



Slavic Gospel Association

**Annual
Ministry Report
2017–2018**

SHARING THE GOSPEL ♦ EQUIPPING THE CHURCH ♦ HELPING THE FORGOTTEN

A breakthrough
year: SHARING
THE GOSPEL,
EQUIPPING THE
CHURCH, HELPING
THE FORGOTTEN



A Year of Open Doors and Hearts

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

With great joy, I present you with our ministry report reflecting activity in the ministries of Slavic Gospel Association during the 2018 fiscal year.

As I look back on all that has taken place during my first year as president, I am truly thankful for what has been accomplished for the glory of Christ! As SGA walked through doors already open, God opened still others. And with every door, we found open hearts prepared by God. There is much for which to rejoice.

None of it could have happened without *your* open heart! Your prayers and generous support sustained ministry in the lands of the former Soviet Union—and laid the groundwork for even more sowing and reaping until the Lord returns.

As you read and reflect on all the fruitful ministry that you have helped make possible, I trust you will be blessed and encouraged. And as always, please continue to pray. The time is short, and there is much yet to do!

For our Savior,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Johnson" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Johnson
President



As SGA walked
through doors
already open,
God opened
still others.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word. —2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

Building on a Firm Foundation

SGA's last fiscal year (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) was a time of significant transition—building on the firm foundation of decades of ministry.

Dr. Bob Provost retired as president effective May 1, 2017, after 23 years of dedicated, tireless, and eternally impactful service to the Lord Jesus Christ. Fittingly, Michael Johnson assumed the presidency the same day, returning to SGA after serving hundreds of Christian ministries in the consulting world.

Michael and Bob worked together to make the transition as seamless as possible, with Bob continuing to serve as president

emeritus. Our core ministry priorities remained the same, with Michael establishing a new branding statement to refocus on what SGA's core principles have always been—*Sharing the Gospel, Equipping the Church, and Helping the Forgotten*.

And in this year, it is our joy to report that much has been accomplished for the glory of Christ to show His love to the

millions of souls across the lands of the former Soviet Union.

The following pages briefly highlight what God has done in each of our various ministries in this exciting time of advancing His kingdom!



Dr. Bob Provost

Michael and Bob with Rev. Les Lofquist.



Planting and Growing Churches

SGA continued to faithfully support 346 missionary pastors in the last fiscal year. These are pastors who are the backbone of church growth that will transform the society around them. The pastors we support span the following countries:

