



Slavic Gospel Association

# Prayer & Praise

SHARING THE GOSPEL • EQUIPPING THE CHURCH • HELPING THE FORGOTTEN

*Please join us each day this month in praise for the work of Christ in the Russian speaking lands.*

*Scripture theme of the month: The eternal God is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms (Deuteronomy 33:27).*

**1 Reflection:** We begin the new year with the assurance of King David . . . *Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken (Psalm 55:22).*

**2** One of SGA president Michael Johnson's main tasks is exploring new opportunities to share the SGA ministry story with more and more people across North America. Please ask the Lord to grant him wisdom and direction.

**3** With the harsh winter in full force, SGA-sponsored Compassion Ministry is all the more important in helping to provide food and other assistance to the needy. Pray for abundant resources to help the churches reach as many as possible.

**4** Pray today for SGA/New Zealand, led by director Rick Hemmingsen. Pray for more opportunities for Rick and board chairman Peter Somervell to speak at churches and acquaint people with the abundant ministry opportunities across the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).



## RUSSIA



**5** The Russian government agency Rosstat reports that average life expectancy has gone up to 71.87 years. The region of Ingushetia has the highest average at 80.8 years. Pray with us that more will have eternal life certainty through the power of the Gospel!

**6** Pray today for SGA's Moscow Regional Ministry Center, led by Valery Kazakov. Ask for continued wisdom and provision as our Reach Russia Now initiative continues to develop ways to reach the Far East with the Gospel.

**7** Today is Russian Christmas, observed by most churches in the CIS. Pray for the SGA-sponsored *Immanuel's Child* outreaches taking place, asking God to draw many boys and girls to Himself in saving faith.

**8** Alexei Boldishev is an SGA-sponsored missionary pastor in Russia's Tyumen region. Please pray for him and his church as they carry out fruitful youth ministry in the surrounding villages.

**9** Continue to pray for Pastor Alexei Smirnov and the leadership of the Russian UECB. May the Lord grant them wisdom and encouragement as they seek His direction on future ministry across 11 time zones.

## UKRAINE



**10** The ongoing conflict with separatists in eastern Ukraine has brought sorrow to many individuals and families. Please join us in praying for peace to come at last as the conflict approaches its fifth year.

**11** Pray for Pastor Valery Antonyuk, president of the Ukrainian UECB. Pray also for the regional pastors across Ukraine as they oversee the country's largest evangelical church fellowship. The challenges are many but God is abundantly faithful.

**12** Lift the staff of SGA's Kiev RMC in prayer today. Director Ruslan Muratayev and his team are thankful to serve Bible-preaching churches and to help advance the Gospel across Ukraine.

**13** Now that the Christmas break is over, students at the SGA-sponsored seminaries at Irpen and Odessa will be resuming their coursework. Ask for God's blessing and provision as they study the deep truths of Scripture together.



**14** Pray for SGA missionary pastor Oleg Ogorodnik and his ministry in Ukraine's Radomyshl region. Oleg and others in the congregation regularly distribute Christian literature and evangelize, with several coming to Christ over the past year.

**15** Please intercede for ongoing compassion ministry taking place across Ukraine—not just in the eastern conflict zone but also in other regions where there are many needy families. Ask the Lord to provide additional resources as needs increase during the winter.

## BELARUS



**16** As is the case in the other CIS nations, churches in Belarus will soon be conducting follow up ministry with children reaching during SGA-sponsored *Immanuel's Child* programs. Pray that God will open many doors for the Gospel over the coming weeks.

**17** Pray today for director Piotr Podrez and his team at SGA's Minsk RMC. May the Lord encourage their hearts and grant them open doors to help churches advance the Gospel in challenging conditions.

**18** Join us in praising God for the openings granted to SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Sergei Gormash to reach youth in the Mogilev region. Also pray for the successful completion of a children's camp that Sergei's church is building.

**19** Pray for the SGA-sponsored Minsk Theological Seminary today—its faculty, students, and support staff. We are thankful to the Lord for this sound Bible school and its commitment to biblical truth.

**20** Lift Belarussian UECB president Dr. Viktor Krutko in prayer today. Viktor has a long history of partnership with SGA, and we are thankful to the Lord for his servant leadership.

## CENTRAL ASIA, CAUCASUS, & ISRAEL

**21** In the Caucasus country of Georgia, SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Gosha is evangelizing several villages along with camps for children and youth. The Caucasus can be dangerous, so please intercede for our brothers and sisters as they share the Gospel.

**22** We praise God for the opportunities He has given us to serve Russian-speaking congregations in Israel through Bible training. Pray for our training director there, asking for God's wisdom, direction, and provision.

**23** Pray for Alexander Karyakov, director of the SGA-sponsored Almaty Bible Institute in Kazakhstan. We rejoice at the progress that has been made at this strategic school since its founding in the early 1990.

**24** Pastor Alexander in Central Asia reports that the church was able to help more than 250 needy people in his region with humanitarian aid and present the Gospel. Pray with us, asking God to open doors for evangelism through this ministry.

**25** In Russia's Caucasus region, the regions of Chechnya, Dagestan, and Ingushetia are largely Muslim in makeup, and evangelism can be very dangerous. Please pray for missionary pastors and other church workers who discreetly share the love of Christ amid the dangers.

**26** Please pray for SGA's international offices in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. May God continue to bless and direct their ministries in the CIS and Eastern Europe.



**27** SGA's advancement division has been launching many new efforts to gain more ministry partners and increase Gospel resources for the churches we serve in the CIS. Please lift these efforts in prayer, asking for God's ongoing provision.

**28** Pray for the SGA-sponsored *Reach Russia Now* initiative, focused at first on Russia's Far East. This region is nearly the size of the lower continental U.S. with many different people groups who desperately need to hear the Gospel. .

**29** With this year's *Immanuel's Child* ministries now past, preparation will begin for next year's children's Christmas outreaches. Please

pray with us for more North American churches to participate in this vibrant, fruitful ministry.

**30** Pray for Cindy Beaumont, SGA's human resources manager. Keeping on top of constantly changing government regulations and insurance issues can be challenging. We are thankful to the Lord for her diligent labors

**31 Reflection:** We close January with King David's prayer . . . *I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and will glorify Your name forever. For Your lovingkindness toward me is great . . .* (Psalm 86:12-13).

## Partner Prayer Requests

*Please pray for healing from five surgeries . . .*

Surprise, Arizona

*Praising God for His protection in an auto accident . . .*

Bettendorf, Iowa

*Lift up my Ukrainian grandchildren and their walk with Christ . . .*

Vestal, New York

*For the assurance of salvation . . .*

Knoxville, Tennessee

**The SGA staff is honored turning your request to the Lord.  
We thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this way.**



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