

General Report to Our Supporters, June 2025

From: Tom Thamburaj, President, Lemon Bay Gideons

This report is given primarily to churches supporting the Gideon Ministry in our area and around the world. I am pleased to dedicate this to our dear fellow Gideon, Floyd Yoder who has gone to be with the Lord. Brother Floyd was an active young member of our team and was an inspiration to many members of our group including myself.



For those who are not very familiar with the ministry of the Gideons International; The organization is now in 200 countries and territories. We have national associations; each national association is divided into state (provincial) associations and each state is divided into camps, in a way local chapters. **The Lemon Bay camp is one of three camps in Sarasota County, Florida.** We minister primarily to people in Venice, Northport and Englewood. Currently we have 30 members and 12 auxiliary (ladies) members. We meet every Saturday at 8:00 A.M. to pray for our ministry, churches in our area and the needs (physical and spiritual) in our community. Our members are also very active in serving the churches they attend. We consider churches in our area as very essential partners in our ministry.

Our Local Evangelical Outreach Activities in 2023-24

The Gideons are generally recognized as people who place Bibles in hotel rooms. It is true, but that is only a small part of our ministry. Our goal is to reach boys and girls and men and women for Christ by **personal witnessing and providing a copy of God's Word**; we accomplish this by meeting people in what may be called *the traffic lanes of life*, in public places like county fairs, college campuses, farmers' markets, outside of public schools and so on. We also place Bibles (when permitted) in doctors' offices, nursing homes, military bases and hospitals. This past year, we have expanded our distributions to Fall Festivals (alternate to Halloween), VBS and FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes.) events

In Farmers' Markets: We continued our ministry in Venice (Saturday mornings) and in Englewood (Thursday mornings) Farmers' markets. God opened many doors and we were able to engage many people in spiritual conversations and we were giving out about 100 Testaments every week. It is obvious that people need the Lord looking for real answers to challenges in life. The population growth in our service area, urges us to go on! Every soul matters!



market.

You see in the pictures, Gideons in action at Venice Farmers

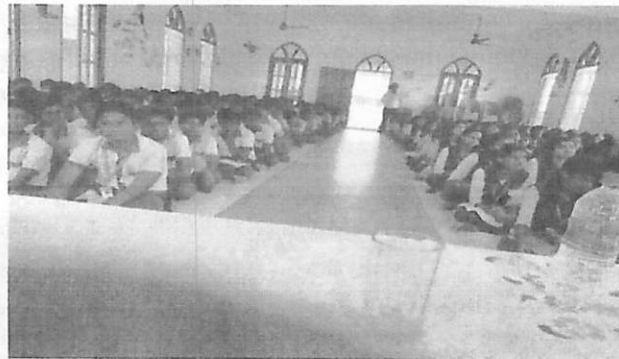
Food Distribution Center in North Port: Our distribution (once a month) in North Port to those coming to receive food supplies from a local church continued. We gave out Testaments in English, Spanish and in Russian. We also provide our **Gideon Bible App** that can be downloaded free to the cell phones. The app provides access to Bible in 190+ languages including Ukrainian in print as well as audio format. So far, more than 3000 Testaments were given out there. We have prayed with hundreds of people for comfort, healing and salvation.

Outreach Activities in County Fairs: We work with Gideons in Charlotte County and in the Sarasota area and distribute Testaments in the Charlotte and Sarasota County fairs. Past year about 8000 Testaments were given out. More importantly, prayers were offered to hundreds of people seeking comfort, hope and salvation. We know that at least 40 people gave their lives to Christ because of their interactions with the Gideons in these fairs. Two groups of young people who received Testaments posed for a photo.



In Summary, this the past year, Lemon Bay camp had **117 distributions (June 1,2024 to May 31,2025)** . More than **14,000 Testaments were given out** and at least **60 people** we know of received Christ through this **ministry**. Halleluiah! In addition, our members joined fellow Gideons in Florida and distributed almost 33000 Testaments to school children, youth camps, doctors' offices, attorney's offices and many other places of business. Many salvations were reported; the manager of the hotel where we stayed (Hindu) was saved!

This past year, I am pleased to report that I was able to work side by side with Gideons in Chennai, India. I was asked to give a motivation talk to couple of high schools in Chennai, India. I told the administration that my talk would refer to passages in the Bible and local Gideons would have an opportunity to give out Testaments after my presentation. They agreed! The local Gideons had not been to those schools for about 5 years, due to Covid and some political opposition. I spoke in two schools on **The Parable of the Talents** and gave my personal testimony about the true living God. Almost 400 Testaments mostly in English were given out to high school students. PTL.



