



SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

Good News Report

SHARING THE GOSPEL ♦ EQUIPPING THE CHURCH ♦ HELPING THE FORGOTTEN

Christmas is Coming—When Lost Souls Will Hear of the Incarnate, Crucified, and Risen Christ

Churches gear up for *Immanuel's Child* through your support . . .

INSIDE: YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS AT WORK

- ♦ Young and old came to Christ at Christmas events last year in Belarus
- ♦ Baby Tanya was thrown out with the trash! She survived, and now God is glorified in her life
- ♦ How SGA churches use the birth of Christ to proclaim the entire Gospel

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit . . . (MATTHEW 28:19)

Your Prayers and Gifts Bless *Immanuel's Child* and Adult Christmas Outreach!

This includes non-believing orphans, children at home, and more lost souls

As the summer of 2025 fades, faithful churches in the former USSR are already busy preparing for *Immanuel's Child* Christmas outreaches to children, including orphans. You are a vital part of it all through your prayers and generous support. The Lord uses these fruitful ministries to bring many children to Himself. And as Pastor Alexander B. in Belarus reminds us, children are touched by Christ's love. Here is his report:

"Greetings, friends! The days of Christmas are gracious for preaching about the Savior who was born to us. Last Christmas, we invited children to see a puppet show about the birth of Christ. **We had 22 children come—11 of them from non-believing families.** We also visited four children and two teenagers at their homes.



Immanuel's Child Christmas outreach.

In addition, we continue to visit a family home where **11 children** are being raised. They are eager to be involved in Bible lessons, and they look forward to seeing us every time. On our last visit, they hugged us and gave us toys for the Christmas tree they made with their own hands. At the end of the lesson, we ask who wants to pray, and the older children from six to

13 years old pray simple, but very sincere prayers. Four of the children—Sergei, Ilya, Daniel, and Gordey—with their tutor Sergei were able to visit our church for a Christmas puppet show. They actively answered questions and received wonderful gifts.

Our other Christmas outreach is finding a home in adults, too! By the grace of God, a new woman named Ekaterina came to the Christmas service. **We had been praying for her for a long time.** We take her disabled husband Alexei from the village to church every time for the holidays, but she refused to come along each time. This time God moved her heart. Alexei and Ekaterina are very active participants in the territorial center for the disabled. There is a problem as they live far away from our town, and it is not always possible to pick them up. Please pray for them, and especially their repentance.



Ekaterina and Alexei.

We also visited the nursing home and reminded everybody of the birth of Christ. Some people there are going into eternity and new people come in, but there are many who await our visit and greet us with joy! We made two visits—one with a choir from the Polotsk church and one with a Christmas puppet show. Many of the elderly there have been given the Word of God to read.

Thank you for your help in our ministry, and for caring for our people in Belarus. Please continue to pray with us for the people of our area, and for our upcoming ministry this Christmas!" ♦

In Largely Muslim Kazakhstan, Summer Bible Camp Reaches 100 Children

Just one example of how God is using your prayers and gifts!

Albert
SGA-Supported Missionary



Children at the summer camp.



Peace be to you, dear friends. We held our first camp earlier this summer, which was attended by about **90-100 children**. The camp theme was about John the Baptist and his ministry.

On the night I arrived, it turned out that the main speaker could not make it, so the team asked me to speak. Normally, I only give a short word before handing out bananas to the children. So I got a bit nervous and inwardly asked God to give me the words. I started by asking the children what they knew about John the Baptist, and of course, talked about Jesus Christ and all that He did for each of us. Then I went on to tell of the sinfulness of man and the dreadful judgment for all those who would not believe.

