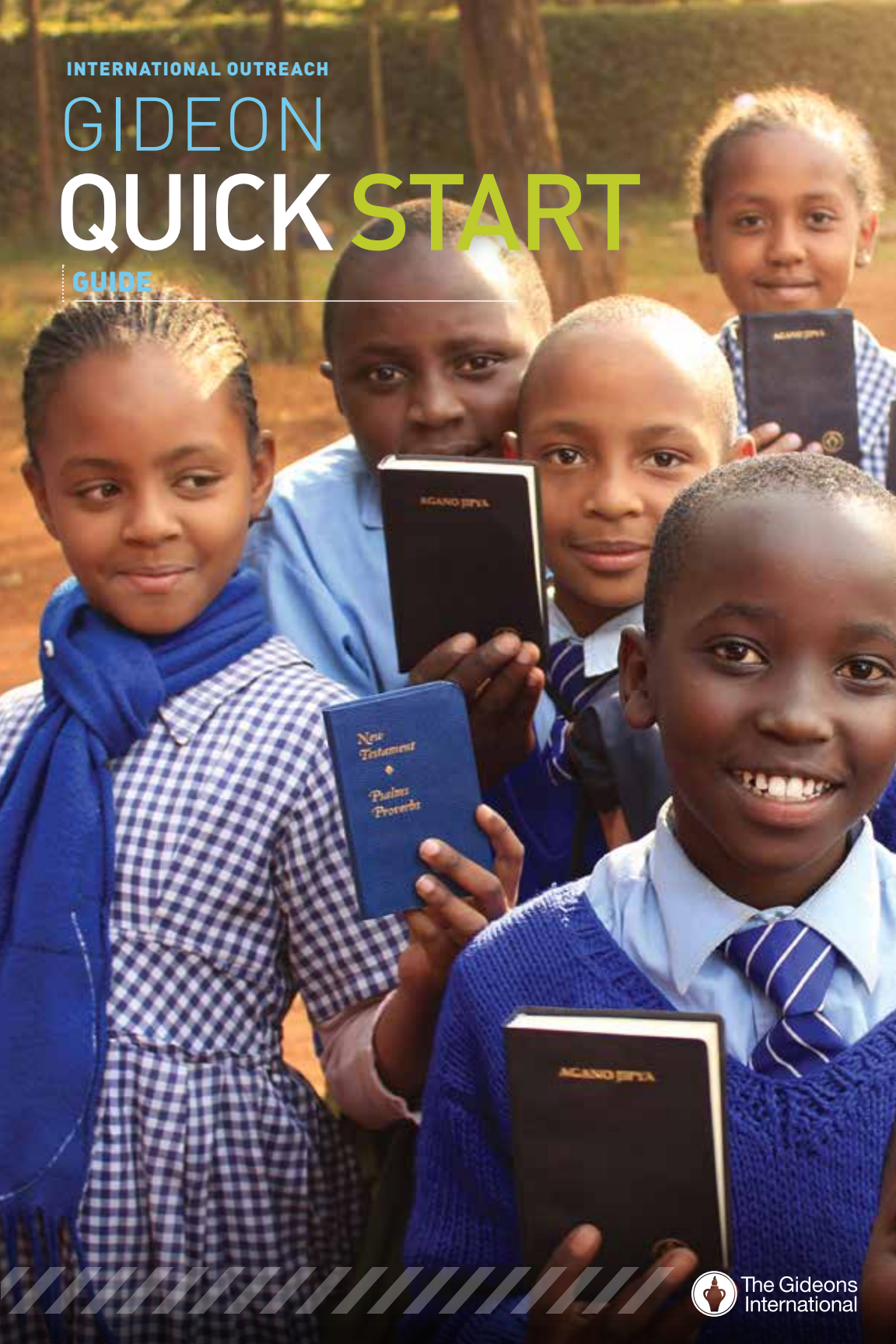


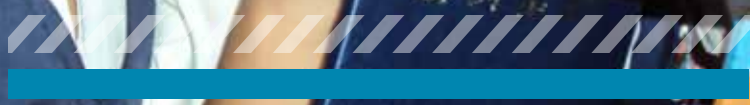
INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

GIDEON QUICK START

GUIDE



The Gideons
International



Gideons partner with churches anywhere to reach the unreached everywhere.

What We're All About

Gideons go around the corner—and around the world—witnessing and distributing more than 1.6 million Scriptures each week in over 195 countries and more than 90 languages.

As a member of The Gideons International, you become a vital part of a membership-driven ministry, making a personal and powerful impact for Christ across the globe. You serve alongside more than 300,000 fellow Christian business and professional men and their wives, who are all united in carrying out the same programs, using the same methods. This is a simple, disciplined, well-defined ministry seeking to accomplish a single objective:

Win others for Christ by personally sharing both our faith and God's Word in approved areas of Scripture distribution.



