



SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

Good News Report

SHARING THE GOSPEL ♦ EQUIPPING THE CHURCH ♦ HELPING THE FORGOTTEN

Immanuel's Child Outreach Draws Near...

Thanks to You!

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**Бог
Любит
Тебя!**

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit . . . (MATTHEW 28:19)

Suicidal Young Man Transformed by the Gospel!

In Russia's Krasnoyarsk region, SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Pavel Barsukov ministers to people from all walks of life. His evangelistic ministry also passes international borders as he has led teams for fruitful ministry in neighboring Mongolia for several years. **Not long ago, he met a young man named Denis whom the Lord rescued from ending his own life in despair. Here is Pavel's report:**



The Lord has led us in a wonderful way in our ministry to people who have troubled lives. It all began with our ministry to children, and that eventually led to organizing **an introductory course to the Christian faith for their parents.** Seven young people attending our church have recently repented and trusted in the Lord Jesus for salvation.

Denis was one of them, and it was amazing to hear his testimony. A year ago, Denis was living in Moscow and had come to total disappointment in his life. One morning after he woke up, he took all of his official documents, picked up a rope, and went to the forest intending to end his life. Along the way, he



Seven youth committed their lives to the Lord.

tore all of his official documents to pieces including his passport. He then threw them away.

Once in the forest, Denis put the rope over a tree branch and was thinking of how to make a loop, and at that very moment the Lord acted, touching Denis' heart. Suddenly a severe storm blew up in the forest, and he became so afraid that he left the rope dangling and ran back home!

A month later, Denis ended up in one of our Christian rehabilitation centers. Today, he lives without a passport, and neither Russia nor his home country of Tajikistan will recognize him as a citizen. **But Denis is still joyful, because he has become a citizen of Heaven!** ♦



Denis is grateful for his salvation.

Annual Retreat for Christian Youth Strengthens a New Generation

Pavel Barsukov also reports on the success of a second annual retreat for Christian youth that was held this past June. **More than 130 young people attended!** One thing that made this event a unique youth retreat was that **the focus was on**



fellowship in Christ rather than sports activities or other entertainment. These youth reviewed their relationship with the Lord and committed their lives to His service. And at the event, the seven youth were baptized, including Denis!

Please pray for Pavel and his church as they continue their vibrant youth ministry, as well as their evangelistic labors in Mongolia. Also intercede for another church plant Pavel is leading in another city district of this fall. May the Word of God keep on spreading, and the number of disciples . . . *continue to increase* (Acts 6:7). ♦



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Immanuel's Child Outreach Draws Near... Please Pray!

Editor's Note: We are delighted to bring you this frontline report from Pastor Sergei Gormash in Belarus. He wanted all SGA supporters to know how big an impact the upcoming *Immanuel's Child* Christmas outreach can have . . . and to pray for a harvest of souls!

Each year, we wait for Christmastime. Christmas is such a unique opportunity to share the Gospel publicly in **schools, orphanages and other locations**. We have a team of 11 individuals for SGA-sponsored *Immanuel's Child* Christmas ministry to children.

Last year, a month before Russian Christmas in January when the outreaches usually take place, we held a Christmas outreach for children from dysfunctional families. On that day in early December, the parents of the children were also at the Christmas program. After it was over, the parents were very thankful and they embraced each other (as well as the educators).

According to the teachers, it was first time they had seen smiling and happy parents. Quarrels and angry rebukes are the only things they usually get from the parents. *I am thankful to God. He is mighty to change hearts!*

That Christmas program was the beginning of our Christmas ministry. **Later, we visited orphanages and churches in five different locations across Belarus.** We shared the Gospel at a children's home in one village, where



The Children who participate receive a bible, Christmas presents and a special card from a SGA supporter in America.



Pastor Sergei Gormash



we gathered children from other nearby villages. The Lord blessed our Christmas programs in Cherven, and the evangelical churches in our area were very blessed as a result. This particular outreach was held for orphan handicapped children.

That wonderful Christmas season of ministry came to an end, but we continued to visit schools and share the Gospel with children as the door had opened up! And our ministry will continue this year. Thank you so much for your open hearts, and your willingness to help the children's ministry in Belarus. **Please pray** for this

year's *Immanuel's Child* outreaches, asking the Lord to save many young souls for His glory!

I am very thankful to God for the group and their ministry at Christmas time. **God set their hearts on fire for the ministry with children.** God was going before them in the ministry for children and it was easy for me to work with the team. They were encouraged and inspired by God for ministry with children and teenagers. My heart is filled with the deepest gratitude to God for opportunity to plant the seeds of the Gospel into children and elder's hearts.

Yours Faithfully,
Sergei Gormash



Gospel Hope Reaches Troubled Young Souls

A report from Oleg Bobkin, SGA-Sponsored Missionary Pastor in Voronezh, Russia:

Recently, the Lord enabled us to have a five-day camp for orphan boys from a local school for juvenile delinquents who are between 10-14 years of age. My three teenage sons worked with me in the camp. There were 39 boys in all, and many of them decided to repent, trust in Christ, and live a Christian life at the end of the camp.

Our time included worship services, alongside activities like soccer, volleyball, craft lessons, art, a hike, visiting an Ice Palace, a

museum, a Park of Dinosaurs and finally a boat trip. We had a great time and became friends with many of these children. A couple of the boys were willing to share their testimonies . . .