I explained that many people die in this world today, and among them are children who already can distinguish between good and evil. And then I came to the question, **"Are you ready to stand before God? If not, you need a saving faith. And if anyone needs it, you can come out up front for a prayer."**

Many of the children came forward to pray at my invitation. Those who came up front were more

in number than those who remained seated. I led them in prayer, which they repeated it after me. There were words of **awareness, repentance, and a prayer for help.**

Afterward, we sang a joyful song. Then we divided children into small groups and prayed with them, and the other camp instructors promised to follow-up with all of them. Later on, they confirmed that they are continuing to disciple several of the boys who repented.

Finally on Saturday, we treated all the campers to sandwiches—a bun from a bakery, ham, ketchup, mayonnaise, cucumber, tomato, and a lettuce leaf. The kids absolutely loved it. **Praise be to God for this amazing opportunity! ♦**

Editor's Note: The former Soviet nations of Central Asia are largely Muslim, which makes ministry challenging if not dangerous for evangelical churches. Please continue to pray for Albert and his fellow church workers as they lift up Christ and proclaim the Gospel as God grants opportunity.

Little Tanya Was Thrown Out with the Trash—Literally

God draws these precious children even when the world rejects them

Sergei G.

SGA-Supported Missionary Pastor in Belarus



L to R: Women's meeting; Conference on family and marriage; Pastor Sergei preaches at an evangelistic meeting.

It is a great privilege for me to serve God by proclaiming His Good News to the people around me. Sometimes the results of ministry are seen immediately, but at other times the blessings of ministry are not seen until years later.

About 15 years ago, I met a girl named Tanya. At that time her story simply shook our hearts.

From birth, Tanya appeared doomed to suffer because she was born an unwanted child in a family of alcoholics. The situation came to a head



Tanya

when her mother's cohabitant went into a drunken frenzy, *put little Tanya in a wastebasket, and threw her out the window.* It was good that they lived in a one-story house. **In the morning, their neighbors heard crying in the garden—it saved Tanya's life.**

By the will of God, this girl ended up in a foster family with our church members, who sincerely cared for her and showed love to her as their own daughter. A little later, they adopted her

brother. **For a long time, the children attended Sunday school, getting acquainted with the Scriptures, and every summer they attended our Christian camps.** Eventually, the family moved to another city. Here is where we met Tanya years later.

She is now a young girl who is in college, studying leatherworking, and has a passion for leather crafts. She loves the Lord, attends a local church, her life is full of enthusiasm and plans for the future! It is impossible to imagine what would have happened to her if she had not had people in her life who had once repented in our church, dedicating their lives to taking in orphans and raising them in the fear of God!

At times like these, we keenly realize how important it is to continue the work of showing people the way to salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ! ♦



Easter service at Sergei's church.

MUCH PRAYER, MUCH POWER IN ACTION

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance (James 1:2-3).

From their reports, we can see that the spiritual ground being plowed and cultivated by the missionary pastors you help support through SGA can be very difficult. Even more than 30 years after the collapse of atheistic communism, the awful spiritual legacy of Soviet rule still has lingering effects. But when doors open for a harvest after years of labor, it brings such joy to the pastors and their hard-working churches.

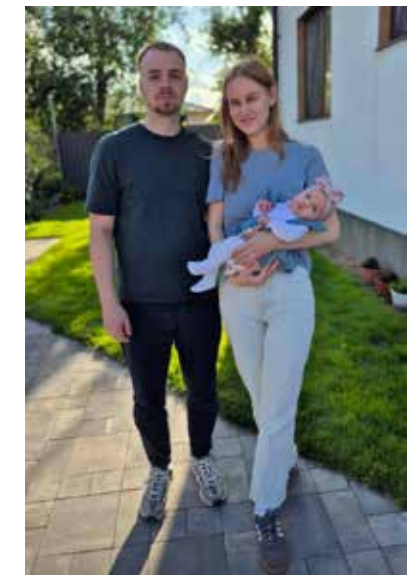
Sergei is an SGA-supported missionary pastor in Belarus, and he shared about how God has worked in several young lives into whom he and his church have faithfully sown Gospel seeds.

