



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:

The One who builds His upper chambers in the heavens and has founded His vaulted dome over the earth, He who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the face of the earth, the Lord is His name (Amos 9:6).

1 Reflection: We begin December with the psalmist's praise of our God and Father . . . *The works of His hands are truth and justice; all His precepts are sure. They are upheld forever and ever; they are performed in truth and uprightness. He has sent redemption to His people (Psalm 111:7-9).*

2 Soon it will be time for SGA-sponsored Christmas ministries across Russia and her neighboring countries, and the churches we serve will need great wisdom amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Ask for God's provision and protection, and that many will hear the Gospel despite difficulties on a local level.

3 Pray today for SGA president Michael Johnson, our leadership team, and board of directors today. For the past few months, they have been involved in intensive strategic planning for our ministries and are seeking the Lord's wisdom and direction.

RUSSIA



4 Sergei Zayakin is one of our faithful staff at SGA's Moscow Regional Ministry Center (RMC). Sergei recently suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized for a time. Please join us in praying for Sergei's complete recovery.

5 Please pray for Dr. Piotr Mitskevich, president of the Russian UECB. Pray also for the seven regional vice presidents and pastors across Russia's 11 time zones—truly a huge amount of territory remaining to be reached with the Gospel.

6 We have been troubled by recent news from Russia that the government is considering additional restrictions on churches, especially in the area of receiving theological education abroad. Join us in praying for God's provision in supporting Bible training within the country.

7 We praise and thank the Lord for His gracious provision for the SGA-sponsored Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary. Lift seminary president Eduard Genrikh, the faculty, and students in prayer today.

8 This past fall, SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Ruslan

Osmanov went to be with the Lord after a sudden short illness. Please remember his family in prayer during this difficult time and pray for wisdom for his church as new leadership is chosen.

9 While the COVID-19 pandemic has posed significant challenges for many ministries across Russia, the churches SGA serves have proven creative in carrying out their ministries such as *Orphans Reborn*. We praise and thank the Lord for His provision in reaching children with the love of Christ and the life-changing Gospel.

10 Pray today for Pastor Vitaly Zanin, national youth ministry director for the Russian UECB. It is inspiring and edifying to see the way teenagers and young adults are being reached with the Gospel and committing their lives to Christ through Vitaly's ministry.

UKRAINE



11 Please pray for the faculty and students of the SGA-sponsored Irpen Biblical Seminary in Ukraine, led by Dr. Igor Yaremchuk. Ask for God's continued, generous provision for this strategically important Bible school, and its ongoing impact for the Gospel across the CIS.

12 Intercede for Pastor Valery Antonyuk, president of the Ukrainian UECB. Ask the Lord to grant Valery and his fellow pastors wisdom and direction during these challenging days for Ukraine.

13 This past summer, SGA-sponsored missionary pastor

Vladimir Shelamba and his church distributed food aid to needy families in the Carpathian Mountains region who were impacted by severe flooding. We praise and thank the Lord for this opportunity to show Christ's love and share the life-changing Gospel.

14 Please continue to pray for SGA-sponsored missionary pastors who are distributing food parcels to needy families through a joint outreach supported by SGA and Children's Hunger Fund. Ask God to open many hearts to the Gospel as they experience His love and gracious provision.

15 Lift SGA's Kiev Regional Ministry Center staff in prayer today. We are thankful to God for director Ruslan Muratayev and his dedicated team, and their faithful commitment to Christ and the service of His churches throughout Ukraine.

BELARUS



16 Please join us in praying for our brothers and sisters in Belarus as political unrest continues to roil the country. Church leaders there have called for an end to violence, and our concern—as always—is for the freedom of believers there to worship and proclaim the love of Christ through the Gospel.

17 Pastor Pavel in Belarus' Vitebsk region has been visiting families to distribute food and share the Gospel as part of the SGA-sponsored **Christ Over COVID**

outreach. The families have been deeply thankful to receive help and are open to hearing of Christ's love for them. Please keep interceding!

18 Pray for Piotr Podrez, director of SGA's Minsk RMC. Piotr recently had successful heart bypass surgery and has been in recovery. We are thankful to the Lord for this dear brother and his family, and their faithful service to Christ.

19 Please lift the SGA-sponsored Minsk Theological Seminary and its students in prayer today. Also pray for Leonid Mihovich in his role as president of the seminary, as well as the UECB of Belarus.

20 Continue to remember the SGA-sponsored Little Pearl Diagnostic Children's Camp at Kobrin, praying especially for the ongoing needs for operational funding. Hundreds of children affected by Chernobyl radiation attend this camp each year and hear the Gospel while there.

CENTRAL ASIA, CAUCASUS, & ISRAEL

21 This past fall, fighting broke out again between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, with many killed or injured including civilians. Pray for evangelical churches in the region as they proclaim peace and reconciliation in Christ.

22 In countries such as Tajikistan, many families are living in heartbreaking poverty. Pray that God will provide resources for SGA to

enable evangelical churches to reach out to these families with aid and the Gospel, and also to help needy believing families.

23 The COVID-19 pandemic has hit Central Asia hard, but reliable statistics are hard to come by because some governments are not releasing accurate numbers of those afflicted. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in these authoritarian regions, asking for their protection and opportunity to share Christ's love in the midst of great trials.

24 We praise and thank the Lord for the opportunity to help Russian-speaking congregations in Israel to reach needy children there through the SGA-sponsored *Immanuel's Child* ministry. Please intercede in advance as the gifts are distributed and the Gospel is shared.

25 Christmas Day: . . . *for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord* (Luke 2:10). We praise and thank our God and Father for the matchless gift of His Son, who came to save His people from their sins. Pray for upcoming *Immanuel's Child* Christmas ministries across the CIS, and for the children who will hear the Gospel.

26 Pray for SGA's director of Bible training in Israel. Ask the Lord to anoint his labors in building a strong Bible training network for the faithful Russian-speaking believers there.

27 Intercede in prayer for Alexander Karyakov, director of the SGA-sponsored Almaty Bible Institute in Kazakhstan. With Islam

dominant in the country, evangelical churches can encounter much opposition. Through Almaty, future generations of faithful Bible-preaching pastors are being prepared for ministry.

28 Continue to pray for the family of Sergei Omelchenko, SGA's senior Russian-language book editor. Recently his son Mark was married, and we rejoice with them in this time of celebration!

29 Please join us in lifting SGA's international offices in prayer—in Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, and New Zealand. Each one is vitally important in helping to reach Russian speakers with the Gospel around the world.

30 As we prepare to enter the new year after a very challenging 2020, we do not know what lies ahead for SGA as a ministry, and for us all as individuals. But we know that we serve a sovereign God who will work His purpose in the world, and who will continue building His church. We praise, glorify, and thank Him today for allowing us to be a part of what He is doing!

31 Reflection: Join us in concluding 2020 with praise to God from the pen of King David . . . *Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation . . . God is to us a God of deliverances; and to God the Lord belong escapes from death* (Psalm 68:19-20).

Partner Prayer Requests

Pray for our country . . .

Signal Mountain, Tennessee

I am losing my vision . . . please pray . . .

Castle Rock, Colorado

Please lift up Chicago inner-city churches . . .

Chicago, Illinois

I was recently widowed . . . pray for God's comfort . . .

South Wales, New York

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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