For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite (Isaiah 57:15).

Sudden geopolitical changes continued to sweep the world in 2011. Although much of the world’s attention was drawn to events in the Middle East, significant events also impacted Russia and her neighboring countries, — where SGA has been called to serve since 1934.

Governments across the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) continued to crack down on religious freedom, especially in the republics of Central Asia. New restrictive laws were passed in Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan’s government continued to increase pressure on evangelical churches. Supporters of the new restrictions argued that they were needed to protect against Islamic extremism, yet Christian churches seemed to bear the brunt. Despite this, evangelical churches continued to proclaim the Gospel and bear significant fruit in 2011.

The economy continued to be a tremendous challenge in 2011, with continued high unemployment nationwide. This had significant impact on SGA ministries and the resources of our partners, yet the Lord faithfully continued to provide and we are praising Him for what He has done. May you be blessed as you read of the wonderful fruit borne through your prayers and faithful partnership.

The Foundation of Biblical Training

...preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 28:31).

During 2011, SGA partners and churches across the CIS rejoiced as we celebrated the 20th anniversaries of Irpen Biblical Seminary in Ukraine and Almaty Bible Institute in Kazakhstan. SGA president Dr. Bob Provost and numerous other guests were present at the ceremonies, which gave glory to God for all that has been accomplished through these dedicated schools since their founding days following the fall of Soviet communism.

In 2011, SGA partners continued sponsorship of key seminaries and Bible institutes across Russia and her neighboring countries. For the 2011-2012 academic year, there were 841 students enrolled at the following schools: Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary (Russia); Minsk Theological Seminary (Belarus); Irpen Biblical Seminary, International Bible Institute of Ukraine, and Odessa Theological Seminary (Ukraine), Almaty Bible Institute (Kazakhstan); and the Tajik Bible Institute (Tajikistan). A total of 190 students graduated, and are serving faithfully in their churches. In addition, the newest school — the specialized International Bible
Institute of Ukraine — had its first graduating class of five students. They will be serving in Muslim and other least-reached nations.

Over the past two decades, more than 4,000 faithful servants of Christ have graduated from SGA-sponsored seminaries and Bible institutes. Join us in praising and thanking the Lord for this wonderful achievement, which will serve to advance the Gospel even further across the CIS and other nations.

Faithful Missionary Pastors Continue Bearing Fruit

SGA continued support of faithful missionary pastors in the midst of many challenges over the course of 2011. SGA partners helped sponsor a total of 363 missionary pastors in nine nations — Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, as well as in Georgia, and several Central Asian nations.

Due to increasing persecution in the Muslim-dominated Central Asian nations, SGA began limiting our reporting on specific missionary pastors and their locations. In Kazakhstan, the president signed legislation that threatens severe restrictions on the ministry. New laws ban unregistered religious activity, imposes compulsory religious censorship and requires both central and local government approval to build or open new places of worship. All religious communities will be required to register or face liquidation. Children’s ministry also faces significant threats.

Despite these challenges, our brothers and sisters remain undaunted in proclaiming the Gospel to their people. It is a privilege to support their labors for God’s glory.

The Growth of Russian Youth in Ministry

O God, you have taught me from my youth, and I still declare Your wondrous deeds (Psalm 71:17).

During 2011, SGA partners supported key youth ministry initiatives in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. There were nine locations — Irkutsk, Khabarovsk, Krasnoyarsk, Antioch Initiative

Continued progress was seen in ministry related to the SGA-sponsored Antioch Initiative across Russia over the course of the year. During 2011, a total of 24 Antioch training courses were completed, along with 10 non-ministry training trips. We are thankful to the Lord that several of the training sessions were taught by Russian-speaking nationals.

The Ivanovo Antioch group graduated 22 students in March, and in May, a brand new Antioch location was launched in the Russian city of Pskov. Now that Ivanovo (Indiana Coalition) and Ufa (Northern California Coalition), Belgorod (New Mexico Coalition), Chita (Florida Coalition), Kabardino-Balkaria (Wisconsin Coalition), Nižniy Novgorod (Atlantic Canada Coalition), Orel (Colorado Coalition), Pskov (Montana Coalition), Rostov (Oklahoma Coalition), Byanzen (Illinois Coalition), St. Petersburg (Houston Coalition), Stavropol (Southern Ontario Coalition), Tambor (Idaho Coalition), Tomsk (Kansas Coalition), Volgograd (Western Canada Coalition) and Voronezh (Western Michigan Coalition). There are a total of 72 churches across North America that make up supporting Antioch Coalitions. During the course of 2011, there were 31 visits by North American church teams to Antioch locations across Russia.

New Developments in Russian-Language Bibles and Christian Literature

Establish Your Word to your servant, as that which produces reverence for You (Psalm 119:38).

