

The Goal of the Gospel

Reaching Lost Children, Youth and Adults for Christ

When you consider all the ministries sponsored by SGA partners across the lands of Russia, sometimes it can get confusing. Supporting missionary pastors in their evangelistic, church-planting labors . . . sponsoring *Orphans Reborn* workers as they reach orphan children with the Gospel . . . reaching needy and unreached children during the Christmas season through *Immanuel's Child* and other outreaches . . . sponsoring Bible training for future pastors, youth leaders and Christian education workers — it truly can be overwhelming to consider.

But the Bible-preaching churches we serve wouldn't have it any other way. Whether the church has been long established in a region or is a new congregation, the goal is the same: to reach the lost with the Gospel . . . *making the most of the opportunity* (Colossians 4:5). And you help make it possible!

Reaching Adults By Reaching Children

Yevgeny Dushakov is an SGA-sponsored



Russian orphans respond to God's love with great joy.

missionary pastor in Russia's Mari-El Republic. In the city of Ioshkar-Ola, he and the faithful workers in his church are visiting local orphanages. And they are impacting more than just the children . . .

We have been able to have wonderful Christmas meetings with your help, and after those, we get ready for Easter outreaches. We are happy that each time we visit the children and their caregivers in the orphanages, they treat us with more and more confidence, and we can share Christian values and truths with them. One of the vice

directors of the orphanage began to profess Christian values. She wants to communicate with us, and she asks many questions. We have known her for many years, and only now are we seeing the results of our prayers and labors. Praise God for the opportunity to see the exciting fruit of ministry.

“... 18 orphan teenagers began coming to the church and half of them were baptized ...”

In another orphanage where other brothers associated with Yevgeny work, a program was conducted called “Myths About Life.” As a result of hearing the Gospel, 18 orphan teenagers began coming to the church and half of them were baptized in the summer of 2010. Yevgeny’s teams try to find every new opportunity they can for Gospel preaching, and are excited to see the fruit. The support of SGA partners has played a vital role.

Reaching Into the Community

Yevgeny has also had opportunities to speak to young men in Ioshkar-Ola who are already successful businessmen and represent various companies. They have grown up in a self-centered culture, and as he witnesses, Yevgeny speaks to them

of how important it is to think of the needs of others, and to have a spiritual foundation in their lives. He also has opportunities to speak to students at local schools, and they often ask him very serious questions about life. The topics vary, but all are based on Scripture, and the importance of the Word of God as the only solid foundation is stressed. Right now, more than 20 teenagers are involved in these lessons, and

Yevgeny feels that this is a wonderful opportunity to help rescue them from the consequences of a godless life.

Yevgeny and his church members are thankful for SGA partners and their faithful, prayerful support . . .

We thank you, our dear friends, brothers and sisters, for your concern for us and for our ministry. It is great to know that other Christians are praying for us and taking part in our ministry. We thank God for you, and may He bless your ministries and your churches!”

Editor’s Note: If you’d like to read more of Yevgeny’s report, please go to SGA’s website at www.sga.org/church-planting.



Mission to Marina Gorka and More

Fruitful Ministry for Christian Youth in Belarus

By Dima Podrez



Last August, 14 young brothers and sisters from Minsk’s Golgotha Church traveled to the village of Marina Gorka to visit the church. The weather was good, and we were in a joyful mood. The brothers and sisters there gave us a warm welcome before the service.

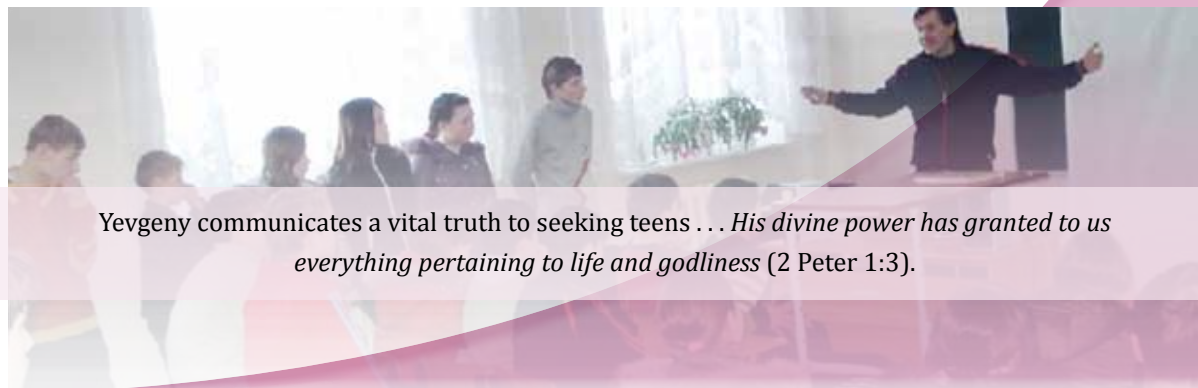
There are some 45 members in the Marina Gorka church, mostly elderly people who live in surrounding villages. They need encouragement so much!