"Greetings, dear friends! I want to tell the story of our family's relationship with a girl from an unbelieving family. This girl's name is Nadezhda, she is nine years old. She is in the same class as our youngest son, Yura. A few years ago, we met Nadezhda on the street while she was playing in the courtyard of our neighborhood of five-story apartment buildings. We had some candy with us—we said hello to her and offered her some. She came to our apartment to play with Yura, and we offered her some more. She said, 'You are so generous and kind.' Then, as she was leaving, Nadia hugged us. Now, for the past three years, she has been attending our children's summer



Sergei and Nadia.

activities and sometimes the teen club. This year after the first day of summer camp, she repented and said to us, 'Teach me how to pray to Jesus.' I thank God for this child's sincere heart, and I pray that she will entrust her life to Him!



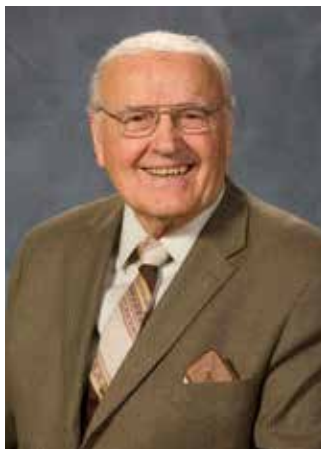
Ira, Daniel, and their daughter.

Then a few weeks ago, my wife Alla and a sister in our church went on a trip to visit the girls who had repented in our church, and now live in Mogilev and Zhlobin. One of them is Ira. She repented the year we started ministry in our village. She was 14 years old and she decided to follow Jesus. Then she was baptized, graduated from

university, and went through various challenges without ceasing to be faithful to the Lord Jesus. Nine years have passed, and now she is married to a believer named Daniel, and they have a daughter. We pray and sincerely desire that God will make this family ministers for His kingdom!"

Pastor Sergei and Alla have worked in their region of Belarus for some time sharing the Gospel and getting to know their neighbors. It was long and painstaking labor with much patience needed. But God indeed opened the door for them to reach children in their neighborhood. Sergei is confident that God will use them powerfully where He has placed them, and that his own labor in the Lord has not been in vain. How wonderfully God works out His purposes over time as we are faithful to do what He has called us to do, and leaving the results in His hands. ♦

SGA Senior Missionary Andrew Semenchuk Celebrates 100 Years!



Andrew Semenchuk

This past July 3 was an extra special day for a beloved member of the SGA family. That's because SGA senior missionary Andrew Semenchuk reached the age of 100 years old on that date!

Except for a brief time away serving in other ministry, Andrew has been part of SGA's ministries from 1950 through 2025. That's 75 years of serving the Lord on the mission field and he is still going strong. For many years, he served in South America helping to oversee biblical and theological training at a school SGA helped begin. Until the past few years, Andrew was still traveling within the United States and Canada representing SGA speaking in churches, raising resources for our ministries, and faithfully preaching God's Word. He doesn't travel much anymore, but he remains in contact with the churches and his supporters who have helped undergird his ministry in prayers and generous giving. **He utilizes email, letters, reports, and makes many phone calls.** We were thrilled to learn that Andrew continues to be the "Missionary of the Month" in several churches. And of course, he remains an effective **prayer warrior**—always interceding for the advance of the Gospel across the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and Israel.

We thank the Lord for Andrew's decades of faithful service to Christ. Please continue to pray for him as he continues into his 101st year being a blessing and encouragement to many. ♦



Andrew's early years of ministry.