The Lord graciously provided resources for production of Russian-language Bibles and Christian literature during 2011. A total of 10,000 copies of the MacArthur Study Bible in the Russian language were printed, bringing the total in print to 55,000 copies. They have been distributed to pastors, missionaries, and students in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, all the Muslim nations of the CIS, and in Israel. Partnering with the Institute for Creation Research, SGA also produced a Russian version of their daily devotional, Days of Praise, for the Russian UECB church membership. With the aid of Grace to You, we also translated and printed 5,000 copies of Dr. John MacArthur’s new book, Slave. Distribution has begun in 13 countries.

We are thankful to God for a joint project with Ken Ham and Answers in Genesis. SGA helped produce a Russian version of the Foundations video series, which affirms a biblical, young earth view of creation, as well as Christian apologetics. The new series was presented to regional pastors from all the states of Russia, and national leaders from all the countries of the CIS and the Republic of Georgia. The two-DVD sets were produced along with an electronic Russian-language study and leader guide. Our prayer is that many hearts will be reached with the Gospel through this powerful tool.

Humanitarian Aid

Children’s Hunger Fund partnered with SGA in 2011 for the purpose of equipping local churches across the CIS to reach out with humanitarian aid and the Gospel to needy families. Compassion Ministry training of more than 50 SGA-supported missionary pastors has been conducted, both in Belarus and Ukraine, with 23 churches being equipped in Belarus to reach a combined minimum of 230 families every two weeks for three months. The ministry will expand to Ukraine in the next calendar year.

Small packages of aid were sent to Central Asian countries, and were distributed by local churches to children and their families in need, as well as to schools.

Church Construction

During 2011, SGA partners contributed to at least ten church construction and/or renovation projects in different locations across the CIS. In Russia, two construction projects were supported in the regions of Ivanovo and Tambor. In the regions of Volgograd (Otradnoyeho) and Voronezh, North American teams from Antioch Coalitions assisted construction projects. In Otradnoyeho, funds were also sent to help in the building of a playground and renovation of the church’s drug rehabilitation center.

In Ukraine, our partners helped fund a new sewer line for Odessa Theological Seminary. In Belarus, we supported construction of a church and repairs for another church in the Vitebsk region, and in Mogilev, funds were provided to help add an annex to the UECB church. In the republic of Georgia, SGA partners assisted with church construction in Tbilisi.
SGA continued support of faithful missionary pastors in the midst of many challenges over the course of 2011. SGA partners helped sponsor a total of 363 missionary pastors in nine nations — Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, as well as in Georgia, and several Central Asian nations. Despite these challenges, our brothers and sisters remain undaunted in proclaiming the Gospel to their people. It is significant threats. Register or face liquidation. Children’s ministry also faces worship. All religious communities will be required to re-register to build or open new places of worship. Children are a gift of the Lord (Psalm 127:3). Children’s ministry continued to be a joyful, fruitful area for SGA partners to support during 2011. Thanks to generous partner support, more than 260 SGA-sponsored missionary pastors and their congregations were able to reach nearly 15,000 children and an additional 9,000 adults with the Gospel message through Immanual’s Child during the 2011 Christmas season. As a result, almost 1,000 children are currently attending Sunday school and more than 400 adults are attending weekly church services. Furthermore, more than 500 adults and children repented and trusted Christ for salvation! The SGA-sponsored Orphans Reborn outreach continues to be one of our most exciting and fruitful ministries. The total number of children reached was more than 8,000, while the teams are ministering in an increasing number of regions. The changes are due to several orphanages being closed by the government, as they make way for a foster-care approach, and the rising cost of transportation. By God’s grace, there are nearly 100 orphans who are now active in ministry, and the ministry is widening.

Summer camp ministries took place in nine nations, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia, plus several Central Asian countries. A total of 246 camps were held, with 303 participating churches, and nearly 13,000 children reached. Of that number, 7,655 children came from non-believing families, more than 2,100 were from orphanages, and 231 were homeless children. Most important and joyful of all — 2,077 children repented and trusted Christ as their Savior after hearing the Gospel during their time at camp. A total of 1,066 boys and girls are now attending Sunday school at local evangelical churches.

Orphans Reborn

During 2011, SGA partners supported key youth ministry initiatives in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. There were nine locations — Irkutsk, Khabarovsk, Krasnoyarsk, Antioch Initiative

Continued progress was seen in ministry related to the SGA-sponsored Antioch Initiative across Russia over the course of the year. During 2011, a total of 24 Antioch training courses were completed, along with 10 non-ministry training trips. We are thankful to the Lord that several of the training sessions were taught by Russian-speaking nationals.

