



Slavic Gospel Association

# Prayer & Praise

SHARING THE GOSPEL • EQUIPPING THE CHURCH • HELPING THE FORGOTTEN

*Please join us each day this month in prayer and praise for the work of Christ across Russian-speaking nations.*

## Scripture theme of the month:

*Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe (Hebrews 12:28).*

**1 Reflection:** Let us begin the New Year with thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the shelter He gives to His own . . . *But let all who take refuge in You be glad, let them ever sing for joy; and may You shelter them, that those who love Your name may exult in You (Psalm 5:11).*

**2** We continually offer praise and thanksgiving for you, our faithful partners. Our ministries across Russia and her neighboring countries would not be possible without your prayers and faithful support. As always, please let us know when you have prayer needs so we can lift them before the Lord in our daily prayer meeting.

**3** SGA president Michael Johnson loves to share what God is doing in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with churches, foundations, and individuals. We are thankful for his servant leadership, and for the opportunities the Lord grants him to tell the SGA story.



**4** Intercede for SGA's international offices today—Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Australia. May the Lord grant abundant provision in their provinces of ministry around the world.

## RUSSIA



**5** While political tensions between Russia and Western nations ebb and flow, the evangelical churches SGA serves continue on with Gospel ministry and it is our privilege to serve them. Pray that God will prevent the enemy from hindering the work of His churches to reach the lost.

**6** Slavic Gospel Association is 85 years old today! Join us in praising and thanking the Lord for His gracious provision and asking for His continued blessing as we keep on Sharing the Gospel, Equipping the Church, and Helping the Forgotten.



**7** **Russian Christmas:** *But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah . . . from you One will go forth for me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity* (Micah 5:2). Pray for the SGA-sponsored *Immanuel's Child* Christmas outreaches taking place across the CIS today. Pray with us for thousands of children to receive Christ as their Savior and Lord!

**8** Pray for SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Arkady Laznenko, who serves in Russia's Ufa region. Arkady ministers regularly to the elderly, as well as online ministry. Ask for God's continued provision and encouragement for his family in this challenging region.

**9** Please pray often for Pastor Eduard Genrikh, president of the SGA-sponsored Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary. May the Lord grant him wisdom in his leadership of this strategic school located in the heart of Siberia.

**10** Pray for Valery Kazakov and the staff of SGA's Moscow Regional Ministry Center (RMC). Ask God to encourage their hearts as they labor to be a constant resource for the Bible-preaching Russian churches we serve.

## UKRAINE



**11** SGA missionary pastor Vladimir Shelemba ministers in the village of Yasinia, located in the Carpathian Mountains of western Ukraine. Pray for him as he conducts street evangelism, camp ministry, small groups, and other Gospel opportunities.

**12** Pray for the SGA-sponsored Irpen Biblical Seminary near Kiev. May the coming year be even more fruitful for this strategic Bible school, which has already had enormous kingdom impact.

**13** Pastor Valery Antonyuk is president of the Ukrainian UECB. Join us in intercession today for Valery and his fellow pastors as they lead their churches through these days of great challenge and incredible opportunity for the Gospel.

**14** Please remember SGA's Kiev RMC director Ruslan Muratayev in prayer. As part of his duties, Ruslan visits missionary pastors, keeping track of their ministry needs and helping to get word to supporting SGA partners here in North America.

**15** Although the ongoing armed conflict makes eastern Ukraine a very dangerous place for ministry, the spiritual needs there are great and the missionary pastors SGA serves are committed to Gospel ministry there. Please lift them in prayer today, asking for God's protection.

**16** SGA/Canada director Bill Ball was recently able to visit with sponsored missionary pastor Viktor Kolesnik in Kopytkiv and participate in worship services. We are thankful for the opportunity to encourage Viktor and his church, and to support their outreaches in local villages.

**17** Through SGA-sponsored Compassion Ministry, evangelical churches in Ukraine are reaching out to needy families, distributing food supplies and other humanitarian aid as needed. Ask for God's ongoing provision for this vital ministry of His love.

## BELARUS



**18** Pray for Piotr and Dima Podrez, and the rest of the dedicated team at SGA's Minsk RMC. May the Lord encourage their hearts today and provide for their personal and ministry needs. Pray for more open doors for the churches they serve.

**19** Pray for the faculty and students at the SGA-sponsored Minsk Theological Seminary. Especially remember Pastor Leonid Mihovich as he serves as seminary president in addition to being the Baptist Union president in Belarus.

**20** Pastor Sergei K. continues a vibrant, fruitful *Orphans Reborn* ministry in Belarus' Minsk region. Please lift him in prayer, as well as the orphan children he visits with the love of Christ and the hope of the Gospel.

**21** According to the World Bank, the poverty rate in Belarus stands at 5.7 percent. Desperately needy families in the country are deeply thankful for the help they receive through SGA-sponsored Compassion Ministry. Please ask for God's

continued provision, and the Gospel opportunities this outreach opens up.

**22** Please continue to pray for the Little Pearl Children's Diagnostic Camp near Kobrin, and for the funds necessary to keep the camp operating at full capacity. The children treated at Kobrin suffer effects from residual Chernobyl radiation, which will be a serious problem for years to come.

**23** We praise and thank the Lord for youth ministry across Belarus, both reaching unsaved young people with the Gospel, as well as believing youth dedicated to serving churches and sharing the Gospel as they visit rural towns and villages. Lift this ongoing ministry before the Lord today.

## CENTRAL ASIA, CAUCASUS, & ISRAEL

**24** Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Kazakhstan as they continue to face increased restriction from the government. May the Lord change the hearts of those intent on hindering the Gospel, and bring them to repentance.

**25** Summer camp season is five months past, but Bible-preaching churches are quietly following up with children reached through camps held in Central Asia. Join us in asking God to draw these children and their families to saving faith.

**26** Our brothers and sisters in Israel remain in constant need of intercessory prayer with the Syrian conflict continuing to rage, as well as ongoing attacks from terrorists in Gaza. We thank the Lord for the opportunity to encourage and equip Russian-speaking congregations in the land of the Bible.

**27** Pray for SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Ivan, who labors in the Pavlodar region of Kazakhstan. Ivan regularly conducts ministry in several villages, conducting discreet evangelism and one-on-one discussions. Ask the Lord to bring forth much fruit from his faithful labors.

**28** Pray for SGA's senior missionary Ruth Deyneka Erdel and her husband Paul, as both have had some health challenges this year. May the Lord grant them healing and strength as they continue to serve Him faithfully.

**29** Please remember SGA's international offices in prayer—Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Australia. Ask the Lord to bring them many more

partners and supporting churches to help support Gospel ministry across the CIS and Eastern Europe.

**30** Pray today for SGA vice president Eric Mock and our mission's ministry division. Eric travels frequently across the CIS to visit our missionary pastors, as well as encouraging our RMC staff in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.

**31 Reflection:** We close January with the song of King David . . . *He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the Lord. How blessed is the man who has made the Lord his trust, and has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood (Psalm 40:3-4).*

## Partner Prayer Requests

*For boldness in sharing the Gospel . . . Myerstown, Pennsylvania*

*Intercede for our granddaughter . . . Marcellus, Michigan*

*We have numerous family needs . . . Sherman Oaks, California*

*I have an unspoken request . . . Spring, Texas*

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



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