



# SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

# Good News Report

SHARING THE GOSPEL ♦ EQUIPPING THE CHURCH ♦ HELPING THE FORGOTTEN

*Your Prayers and Support  
Reach Orphans with New Birth!  
Read more...*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ♦ Answers for Orphans: "Why is there so much suffering?"
- ♦ You Provide 'Sunday School in a War Zone'
- ♦ Seminary Grad Helps the Deaf

*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)*



# When Orphans Ask: “Why is There So Much Suffering?”

*So many children carry so much sorrow.*

## Orphans Reborn in Smolensk, Russia

Each Easter Sunday is a wonderful day—especially for orphans. We can discuss what a great act of love God showed on Golgotha when His Son paid the price for our sins. At the orphanage in **Smolensk**, the *Orphans Reborn* team had special lessons when they taught the children and their teachers about Easter.

We wanted them to know that Easter is not about colored eggs or a bunny. We shared the whole story, discussed it together, sang a lot of songs, made some crafts with the small children, and gave them small prizes. We also noticed that the teachers listened especially attentively. It was an important



Through your support, the children learn the true story of Easter, and the love Christ has for them.

reminder that we are reaching not only the orphans, but the adults who work with them as well.

The orphan children have many questions and carry much sorrow.

For example: “If God is love, why do people have so many sufferings?” **We often hear questions like this from adults, but when a child whose father is in prison and whose mother is an alcoholic asks you this question, it is much more difficult to answer.** During the years of our ministry, we have heard this question so many times but it is no easier to hear.

In that light, this past Easter **we decided to discuss the story of Job to show the children that**

**God can turn one’s sufferings into great blessings. And they do not have to feel lonely—because God is near.** Again, this was not an easy topic to discuss. But it is vitally important to help these young souls who have gone through such suffering already. Above all, God Himself understands our sufferings . . . *For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings* (Hebrews 2:10).

Please pray with us that the children will draw close to the Lord as they learn more of His great love. Thank you for your prayerful support of *Orphans Reborn!* ♦

# Sign Language Interpreter Helps Reach the Deaf: “I Never Thought the Lord Would Ever Use Me!”

By Iryna Kudelia  
Irpen Biblical Seminary Graduate

*Editor’s Note: Your support for SGA is crucial for ministries like the Irpen Biblical Seminary in Ukraine. And Irpen graduates like Iryna Kudelia are being used by God in unique ways to build up the church and reach the lost. Here is Iryna’s story:*

I grew up in a Christian home, but tended to be impatient with things, disobedient to my parents, lost interest in going to the church, and attracted by values offered by the world. But my parents kept praying faithfully for me. They would unceasingly tell me that being with Christ provides the only meaning of life for us, and that life without Him is nothing but vanity.

As they continued praying, one summer I went to a Christian camp where the Gospel was preached, and the preacher called for repentance. One night, when I heard the call to repent, the Holy Spirit prompted my heart and I went forward in tearful repentance. After that, I had a long talk with the pastor, and it was a conversation of confession.

Thanks to Christ, my life changed!

I was baptized and became active in different ministries in the Kherson church. The church in Kherson had been praying a long time for sign language interpreters because they are a large



A sign language interpreter means so much to those that cannot hear.



Iryna Kudelia

church, and they had only one interpreter who had to leave periodically. **There are several at the church who cannot hear, and there was no one to help them.** I had no knowledge about this ministry, and I never thought the Lord would ever use me for this kind of work.

But when I learned about that specific need of the church, I began to pray to the Lord and pleaded **“Here I am. Send me!”** I was then placed by God for this ministry, for which I am very thankful!

