



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:

*But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the lovingkindness of God forever and ever (Psalm 52:8).*

**1 Reflection:** We begin the new year and the new month resting in the words of our Lord and Savior . . . *Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls (Matthew 11:28-29).*

**2** Please join us today in interceding for the many who were reached with the Gospel last year as part of the SGA-sponsored **Christ Over COVID** outreach. The needs are likely to continue on into this year, so also pray for the resources for the churches to continue helping needy families.

**3** Pray today for SGA president Michael Johnson. Ask for God's wisdom for Michael and our leadership team, as well as for our board of directors as they continue to engage in strategic planning.

**4** With a new U.S. presidential term beginning later this month, our prayer remains the same no matter who occupies the White House or seats of governments abroad. May the Lord continue to protect His people and give

them many new opportunities to share the life-changing Gospel with the lost.

**5** Pray for Bill Ball and the staff of SGA/Canada. Bill keeps a very busy itinerary traveling and sharing the SGA story with individuals and churches across Canada. May God grant many new opportunities in the days ahead!

## BELARUS



**6** In the midst of all the political turmoil and violence in Belarus over the past several months, the faithful staff of SGA's Regional Ministry Center (RMC) in Minsk continue to faithfully and lovingly serve the Lord and the evangelical churches of their nation. Please lift them in prayer today.

**7 Russian Christmas:** . . . *for He will save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).*

Today across the former Soviet Union, churches will be observing Christmas—the most important time of the year for evangelism. Intercede for



SGA-sponsored *Immanuel's Child* outreaches, praying with us for many more children to be reached with the Gospel.

**8** As evangelical churches in Belarus continue to distribute food parcels provided through SGA partners to needy families, pray with us that God will use this loving help to open many hearts for the Gospel. Also pray for the churches involved in distribution.

**9** Please remember the SGA-sponsored Minsk Theological Seminary in prayer. We praise the Lord for Rev. Leonid Mihovich, and his careful leadership of this strategic Bible school coupled with his presidency of the Belarussian UECB.

**10** The *Orphans Reborn* ministry supported by SGA in Belarus continues to be a very fruitful ministry, with many lonely, forgotten orphan children reached with the Gospel every year. Pray with us for open doors and God's ongoing provision.

**11** SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Boris V. serves in the Vitebsk region, and held a wonderful baptism service at a local river where many heard the Gospel. May the Lord cause the seeds planted to take root and grow!

## RUSSIA



**12** Pray for Dr. Piotr Mitskevich, president of the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (UECB). He was also recently elected as president of the Euro-Asiatic Baptist Federation, which includes

churches across Eastern Europe and Asia.

**13** Lift SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Alexander Khoroshkov in prayer today. The COVID-19 pandemic has afforded more opportunities for Alexander and his church to reach out in their region with the Gospel. Pray for his church as they continue completion of a major construction project.

**14** Please continue to pray for the ongoing **Christ Over COVID** outreach across Russia and her neighboring countries. The pandemic has hit the former Soviet Union hard, and this has opened many doors for churches to share much-needed food aid and the love of Christ with needy families.

**15** It's yet another term of careful Bible study for the students at the SGA-sponsored Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary. Please lift seminary leader Eduard Genrikh, the faculty, and students in prayer today.

**16** Join us in praising God for the vibrant, growing church youth movement across Russia, led by UECB national youth director Vitaly Zanin. May the Lord open many doors for these zealous, faithful young men and women to serve their churches and proclaim the Gospel.

## CENTRAL ASIA, CAUCASUS, & ISRAEL

**17** Pray today for SGA's professor of Bible, Dr. Roman Dechtiarenko. Roman frequently has opportunities to teach at the Almaty

Bible Institute in Kazakhstan, although the pandemic has posed challenges for travel.

**18** Please join us in intercession for our brothers and sisters in Uzbekistan, where authorities continue to push for additional restrictions on evangelical churches. We praise and thank the Lord for their faithful, loving witness in the midst of severe opposition.

**19** Berik A. is an SGA-sponsored missionary pastor in Kazakhstan who conducts very fruitful children's ministry in his region. Pray for him as the church follows up with children reached through *Immanuel's Child* this past Christmas.

**20** The former Soviet countries of Central Asia periodically see unrest within their borders, most recently in the nation of Kyrgyzstan where the government was swept out of power. Pray for evangelical churches in this challenging region as they proclaim peace and reconciliation through Christ.

**21** The war that re-ignited last fall between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Caucasus region has claimed many lives in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region. Pray for peace in these troubled lands, and for the protection of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**22** Please pray regularly for SGA's director of Bible training in Israel, who lives in a region of the country under frequent attack from the neighboring Gaza Strip. Pray also for SGA's ongoing partnership with

Israel College of the Bible.

## UKRAINE



**23** We praise and thank God for Ruslan Muratayev and the staff of SGA's Kiev RMC. May the Lord bless and encourage their hearts today as they serve the Bible-preaching churches of Ukraine.

**24** Pray for Pastor Valery Antonyuk, president of the Ukrainian UECB. Pray also for the faithful pastors and churches across Ukraine's 25 oblasts (states). Ukraine has seen war in the eastern regions and much political turmoil, and the witness of the church is so vitally important in these times.

**25** Please intercede today for SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Vasily Shevchuk, who continues to help needy families with food as part of **Christ Over COVID** in his region of Ukraine. We thank the Lord for the opportunities given to Vasily to share the love of Christ.

**26** Pray for SGA's international offices in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. May the Lord increase their resources to serve evangelical churches across the CIS and Eastern Europe.

**27** Thus far, the personal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic among SGA's staff in North America have been limited although some of our extended families have been affected. We are so thankful for our partners who continually lift us in prayer as we carry out our ministries!

**28** Garland Gould serves as SGA's director of donor engagement, and loves to share with our partners what God is doing across the former Soviet Union today. Please lift him in prayer as his responsibilities involve frequent travel.

**29** One ongoing need at SGA is for more people to help sponsor missionary pastors to go out across Russia and her neighboring countries where there is little to no Gospel witness. Please lift this before the Lord today.

**30** Provision of Russian-language Bibles and Christian literature overseas has always been a top priority for SGA, and the need for God's Word is as great as ever. Ask for God's

increased provision to provide Bibles, New Testaments and biblically sound Christian books for distribution.

**30 Reflection:** We close January with praise to God by the psalmist Asaph . . . *Yet God is my king from old, who works deeds of deliverance in the midst of the earth* (Psalm 74:12).



## Partner Prayer Requests

*Please pray for my son and family . . .*

Salem, Oregon

*For God's blessing on our Bible study . . .*

Springdale, Arkansas

*Pray for revival in our church . . .*

Elverson, Pennsylvania

*For the salvation of loved ones . . .*

Westland, Michigan

*Pray for all afflicted by wildfires here . . .*

Moreno Valley, CA

**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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