Oleg Bobkin with some of the boys from the camp.

"I decided to ask God to forgive me"

I was put into this specialized school because I drank alcohol, smoked, and stole money. When I first got there, I was in quarantine. Oleg visited me and told me about God, and how He loves me. I decided to ask God to forgive me. I prayed together with Oleg and asked God to forgive me of my sins. When I was in the camp, I saw Oleg and his children and how he loves children and all people. I want to serve people too in the future, who have no hope and who will only find peace in God. I read the Gospel daily and pray and ask God to help me to become a good person. When I call my relatives, I tell them now about God and how they can be saved. Thank you for everything you do!

—Nikita Kozyrev (age 12)

"... children like me, whom no one wants."

When I was 8, my father and mother were imprisoned. I stayed with my grandmother for three years. When Granny died, my aunt took me to her home. I lived the way I wanted to and listened to no one. When my mother was released, she took me back home but she did not want me. She had a man living with her and they lived their own way. I spent much time in the street, smoked, drank alcohol, stole things, and robbed people. I committed a serious crime and was sentenced to three years at the reform school. I thought about my life and how it was when I was free, and God touched my heart at one of the camp services. I came up to Oleg, decided to repent and live the Christian way of life. Now I read the Bible daily, and pray for my parents and relatives who live without Christ. I do not miss any of the services. I came to know many interesting and useful things in the Christian camp. I thank God and all those who make it possible to have such camps and help children like me, whom no one wants.

—Ivan from Vorkuta (age 13)

Thank you for your prayers and support of our ministry. Please pray for these children, and all the others who have come to faith in Jesus.

CIS IN THE NEWS

GROWING TERRORISM CONCERNS IN CIS

A recent report in The Times of Central Asia cited growing concerns about the terror group ISIS targeting Central Asians as recruits. The report said that these efforts take place both online and abroad, adding . . . "The Ferghana Valley is notorious for being a hotbed of terrorism in Central Asia, and it is the origin of many Central Asian fighters in the Middle East."

The Ferghana Valley is shared by the nations of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, and the porous borders make it easy for insurgents to slip between countries. A recent spike in attacks also seems to be tied to Central Asian nationals. In April, a Kyrgyz-born Uzbek man with Russian citizenship blew himself up in a St. Petersburg Metro car, killing 14.

Ultimately, the only hope for true peace and reconciliation comes through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for our brothers and sisters in these troubled lands as they share the love of Christ and keep building His church. ♦



HOW YOU CAN HELP

It seems like 2017 has gone by so fast! And with the evangelical churches across the CIS getting ready for *Immanuel's Child* and other Christmas outreaches in January, it's a very busy time as we wind down the year. Your faithfulness helps accomplish so much in addition to children's ministries. **You help provide Bible training for pastors and youth leaders, children's ministries, provision of Bibles and Christian literature, and compassionate aid such as food and clothing—and so much more.**

Please prayerfully consider how you can help today. And please pray for fruitful ministry in 2018!



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HELPING THE FORGOTTEN

Good News Report is published to report religious news about Russia, the rest of the CIS and the ministries of:

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Insight FROM MICHAEL

Next month, Slavic Gospel Association will celebrate 84 years of Gospel ministry to Russian-speaking people around the world. As SGA's new president, this is an especially humbling milestone as I think of how God continues to realize founder Peter Deyneka's theme Bible verse . . . *Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know* (Jeremiah 33:3). The Lord is faithful, and He will continue to guide and supply His people for the work He has called us to do.

And that brings me to a special announcement. With this issue of our newsletter, you'll notice a new look and a new name. But rather than say these things are "changes," I would rather call them what they really are—a refocus. Since 1934, SGA has existed to serve the churches that Christ is building across Russia and her neighboring countries. We still are, and will. *We are Sharing the Gospel, Equipping the Church, and Helping the Forgotten.* While we have always done so, this new statement will help sharpen our focus and make this ethos even clearer. And SGA will always stand for Slavic Gospel Association, with the emphasis on Gospel. There is an enormous amount of work yet to be done and vast regions across Russia's 11 time zones have yet to be reached. We must and will—by God's gracious provision and direction—move forward.

SGA's board of directors and leadership team are 100 percent behind these adjustments. They

come after an extended period of prayerful planning and discussion amongst our staff, as well as evangelical church leaders in our countries of service overseas. We

were blessed to have the advice and guidance of several leading research and branding agencies in North America, who share our goal of being more effective in serving the churches that are proclaiming the Gospel. We live in a rapidly changing world in a culture that often has many fast-moving messages competing for attention. Being able to communicate our mission vividly and clearly is vital. These modest adjustments in our public profile will help us do that.

Please feel free to contact me, or any of our leadership team, if you have any questions. And above all, please continue to pray for SGA and the faithful churches we serve. The Lord has prepared a great spiritual harvest waiting to be gathered. I trust you'll stand with us in your prayers and generous support.



Michael Johnson
President

**Respond now to help
us impact the Russian
speaking lands for Christ.
Your support is critical!**

Help bring Christ to hurting Russian-speaking children and others this Christmas!

Yes Michael! Use my gift to help SGA reach 20,000 children through *Immanuel's Child* and reach others with the Good News.

My enclosed gift amount is \$ _____

☐ Send me periodic email updates on the spread of the Gospel.

My email is: _____



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