

“We Must Take Away Their Freedom Not To Listen!”

— *Dr. Levan Akhalmosulishvili, surgeon, evangelist, and missionary pastor in the Republic of Georgia.*

By Dr. Bob Provost
SGA President

During my initial visits in 1989 and 1990 with the zealous pastors of the Soviet Union and their church families, I was deeply moved and captivated by their devotion to Christ. There were five 2-3 hour worship services each week — joyfully attended by all members and their families. Everyone was singing all the verses of all the hymns from memory . . . and often in parts. In the corporate prayer sessions, people were competing for who would pray next . . . and no pauses between the prayers. And so much more.

Twenty years later, I was invited to the Republic of Georgia by the leader of a new



Dr. Levan's church is vibrant and growing.

missionary church planting movement. My experiences there have taken me back to my earliest experiences in the Soviet



Dr. Levan (left) excelling in medicine and evangelism.

Union. Through a caring medical practice, Dr. Levan has planted ten churches. As a general surgeon, he currently operates a free evangelistic clinic for the poor while personally pastoring three churches and two developing groups. In addition, Dr. Levan leads a fellowship of six other pastors, who together serve 600 believers spread over 24 little churches and ten developing groups.

Earlier, as a young surgeon in a large hospital, he witnessed of his faith in Jesus so much that many of the staff complained.

The director of medicine called Levan in to respond to the complaints. Levan requested that he be given the opportunity to address the entire medical staff. The director agreed, and called 120 physicians and nurses to the meeting hall. For two hours, Dr. Levan preached the Gospel. Afterward, one by one, 20 doctors came to him asking him to teach them. In time, ten of them were saved.

with seriously ill and dying people. Many times, it has been impossible to save their lives . . . and it has served to make him a



Dr. Levan never misses an opportunity for the Gospel.

In a neighboring Muslim country, Dr. Levan became acquainted with the leader of a mosque, who invited him to teach an Old Testament series. After several months, the

very aggressive evangelist. Physical life and death are not the most important issues. The paramount issues are spiritual life and spiritual death! All souls are eternal. People do not realize that if they refuse to listen to the Gospel, that they are willing themselves to endure horrible punishment in hell forever!



Dr. Levan's ministry has even reached into the lives of Muslims.

regional Muslim authorities heard about it and he was asked to stop. Twenty of his students left with him and a new church was planted. Levan's photo was placed on a wanted poster at the border crossing.

Dr. Levan says, "We must take away their freedom not to listen!" He says that we cannot worry about offending them. We cannot be concerned that they will reject us. We must make them understand that to reject the Gospel is to will themselves to eternal suffering in the lake of fire. May the Lord help us all to more fully grasp the importance of being lovingly aggressive in our witness for Christ!

As a surgeon, he has spent most of his life



That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God (Psalm 78:6,7).

That They Might Set Their Hope in God . . .

Reaching Orphans in Kurgan, Russia

Pastor Alexander Yurovskikh
Kurgan, Russia

had learned word by word. We saw God's blessings in all these events, and it was the answer to our prayers. The children did not want us to leave. They said they would be looking forward to meet with us again.

In the summer, God blessed us to serve orphans and other children in four villages.

We prepared everything we needed for the camp sessions. We formed a team with eight people, and the children readily took part in the program. They invited their friends to come. Parents, their children, and other adults came to the club to observe, listening to what we said and watching what we did.

The Lord blessed us with nice weather during the children's activities and we received it as God's blessing. There were thunderstorms and heavy rains, but it did not hinder our meetings with children. We had blessings and also had some difficulties. We needed permission to enter three villages. As we had come from Kurgan, we needed to have permission for entrance, as the villages are on the border with Kazakhstan. It took me several days to obtain permission for the visit there.

Even the staff of village clubs and the orphanages not only watched, but joined in the activities! They were surprised to see the zeal and love among Christians who were working with the kids without any payment, serving them freely. The children eagerly took part in all the games with great interest. They learned the Christian songs, listened to Bible stories with interest, and loved to attend the craft lessons. At the next Bible class, the children repeated the biblical stories they

One more challenge was that my wife, Nadia, had a gallbladder attack, and she was in the hospital ten days. Despite the challenges, we succeeded in holding all planned activities for the children in the villages. The Lord blessed our ministry in a special way. There were 152 children who heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Summer Camp Season 2011

Tomsk, Russia

Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, we are able to share only a few excerpts from the many wonderful camp reports. For more detailed stories, please visit our website at <http://www.sga.org>.

Another blessed year of camp ministry in the Tomsk region is over, and we thank God and all those who worked together with us! More than 150 were in our camps, with 23 children repenting and 8 now come to the church.

Fifteen kids said that they heard about the Bible for the first time. We had a youth camp and a sports camp as well. More than 100 local Christians helped with these activities, and more than 300 people were reached with the Gospel.

One of the camp highlights was a skit about the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus prepared by some older boys. All the camp workers were deeply moved and even cried. Even we adults wanted to pray to Christ afterward and confess our sins! On the final day, 13 kids came forward and asked the Lord into their hearts. We had never seen so many children repenting in the camp at one time!

There were children from unsaved families and orphans. We took it as a miracle that unsaved children came to our Bible classes, even when they had dancing or other amusements taking place at the same time. They preferred to fellowship with us. One boy from the orphanage repented at the service. Glory be to our God! It would not have been possible without your prayer support and financial support!