We do this in three ways:

1. Gideons associate together for service to our Lord. We encourage each other through regular fellowship and by striving to exemplify Christian character, personally and professionally. We equip each other for leadership through mentoring and training. We engage each other as we seek to grow as servant leaders who are active, accountable ambassadors for Christ.
2. We personally share our faith and witness at every God-given opportunity as each of us serves in our own church and community.
3. We place and distribute Scriptures in numerous approved areas to reach lost people.

As you prayerfully consider how to be involved in this ministry, please take to heart the core values of The Gideons International.

CORE VALUES

AN UNCOMPROMISED BELIEF that the Bible is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God.

A SINGULAR FOCUS on the objective of “winning others to the Lord Jesus Christ.”

A MEMBERSHIP consisting of business and professional men, except clergymen, who:

Believe in the Bible as the inspired (i.e. infallible, inerrant) Word of God

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God

Have received Him as their personal Savior

Endeavor to follow Him in their daily lives

Are members in good standing of an evangelical or protestant church, congregation or assembly

Participate in the activities of a Gideon camp

A COMPLEMENTARY ELEMENT of the Association known as the Auxiliary, which is comprised of the wives of Gideons who meet the same spiritual qualifications.

AN ONGOING EMPHASIS on the importance of fulfilling our seven spiritual objectives (on the following page).

FUNDING FOR THE MISSION of the Association is secured only through personal contributions and bequests, church offerings, and the GideonCard Bible Program (if available in your country).

AN INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIP with evangelical and protestant churches as a prayer base, a source of members, and financial support.

A SIMPLE, DISCIPLINED, WELL-DEFINED MINISTRY that is carried out exclusively by the membership of the Association under the authority and direction of the International Cabinet.

What God Is Accomplishing Through The Gideons International

Well known for placing Scriptures in hotels, The Gideons International is also recognized for distributing God's Word freely around the world. Gideons provide Scriptures in schools and colleges, prisons, hospitals and medical facilities, and also to military, police, fire and rescue personnel.

Here's what makes this ministry unique: The Gideons International has in place logistics to enable us to distribute a copy of God's Word throughout the world for about a dollar and a quarter. This includes all costs of getting a Scripture into the hands of someone who needs it.

People are coming to Christ every day through the active participation of Gideons. Annually, we distribute over 80 million copies of God's Word to waiting hands in more than 195 countries.

OUR SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

MEN OF THE BOOK

MEN OF FAITH

MEN OF PRAYER

MEN OF SEPARATED WALK

MEN OF COMPASSIONATE HEART

MEN WHO WITNESS

MEN WHO GIVE



THE GIDEON MODEL FOR SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION IS TIME-TESTED.

The Gideons International has been quietly going about our Lord's business for over 100 years—delivering God's Word through proven, effective methods for reaching lost people.

GIDEONS SERVE IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.

Around the world, each Gideon resides, and does the work of this ministry, in his own community. Gideons know well the areas of spiritual voids in their own communities—and the special opportunities for Scripture distribution. Gideons can witness and share God's Word in places where visiting missionaries often cannot.

GOD IS MULTIPLYING OUR MINISTRY EFFORTS TO SHARE HIS WORD.

By faith and through God's blessing, The Gideons International will soon pass a significant milestone: we will share the 2 billionth Bible or New Testament (each Scripture for free) since we began the distribution of God's Word over 100 years ago. This ministry is making a global impact—one community, and one individual, at a time.



■ ■ I lived out on the streets with no one but Satan. He was always helping me drink and use drugs. I was lost in sin and didn't realize it—until I gave Jesus my life. I found the Lord while in jail. I've never been so happy as I am now behind bars.

A couple of Gideons brought a New Testament to me one day, and ever since, Satan has become my enemy—instead of my leader. God has forgiven me and given me a new life.

I was on the verge of death, but the Lord spared me long enough to turn to Him.” KEVIN, HARRISBURG, ARKANSAS, USA

What You Can Do Now

Our goal is for you to match your passion for ministry with our effective programs and many ministry opportunities:

Personally share your faith: Before the first hotel Bibles were ever placed in 1908, Gideons were soul winners. From our inception in 1899, our purpose has not wavered. Be bold. Start every day with the goal to help win others for Christ. You can use Personal Workers Testaments, featuring the plan of salvation, to make it easy to share the Gospel.

Pray for this ministry and those we seek to reach:

Prayer remains at the heart of the ministry for each Gideon activity and meeting you attend. Join with members around the world in praying for our ministry each day, using the Daily Prayer Calendar (available on *theConnection*). Gideon camps hold weekly prayer meetings, and you are encouraged to participate in these regular devotions.



