



SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

# Good News Report

SHARING THE GOSPEL ♦ EQUIPPING THE CHURCH ♦ HELPING THE FORGOTTEN



## BORN INTO AN ETERNAL FAMILY!

Your Support  
is Drawing  
More Orphans  
to Christ

### INSIDE: REASONS TO REJOICE

- ♦ Your support changes lives in desperate times
- ♦ Young men reject drinking and choose Christ
- ♦ Massive youth rallies in 2018 set the stage for 2019

*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)*



# Thank You for Your Support of Compassion Ministry!

*Read these notes about two families you blessed . . .*

## Many special needs

We live in Zaporozhye, Ukraine—my husband Nikita, our grandson Kirill, and me. Kirill is 10 years old now, and he has suffered from cerebral palsy since his birth. Kirill's sister was born with Down's Syndrome. These special needs children were too large a trial for my daughter to stand, and she took her own life. It was a huge shock to us. Our situation is hard because my husband and I are both advanced in years. Kirill needs to be carried most of the time as he cannot sit very well, let alone walking. We are so thankful for your help with diapers, which are very expensive here. Thank you so much, again!

—Tamara



## War victims thank God for help

We are helping a young mother named Svetlana and her 8-year-old daughter Angelina. They have been in the hospital for six months after being badly burned in a fire. They had been forced to move from an apartment in eastern Ukraine

because it was destroyed by shelling in the war. The rented apartment they had moved to had a defective gas line. When Svetlana turned on the lights, the gas exploded and she was caught in the flames. **Her daughter heard Svetlana screaming and when she ran into the room, she was also burned.** Both have undergone multiple surgeries and will need further treatment. We heard about their situation from other believers, and we have visited them regularly, taking them funds to help with their treatment as well as Christian literature. We and the family are very thankful to God for His provision. Please pray for Svetlana and her daughter, for their healing and for their salvation!

—Volkova



# An “Orphan” Growing Strong for His Heavenly Father!

Vladimir Khalyavin  
Orphanage in Esaulovo

Nikolai gives you an exciting example of how we want to keep in touch with the children we disciple in our meetings, using social media networks to do it.



***This was Nikolai's first visit to church, and he was so moved by the sermon that he wanted to participate in communion.***

Nikolai is in high school and **lives at the orphanage in the village of Esaulovo**, within the Krasnoyarsk region. We met him last year when he came to one of our *Orphans Reborn* meetings. He is a gifted young man who plays guitar and loves to draw. His dream is to become an architect, and he wants to enroll in a construction college after his graduation.

Think of the influence he could have for the Lord!

One day, he messaged us over the Internet. He said that he wanted to come to the city to see us. We arranged to have him go to church with us. In the morning I picked him up at the bus station, and then he went with my family to the service. This was Nikolai's first visit to church, and he was so moved by the sermon that he wanted to participate in communion. **He was also very glad to see some of our team members who had visited his orphanage with Bible lessons in previous years.**

During his visit, Nikolai shared his plans for the future and asked us to pray that he could find a person to act as his supervisor. He desires to move to the city for school once he leaves his orphanage, and not have to travel from his village. Later, he sent me an email expressing his gratitude for the day we spent together.

Please pray for Nikolai, especially that he will continue to be drawn by the Lord and will come to Him in saving faith. And please keep praying for our ministry with the younger children, that God will bring them to Himself as they hear the Gospel and experience His love through us . . . *for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary* (Galatians 6:9). ♦



Through *Orphans Reborn*, orphans throughout Russia are learning about Christ.



# Orphans Reborn Student: “Your Lessons Have Had Great Impact on Me!”

Alexei Tukureev  
SGA-Sponsored *Orphans Reborn* Team  
in Krasnoyarsk

Lyonya was a part of the group of older orphan boys who were not required to attend our meetings—their attendance was elective. If they were willing, they came, if not, they did not attend. Lyonya was the only boy from that group who came on a regular basis—he did not miss a single lesson. He also stood out during the lessons because he was not only an attentive listener himself but also helped supervise the other children, so they would not talk during the lesson, and to make sure all of them participated in the games. Generally speaking, he made a very positive impression on us. At the end of June when our lessons were over, Lyonya did not have to move to an orphanage like many “social orphans,” but instead was able to go home, which was a good development!

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*“I liked to have a drink, but as the result of your lessons, I totally quit drinking.”*

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Later in the fall when we went back to the social center, Lyonya was there to meet us in the foyer! He smiled and we could see that he was genuinely glad to see us again. I asked him what he was doing here, and he replied, “I just came in to get



Lyonya has learned of God's healing love and to trust the Lord for guidance.

some papers. And did you come with a Bible lesson?” His desire was really something, because Lyonya lives some distance away.

We were able to have a good time of fellowship with Lyonya. He said, “You must know your lessons had really a great impact upon me. For example, earlier I liked to have a drink, but as the result of your lessons, I totally quit drinking. Because nobody but you told me the truth about it. And now, when my friends call me for a drink or just drinks next to me, I tell them that this is not a right thing.”