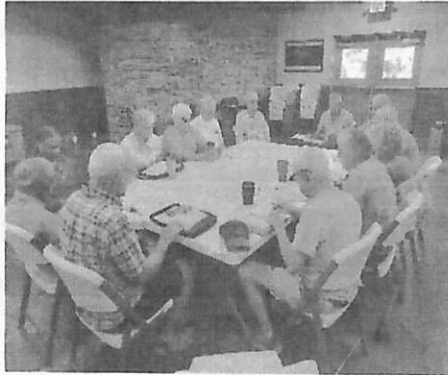
Local Gideons and the School Administrator

Students in a High School listening to a Bible Message

Partnership with local Churches is a must for the success of the Gideon ministry. Every Gideon is an active member of a local church. Almost half of the funds necessary to buy and distribute Testaments comes from local churches and their members. **Thank you, pastors and thank you church. Let me mention some of the ways, The Gideons partner with local churches and encourage each other.**

- a. **The Gideons pray for the local churches and pastors in our area during their weekly prayer meetings on Saturday mornings,**
- b. **Once a year, we invite local pastors for a program we call, Pastor Appreciation Lunch (PAL). During that time, a report about what God is doing with The Gideon ministry locally and around the world is given,**

- c. we try to visit pastors at least once a quarter; Give them a brief report about our ministry; pray with them, pray for them and we encourage each other,
- d. The Gideons support local churches during their outreach activities like VBS and Fall Festivals and provide Testaments to the children and youth, and
- e. Gideons provide free evangelism training (Conversations) to church members, free of charge!



Weekly Prayer Meeting



Pastor Appreciation Lunch 2024



In a local church during VBS

We praise God for providing resources to reach record breaking levels two years in a row! We feel that we need to share a comprehensive financial report with our partners in the community.

Source	Amount, \$	Comments
Church Services (6)	\$5561	35% is given back to local camp to buy Testaments
Gideon Card Receipts (200 users including Gideons)	\$11514	35% is given back to local camp to buy Testaments
Auxiliary (Ladies) Scripture Funds	\$343	100% was used to buy Scriptures
Faith Fund (All from Gideons)	\$25435	100% is used to support Gideon Ministry in developing countries
Other Designated Receipts (Mostly from Churches supporting on a regular basis and the Gideons)	\$20258	Used to buy Scriptures especially in Spanish and Russian to meet the special needs of Ukrainians, Russians and Latinos in our communities.
Barnabas Fund (Gideons and churches)	2350	100% is used to assist Gideons in foreign lands to create resources in developing countries
TOTAL from All Sources	\$65783	We are debt free at the end of fiscal year. We have \$500 credit for scriptures. PTL!

It is obvious that support from local churches is very helpful to meet the needs of this ministry. Rising costs of the Testaments (printing, shipping etc..) due to inflation require us to raise more funds in the coming fiscal year to meet the needs locally and around the world. If your church is supporting this ministry on a regular basis, thank you very much. If your church is not a regular contributor, please consider being one. **We all know that lots of people from other States are moving to this part of Florida. As our population here increases, so are the numbers of unchurched and unsaved.** We know that the harvest is going to be plentiful, but the laborers here are few. **We surely need more men and their wives in our ministry to meet the ever-increasing opportunities right here in our Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria.** We have just launched a new program called **Church Organization Event** for this purpose. Please call, **Allen at 941-525-7569** for details. Pastors, we thank

you for encouraging your church members to join and be a part of this ministry. We know that it will turn out to be a great blessing all around!

You May Not Know?

A nice Bible placed by the Gideons in a hotel room costs about \$5. It is used by at least 100 people every year. A Bible in a hotel is replaced after 6 years after it was used by at least 600 people. I cannot think of any other evangelical tool costing \$5 ministering to 600 people? Do you? We have hundreds of Testimonies how a copy of the Bible in a hotel room literally saved lives of people, their marriages and relationships! Of course, hundreds of people were saved through a hotel Bible as well!



Pictures on a placement of Bibles in a local Hotel: The staff also received Testaments for themselves!

It is a pleasure to share with you briefly about the Ministry of the Gideons in our area. Church, we love you, pray to the Lord to bless you and make us all more of a blessing in our area.

Tom Thamburaj

Phil. 1:1-6