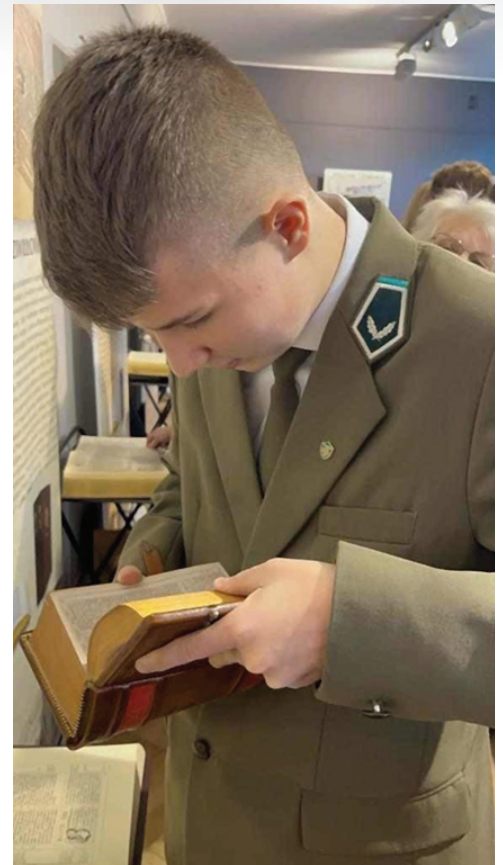


Baptist COURIERS FOR CHRIST

February 2024



Open Doors for the Protectors Bibles



We just received word that the Lord is making more opportunities for the Polish Protectors Bibles to get into Polish hands. Darek is the contact in Poland who first learned of the need for the pocket-sized Bibles for his country. The Bibles are primarily destined to be given to those in the law enforcement and military communities. However, occasionally the Lord gives an opportunity for those same scriptures to be distributed to an “off shoot” group of individuals who still have a part in the protection of their homeland. Such was the case recently when Darek had the privilege of giving a special tour of his mobile Bible exhibit in Poland. He was joined by a group of students from a well-known forest ranger school. Darek stated that he had never before seen such interest on the first day of the exhibition. He intended to offer the students some of the blue camo Protectors Bibles but wasn’t sure what their response would be. It was, in fact, so overwhelmingly positive that he had to reach out to our missionary friend, Brother Joe West, and ask him to send more copies for those students who didn’t receive one that day. Every one of the prospective rangers wanted his own copy! It is wonderful to see a group of young people interested in possessing the word of God! Please pray for the young people in these pictures, that their hearts would be tender to the Holy Spirit as they read God’s word for themselves. Their greatest need is to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Romans 10:14 and 17, **“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”** Thank you to all who have sacrificially given for those scriptures to make it into the hands of the precious young souls along with countless military and law enforcement personnel. We thank the Lord for continuing to open doors for us to share his gospel with souls across the world!

Above left: Brother Darek sees the value in teaching Poles the history of the lineage of the preserved word of God in the Polish language.

Above: This young man reviews a reprint of the original Gdansk Bible of 1632.

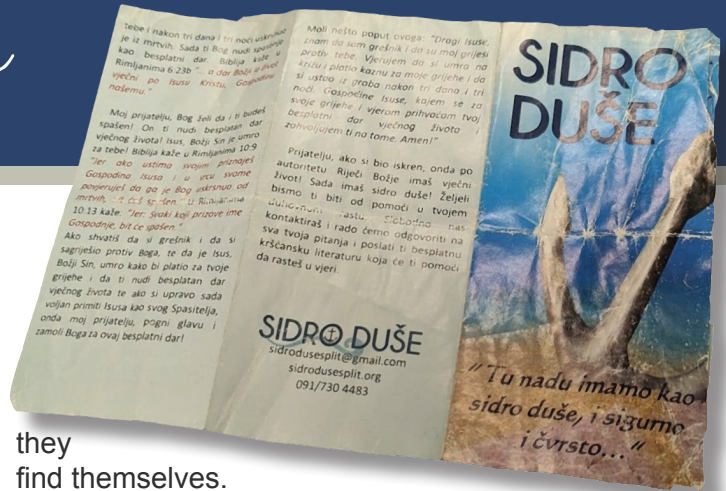
Below: Look carefully at the pocket-sized Protectors Bibles in the hands of some of these students. Brother West will be sending more copies so that each will have his own.