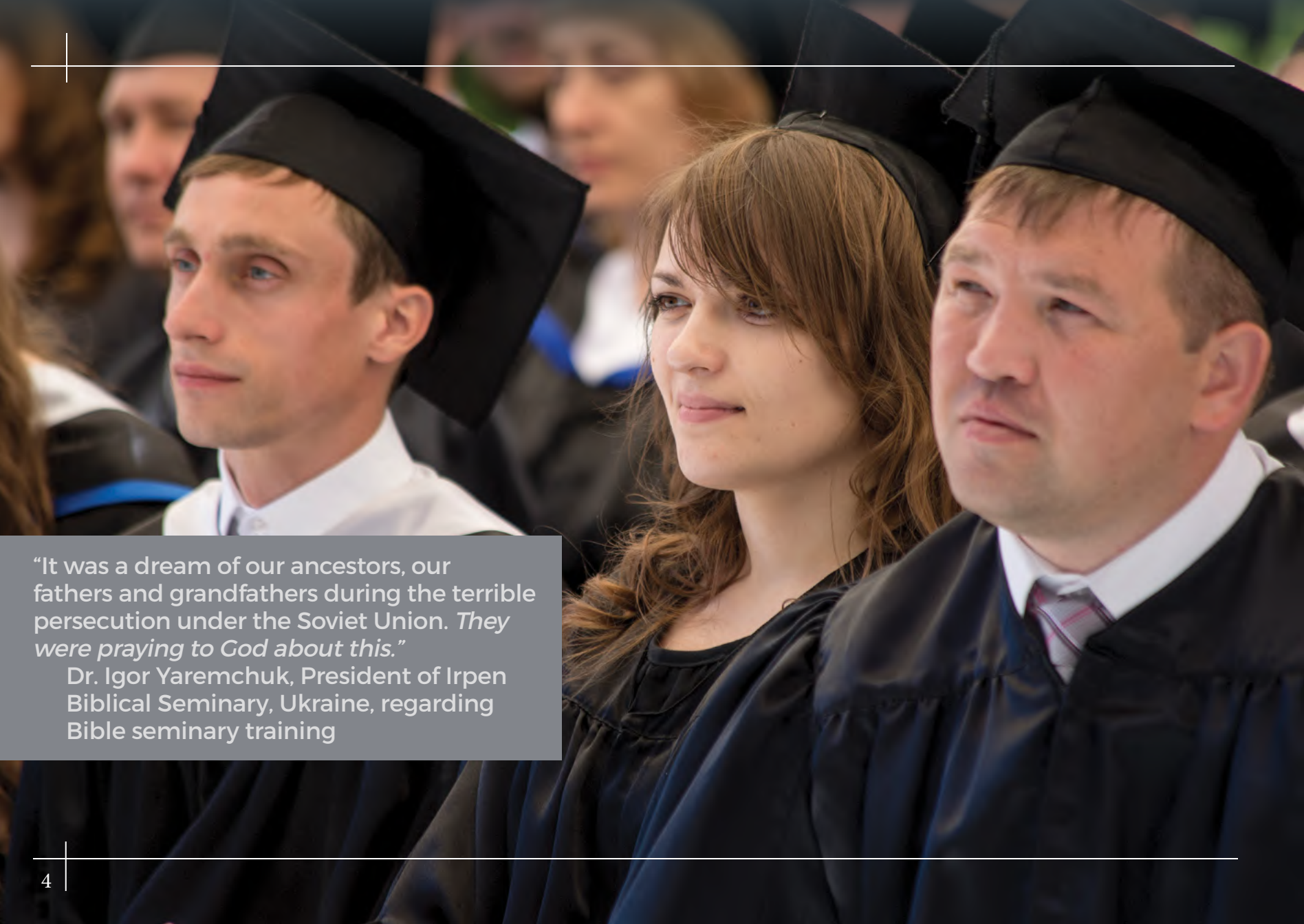
These are pastors who are the backbone of church growth that will transform the society.

- ◆ 145 in Russia
- ◆ 103 in Ukraine
- ◆ 45 in Belarus
- ◆ 11 in Kazakhstan
- ◆ 13 in Uzbekistan
- ◆ 5 in Turkmenistan
- ◆ 7 in Tajikistan
- ◆ 5 in Georgia
- ◆ 4 in Armenia

The remainder are missionary pastors that the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists has sent to several other nations that have Russian-speaking contingents. Many are planting churches in towns and villages that had no prior Gospel witness.

As churches grow stronger, God's kingdom gains influence in the former Soviet Union.





“It was a dream of our ancestors, our fathers and grandfathers during the terrible persecution under the Soviet Union. *They were praying to God about this.*”

Dr. Igor Yaremchuk, President of Irpen Biblical Seminary, Ukraine, regarding Bible seminary training

Training a Generation of Leaders

Slavic Gospel Association's calling has always been to equip biblically sound, vibrant churches and ministries in the lands of Russia. This is the fastest, most effective way to advance Christianity and transform lives, communities, regions, and nations.

For this reason, SGA puts a premium on leadership training. In FY 2018, SGA continued sponsorship of **Irpen Biblical Seminary** and **Odessa Theological Seminary** in



