

# 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:** *Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life* (John 6:47).

**1 Reflection:** We begin the new month with deep thanksgiving for God's faithfulness . . . You, O Lord, will not withhold your compassion from me; Your lovingkindness and Your truth will continually preserve me (Psalm 40:11).

2 Please pray for God's protection over evangelical churches across the former Soviet Union in these changing times. May He ever grant them new open doors for the Gospel among their people.



**3** Keep SGA president Michael Johnson in prayer in the midst of a very busy schedule. As always, pray for ongoing wisdom and discernment as he and our leadership team oversee SGA and our service to the faithful churches of the former Soviet Union.

**4** Please pray in advance for churches that will be holding

SGA-supported summer camp ministries beginning next month. We are praying for a record number of children to be reached with the Gospel, and that the Lord will draw many to Himself in saving faith.



#### RUSSIA

**5** Pray for Dr. Piotr Mitskevich, president of the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (UECB). In addition to Piotr, there are seven regional vice presidents responsible for territory across 11 time zones. Please remember them in prayer as well.

**6** Lift the staff of SGA's Moscow Regional Ministry Center (RMC) in prayer today. Led by director Valery Kazakov, our Moscow team is a vital support to SGA's overall ministry across vast Russia.

May 2023

7 Please pray today for Vitaly Zanin, national youth ministry director for the Russian UECB. Ask the Lord for wisdom and direction as Vitaly and his fellow youth pastors disciple and train even more young people to serve.

8 Ilya is an SGA-supported missionary pastor in Russia's Kaluga region, and he reports ministry has become more challenging due to the war in Ukraine. Please lift him and his fellow pastors in prayer today, asking for wisdom and open doors for outreach.

**9** Pray for the SGA-sponsored Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary—located in central Siberia. Pray for seminary president Eduard Genrikh, the students, and their professors as they dig deeply into God's Word together.

**10** With a nation as large as Russia, there are numerous remote places across the country where access is very difficult. Pray for SGA-sponsored missionary pastors and churches in these regions, asking for God's ongoing provision and guidance.



**11** Pray for Vasily, an SGAsponsored missionary pastor in the Minsk region who is deeply involved in the SGA-sponsored *Orphans Reborn* ministry. Pray for continued unhindered access so these lonely, forgotten children can hear the Gospel and know of Christ's love.

**12** Belarus shares its southern border with Ukraine and continues to receive refugee families fleeing from the war. Keep interceding for the churches who are helping these needy families with humanitarian aid and the life-changing Gospel.

**13** Pastor Leonid Mihovich serves as president of the Belarussian UECB and as leader of the SGAsponsored Minsk Theological Seminary. Pray for guidance as the seminary continues to prepare faithful pastors and church workers for future ministry.

**14** We praise and thank the Lord for Piotr and Dima Podrez, plus their faithful staff at SGA's Minsk RMC. Ask for God's ongoing blessing and provision in their ongoing service to evangelical churches across Belarus.

15 This summer will again be a supported Little Pearl camp in Belarus. We praise and thank the Lord for this special camp that helps sick children from across the country receive diagnostic services and limited treatment, while also serving war refugees.

### UKRAINE

**16** The war in Ukraine has gone on now for a year and three months, and the needs of the refugees remain very great. Pray for God's ongoing provision of resources to help churches aid the refugees and proclaim the hope of the Gospel. 17 Distribution of food, clothing, and other aid to war-affected families is very dangerous across Ukraine because of the constant bombardment in the war. Ask the Lord for His protection of the faithful missionary pastors as they travel and share Christ's love.



**18** Please pray for director Ruslan Muratayev and his team at SGA's Kiev RMC. Intercede in prayer for their families, and ask the Lord to encourage their hearts even as they encourage the churches they serve.

**19** Join us in praising the Lord for His gracious provision for Irpen Biblical Seminary, which has been supported by SGA since its inception. Please continue to pray for the safety of the students, faculty, and campus amid the ongoing war.

20 Lift in prayer Pastor Valery Antonyuk, president of the Ukrainian UECB. Continue to ask for abundant wisdom, direction, and God's peace for Valery as he fulfills his leadership responsibilities.

#### CENTRAL ASIA, CAUCASUS, & ISRAEL

**21** We praise and thank God for the opportunities to hold *Antioch Initiative* Bible training

sessions for pastors in the former Soviet nation of Georgia and in Far East Russia this year. Pray with us for additional locations as the Lord opens the doors.

**22** Pray today for SGA's partners at Israel College of the Bible as they provide Bible training for Russian-speaking immigrants and congregations in Israel. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve these congregations and help strengthen them in God's Word.

23 Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Armenia and Azerbaijan, where tensions over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh remain high. Ask the Lord to open hearts for the Gospel and to bring lasting peace.

24 The Caucasus Mountains region covers southern Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia, and ministry in some localities can be very dangerous due to the dominance of Islam. Remember SGA-sponsored missionary pastors in prayer on a regular basis.

25 The Central Asian nations where SGA works are Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. Please intercede in prayer for the faithful missionary pastors we support as they plant new churches and engage in discreet evangelism.

**26** Pray today for Alexander Karyakov, director of the SGA-sponsored Almaty Bible Institute in Kazakhstan. We praise and thank the Lord for this influential, biblically sound school in the heart of Central Asia. **27** Pray for SGA's international offices in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. We praise and thank God for their faithful dedication to the Gospel and service to evangelical churches in the CIS and Eastern Europe.

28 We are thankful for SGA's active Senior missionaries—Ruth Deyneka Erdel and Andrew Semenchuk. Pray for them today as they continue to serve the Lord and lift up the name of Jesus in their ministries.

**29**Pray today for the staff at SGA's Loves Park, Illinois, home office. We are so thankful for the opportunity to serve our brothers and sisters across the former Soviet Union, and rejoice at the wonderful harvest being gathered by God's grace and mercy.

**30**Ask the Lord for increased resources for ongoing Compassion Ministry supported by SGA across Russia and her neighboring countries. While the war in Ukraine has been a big focus, the missionary pastors we sponsor elsewhere engage in humanitarian aid support as God provides.

**31** Reflection: Let us conclude May with the Apostle Peter's admonition . . . You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness (2 Peter 3:17).

## **Partner Prayer Requests**

*My* brother is battling cancer . . . pray for healing . . .

Forreston, Illinois

Pray for persecuted Christians everywhere . . .

Elmo, Montana

Moving to assisted living soon . . . pray for the transition . . .

Birmingham, Alabama

Pray for my son as he seeks new employment . . .

Edison, New Jersey

For ongoing healing . . .

Ottawa, ON

The SGA staff is honored to bring your request to the Lord. We thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this way.



Slavic Gospel Association 6151 Commonwealth Drive Loves Park, Illinois 61111 815-282-8900 ◆ sga.org



Slavic Cospel Association ◆ Canada 766 Old Hespeler Road, Suite #204 Cambridge, ON N3H 5L8 519-621-3553 ◆ www.sgacanada.ca