

Ministry Report

2012

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ . . . (1 Peter 1:6-7).

When reflecting on the year 2012, there are two key phrases that accurately summarize events for SGA, the evangelical churches we serve across the lands of Russia, and our faithful partners. Great challenge . . . and great victory in the Lord!

The challenges were many. Four years of severe economic stress continued to take its toll on both private and public sectors. Coupled with the uncertainty of an election year here in the United States, the impact on SGA's partners and our mission's resources has been significant.

Advancing Bible Training



During 2012, SGA partners continued to faithfully and prayerfully support SGA-sponsored seminaries and Bible institutes across the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). One key highlight of the year was the beginning of a new theology program offered in the former Soviet republic of Estonia by Minsk Theological Seminary in Belarus. According to seminary president Pastor Leonid Mihovich, a total of 38 students began their study in the program,

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which will “train pastors, deacons, preachers, youth leaders, Christian education workers, and evangelists from Russian-speaking churches in Estonia.” Also—in connection with Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary in Russia—SGA partners enabled Pastors Gerhard Rehwald, Eugene Bakhmutsky and Pavel Togobitsky to complete their first year of doctoral studies at Baptist Bible Seminary in Clark’s Summit, Pennsylvania.

In 2012, 238 students graduated from SGA-sponsored seminaries and Bible institutes. We currently have a total of 940 students enrolled in four seminaries and three Bible institutes in the CIS. As this report was being prepared, Minsk Theological Seminary was preparing to launch a new Biblical Counseling track and the number of enrollees has not yet been finalized.

Missionary Pastor Sponsorship and Support



Missionary pastors rejoice when new believers are baptized and give their public testimony.

SGA partners continued to prayerfully stand with faithful missionary pastors throughout 2012, with many encountering increasing pressure from local and national governments—especially in the Central Asian republics. A total of 349 missionary pastors are being sponsored by SGA partners in 12 countries, some of which we cannot name for security reasons. The pastors and their churches engage in a wide variety of outreaches including worship services, home Bible study groups, ministry at orphanages, schools, hospitals, prisons, and even street evangelism where permitted.

The situation regarding increased persecution in the former Soviet Union is deeply troubling to our hearts. In November, a key Baptist church in Turkmenbashi (Krasnovodsk), Turkmenistan, was burned to the ground. As of this writing, the cause was still under investigation by authorities. In Azerbaijan, authorities raided the church of an SGA-sponsored missionary pastor while he was at a Moscow hospital with his cancer-stricken, terminally ill wife. All the church’s Bibles and Christian literature was confiscated.

Despite these heartbreaking setbacks and challenges, the faith of our brothers and sisters remains steadfast. The Lord brought them through the fiery trial of communist oppression during the Soviet days, and their trust is in Him now. And the prayers and support of SGA partners are a tremendous encouragement. *Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers (3 John 5).*

Youth IN Ministry



Construction projects are one of many ways young people serve their churches.

One of SGA’s newest and exciting ministry emphases is Youth IN Ministry, which involves the training and equipping of youth who are actually serving their local churches in ministry. These youth are not simply attenders at weekly youth group meetings. They are directly involved in the ministry lives of their churches and are growing in their faith.

Initially, the Youth IN Ministry focus was largely in Russia with seven locations, but that has since expanded to Ukraine with eight locations, Belarus with three, and Kazakhstan with one—a total of 19 locations. SGA partners help local churches equip youth for ministry today through providing discipleship and evangelistic materials, travel assistance for outreach, training, and other helps for their developing evangelistic and compassion ministries.

The Blessing and Privilege of Children's Ministries



During 2012, SGA partners continued to joyfully participate in helping our Russian-speaking brothers and sisters reach children for Christ in every opportunity the Lord provided.