My next step was to enter Irpen Biblical Seminary, and I am very thankful to God for this step of faith. **I am being trained in sign language interpretation, which is very important for us to minister to people who are hearing-impaired.** My years of study in the seminary have been a special, blessed time of my life. I am receiving the necessary knowledge and skills to apply in practical ministry. I am grateful to God for having such an opportunity. This is my third year, and I will graduate this year. Glory be to Him! ♦



# Your Faithful Support Gives Orphans Spiritual Discipleship, Physical Training . . . and Families of Prayer Warriors!

Vladimir Khalyavin

*Orphans Reborn* in Krasnoyarsk, Russia

As part of our ministry in Russia's Krasnoyarsk region, God has given us a vision to find families for each orphan child. Not all can be foster mothers and fathers, but God has people who are able to care for an orphan over weekends and holidays, who can help them in their day-to-day situations, and others who will simply pray for them daily.

I have been making presentations of our *Orphans Reborn* ministry in several churches, and I told believers about the needs of orphans, and how each believer can serve them. **We invited each church member to become a personal prayer**

partner paired to a specific orphan. And we were joyful that almost all the orphans were coupled to a brother or sister in Christ who would pray for them daily.

And the prayers are being heard and answered! I can see the results of our prayers in the children as they participate in our lessons and meetings. This month our main subject was "Influence." We had lessons on how we can distinguish negative influences and peer pressure from our friends.

In Nazarovo, we have sports activities as part of our lessons. The children really enjoy this, and they come to our group with eagerness. Through the physical exercises, they are learning how important it is not to give up when you are under pressure, but to be persistent, making every effort and persevere in order to be successful, and to become victorious.

In this group of children, we have a new boy named Kostya, who is 12. His brothers are also in the orphanage. Kostya does not have his left arm, and when he came to our sports practice, I was concerned. I asked him how he would be able to do the exercises, and his reply was, "Would you allow me to try?" His joy (and mine) was limitless when he was able to complete push-ups faster than the others!

The sports activities and Bible lessons help give the children a chance to be successful. **They're learning to**

tame their anger when there could be much irritation, and not to repay evil with evil. Such discipline will help them in their later lives. We train them in being goal-oriented

and persistent in overcoming physical weaknesses, this also helps them to become better both in their behavior and in their attitude toward other people.

**Please pray for these children, and**

**the other children who are hearing the Gospel and experiencing God's love through *Orphans Reborn*.** May God draw many of them to saving faith as we continue to reach them in our regular visits.

The children are very creative and they love to participate in sketches. Although this is not easy for them as all of them have some speech disabilities and difficulties in expression of their thoughts. But due to their emotions, they clearly convey the story line as well as the teaching.

I am especially enthused with their desire and commitment to act according to the truth that they learn.

**I have plans to keep in touch with them during the week by means of social networks.** The older children have cell phones and personal accounts in networks, which makes this possible.

Please, pray for this opportunity, as well as for wisdom in that, so that I would be able to show them Jesus Christ. ♦

