

Ministry Report 2009



For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers (1 Timothy 4:10).

Challenge and opportunity . . . those are perhaps the best two words to describe 2009 for SGA both in North America, and across the lands of Russia. Our mission's 75th year began with significant challenges as the global economy continued in recession, impacting our ministries as well as the resources of SGA partners. Despite these difficulties, God demonstrated His faithfulness as the Gospel continued to advance in Russia and her neighboring countries throughout the year. Among the key highlights of 2009 were 75th Anniversary Weekend Rallies in many key partner churches, and our *75th Anniversary Celebration and Conference*, immediately followed by our first *Stand Strong Pastors' Conference* in late September. These events not only resulted in glory and praise to God for what He has accomplished in the lives of so many, but also in renewed commitment to press forward and complete what He has called us to do — to help Bible-preaching churches reach Russian-speaking people with the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Challenge of Growing Opposition

. . . in no way alarmed by your opponents, which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God (Philippians 1:28).

As has been the case for the past several years, evangelical churches and individual believers in the former Soviet Union continued to face growing pressure from governmental authorities and other religious groups. The situation was especially difficult in Uzbekistan, beginning with the arrest of SGA-sponsored church planter Pavel Nenno, who conducted a ministry for homeless children. The authorities shut down the children's shelter Pavel operated, charging him with conducting illegal religious activity with children. Pavel was released after spending several days in jail, and the ordeal had significant impact on his health and that of his wife, Oksana. Later in the summer, authorities moved against the Uzbek UECB's Camp Joy children's

ministry on similar grounds, bringing charges against the



Pavel Peichev

camp director, a UECB accountant and Pastor Pavel Peichev, president of the Uzbek UECB. After a fall trial, the three were fined severely and forbidden from holding church positions or engaging in ministry for three years. Their convictions were being appealed as of this writing.

These are only a few examples of what our brothers and sisters are increasingly facing, and a vivid reminder of what believers endured during the dark days of Soviet communism. We praise and thank the Lord for their faithful example of endurance and faith under fire, while praying that God will protect them, and restrain those who would hinder the progress of the Gospel.

Opportunity and Progress in Bible Training

Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all (1 Timothy 4:15).

Over the course of 2009, SGA continued sponsorship of key UECB seminaries and Bible institutes across the Commonwealth of Independent States. In the period between the fall of 2008 and May 2009, a total of 186 faithful servants of the Lord successfully completed their studies in preparation for lifetimes of service to Christ as pastors, evangelist/church planters, youth leaders, children's workers, etc. This brings the overall total of graduates in all schools to 3,726.

We are praising God for the first terms of classes held at the new



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SGA-sponsored International Bible Institute of Ukraine (IBIU), which trains missionaries to plant churches in the Central Asian nations and other nations. The opening enrollment consisted of ten students from different countries of the CIS, the Middle East and America. Courses taught were *Hermeneutics, Biblical Foundation and History of Christian Missions, Old Testament Survey and Greek Grammar*.

Other key Bible training opportunities during 2009 were the Strategic Bible Institutes held in the Russian cities of Kursk and Surgut. The Surgut SBI concluded in May with 23 students graduating, while the Kursk SBI is expected to conclude in early 2010 with 11 students graduating. In addition, the SGA-sponsored Bible institute at Irpen Biblical Seminary in Ukraine began a Bachelor of Pastoral Ministry program by correspondence, while the Bible institute at Minsk Theological Seminary in Belarus has started biblical counseling, missions and evangelism programs. These programs are part-time at both institutes.

At this writing, we project that enrollment at all schools for the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 terms will be about 800 students.

The Opportunity of Challenge 75 and Church Planting in Russia

At SGA's 75th Anniversary Celebration in September, President Bob Provost announced the beginning of *Challenge 75*, which is a new effort to jump-start a second wave of planting churches in Russia. While the Gospel has been heard in most major population centers, there are still thousands of smaller cities, towns and villages yet unreached across Russia's 11 time zones. The goal of *Challenge 75* is to sponsor and equip 75 national missionaries for two years. But even that is only a beginning, as church leaders in the CIS nations have reported that 600 faithful men are ready to reach their regions for Christ, but need sponsors.