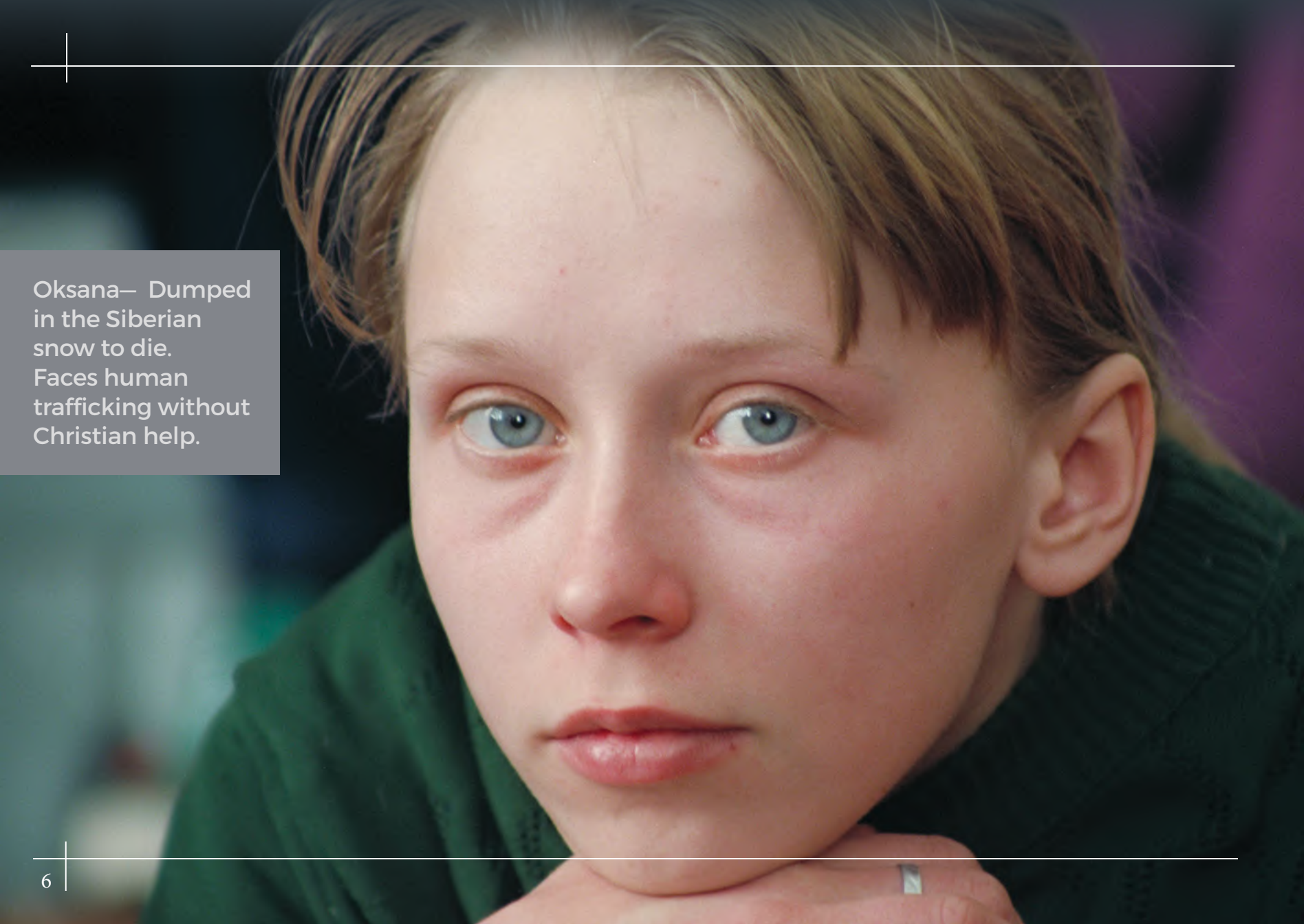
Ukraine, **Novosibirsk Biblical–Theological Seminary** in Russia, **Minsk Theological Seminary** in Belarus, and **Almaty Bible Institute** in Kazakhstan.

There were 353 graduates for the Fall 2017/Spring 2018 academic year. Enrollments stood at 1,374—an **increase of 14 percent** compared to last year and **46 percent** compared to five years ago. Year by year, this spiritual network is achieving profound spiritual progress!

Other highlights:

- ◆ *Antioch Initiative* Bible training continued with 342 students at 11 different locations.
- ◆ A graduate-level biblical counseling program was launched at Novosibirsk.
- ◆ Novosibirsk Seminary is now training 86 students at four different satellite locations.
- ◆ In Israel, 39 students at Israel College of the Bible and more than 100 students in congregation-based Bible schools.

Graduates enter various fields of ministry leadership:
pastors . . . children's ministers . . . youth leaders . . .
church planters.

A close-up portrait of a young woman with light brown hair and blue eyes, looking directly at the camera with a somber expression. She is wearing a dark green sweater. The background is blurred, showing hints of purple and blue. A white crosshair is visible in the top left corner.