---

***"I am especially enthused with their desire and commitment to act according to the truth that they learn."***

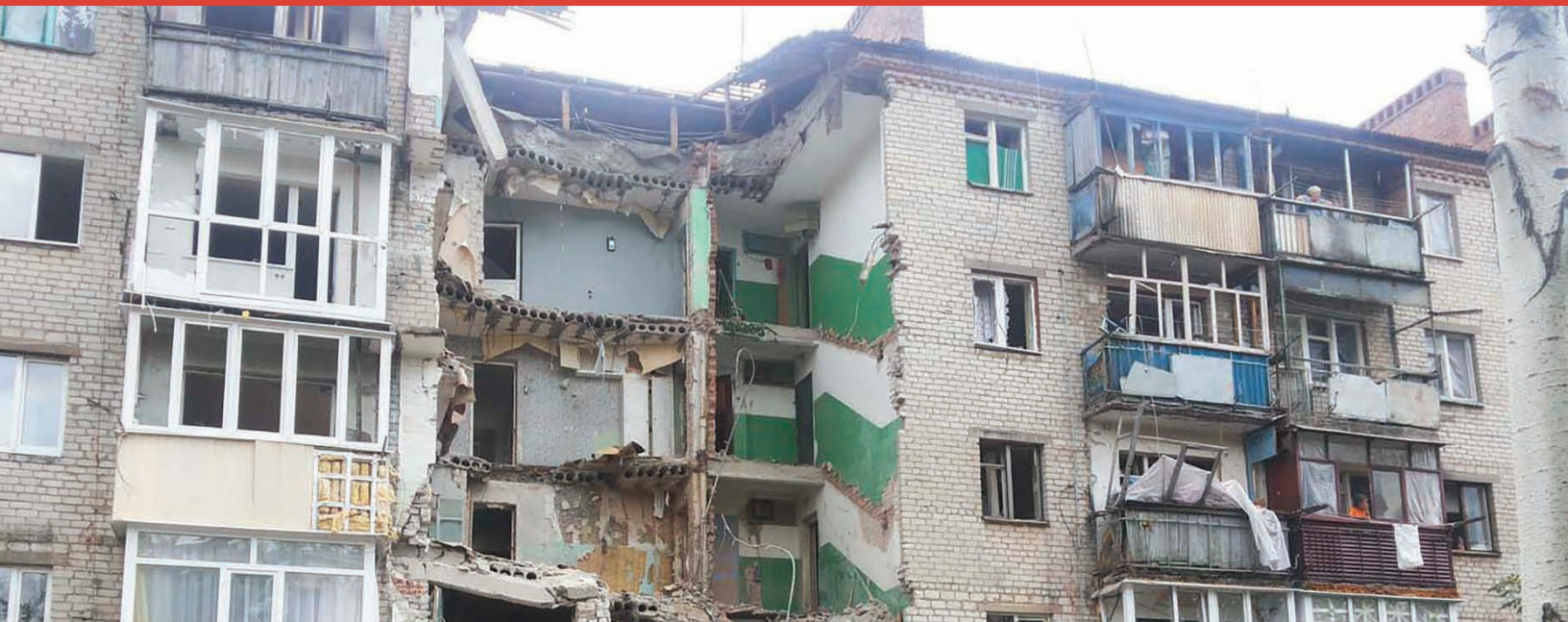
---



Through *Orphans Reborn* you are able to bring God's love to so many!







## You're Giving Them Sunday School—in a War Zone!

For more than four years, **eastern Ukraine** has been a war zone. Armed conflict with separatist militias has shattered thousands of lives, killed more than 10,000 people, and devastated local infrastructure in several towns and villages.

Yet amid the sorrow, chaos and bloodshed, God is doing an amazing thing. **The gifts of SGA partners in the U.S. and Canada helped make it possible to provide much needed Sunday school materials for needy children in these regions.** SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Alexander Nagirnyak wrote us from Ukraine's Donetsk region to send his love and thanksgiving . . .

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

*Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you so much for your concern and for your prayers! **On behalf of the children and our Sunday school teachers, we thank you for the funds that have been used to purchase Sunday school materials.** The children are happy and joyful to learn something new about God! May God richly bless you in His mighty ways!*

Sunday school supplies were also distributed to children who had attended *Immanuel's Child* Christmas programs back in January. None of it could have been done without you—our faithful partners. Please pray for peace to come to eastern Ukraine soon. **Pray also that God will provide more urgently needed resources for SGA's Crisis Evangelism Fund,** which assists needy families with humanitarian aid as well as Bibles and evangelistic literature.



Your support has brought Sunday school to children in Ukraine and throughout the lands of the former Soviet Union.

## CIS IN THE NEWS

### Kazakhstan Hosts Interfaith Congress . . . as Leaders Crack Down on Faith!

Earlier this year, Berik Aryn, Kazakhstan's vice minister for religious affairs and civil society, was at the United Nations in New York. He was at a global event called "Religious Leaders for a Safe World." Aryn gave a keynote address where he talked about the upcoming Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions that is held in the Kazakh capital of Astana every three years. About 100 delegations from more than 40 countries are expected to attend. The Congress' stated purpose is to "address vital issues such as the growing efforts of religious actors to collaborate with political leaders and civil society, their commitment to

foster tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity, and to engage young people across the world to prevent them from falling into violent extremism."