He said this so easily and casually that I believed him. This was very unexpected. **Of course, in our meetings we raise such issues as alcohol, but we also speak a lot about the love of God towards us.** For Lyonya, I have hope that since our lessons and discussion of alcohol influenced his life, the subject of God's healing love will not pass by his heart either. Please pray for him, because he is a very sound-minded young man, and I believe that he is not far from the truth. ♦

# Orphans Reborn Continues to Bring God's Love to Hurting Children Throughout the Former Soviet Lands





# Your Support Allows Me to Spread the Gospel!

## Reaching and Baptizing Youth in Ukraine



**Roman Kravchuk**  
SGA-Sponsored Missionary Pastor in Ukraine

I am so full of gratitude for your concern and support for my ministry in Ukraine. I hope you can fully understand the importance of our ministry—it is your support that allows me to do a lot of work and spread the Gospel!

Last summer, for example, we participated in *many* trips, meetings, messages, and seminars that have to be held in different parts of Ukraine. We were able to preach the Gospel to about 200 young people in the Vinnitsa region. Also, every year festivals for teenagers are held in Volyn. This event brings together hundreds of youth, and this past summer we had about 500. I had the privilege to preach the evangelistic service and God blessed us. Dozens of young people repented and reconciled with the Lord! The largest event was the **14th Congress of Christian Youth** in Odessa, and my team organized this Congress. There were about **3,000** people attending, and it took a whole year of preparation to get ready for it. Our prayer was to inspire young believers to tirelessly serve the Lord and people, and to enable them to share the Gospel with those who do not yet know about Jesus.

We gathered for worship, heard guest speakers, attended Bible and evangelism training seminars, and took time for recreation. On the day of the Annunciation, **250 youth traveled into Odessa and neighboring villages to share God's Word and the Gospel with people.** We also went to 65 homes occupied by needy families, with the intent of showing compassion and mercy as we cared for them.

**This Congress has motivated us to invest more with the younger generation.** The event might be over, but our mission continues! We must apply what we have learned in everyday life. In fact, the theme of the Congress was "**He is in Everything,**" meaning that God is involved in all spheres of life and wants us to be as well.

The last event of the fall season was Harvest Day. This event took place in the central square of Kiev. There were some **200,000 people** gathered there, and the main feature was the preaching of the Gospel, along with a concert program and many other activities. The Lord has blessed Ukraine and has given us a unique opportunity to share the Gospel. Please continue to pray for us and allow me to again express my gratitude for your support! ♦



## CIS IN THE NEWS

## Russia/Ukraine Conflict Fuels Orthodox Church Split

Late in the fall, Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew II in Constantinople approved a request by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to split from the Moscow Patriarchate, granting it "autocephaly" or independence. The Ukrainian church has been under the authority of the Russian Orthodox Church for centuries. Analysis by media watchers view the split as a proxy for the political tensions that exist between Russia and Ukraine over the armed separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine, and Russia's annexation of Crimea. In response, Russian Patriarch Kirill said Moscow would break off relations with the Ecumenical Patriarch, who is the spiritual leader of global Orthodox Christianity.

While this difficult situation does not directly affect the evangelical churches we serve across the former Soviet Union, **increasing political tensions**



The Crimea region of Ukraine.

**between Russia and Ukraine are of considerable concern.** These concerns are heightened even more if the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine gets worse. **Please continue to intercede in prayer for our brothers and sisters in both nations, asking the Lord to open opportunities to proclaim the Gospel and the peace of Christ.** ♦

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Last year SGA launched a 21-orphanage expansion, adding to the 129 orphanages we already served as 2018 began. Now, in 2019, we are praying for enough fresh resources to keep evangelizing and discipling the growing number of lonely, hurting girls and boys as they flow into this expanded number of orphanages. These are often confused, angry kids. Like Yaroslav, an orphan who wanted to find and "kill my father." Those feelings melted when He learned about



Christ and His forgiveness. Or the one in Krestnaya, who thought "God was killed." But through *Orphans Reborn* he learned about Christ's resurrection, the Gospel, and salvation. Through your faithful support of SGA, you are helping to make it all possible, as well as all of our other ministries including Bible training, provision of Russian-language Bibles and Christian literature, *Compassion Ministry* for needy families and individuals, and so much more! **Please pray about how you can help today!** ♦



# Insight FROM MICHAEL

## Orphans “Reborn” into the Father’s House

Even though I have known about this statistic for years, I still can't help but be shocked by it when I see it. Imagine more than 700,000 orphan children across Russia—and even more when you factor in the other nations of the CIS. It is truly staggering.

As you have read in our newsletter before, the vast number of these forgotten children are “social orphans,” in essence children who have living parents (or caregivers), but are abused, neglected, or both. In many cases, their parents are alcoholics and unable to care for them. Whether they are social orphans or true orphans, life in an orphanage is terribly difficult. The staff does the best they can, but the sheer numbers of children make it very hard to provide individual attention.

In addition, these children are often not prepared for life on the outside when they reach age 18 and must leave the facility. Countless young people end up in crime, drug abuse, alcoholism, or prostitution. Unless someone intervenes.

And that is what the SGA-sponsored *Orphans Reborn* is all about—making an eternal difference in the lives of these young boys and girls. And once they come to Christ, they often end up as part of the ministry themselves, dedicated to reaching other kids with the Gospel as they were reached. It's an ongoing story of grace that you are helping to write.

**Please pray for *Orphans Reborn*, and all the other SGA ministries you help support through your prayers and giving. I am so thankful for your partnership!**

For our Savior,

  
Michael Johnson  
President



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