Oksana— Dumped
in the Siberian
snow to die.
Faces human
trafficking without
Christian help.

Orphans Reborn Reaches Thousands

In nations with more than **700,000 orphans** due to family breakdown, alcoholism, and crime, SGA-sponsored *Orphans Reborn* is an urgent rescue mission. During FY 2018, *Orphans Reborn* ministries reached thousands of orphans and launched plans to expand to touch many more.

Yevgeny— Father died. Alcoholic mother couldn't keep him. He trusted Christ and needs to grow.

Orphans Reborn impacts children through evangelism and intentional, ongoing discipleship. During the past year, this loving outreach took place in **129 orphanages** across Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Armenia, reaching a total of **8,612 children**.

With the growth expected in *Reach Russia Now*—related ministry in Far East Russia, we are prayerfully looking to add another 21 orphanages to this total.

Without intervention, orphans face a life of organized

crime, prostitution, addiction, and early death. With *Orphans Reborn*, God offers them a loving community before and after they leave the orphanage, and an eternal home with their heavenly Father!



You have been the helper of the orphan. —Psalm 10:14



Бог
Любит
Тебя!

Бог
Любит
Тебя!

Бог
Любит
Тебя!

"The Savior is
the One who
saves, and it
turns out this is
Jesus Christ!"

—Dasha

Immanuel's Child Grows to Touch More Lives

SGA partners continued to support *Immanuel's Child* Christmas ministries, reaching almost **26,000 children**. At least 16,476 children were from unbelieving families, with 996 repenting and trusting in Christ as their Savior. A total of 208 adults also repented through *Immanuel's*

Child ministries. Working through churches, SGA and its supporters gave children:

- ◆ A Children's Bible and Christian literature
- ◆ A special Christmas present
- ◆ Follow-up care and discipleship by believers
- ◆ A Star of Bethlehem ornament that says "God Loves You!" in Russian

"I learned about Jesus. It turns out He was born in a manger and died for everybody. I will pray for my parents that they will stop drinking."

—Grisha

Immanuel's Child opened doors for other SGA ministries to introduce children to ongoing discipleship that will not only change *them*, but also ripple out to *others*.



Reach Russia Now Fuels the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth

Villagers ask, “Why have you come?” Our missionary pastors reply, “To tell you about the one true God and about hope!”

—Eric Mock, SGA Vice President of Ministry Operations

Far East Russia is a vast wilderness to the east of Siberia. It is as large as the continental United States. The population is 6.3 million souls—less than one per square kilometer—and hundreds of villages are waiting to hear the Gospel. To reach them, SGA launched *Reach Russia Now* in the fall of 2016.

The excitement in reaching these unreached villages and cities is even overflowing into Siberia where we are helping fan into flame renewed church planting efforts:

- ◆ Fourteen trained, biblically sound church planters across the Far East and Siberia, and *this number is growing*.
- ◆ Supporting 13 monthly Gospel Missions of youth and missionaries to unreached villages and cities by car and plane.
- ◆ Reaching 14 orphanages (truly unreached villages themselves) with *Orphans Reborn*, with ambitious

plans to reach many more of the 320 orphanages.

- ◆ Summer Bible Camps and *Immanuel's Child* programs

In many villages there is no access by road, internet, or radio. In the winter, travel is by snowmobile, animal, or airplane. Working with *Kingdom Air Corps*, last year God made available 2 more airplanes in the Far East—so now an SGA pilot and local missionaries have been flying to remote villages in to share the Good News and start making disciples—with more airplanes to come!



Providing Bibles and Christian Literature

SGA continued to provide Russian-language Bibles and Christian literature. More than 28,000 Bibles and other Christian literature were distributed over the FY 2018 period.

Titles printed and purchased included *Help Me Remember the Ten Commandments* and *Help Me Remember the Days of Creation*—two children’s books for early readers. Two books by Bible teacher Mark Dever were reprinted—*The Gospel and Personal Evangelism* and *The Deliberate Church*—along with copies of the MacArthur Study Bible.

These were delivered to Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan, and Israel.

As more people in the lands of Russia read the Bible and Christian literature, souls are enlightened and strengthened, and God’s kingdom advances.