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A Fruitful 2011 Camp Season

12,938 children reached ...

9 participating countries: Russia (125 camps), Ukraine (52 camps), Belarus (34 camps), Kazakhstan (14 camps), Uzbekistan (7 camps), Tajikistan (7 camps), Turkmenistan (6 camps), Armenia (1 camp) and Azerbaijan (3 camps) ...

7,728 children from non-believing families ...

2,151 children from orphanages ...

306 participating churches ...

Behold, children are a gift of the Lord ... (Psalm 127:3).



Melnikovo, Russia

At our youth camp this year, we studied the qualities of a real Christian in the camp. We had Bible classes every day and also reached people in Melnikovo. We organized a volleyball tournament one evening, and a team of local people played with us at a local college. After the game, we gave each member of the village team a New Testament with testimonies of Christian sportsmen and DVDs. We then invited unsaved kids to our camp for fellowship.

The Lord blessed us richly. More than 40 people attended the camp, and ten of them expressed interest in learning more about Christ. They saw our lives as Christians, listened to the Gospel, and we will continue to keep relationships with them. Pray!



Overcoming Obstacles for the Glory of Christ

... Remove every obstacle out of the way of My people ... (Isaiah 57:14).

Sergei Naboychenko
SGA-Sponsored Missionary Pastor
Kaluga, Russia

The Russian region and city of Kaluga has quite a lot of history behind it. Napoleon's armies mounted a failed attempt to escape from Russia through this region in 1812. Hitler's armies occupied Kaluga during World War II. Most notably, Kaluga was the home of Konstantin Tsiolkovsky — a scientist who was Russia's Werner Von Braun or Robert Goddard in terms of developing rocket science. Today, SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Sergei Naboychenko finds the Kaluga region to be a fertile spiritual harvest field, despite occasional obstacles to their ministry ...

During the summer, we held our evangelistic bicycle rally and God blessed it. During July, we visited eight towns in the Kaluga region and were met with a great amount of interest. We encountered obstacles thrown up by the local authorities, but God always turned them around for our good.

For example, in the town of Sorensky, the mayor demanded that we stop our evangelistic meeting even though we had already received permission from higher regional authorities. After a long negotiation, they gave us another "unpopular" place from their point of view for our meeting. But as it turned out, on

that precise day many of the inhabitants of the town came there for various reasons. We were so happy that God brought evil out of good yet again.

In late July, Sergei's church held two outreach camps for children and youth in the towns of Maloyaroslavets and Sukhinichi. Many of the children heard about Christ for the first time, and did not know about the Bible or even how to pray.



So many children have yet to hear of Christ's love.

And they have such deep needs! One young Roma* boy even asked God to help him so that his parents would allow him to go to school instead of begging on the streets. The church has photos of each child along with their prayer requests. Sergei believes that the seeds have been sown for a great spiritual harvest. The church also has an active small group ministry, with three in progress and several more to begin soon.

Please pray for Sergei and his ministry, and especially for the follow-up contacts that will be taking place with the children.

**Editor's Note: "Roma" is the correct name for the people group commonly known as "gypsies." Among the Roma, the word "gypsy" is considered highly offensive.*

Orphans Reborn

Don't let another life slip by ...

1 year + \$60 = discipleship of a Russian-speaking orphan desperately needing to hear the life-changing Gospel?



How You Can Help

Missionary pastors across the lands of Russia are passionate about sharing the Gospel across their local regions. Whether ministering to orphans or different indigenous ethnic groups, these faithful brothers and their families are planting seeds that, by God's grace, will mature into a fruitful spiritual harvest. Your prayers and financial support provide these dedicated servants of Christ with the resources needed to carry on with their effective ministries. With your help, they

are able to equip people in their region with Bibles and other Christian literature; provide discipleship materials to local Sunday schools; conduct evangelistic outreaches such as children's summer camp ministries; or mentor children through *Orphans Reborn*.

Innercircle Perspective



Dr. Robert W. Provost
SGA President

I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:4).

The Lord has been gracious to bring us through another year of service to Him. He has worked through your prayers and sacrificial support. Our hearts are filled with gratitude to Him, and to you for your faithful partnership in the Gospel.

Recently, SGA partners helped gather faithful servants of Christ from 13 nations. There were hundreds of pastors from the CIS, the Republic of Georgia, and Israel. Included were pastors from six Muslim countries where oppression is severe.

A former Muslim mullah shared with me how the Lord had saved him through a Christian cartoon. It encouraged him to compare the Koran with the Bible. The Bible exposed Mohammad's distortions and deceptions, and the Gospel was clear. The Lord saved him, and now he is preaching Bible messages on the radio. Another former mullah has been ordained as a pastor.

It was refreshing to spend time with such zealous soldiers of the King who daily endure hardships and keep pressing on with no complaints. They give little thought to turbulent economic and political conditions. To them the big picture never changes. Men, women, and children are headed—unknowingly—to a Christless eternity of unimaginable suffering. Compared to this, all other issues pale in significance!

What matters most is faithfulness to Christ and to His Great Commission. Their priorities are rescuing people from hell and gathering them into a Bible-preaching church, where they will learn how to serve Christ and make a difference . . . an eternal difference!

The Lord is powerfully changing lives in the most unlikely places. It is our joy, together, to serve such faithful brothers in Christ through our prayers, support, and provision of study Bibles, commentaries, and other study aids.



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