Equipping Stewardship

Garland Gould

SGA Senior Vice President of Partner Engagement

In July and August, we introduced the first three steps of a biblically based estate plan. These steps are:

- **STEP 1: *Setting priorities***, to assure we have put God, the Owner, at the forefront of our planning by using biblical principles
- **STEP 2: *Become familiar with the rules, tools, and vehicles*** available for your planning, so you are not paralyzed by the details
- **STEP 3: *Gather the necessary data***, because incomplete or inaccurate data can lead to a plan that fails to carry out to the goals

Next is **STEP FOUR: *Seek competent counsel***. Just as incorrect or incomplete data can cause your plans to fail, so can an advisor that isn't competent. We encourage you to seek advisors that share your Christian worldview, but not at the sacrifice of competency. At SGA, we do not fill the role of

financial or legal advisors, but we may be able to help you find them. If that is a concern for you, please let us know.

Next month we will begin to look at the biblical principles that help you set the priorities of your plan properly.

Please let us know if we can answer any questions, and if you would like to receive the helpful brochure, *Principles of Estate Planning*. We also have an informational newsletter that you may also find helpful and interesting. You can reach us for either, or both, at plannedgiving@sga.org. *Let us remind you that this information and help is our service to you and is not contingent on your support.* ♦



Garland Gould

HOW YOU CAN HELP



IC outreach in Ukraine.

How can another year have gone by so quickly? Yet here it is in September, and the churches SGA serves across the former Soviet Union are busily preparing for the Christmas season and **Immanuel's Child** children's outreaches.

Each year, SGA partners help reach thousands of children and their families with the Gospel through *Immanuel's Child*, and we rejoice with thanksgiving at the opportunity. Your faithful support helps accomplish so much more, including Bible training, Compassion Ministry, other children's ministries such as *Orphans Reborn* and Summer Bible Camps, as well as provision of Bibles and Christian literature. Please pray about how you can help today! ♦



Bible lesson in Ukraine.

Insight FROM MICHAEL

The Whole Story of Jesus—Incarnate, Crucified, Risen, and Returning—Must be Central at Christmas . . . and God is using you to tell it to masses of children!

I'm sure most of us have heard the old hymn, "Tell Me the Story of Jesus," written by the beloved hymnwriter Fanny Crosby in 1880. It opens with, "Tell me the story of Jesus. Write on my heart every word. Tell me the story most precious, sweetest that ever was heard." The hymn goes on to do just that—telling the story of our Lord Jesus Christ and how He saved His people from their sins through His atoning death, burial, and resurrection.

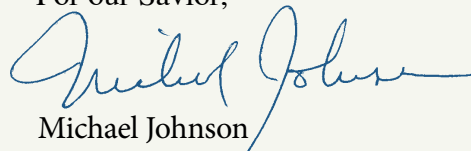
It is a story that will be told again this Christmas at SGA-supported *Immanuel's Child* outreaches held by faithful churches across the former Soviet nations. It is a story that thousands of children will hear, in addition to their parents and caregivers.

While many often think of Christmas only in the light of Christ's birth, that is not the whole story. To faithfully share the biblical truth of why Christmas and the birth of Christ is so important, we need to complete the story. We need to tell not only of the Lord Jesus' birth, but also why He came to be born in Bethlehem, as the Prophets foretold by the Holy Spirit's inspiration. **We need to answer the questions of who Jesus is, what He did, and why He did it.** We must tell of how He died on the cross for our sins, and rose victoriously from the dead so that all who truly believe in Him can and will be redeemed. And that is exactly what our brothers and sisters will do as God opens the doors this upcoming Christmas season.

You—our faithful partners in ministry—have, by God's grace, been with us in support of *Immanuel's Child* outreaches from the day these SGA-supported outreaches began years ago. You have prayed. You have sent in financial gifts to help the churches purchase gifts for the children. You have signed the Bethlehem Stars that are delivered to the children along with the gifts, and those stars mean more than you might think. We have seen adults who were given a Star when they were children, and still hold on to it as a precious possession.

Please *keep praying* as the plans are finalized for this year's upcoming ministries. Pray for the children and their caregivers who will hear the Gospel. And pray with us for a bountiful harvest!

For our Savior,


Michael Johnson
President



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