Thanks to the generous support of our partners, approximately 240 churches across the CIS were able to reach more than 15,000 children and an estimated 9,100 adults during *Immanuel's Child* Christmas ministries. We also anticipate about 900 children will be attending Sunday school as a result. These outreaches always result in hundreds of adults newly attending weekly church services, as well as hundreds of children and adults repenting and trusting in Christ for salvation! This vividly underscores why the Christmas season is the most important time of the year for evangelism across the CIS.

Summer camp ministries took place in 10 nations—Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and several other Central Asian and Caucasus Region

nations. There were 16,159 children attending the camps, with more than 9,000 from unbelieving families. More than 3,200 children responded to the Gospel, repented and trusted in Christ, and more than 2,100 began attending Sunday school for the first time. In addition, 426 adults or caregivers began attending local evangelical churches after their children participated in camp ministry! There were a total of 317 camps made possible by SGA partners, and 378 participating churches and missionary pastors.

We are thankful to the Lord for the way He is blessing the SGA-sponsored *Orphans Reborn* outreach in the CIS. The total number of children being reached is almost 9,000 children (8,926). Of that number, almost 5,000 children are regularly attending Bible classes. Ministry is ongoing in 112 orphanages, with 76 evangelical churches involved. It is a special blessing that 52 believing orphans who have graduated from their orphanage are themselves now reaching other orphan children through *Orphans Reborn* ministries!

Antioch Initiative



Antioch classes help equip missionary pastors and church workers to further the Gospel.

The SGA-sponsored *Antioch Initiative* in Russia continued to reflect a significant amount of ministry activity during 2012. Direct ministry support continued through the 12 North American *Antioch* Church Coalitions, with a total of 52 people traveling to Russia to conduct *Antioch* training and other related ministry business. There were 24 total trips involved, and

26 ministry or theological courses taught by Coalition-sponsored pastors and teachers.

During 2012, three *Antioch* locations in Russia conducted graduation ceremonies for their missionary pastor training programs—Tomsk, Voronezh, and Archangelsk. A total of 47 students graduated from these three locations, with others scheduled to finish in spring 2013. In addition, the *Antioch* church in Irkutsk resumed training with the first classes on Homiletics and Hermeneutics taking place in October.

SGA is deeply indebted to all the *Antioch* Coalition leaders and participating pastors, and all their respective churches for the outstanding work that they have done. Several hundred Russian pastors and missionary pastors have been equipped to conduct training programs and strengthen their churches throughout 20 oblasts (states) in Russia.

Bibles and Literature



Provision of Russian-language Bibles and Christian literature continued to be a key priority for SGA during 2012. The Lord graciously provided the resources to reprint 20,000 Russian Bibles with a center reference column. These Bibles were distributed in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Central Asia, and also made available for the new Bible training programs in Israel.

Important work also continued completing the translation and layout of the Russian-language version of Dr. John MacArthur's commentary

on 1 Peter. Resources are still being sought for the initial printing of 5,000 copies minimum. SGA missionary in Poland, Chris Osiecki, is also working on a Polish translation of Dr. MacArthur's one volume commentary on the New Testament.

We have also been expanding our outreach to Russian-speaking families through our websites. During 2012, sgaradio.org posted 40 new programs, and eight new book titles were posted on sgamedia.org.

New Opportunities to Serve the Lord in Israel!



2012 was a landmark year for SGA in that God continued to develop new opportunities to serve believers and Bible students in the land of the Bible and the Lord—Israel! In the earlier days of our mission, SGA helped reach out to Russian-speaking Jewish people who fled the Soviet Union. Extensive ministry to Jewish people was conducted in Rome and in Chicago, where our mission was founded. For two years we have sponsored a director of Bible training who has been conducting congregation-based Russian-language Bible training initiatives in three locations within Israel. To assist, adjunct professors have been coming from SGA-sponsored seminaries in Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Altogether, 84 men and women have participated, and 42 of them have completed all program requirements and received certificates from Irpen Biblical Seminary in Kiev, Ukraine.