The Silent Witness

by Joshua Stertz

“What a mess!” thought the man as he peered into his buddy’s car. Sure, it was warm outside and downright hot inside the small vehicle, but it needed some love. Why would he even consider cleaning someone else’s car? Maybe it was out of care for that person; maybe he needed to clear his head; or maybe it was a divine appointment. This man had been dealing with a variety of struggles in his life and was beginning to search for answers. No matter where he turned, he was coming up empty handed. It is in times like these that some people will begin to ask God for help. They may not know his name, but they know that there is a higher power, and they must reach out to him if they are going to survive the storm in which



they find themselves.

As this man began to clean out his friend’s car and contemplate the meaning of his life, he made a discovery wedged down in the crevasse between the seat and the console. There was a dog-eared piece of paper, and something urged him not to throw it away. As he opened it up fully, he read the words of the front page while a bead of sweat rolled down his temple. He couldn’t put it down and found himself reading the paper in its entirety! The verse that stood out to him so strongly that it caused him to find a pen and underline it was Revelation 21:8, **“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”** This verse struck him because, although he wasn’t a murderer or a sorcerer, he had told plenty of lies. It was obvious that those lies put him in the category of



Missionary Johnny Leslie with Ken, Tricia, and Laura



people headed to the lake of fire. It was time for some more help! He noticed that there was some contact information on the bottom of the back page.

* * *

How about you Christian? When was the last time you handed out a gospel tract? You can call it a booklet, a pamphlet, a piece of Christian literature, or even a gospel comic (in the case of a Chick Tract or something similar). However, these are tremendous tools for spreading the salvation message. Notice in this case that the person who originally received the tract wasn't the intended recipient, but the individual distributing it wasn't privy to that information. WHY? Because that is God's business. II Peter 3:9 **"The Lord is...longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."** God never rests in his pursuit of mankind and therefore how much more will he be found of those that are earnestly seeking him? Gospel tracts are a silent witness, as long as they aren't completely destroyed, because they serve the purpose of causing a lost soul to see his need of the Saviour--Jesus Christ--and place his trust completely in him.

* * *

The man in our story was Jozo from Split, Croatia. His friend had received that gospel tract in the summer of 2022, but Jozo wasn't cleaning his friend's car until November of 2023! Couriers took a group to Split for a few days that summer and worked alongside some believers from northern Croatia including Missionary Brad Lowrie. During that time of distribution (it was the only week that those specific tracts were given out) was when that tract was received. When Jozo met with Missionary Johnny Leslie after reading the tract, the first thing he asked was, "Do you believe in Providence?" God had providentially orchestrated all the details for this searching soul not only to read of himself but then also to meet a servant of his in the vicinity who shared the gospel message plainly with him. Please pray that Jozo would receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour soon! Acts 1:8 **"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses...."** Will you commit to giving out copies of the "silent witness" to those around you? Who knows whose eternity depends on it?

Couriers Annual Banquet

34th
ANNUAL
BANQUET



Current CFC men (left to right) John Meyer, Donald Stertz, Joshua Stertz, Ken Stertz, and Larry Ingalls

On January 8 the Baptist Couriers for Christ ministry held our 34th annual banquet. In addition to the five ministry couples, we invite our pastors, secretaries, advisors, proofreaders, technology experts, and collaborators from other ministries such as Bearing Precious Seed. The purpose of our year-end banquet is to



rejoice over all the things that the Lord has accomplished throughout the past year. 2023 was a record-breaking year for CFC, with 2.4 million scriptures going out to 7 different countries in 10 different languages on 2 different continents by means of 9 separate shipping containers. We also conducted two campaigns--one in northern Italy and one in Poland. This would not be possible without the faithful prayers and support of our partner churches.



Guest speaker and supporting pastor, Kyle Stephens with wife Marcia

Pastor Kyle Stephens from Blessed Hope Baptist Church in Coon Rapids, Minnesota, was our guest speaker. He gave us a challenge from the life of King David, encouraging us to remain faithful in all stages of life. It was an excellent message from II Samuel 12. As we enter 2024, may we all be steadfast and unmovable, so those that come behind us might see the evidence of our impact in this world for Christ.



Come join us in Croatia

We are now taking applications for the **Together 4 Split Campaign** to Split, Croatia, **April 29-May 11, 2024**. This campaign will assist a church plant that is currently underway in that city and region. It is tourist city located in the southern portion of Croatia, right on the Adriatic Sea. We still have some open slots on the trip and would love to have you join us. You can visit couriersforchrist.com and click on *trips* to find out more information and also to sign up digitally. The cost of the trip is \$3200 (all primary expenses including air fare included). Please reach out to Josh.stertz@gmail.com with any questions.



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Please scan the code at left to visit our ministry web pages for more information.

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