While there, we sang songs, recited poetry, encouraged, and pointed them to Jesus. Then we met with the six young people who made up the church youth, and we invited them to visit our church in Minsk. I was also glad, because this visit encouraged a young brother from Minsk in learning how to preach, and it helped the youth to learn to conduct Bible study. We thank you for your prayers and support, which enable us to bring small churches encouragement and joy.

Orphan Ministry and Construction

In the spring, God blessed ten of our youth to visit Druisk in the north of Belarus. There, a 35-year-old missionary pastor named Nikolai labors in a very small church. Local school authorities allow him to take children to Christian summer camps. He asked us to help him build an athletic field so that the children from the orphanage can come and have fun. The whole day, we cleared wood and cut it.

Afterward, we went to the orphanage, where I met a young girl who ended up in the orphanage when her grandmother got sick. The girl has been worried and has been praying about her grandmother. We encouraged her to keep praying and trust the Lord. The next day, we started to repair the roof and build the athletic field. There were a lot of people who came by and asked us why we were doing this. “Why did you come here? What motivated you to come here and work?” It was a great opportunity for our testimony. We are really grateful for your help with funds for this ministry. We don’t know what we would have done without your help!



Yevgeny communicates a vital truth to seeking teens . . . His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

Editor’s Note: Dima Podrez is the son of Piotr Podrez, director of SGA’s Minsk Regional Ministry Center (RMC) in Belarus.

SGA Literature Update

We are thankful to the Lord and to SGA partners for His provision of 5,000 Russian-language copies of Dr. John MacArthur's new book, *Slave*, printed in Minsk, Belarus.

Two thousand copies arrived safely at SGA's Kiev RMC in Ukraine, and were distributed at the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of both Irpen Biblical Seminary and the Euro-Asiatic Baptist Federation. Pastors and missionary pastors from 12 nations, including six Muslim countries, were delighted to receive them.

In addition, 1,000 Russian copies of the *MacArthur Study Bible* cleared customs in Israel. They are being distributed to Slavic pastors and students of the new SGA-sponsored training programs being developed by Dr. Oleg Korotky in three locations. Please continue to pray for Oleg and Svetlana and their daughter, Angelina, as they are frequently in danger from rocket attacks being launched by Palestinian terrorists in the adjacent Gaza Strip.



A Testimony of Deliverance and Hope

Nikolai Zablotsky
Mogilev, Belarus



I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from . . . my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city . . . dangers among false brethren (2 Corinthians 11:26).

One Sunday, we were having tea at church when a drunken man named Alexei walked in. He asked who was in charge, so I came up to him and he asked me to come outside and talk. When we got outside, Alexei started to tell me about his problems and hard life, and then suddenly he turned around and told me that he had come to the church to kill me!

He began hurling accusations, and also said that one man had told him very bad things about me. I don't know what he had been told, but I tried without success to calm him. He suddenly put his arm in his bag. I thought he was getting out a knife, but he just took out his arm and hit me very hard in my chest. Everyone was in shock! In time, he got calm and I was able to take the man's phone number. I called the next day, and he asked me to forgive him, saying that he had been drunk and couldn't control himself. The next Sunday, he came to church and apologized in front of the congregation. We expressed our forgiveness and prayed together, and I presented the Gospel. Join us in praying for him. Please continue to pray for us.

Youth Sports Ministry in Ukraine



In Ukraine's Sumy region, SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Viktor Bobrovitskiy has been ministering to local youth and children through an effective sports ministry plus other activities. He wrote recently to share the positive fruit . . .

We had done an Easter ministry for local children where we invited children from large and needy families, giving Easter gifts to all of them. Now we keep preaching the Gospel through our sports ministry. Our youth were blessed to conduct a sports camp last May, and about 50 local teenagers came. We had Bible lessons, soccer training, different athletic competitions, and of course, snacks. We held another camp in August and conducted festive meetings in local schools for children who had attended our lessons on Christian ethics. We played games and had a wonderful time together, and now the teachers of other classes have asked us to conduct lessons with other students.

