarians study there.

Pope John Paul II came to bless the foundation stone in 2001 and Fr Werenfried insisted on being there, despite his advancing years. Dressed in white, they were like the angels at the tomb announcing the Resurrection – the resurrection of faith after years of persecution.

Now a memorial to Fr Werenfried is displayed in the chapel.

At the Divine Liturgy in the seminary chapel last year, the Vice-Rector Fr Orest Demko told ACN staff: "There is a special crucifix which depicts Jesus without his hands."



Seminarians sing the Divine Liturgy at the Holy Spirit Seminary in Lviv, Ukraine

Lviv, 2001: Pope John Paul II gives Fr Werenfried a lift

© L'Osservatore Romano

"Your eyes are slowly drawn to Christ's words below: 'I do not have hands. But I want you to be my hands in this world.'

"These words are directed to every one of us: we have to be God's hands, his mediators to do good."

Fr Orest paid tribute to your support for the resurrection of the Church in Ukraine, saying: "**You have been the hands of Christ for us. We would not be where we are today without your charity.**"

Thanks to your hands in prayer and giving, we support future priests with grants of up to \$750 each. Last year there were more than 1,100 Catholic seminarians and novices in Ukraine, all supported by ACN. Please help us keep our promises of love to those preparing for the sacred priesthood – you will be remembered in their prayers and Masses.



## Aid to the Church in Need

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Photographs by ACN except where stated

# You are the hands of Christ

in Eastern Europe

Ever since Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) was founded in 1947, supporting the Church in Eastern Europe has been central to the charity's work.

This report about Ukraine and Russia, highlights how your compassion has helped the Faith emerge from the darkness of atheistic communism and is making a difference to the Church today.

**It has been 20 years since the Iron Curtain fell after more than half a century of appalling oppression.**

Aid to the Church in Need's benefactors have enabled a renewal of Christianity in this post-Soviet era. Despite the pain of past persecution, people are turning to worship the living God. More than half of the population attended Easter Liturgies last year.

Time and time again those working in Eastern Europe paid tribute to the difference your support and solidarity has made. Fr Pietro Scalini, the rector of the Catholic Seminary in St Petersburg, Russia, said: "**We thank you for your help and prayers. This seminary would have died without you. We pray for the benefactors of ACN.**"

Building a foundation for reconciliation between Orthodox and Catholics is central to ACN's work after the fall of communism. Shortly before his election as the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church's Major Archbishop in March 2011, the Most Reverend Sviatoslav Shevchuk met with Catholic and Orthodox leaders at an ACN conference in Germany. The two Churches declared that they needed to work together to defend the Christian values that they both hold sacred. But this important ecumenical work would not be possible without the support of ACN's benefactors.



After decades of communist oppression the Church in Ukraine is free to worship again: the Divine Liturgy at the Holy Spirit Seminary, Lviv, Ukraine.

Long shadows of suffering still haunt the peoples of all former Soviet countries. Healing, reconciliation and understanding take time – but the power of prayer and charity will enable the hope of the Gospel to be powerfully proclaimed "with both lungs".

Helping the suffering Church today



Aid to the Church in Need

[www.aidtochurch.org](http://www.aidtochurch.org)



*Gulag survivor Bronislava Klimavichute with a rosary made out of bread in the camps. It is now over 50 years old and is on display in the chapel of the Martyrs in the Parish of the Nativity of Jesus, Magadan.*

## Finding God in the Snows of Siberia

When Michael Shields left Alaska for the equally freezing climate of Magadan in Siberia, he was answering a call he received in prayer to “Go, live in the camps”.

These camps were the Soviet gulags, where millions of ‘enemies of the state’ were sent and hundreds of thousands died.

His mission has been to help heal the wounds of the survivors and also reach out to women who have undergone abortions – some as many as 20 times.

Aid to the Church in Need has supported his pro-life work, which includes the Nativity Inn, a centre for mothers who are thrown out of college dormitories when they fall pregnant.



*Fr Michael Shields*

Father Mike told ACN: “The Lord is blessing our work and opening doors that have been closed for a long time.”

**Many priests ministering in the poorest parts of the world rely on your kindness to provide the basics for themselves and their parishes. A Mass offering of \$10 helps support a priest serving God in difficult circumstances, and means the Holy Sacrifice of Mass will be offered for your intentions.**

## Answering God’s Call

Sister Hlykeria is a Studite Sister from Lviv who paints icons to help provide for the needs of her congregation. She told ACN: “I heard a broadcast in 1989 and wrote and asked for a Child’s Bible from Aid to the Church in Need.

“It was the first time I felt that someone had heard a request of mine and taken me seriously. You answered my call...and I answered God’s call and I am now a Sister here!

“We must help each other in faith, even though we do not know each other. The underlying presence of Christ unites all of us. In their gesture of goodwill your dear supporters are spreading the glory of God.

“Please hold on to your faith – and even in your difficulties please know that we remember and pray for you.”



*Sister Hlykeria with one of her painted icons in the background*

**Religious Sisters are the life blood of the Church. Through the generosity of ACN’s benefactors we are able to support Sisters who have responded to the call of God with an average grant of \$450 each year.**

## Singing from the Heart

In summer 2010 children and their families crammed into the hall of the Holy Spirit Seminary in Lviv, Ukraine, for the finals of the Song of the Heart festival.



*Yulia, a Ukrainian orphan, receives her copy of ACN’s Child’s Bible at the Song of the Heart competition*

It was the climax of a two-year competition to compose and perform a Christian song. Copies of the Ukrainian version of ACN’s Child’s Bible were given to all competitors. The contest is just one example of the imaginative work of Sister Luiza Ciupa – and the Catechetical Institute in Lviv – which is instilling a living faith in young Christians. Many of its catechetical resources are also used by the Orthodox Church. Sister Luiza said: “Thank you – ACN has helped us to build the living Church. We work with your help so that our children may grow in faith.”

**The Child’s Bible is vital to nurturing and teaching the Faith. Your support of this major initiative enables ACN to introduce children to the Word of God and help proclaim the hope of the Gospel.**

## On the Good Ship Werenfried

**Many of Aid to the Church in Need’s benefactors became Volga Boatmen and Boatwomen a few years ago... empowering the spread of the Gospel through chapel boats for the Orthodox Church on Russia’s Volga and Don rivers.**

These chapel boats are still making important voyages today. One small ship, laden with the relics of eight saints from the first millennium – the era of the undivided Church – is making an historic ecumenical journey along the Volga. Blessed by both Orthodox and Catholics, the chapel boat began its voyage across Russia in September 2010.

The ship carrying the relics is called the ‘Father Werenfried’ after ACN’s founder, who spearheaded the initiative to convert boats into chapels so that services could be celebrated in places where God was denied for 70 years.

The saints’ relics are a gift from the Catholic Church to the Russian Orthodox Church, and include relics of St Bartholomew the Apostle and St Cyril, the missionary to the Slav people.

Worshippers can board the boat to pray or attend the Divine Liturgy in its

chapel dedicated to St Vladimir, the prince who made Christianity Russia’s official religion in 988.

An Orthodox priest travels on board to celebrate the Liturgy with people who have no other access to the Sacraments.

**Thank you for helping priests reach out to their scattered flocks through initiatives such as the chapel boats. Through your ongoing support ACN can continue to provide mopeds, cars and even outboard motors for boats to help bring Christ to thirsty souls.**



*The ‘Father Werenfried’ chapel boat has set off on an historic ecumenical voyage along Russia’s Volga River.*