



SHARING THE GOSPEL ♦ EQUIPPING THE CHURCH
HELPING THE FORGOTTEN

MEDIA FACT SHEET

Slavic Gospel Association

How does Slavic Gospel Association impact the former Soviet Union?

Through a network of 6,350 evangelical churches in 10 countries across the former Soviet Union, Slavic Gospel Association (SGA) has the ability to distribute aid at the exact point of need. We partner with local churches and missionaries to share Jesus' love and help meet the specific needs leaders identify in their community.

SGA works in Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The vast region stretches more than 4,000 miles with a population of 290 million. [Click here for a map.](#)

COVID-19 is bad in the U.S. Why are you focused on Russia?

Even in normal times, the average monthly salary in Russia is only \$500. More than 40% of working-age men in Russia die from drinking too much alcohol. The number of orphans in Russia is equal to the entire population of Seattle, and many of the orphans are recruited into Russian gangs or prostitution. Russia's mortality rate is the 7th highest in the world. Health care expenditures are less than a third of that in the U.S. and their medical infrastructure is poor, especially in rural areas. In simple terms, COVID-19 will make a bad situation even worse.

How is Slavic Gospel Association meeting practical needs?

With much of the former Soviet Union on lockdown, SGA's local church partners are already hearing from more hungry and homeless neighbors. For about \$10, SGA can provide the local church with a bag of food that will sustain a typical family for about a week, or supplement their meals for about two weeks, depending on the exact need. Food supplies are typically purchased locally to support the economy.

Who is Slavic Gospel Association?

Founded by a Belarussian immigrant to the United States in 1934 and headquartered near Chicago, Slavic Gospel Association (SGA, www.sga.org) helps reach "forgotten" orphans, widows and families in Russia, the other former Soviet countries of Eastern Europe/Central Asia, and Russian-speaking immigrants in Israel through an extensive grassroots network of local evangelical missionary pastors and churches, caring for physical needs and sharing the life-transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Who is a 'Slavic' person?

The Slavic people - or 'Slavs' - are the indigenous ethnic peoples of Eastern Europe, Russia, and large parts of Central Asia, a landmass stretching more than 4,000 miles from Europe to the Bering Strait off the coast of Alaska. The Slavic countries include Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, and others.

Who started Slavic Gospel Association - and why?

Rev. Peter Deyneka - a Belarussian immigrant to the United States known as “Peter Dynamite” because of his dynamic prayer life - founded SGA in 1934 to support persecuted churches and pastors behind the Iron Curtain. Rev. Deyneka fought communist oppression on his knees in prayer. His rallying cry – “Much Prayer, Much Power” – is the title of his 1958 book calling Christians around the world to intercede for their “suffering brothers and sisters.”

What does Slavic Gospel Association do today?

Today, SGA connects evangelical churches and individuals in North America with local evangelical churches, pastors, and missionaries across Russia and the former Soviet nations to spread the Gospel in cities, towns and remote villages. SGA shares the Gospel with – and provides vital aid for – orphans living in state-run orphanages and children’s homes. These children face a dismal future without Christ - but SGA-supported missionaries aim to change that! SGA also strengthens indigenous evangelical churches through training for pastors, evangelists, and children’s workers, and partnering with these local leaders to meet humanitarian needs.

Why are Russia’s orphans “forgotten?”

More than 700,000 unwanted children and orphans – equal to the entire population of Seattle – are crammed into bleak, cold, under-funded orphanages across Russia and the former Soviet bloc. They are truly the “forgotten” – lonely, rejected, and without hope. Some commit suicide, others end up as drug addicts or prostitutes, or turn to crime. These children face a dismal future without Christ, but SGA-supported missionaries aim to change that, bringing the light and love of Christ into their lives with encouraging Bible studies and food/clothing packages that say: “*We care – and Jesus loves you.*”

What is the ‘Christ Over COVID’ campaign?

Launched in April 2020 at the peak of the COVID-19 crisis, ***Christ Over COVID*** is SGA’s global prayer campaign, calling for intercession and urgent relief aid for orphans, widows and families across Russia and the former Soviet bloc. “***Right now, God is using COVID-19 to open hearts like nothing we’ve seen since the fall of the Iron Curtain,***” says ***SGA president Michael Johnson.***