



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:** . . . and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us (Romans 5:5).

**1 Reflection:** We begin the new month with God's reminder through the Prophet Isaiah . . . *But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at my Word* (Isaiah 66:2).

**2** We are thankful to you—our ministry partners—for your faithfulness in interceding for SGA's ministries. Our prayer is that you will be blessed and encouraged to see the fruit of your support as many come to faith in Christ across Russia and her neighboring countries.

**3** Pray today for SGA president Michael Johnson and our leadership team—our chief financial officer Beverly Braunsky and Eric Mock, vice president of ministry operations. May the Lord grant them abundant wisdom and direction as they direct our mission's day to day activities.

**4** According to Forum 18 and other media, prosecutions in Russia under the 2016 "Yarovaya" anti-missionary law are increasing in some locations. Please pray today for the protection of the evangelical churches



we serve as they obey the Lord and continue proclaiming the Gospel.

## BELARUS



**5** Pray for youth leader Dima Podrez and his ministry at Golgotha Baptist Church in Minsk. Dima and youth teams frequently travel across Belarus to encourage local churches and share the Gospel as God opens the door.

**6** Soon the fall term of study will be getting underway at the SGA-sponsored Minsk Theological Seminary. Pray for seminary president Leonid Mihovich, the students and the faculty as they devote themselves to the deep study of God's Word. Leonid also serves as president of the Baptist Union in Belarus.

**7** Please pray for SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Alexei, who ministers in the Korelichi region. In addition to summer camp ministry, Alexei has also been able to visit local schools and share the story of Christ with second grade children. We are thankful to God for these Gospel opportunities.

**8** As summer camp winds down this month, please pray for the attending children, asking the Lord to open their hearts to the Gospel. Pray also for the churches as they follow up with the children and their families after camp season ends.

**9** Pray for SGA's Minsk Regional Ministry Center (RMC), led by director Piotr Podrez. Ask for God's continued blessing, anointing and provision as they fulfill their ministry of serving Bible-preaching churches across Belarus.

## RUSSIA



**10** The relationship between the U.S. and Russia has gotten worse in recent years, and our concern is always for continued open doors to help our brothers and sisters as they advance the Gospel. Ask the Lord to move in this situation as only He can.

**11** Several congregations across Russia have been encountering difficulties from local authorities in the wake of the 2016 anti-missionary law that was adopted. Please pray for the protection of our brothers and sisters, asking God to remove any barriers to sharing the Gospel with the lost.

**12** Please pray for Dr. Piotr Mitskevich, president of the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (UECB). May God grant him continued wisdom and discernment in leading the more than 1,750 churches of Russia's largest evangelical fellowship.

**13** SGA's Moscow RMC is a vitally important hub for coordinating our mission's ministry activities across Russia's 11 time zones. Lift director Valery Kazakov and his team in prayer today.

**14** Pray for SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Venyamin Runov, who ministers in Russia's important Nizhny Novgorod region. Pray especially for a church plant in a nearby village where new people are attending, and a new pastor and deacons have been appointed.

**15** Please continue to pray regularly for SGA-sponsored *Orphans Reborn* teams across Russia and the CIS. We rejoice at the impact this ministry is having in the lives of thousands of lonely, forgotten children as they discover the love of Jesus.



**16** Lift the faculty and students of the SGA-sponsored Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary in prayer today. Pray also for several distance learning centers across Russia under the supervision of Novosibirsk. We praise the Lord for His gracious provision.

## UKRAINE



**17** Provision of doctrinally sound Bible training continues to be SGA's highest priority. Please intercede in prayer for Irpen Biblical Seminary, its faculty, and students as they prepare for the fall term of study. Also ask for God's increased provision to support the school's academic programs.

**18** Lift Pastor Valery Antonyuk, president of the Ukrainian UECB, in prayer today. We are thankful for this dedicated brother, his servant leadership, and commitment to the Word of God.

**19** Pray for SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Oleg Larkin and his family in Ukraine's Donetsk region near the conflict zone. We are thankful to the Lord for his fruitful ministry with the elderly, war refugees, and children.

**20** Intercede for director Ruslan Muratayev and the staff of SGA's Kiev RMC. Pray that God will enable them to be an ongoing blessing and encouragement to evangelical churches across Ukraine.

**21** Please pray for SGA's Sergei Omelchenko, our mission's chief Russian book editor. Sergei also

frequently serves as translator for SGA president Michael Johnson and other staff when they are traveling in the CIS.

## CENTRAL ASIA, CAUCASUS, & ISRAEL

**22** Pray for Pastor Iftikhar, who serves in Russia's Caucasus region. While he must minister discreetly due to Muslim opposition, Iftikhar still has fruitful ministry opportunities with disabled children and orphans.

**23** More reports are coming out of Kazakhstan about the possibility of increased fines levied against evangelical churches and other religious groups on various grounds. Ask the Lord to intervene and to protect His people as they worship and lovingly share the Gospel.

**24** Please remember Kazakh UECB president Franz Tissen in prayer, as well as his UECB colleagues across Central Asia. These faithful brothers need abundant wisdom from the Lord in these challenging days.

**25** Lift the SGA-sponsored Almaty Bible Institute and director Alexander Karyakov in prayer today. We praise and thank the Lord for the impact this doctrinally sound Bible school is having across Central Asia!

**26** Please remember ongoing SGA-sponsored Bible training in Israel taking place in partnership with Israel College of the Bible. It is a wonderful privilege to serve Russian-speaking Jewish believers and congregations for the sake of the Gospel.

**27** Our mission's annual audit usually takes place in August, and this is always a very busy time for our accounting staff. Please lift them before the Lord in prayer today. We are thankful to Him for the consistently high marks we receive each year from the auditors!

**28** As the summer begins to wind down, the last of SGA-sponsored summer children's camp ministries will soon be concluding. Pray that many children will be drawn to saving faith in these final days of the season.

**29** We continue to hear encouraging reports from faithful missionary pastors who are distributing food items to needy families through SGA-sponsored Compassion Ministry. Pray with us that many hearts will be opened to the

Gospel as they experience God's provision for their needs.

**30** Please pray for God's ongoing direction and wisdom for SGA's advancement division, which is responsible for communication with our partners and raising the needed funds for our ministries. Join us in asking the Lord for many new partners to help further advance His kingdom in the CIS.

**31 Reflection:** We close August with the Apostle Paul's thankful prayer . . . *We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father* (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3).

## Partner Prayer Requests

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| <i>For general health . . .</i>                                      | Dayton, Ohio            |
| <i>Please lift my children in prayer . . .</i>                       | Mathews, North Carolina |
| <i>Pray for recovery from stroke . . .</i>                           | Whittier, California    |
| <i>Please pray that our house will sell . . .</i>                    | Roscoe, Illinois        |
| <i>For our new book to glorify Christ and lead many to Him . . .</i> | Maple Falls, Washington |

**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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