Despite the ongoing economic downturn in 2009, SGA partners helped sponsor a total of 347 missionary-evangelists and their families in seven nations — 171 in Russia, 112 in Ukraine, 35 in Belarus, 18 in Kazakhstan, 7 in Uzbekistan, two each in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, and one in Albania. This support is a tremendous encouragement to these faithful men, especially in Uzbekistan where persecution rivals that in many

completely "closed" countries of the world. Missionaries and their families have been hit hard by the economic turmoil, and the living costs they face place significant strain on their families. Yet they are more committed than ever to complete the God-given task of reaching their people for Christ.

Russia's Young — The Opportunity of Tomorrow

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' because everywhere I send you, you shall go, and all that I command you, you shall speak (Jeremiah 1:7).

Ministry to youth and children continues to grow across the lands of Russia, and SGA partners continued to support it in a significant way during 2009. The Bible-preaching churches we serve recognize that reaching children and youth with the Gospel is vital for the future of their nation. And once reached, the young are often the best evangelists to reach their families, friends and loved ones.

During *Immanuel's Child* Christmas ministries between December 2008 and January 2009, some 13,709 children were reached along with 8,500 adults or caregivers. More than 880 children began attending Sunday school at local churches as a result of these outreaches. This brings the overall total of children reached to more than 74,000 since *Immanuel's Child* began in 2002. Participating this year were churches in nine countries — Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.



Outreach also continued through the SGA-sponsored *Orphans Reborn* ministry in 2009. Churches in five countries, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia and Kazakhstan, conducted the ministry. A total of 12,500 children in approximately 135 orphanages or children's homes received regular visits from faithful church workers who have dedicated themselves to reaching these young children for Christ.

Summer camp ministry also continued to be a tremendous time of opportunity to reach children and youth with Christ's love. With reports still coming in, evangelical churches across the CIS conducted 184 children's camps, reaching more than 10,000 children. Of that number, more than 6,000 children came from non-believing families, and more than 1,900 repented and trusted in Christ during the

Challenge 75
Reaching the
"Forgotten Russia"

camp sessions. Almost 1,000 children began attending local churches after the camps concluded. We praise and thank the Lord for these results.

The development of youth ministry continued to progress in 2009 across Russia under the leadership of national youth director Eugene Bakhmutsky and fellow youth pastors. SGA/Canada partners assisted by helping to sponsor a key youth leaders conference in February, with more than 700 church youth directors attending, plus a regional youth coordinators' planning meeting in September.



The Opportunity of Growing *Antioch* Partnerships

The SGA-sponsored *Antioch Initiative* continued to develop across Russia in 2009. Key highlights included the first *Antioch* graduation in Ufa — the first group of students to complete the 16-course pastoral training program. The Northern California *Antioch* Coalition supports the work at the Ufa church, and this event brought great joy to all who participated, prayed and labored to bring it to pass. In addition, with the help of their supporting North American coalitions, several key church construction projects were completed in the *Antioch* locations of Voronezh, Ufa, and Stavropol.

At the end of 2009, the 18 *Antioch* locations in Russia were supported by 18 coalitions of North American churches. The coalitions are made up of 90 supporting churches, whose pastors and teams participated in supporting *Antioch* ministries in the regions. Here is a breakdown of current statistics for the *Antioch Initiative*:

Participating North American churches	90
Training courses completed	136
Missionaries supported by coalitions	52
Ministry teams sent	31
Construction/Renovation Teams	3
(supporting 21 projects)	
North American church visits overseas	168

New Russian-Language Literature Opportunities

It is exciting to see what God has accomplished — and continues to accomplish — through the printed page in the CIS. The Lord has enabled us to add several new authors to our collective bibliography for pastors, seminary

students, Bible institute students, national missionary-evangelists and church members

We are pleased that Mark Dever, pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., has made his book on church polity, *The Deliberate Church: Building Your Church on the Gospel*, available to SGA. Eunice Priddy, a long time missionary with ABWE, has provided her book, *Women of the Bible*, for wives of pastors and church planters. This volume has encouraged many women in her ministry to missionary wives. In addition, *Days of Praise*, graciously provided by the leaders of the Institute for Creation Research, is a wonderful daily devotional booklet that will be a blessing to all the church members. Many months of negotiating has secured SGA the rights to publish a commentary on the entire New Testament in the Polish language at a significant fraction of the original cost. This will be a long-term project. And finally, great progress has been made on the *Faith to Grow On Children's Bible*. It is in final stages of preparation for printing and distribution. Our greatest challenge now is the funding of these final steps to completion.