The Ivanovo Antioch group graduated 22 students in March, and in May, a brand new Antioch location was launched in the Russian city of Pavlov. Now that Ivanovo (Indiana Coalition) and Ufa (Northern California Coalition) have completed their programs, there are currently 15 Antioch locations — Arkhangelsk (Eastern Washington Coalition), Belgorod (New Mexico Coalition), Chita (Florida Coalition), Kabardino-Balkaria (Wisconsin Coalition), Nizhniy Novgorod (Atlantic Canada Coalition), Orel (Colorado Coalition), Pavlov (Montana Coalition), Rostov (Oklahoma Coalition), Byanaz (Illinois Coalition), St. Petersburg (Houston Coalition), Stavropol (Southern Ontario Coalition), Tambow (Idaho Coalition), Tomsk (Kansas Coalition), Volograd (Western Canada Coalition) and Voronez (Western Michigan Coalition). There are a total of 72 churches across North America that make up supporting Antioch Coalitions. During the course of 2011, there were 31 visits by North American church teams to Antioch locations across Russia.

New Developments in Russian-Language Bibles and Christian Literature

Establish Your Word to your servant, as that which produces reverence for You (Psalm 119:38).

The Lord graciously provided resources for production of Russian-language Bibles and Christian literature during 2011. A total of 10,000 copies of the MacArthur Study Bible in the Russian language were printed, bringing the total in print to 55,000 copies. They have been distributed to pastors, missionaries, and students in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, all the Muslim nations of the CIS, and in Israel. Partnering with the Institute for Creation Research, SGA also produced a Russian version of their daily devotional, Days of Praise, for the Russian UECB church membership. With the aid of Grace to You, we also translated and printed 5,000 copies of Dr. John MacArthur’s new book, Slave. Distribution has begun in 13 countries.

We are thankful to God for a joint project with Ken Ham and Answers in Genesis. SGA helped produce a Russian version of the Foundations video series, which affirms a biblical, young earth view of creation, as well as Christian apologetics. The new series was presented to regional pastors from all the states of Russia, and national leaders from all the countries of the CIS and the Republic of Georgia. The two-DVD sets were produced along with an electronic Russian-language study and leader guide. Our prayer is that many hearts will be reached with the Gospel through this powerful tool.

Humanitarian Aid

Children’s Hunger Fund partnered with SGA in 2011 for the purpose of equipping local churches across the CIS to reach out with humanitarian aid and the Gospel to needy families. Compassion Ministry training of more than 50 SGA-supported missionary pastors has been conducted, both in Belarus and Ukraine, with 23 churches being equipped in Belarus to reach a combined minimum of 230 families every two weeks for three months. The ministry will expand to Ukraine in the next calendar year.

Small packages of aid were sent to Central Asian countries, and were distributed by local churches to children and their families in need, as well as to schools.

Church Construction

During 2011, SGA partners contributed to at least ten church construction and/or renovation projects in different locations across the CIS. In Russia, two construction projects were supported in the regions of Ivanovo and Tambow. In the regions of Volgograd (Otradnoyhe) and Voronez, North American teams from Antioch Coalitions assisted construction projects. In Otradnoyhe, funds were also sent to help in the building of a playground and renovation of the church’s drug rehabilitation center. In Ukraine, our partners helped fund a new sewer line for Odessa Theological Seminary. In Belarus, we supported construction of a church and repairs for another church in the Vitebsk region, and in Mogilev, funds were provided to help add an annex to the UECB church. In the republic of Georgia, SGA partners assisted with church construction in Tbilisi.
For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite (Isaiah 57:15).

Sudden geopolitical changes continued to sweep the world in 2011. Although much of the world’s attention was drawn to events in the Middle East, significant events also impacted Russia and her neighboring countries, — where SGA has been called to serve since 1934.

Governments across the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) continued to crack down on religious freedom, especially in the republics of Central Asia. New restrictive laws were passed in Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan’s government continued to increase pressure on evangelical churches. Supporters of the new restrictions argued that they were needed to protect against Islamic extremism, yet Christian churches seemed to bear the brunt. Despite this, evangelical churches continued to proclaim the Gospel and bear significant fruit in 2011.

The economy continued to be a tremendous challenge in 2011, with continued high unemployment nationwide. This had significant impact on SGA ministries and the resources of our partners, yet the Lord faithfully continued to provide and we are praising Him for what He has done. May you be blessed as you read of the wonderful fruit borne through your prayers and faithful partnership.

The Foundation of Biblical Training ... preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 28:31).

During 2011, SGA partners and churches across the CIS rejoiced as we celebrated the 20th anniversaries of Irpen Biblical Seminary in Ukraine and Almaty Bible Institute in Kazakhstan. SGA president Dr. Bob Provost and numerous other guests were present at the ceremonies, which gave glory to God for all that has been accomplished through these dedicated schools since their founding days following the fall of Soviet communism.

In 2011, SGA partners continued sponsorship of key seminaries and Bible institutes across Russia and her neighboring countries. For the 2011-2012 academic year, there were 841 students enrolled at the following schools: Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary (Russia); Minsk Theological Seminary (Belarus); Irpen Biblical Seminary, International Bible Institute of Ukraine, and Odessa Theological Seminary (Ukraine), Almaty Bible Institute (Kazakhstan); and the Tajik Bible Institute (Tajikistan). A total of 190 students graduated, and are serving faithfully in their churches. In addition, the newest school — the specialized International Bible