Viktor also visits the nearby village of Usok to conduct Bible study, and this has led to new believers in the church. Please intercede for his ministries in Sumy, and especially for the youth and children who are hearing the Gospel.

News and Analysis



The Kazakh parliament building in the heart of Astana, the capital.

Oppressive Religion Law Passed in Kazakhstan

This past fall, both houses of Kazakhstan’s parliament passed a controversial new bill on religion, which will impose severe restrictions on missionary activity in the country. Kazakh president Nursultan Nazarbaev urged passage of the new bill, and as expected, signed it once it reached his desk.

According to Reuters, the new law stresses “the historic role of the Hanafi school of Islam and of the Christian Orthodox faith

in the cultural and spiritual development of the Kazakh nation.” The vast majority of Kazakhstan’s Muslims are followers of the Hanafi school of law, considered to be the oldest and most “liberal” within the Sunni Muslim tradition.

Evangelical churches are troubled at the law’s requirements for missionaries to register once a year with the government, the expulsion of missionaries who threaten the “constitutional order” and “public peace,” and banning prayer rooms in all state institutions. Other provisions ban unregistered religious activity, impose compulsory religious censorship and require government approval to build or open new places of worship. A Voice of America report quoted supporters of the law as saying it was an important step in challenging the growth of radical Islam. At SGA, we are concerned about the impact on evangelical churches and their ministries, especially



Once the freest of the Central Asian republics, Kazakhstan has begun to severely limit religion freedom.

in the realm of evangelism and planting new churches. Please join us in lifting this troubling situation before the Lord in prayer. We know that the Lord will continue to build

His church and advance the Gospel, as He has said . . . *My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure* (Isaiah 46:10).



Tragic Abortion and Divorce Rates in Russia

Professor Vasily Zhukov of the Russian Social University in Moscow says the number of abortions is vastly understated in the country. “Our statistics don’t exactly reflect the parameters of this trouble. Indeed, from three to four million abortions are

annually carried out in Russia, rather than the 1.3 million officially reported.”

In addition to these troubling numbers, Professor Zhukov also said that the number of divorces is rising, with 60 divorces for every 100 marriages — more than half of married couples. Russia has been facing a serious demographic challenge, although the population decline that began in 1992 has begun to slow.

Evangelical churches are deeply concerned about the impact of abortion and divorce in Russian society, and the only solution is saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for increased opportunities for evangelism in these challenging days.

How You Can Help

Every day, fellow believers across Russia and the surrounding countries take risks for their faith—especially in the “stan” countries of Central Asia, where fines, imprisonment, and physical danger are a very real part of their lives. Yet they press on, knowing that their eternal reward is in heaven. Fruitful ministries such as *Immanuel’s Child*, *Orphans Reborn*, and summer camps are only a part of their diligent labors. Bibles and Christian literature are being printed and distributed to very appreciative believers—and for new believers it is most often the first Bible of their very own. Missionary pastors in these countries are grateful for your prayers and financial support.



Innercircle Perspective



Dr. Robert W. Provost
SGA President

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith (Galatians 6:9-10).

Soon we will be into February, the shortest month of the year.

Fewer days means fewer God-given opportunities . . . may we not let them slip by.

Our Heavenly Father gives us many opportunities for witnessing . . . people we encounter everyday . . . people we see just once on a bus, train or airplane. And there are daily opportunities for doing good deeds, and even opportunities to serve as a volunteer on the mission field.

Louetta and I recently had the opportunity to visit two churches that are part of the Western Michigan *Antioch Initiative* Coalition — East Bay Calvary Church in Traverse City and Jenison Bible Church in

Hudsonville. At East Bay, five men reported on their trip to help excited new believers in the town of Panino, Russia, construct a modest church building. They had volunteered their time and skills, and were greatly blessed in the process.

At Jenison Bible Church, a young man told us that he, too, had been to Panino, and that it was the third new church in Russia that he had helped in building their *house of prayer*. When he goes to Russia, he loses two weeks of business, but seizing these Kingdom opportunities and the blessings that come with them, he said, “*is more than worth it.*”

Thank you so very much for seizing the opportunities to partner in the Gospel. Your prayers and support are making a great difference for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.



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