Souls are
enlightened
and strengthened.



For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword . . . —Hebrews 4:12



“During the camp I rethink
my life and I am happy to
find Jesus Christ.”

—Nikolai, a 12-year-old
boy from an atheistic
home

Bible Camps Multiply to Reach More

In 2018, more than 30,000 children attended 340 Bible camps in 10 nations, an increase from approximately




20,000 the year before.

Campers received:

- ◆ Russian-language Children's Bibles
- ◆ Christian literature
- ◆ Assistance for food, transportation, and all the logistics and materials necessary for a week-long very rustic camp where they can experience God's love

Most of the children were from non-believing, even atheistic homes. Others arrived from orphanages. Still others came from families struggling under severe pressure. Every year, thousands of children accept Christ, and this year our count was 2,929. Praise God for this highly effective and growing ministry!





Providing warm clothing and heat is an opportunity to show Christ's love and compassion to those in need.

Showing God's Love and Compassion

SGA-sponsored **Compassion Ministry** continued throughout FY 2018 in a variety of outreaches across Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

In war-plagued Ukraine, church teams helped 510 families and 161 widows on a monthly basis through the SGA-sponsored **Crisis Evangelism Fund**. In partnership with the ministry of Children's Hunger Fund, 406 needy families received food parcels on a monthly basis in Ukraine, Belarus, and Tajikistan.

Operation Winter Warmth helped provide clothing and heating coal to 930 families totaling more than 3,200 people in Ukraine, Georgia, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan. And through SGA-sponsored general Compassion Ministry, a total of 158 families (553 people) received monthly food assistance and other aid as needed and available.

In total, faithful partners assisted in providing over two



million meals for the hungry, opening doors to present the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As always, these ministries work hand-in-hand with local churches to help congregations penetrate communities with Christ's love and the Gospel.

*Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

—Matthew 22:37–39

Taking Stewardship Seriously

Stewardship of time, talent, and treasure is important to God. He owns it all, and SGA is *His* ministry. And because our mission influences souls for time and eternity, we take this responsibility seriously.



FY 2018 was a year of income growth and a transition into a program to reach out to find more supporters with a God-given heart for SGA's mission. Our field for sowing and harvesting is immense, but the door is wide open.

In John 4:34–35, Jesus said to the disciples, *“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.”*

That is how we prayerfully approach our stewardship. SGA has a proven, highly effective model for ministry in a beckoning mission field. We leverage the churches in the former Soviet Union, and the outreach is *explosive*.

This ministry model is scalable—with resources, it can grow. We are thankful for every dollar received and prayerful about every dollar spent. And we thank every supporter as a valued partner in a wonderful work entrusted to us by a victorious Savior.

SGA is a Charter Member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

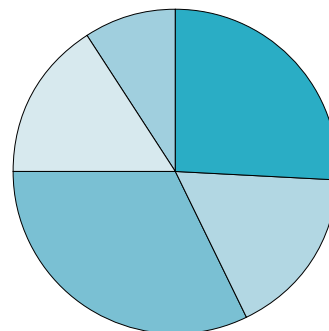


Our Financial Position (as of June 30, 2018)

Expenses

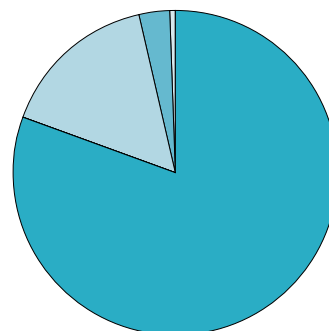
Ministry & Supporting Activities

Equipping	\$1,999,230 (26%)	
Training	1,277,642 (17%)	
Evangelism/Church Planting	2,474,143 (32%)	
Advancement	1,230,710 (16%)	
Administration	724,130 (9%)	
Total	\$7,705,855	



Revenue

Individual Support	\$6,122,059 (80%)	
Donated Materials & Services	3,795 (<1%)	
Churches	1,182,423 (16%)	
Foundation Grants	255,229 (3%)	
Other	29,524 (<1%)	
Total	\$7,593,030	



Copies of SGA's full audited financial statement are available on request.



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



Slavic Gospel Association

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