Start every day with prayer to help win others for Christ.

Your Gideon leadership will share with you the many approved distribution areas where you can touch lives with God's Word, including:

Hotel & Motel Scripture Placements: Statistics show each copy of God's Word placed in a hotel room has the potential to reach up to 2,300 people throughout its life expectancy. You and your camp can regularly replace Scriptures in your local hotels, depending on the needs of the facilities.

Scripture Distributions in Prisons & Jails: Prisoners desperately need God's Word. You will have unique opportunities through your camp, or other area camps, to provide Scriptures in your local jails and larger prison facilities.

School & College New Testament Distributions: The majority of our Scriptures go to students 10 years old or above—as well as to students on college and university campuses. Ask your camp president how you can get involved.

Military Testament Distributions: Gideons strive to offer God's Word to every member of the military. If there is a military facility in your area, you may have the opportunity to personally visit and hand out New Testaments. We also distribute God's Word to soldiers, worldwide, through military chaplains.



Distributions to Those Who Protect and Serve:

Law enforcement officers, firemen, and emergency medical personnel find themselves in stressful, dangerous, and heartbreaking situations every day. Having God's Word available makes it easier for these brave men and women to cope with the stresses of their jobs, and most important, come to Christ. With a pocket-sized New Testament, they may also be able to share words of comfort for traumatized people they meet.

Placements and Distributions at Hospitals & Medical Facilities:

When someone spends time in a hospital bed, it can be a timely situation for the Gospel to touch a heart. Your camp will regularly share God's Word in hospitals and medical facilities.

Attend the International Convention: The annual convention of The Gideons International is held each July. Enjoy a unique fellowship time with other Gideons from about 100 countries. You will hear personal testimonies, inspiring Bible messages, and take part in valuable training and special witnessing opportunities.

Tell Other Qualified Men About The Gideons International: When you meet with friends, at church, in leisure activities, or at work, let them know about your membership and participation in the ministry of The Gideons International.

Invite Your Wife to Join the Auxiliary: The Gideons International offers a dynamic opportunity for husband and wife to serve the Lord, in partnership, seeking to win the lost for Christ. Auxiliary members are the wives of Gideons, who meet the same spiritual qualifications as Gideons.

What Resources Are Available To You

Personal Workers Testaments: These New Testaments include the Plan of Salvation and Help in Times of Need Scripture references. They are ideal to give to people you encounter daily who need to know the Lord. You can purchase these through your camp.

blog.gideons.org: For the most up-to-date happenings and testimonies, go to the Gideon blog.

theConnection Online Community: This member-only website reinforces all you do and provides vital information such as: member names, churches served, planned Scripture distributions, and more. In addition, you can download resources from the online store.

Go to www.gideons.org, and log in to *theConnection*. As a new member, register using your member number and camp number. If you need assistance registering, your camp secretary should be able to help.

Daily Prayer Calendar: This special resource lets you know the international prayer needs of our ministry. It is available to you online at *theConnection*.

The Gideon Magazine: Available on *theConnection*, it will keep you informed and inspired regarding the international activities of your Association.

International Outreach Camp Manual (Item 907): Available on *theConnection*, this resource informs you of important policies, functions, and responsibilities of the Association.

How We Receive Our Funds For Scripture Distribution

The Gideons International is a very practical and effective missionary arm of the church. We receive our funding through dedicated Christians via personal contributions, offerings collected from church congregations, and donations through the GideonCard Bible Program (available in some countries).

In addition, a significant portion of the Association's financial support is provided through contributions from members.

When you give to The Gideons International, your gift will be used effectively and efficiently to spread God's Word. The Gideons International is an accredited member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).



What The Church Means To Us

The Gideons International partners with churches anywhere, to reach the unreached everywhere. We simply cannot function separately from the church. Churches provide vital financial and prayer support—and serve as a primary source for recruiting new members.

Gideon church presentations are reports of what God is doing through His Word, both locally and internationally. Gideons share the worldwide impact resulting from the ongoing prayers and financial support of God's people. For some churches, we are a primary international missionary outreach.

Prayer is essential to our church relationships, as well. Gideon prayer times include praying for pastors and congregations.

Our church partnership is also reinforced through our members. All members of this Association are also members of evangelical, or protestant churches worldwide.