In December, a Russian-language apologetics

seminar was held at Israel College of the Bible. In February, 2013 a Russian-language Bible program is scheduled to begin.

SGA is also developing a special partnership with the Bible Society in Israel. We are assisting with a Russian-language translation of *The Heart of the King*. This tremendous new resource explains through Scripture the heart of God for His chosen people, and the plan of God to accomplish their redemption. It contains useful charts that closely examine Messianic prophecies in the Bible and their ultimate fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are also engaged in the translation of *Can a Creature Be Your Teacher*, an excellent children's book that is also a publication of the Bible Society in Israel.

Compassion Ministry



Another key development in 2012 was the implementation of a joint partnership with Children's Hunger Fund (CHF) to distribute much-needed food to families living in extreme poverty in Belarus and Ukraine. CHF provides for the food parcels, which contain staple items such as flour, rice, cooking oil, pasta and other nutrition. SGA partners help fund the distribution of this aid through local missionary pastors. The families in need are often large with several children, and are in a variety of tragic situations such as disability and long-term unemployment. Local church families rendering such needed aid allows for relationships to be developed, through which

doors for evangelism are opened, addressing the greatest need. We have even seen children attending summer camps and Sunday schools as a result of this ministry. Parents or caregivers in these families have been drawn toward the Lord by the love shown to their children, and by God's people showing the compassion of Christ for their deep need.

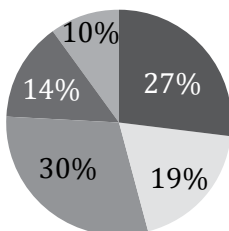
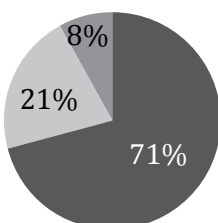
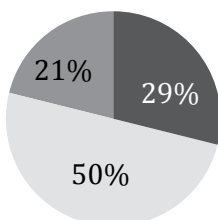
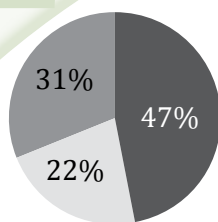
In Belarus, 21 missionary pastors are assisting 180 families, who are receiving food parcels twice a month. In Ukraine, 17 missionary pastors are helping 121 families who also receive the parcels twice a month. We are prayerfully seeking the Lord's direction about possible expansion of this compassion ministry into other CIS countries next year.

Church Construction



In 2012, SGA partners contributed toward eight church construction and/or renovation projects in the CIS. Work continued with ongoing projects in the Russian cities of Tambov and Ivanovo, and with new projects in Ufa, Volgodonsk and Tomsk. Construction projects were also assisted in Belarus, Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia. These projects are a tremendous encouragement to our brothers and sisters in these regions, and will enhance the effectiveness of their ministries.

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Financial Position as of 6/30/12

Assets

• Current Assets	\$1,795,133	47%
• Land, Buildings & Equipment	830,202	22%
• Other	1,180,054	31%

Total	\$3,805,389	100%
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Liabilities and Net Assets

• Liabilities	\$805,026	21%
• Unrestricted Net Assets	1,115,908	29%
• Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,884,455	50%

Total	\$3,805,389	100%
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Activities for Year Ended 6/30/12

Revenue

Partner Support

• Individual Support	\$5,113,533	71%
• Donated Materials & Services	4,704	0%
• Churches	1,517,993	21%
• Foundation Grants	600,935	8%

Total	\$7,237,165	100%
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Partner Support	\$7,237,165
Other	82,226

Total Revenue	\$7,319,391
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Expenses

Ministry & Supporting Activities

• Equipping	\$1,812,529	27%
• Training	1,322,826	19%
• Evangelism-Church Planting	2,019,876	30%
• Advancement	935,547	14%
• Administration	656,962	10%

Total	\$6,747,740	100%
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Ministry Activities	\$5,155,231
Supporting Activities	1,592,509

Total expenses	\$6,747,740
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