Ironically, evangelical churches across Kazakhstan and the other nations of Central Asia frequently face pressure—if not outright persecution—from governmental authorities! **Our prayer is that such a global spotlight will help encourage governments to protect the rights of churches** to worship freely, so that countless millions will recognize that a saving relationship with Christ is the only way to true, lasting peace. ♦



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

You're part of an incredible story. Since the birth of the SGA-sponsored *Orphans Reborn* ministry over a decade ago, God has used your faithful prayers and generous gifts to reach thousands of lonely, forgotten children for Christ. **And the "Gospel Chain of Grace" continues as many of these children have come to faith in Christ, and on reaching adulthood have become part of the *Orphans Reborn* teams themselves!** It's a wonderful testimony of how God brings salvation and blessing out of the most tragic of circumstances.

Your gifts to SGA's ministries help accomplish so much—provision of Bible training, children's ministries, summer camps, food and material aid through Compassion Ministry, Russian-language Bibles, Christian literature, youth ministry, missionary pastor sponsorship, and much more. Please pray about how you can help today!



Your gifts help bring the love of Christ to orphans and children throughout the Russian speaking lands.



# Insight FROM MICHAEL

## The Most Eager Young Evangelists . . .

As you read the stories in this month's Good News Report, I hope you will come away with a vivid picture of how our God is transforming lives for eternity across Russia and her neighboring countries. I am so thankful that you are part of helping to make it happen!

In the *Orphans Reborn* ministry, we see **young boys and girls without any hope for the future find eternal hope through the Gospel.**

And often, those who come to Christ are **the most eager evangelists to lead other orphan children to Him as well.** The summer camp ministries now in progress are impacting thousands more children who urgently need to hear of Christ's love. In Ukraine, the ongoing violence and bloodshed in the eastern regions continues to devastate lives. **But in the midst of it all, evangelical churches are distributing much-needed aid and sharing the hope of the Gospel, planting seeds of hope where none existed.** SGA-sponsored Bible schools in the CIS are graduating students who are moving on into lifetimes of fruitful ministry, with more students enrolling each year.

I could go on, but you get the idea. **Your prayers and faithful support are not in vain.** As the Apostle John puts it . . . *Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers* (3 John 5). Be blessed and encouraged as you read. And please, continue to lift our brothers and sisters in prayer as they labor for the glory of Christ in His vast harvest field. We still have a lot of work to do, and a lot of people to reach . . . while we still can!



Michael Johnson  
President



SHARING THE GOSPEL • EQUIPPING THE CHURCH  
HELPING THE FORGOTTEN

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

### Slavic Gospel Association

6151 Commonwealth Drive  
Loves Park, IL 61111

[www.sga.org](http://www.sga.org)

E-mail: [goodnews@sga.org](mailto:goodnews@sga.org)

Phone: 815-282-8900

Fax: 815-282-8901

To start, cancel, or change the mailing address on your subscription to Good News Report, please send your name, your old address, and your new address to the address listed above. Please allow six to eight weeks for the fulfillment of your request.

### International Offices

Noble Park, Australia

Cambridge, Canada

Eastbourne, England

North Shore, New Zealand

### U.S. Board of Directors

Warner Tillman, *Chairman*

Dr. Rick Goertzen, *Vice Chairman*

Michael Johnson, *President*

John Wauterlek, *Treasurer*

Brian Kult, *Secretary*

Harry Leopold

Dr. Bill Atkinson

Kelly Abbott

Dr. Les Lofquist

Dr. Rick Gregory

Rev. Bill Ball

Dr. Robert W. Provost, *President Emeritus*

SGA is a charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.



Enhancing Trust