IN ADDITION TO THIS QUICK START GUIDE,

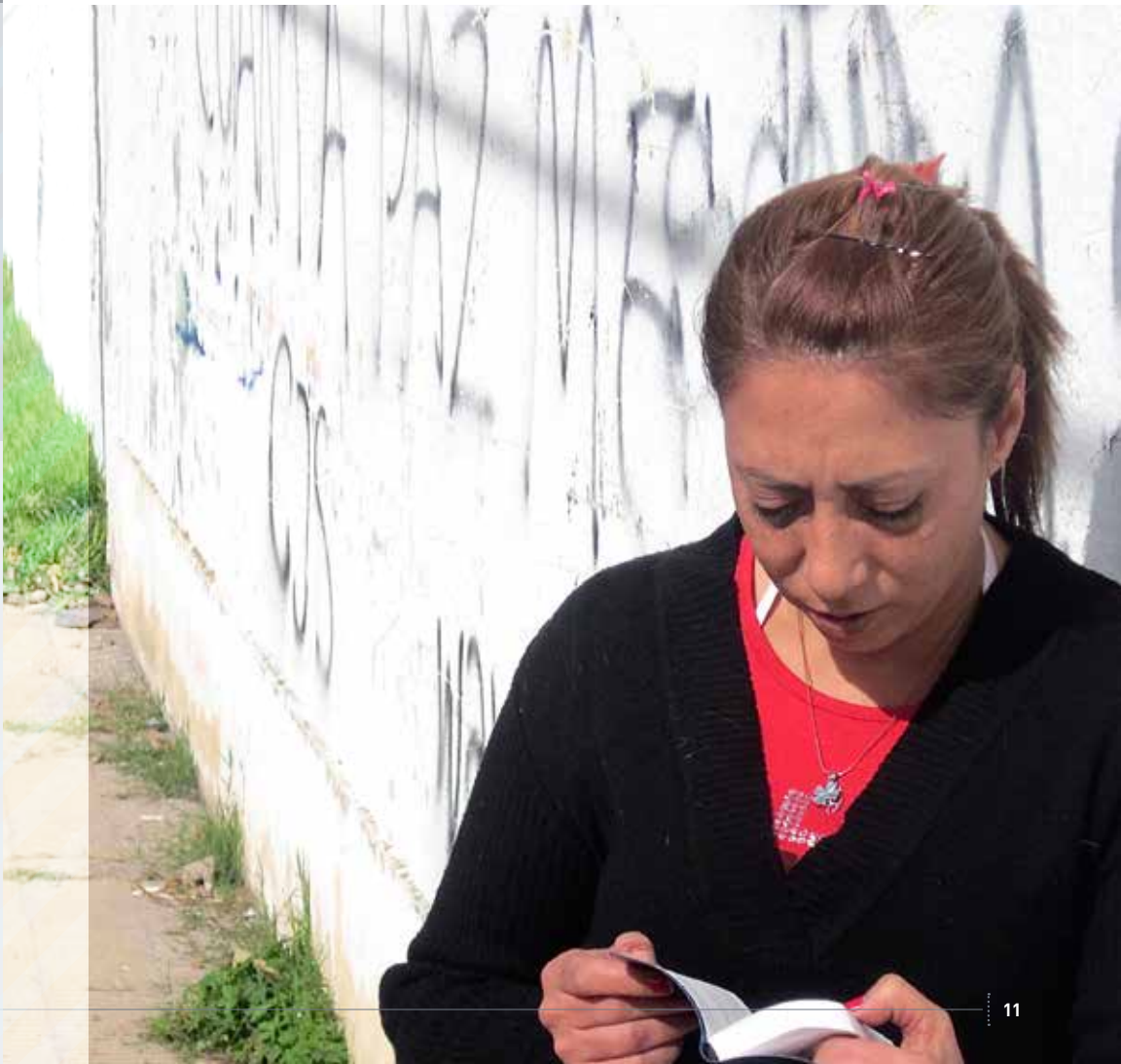
your camp president will be in touch with you to deliver your other membership materials, membership card, and emblem.

Your camp's officers can assist you with questions, as well. You will find a listing of your camp's officers, and their contact information, on *theConnection*.

NOTE: *If you travel through Nashville, Tennessee, USA, please take time to visit The Gideons International Headquarters. Enjoy a free guided tour of the facility. Notify International Headquarters in advance of your visit, and you can also join the staff for daily devotions at 7:30 a.m., Central Time, M–F. (Phone: 615.564.5000)*

- I am a student in Buenos Aires, and I received a New Testament one morning from a Gideon. Later, I returned to the group of Gideons that had given out the Scriptures.

One of these Gideons asked me, 'Where on a scale from 1 to 100 would you be in terms of going to heaven?' I thought about it and said, '50 percent.' That Gideon then showed me the back of the New Testament (Plan of Salvation), and he walked me through each verse. At the last verse, I said, 'I guess that's the rest of the math,' and I gave my life to Christ." **MARIA, ARGENTINA**





Making a global impact
on a local basis



The Gideons
International

P.O. Box 140800
Nashville, Tennessee
37214-0800

www.gideons.org
615.564.5000