During 2009, SGA printed nearly 70,000 books. The total distribution was more than 220,000 copies! We praise the Lord for enabling all this to transpire through the efforts of our partners in prayer and finances.

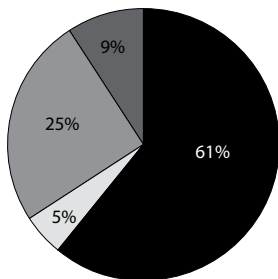
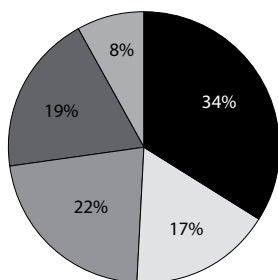
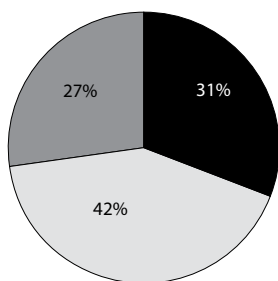
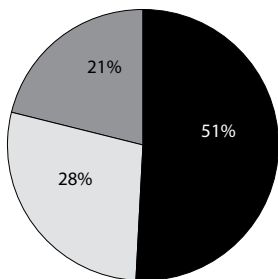
Church Construction Opportunities.

During 2009, SGA continued to assist in the construction and/or renovations of Houses of Prayer (church buildings) across the lands of Russia. In all, we assisted a total of nine projects:

- 1) Kolodische (Belarus)
- 2) Schelkovo (Moscow region, Russia)
- 3) Beslan House of Prayer (Russia)
- 4) Donskoy Church (Rostov, Russia)
- 5) Medvedev House of Prayer (St. Petersburg, Russia)
- 6) Second Tambov Church (Tambov, Russia)
- 7) Uchaly House of Prayer (Ufa region, Russia)
- 8) Pavlovsk House of Prayer (Voronezh, Russia)
- 9) Ivanovo House of Prayer (Ivanovo region, Russia)

In Schelkovo, land has been purchased and construction is proceeding quickly. The foundation, walls and roof have been completed, with the goal of installing the windows and doors by winter. The next major step is to connect the gas line and plumbing, and then the finishing work. Many pastors in the Moscow region have assisted in this effort, and we look forward to seeing how God will work through this church.

2009 Ministry Report



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Statement of Financial Position as of 6/30/09

Assets

• Current Assets	\$1,603,836	51%
• Land, Buildings & Equipment	882,370	28%
• Other	654,553	21%

Total	\$3,140,759	100%
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Liabilities and Net Assets

• Unrestricted Net Assets	\$975,088	31%
• Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,328,135	42%
• Liabilities	837,536	27%

Total	\$3,140,759	100%
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Statement of Activities for Year Ended 6/30/09

Expenses

Ministry & Supporting Activities

• Equipping	\$3,100,298	34%
• Training	1,493,429	17%
• Evangelism-Church Planting	1,984,673	22%
• Advancement	1,714,112	19%
• Administration	691,557	8%

Total	\$8,984,069	100%
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Ministry Activities	\$6,578,400
Supporting Activities	2,405,669
Non-operating Activities	850

Total Expenses	\$8,984,919
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Revenue

Partner Support

• Individual Support	\$5,238,865	61%
• Donated Materials & Services	452,790	5%
• Churches	2,100,248	25%
• Foundation Grants	747,442	9%

Total	\$8,539,345	100%
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Partner Support	\$8,539,345
Other	13,140
Non-operating	0

Total Revenue	\$8,552,485
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*Financial figures on this page solely reflect SGA ministry activity for the fiscal year ended 6/30/09. However, all activities within the ministry report itself reflect the 2009 calendar year.

**Full audited financial statements are available on request.