



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 Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:14).*

**1 Reflection:** We begin October with the psalmist's assurance . . . *How blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways (Psalm 128:1).*

**2** It won't be long before winter weather fully sets in across Russia and her neighboring countries. Please lift up SGA-supported Compassion Ministry, asking God for the resources needed by the churches we serve to minister to their people.



**3** Pray for SGA president Michael Johnson and our leadership team today. The ministry climate across the former Soviet Union continues to evolve rapidly, and much wisdom is needed as we continue to serve evangelical churches in advancing the Gospel.

**4** Please lift senior SGA missionary Andrew Semenchuk in prayer. Andrew turned 99 this year, and he has served with SGA since our mission's earlier days, working directly with our founder Peter Deyneka and overseeing Bible training. We thank the Lord for Andrew's faithful service to Christ.



RUSSIA



**5** Valery Kazakov has served as director of SGA's Moscow Regional Ministry Center (RMC) for many years now. Intercede for him and the rest of our team in Moscow as they serve the faithful evangelical churches of Russia.

**6** Pray for Igor Khokhlov, the new leader of Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary. Supported by SGA, Novosibirsk Seminary is growing in influence across Russia through its extension schools as well as on campus academic tracks.

**7** Continue to pray for SGA-supported missionary Mikhail in Far East Russia as he leads aviation ministry to remote towns and villages. Ask for God's protection and provision, and for many open doors to share the Gospel.

**8** Pray for Dr. Piotr Mitskevich, president of the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (UECB). May the Lord continue His faithful blessing on Piotr's ministry, which requires frequent traveling across Russia as well as overseas.

## CENTRAL ASIA, CAUCASUS, & ISRAEL

**9** Intercede in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Central Asia. With the dominance of Islam, evangelical believers and their churches are often the targets of pressure, if not outright persecution. Ask the Lord to sustain them as they faithfully serve Christ.



**10** In addition to the conflict in Gaza, Israel is also threatened by rocket and missile fire from Hezbollah in the north. Pray for the ongoing safety of SGA's director of Bible training there, and for the Russian-speaking congregations we serve.

**11** Pray for the SGA-sponsored Almaty Bible Institute in Kazakhstan, led now by director Yuri Skurydin. Intercede for this faithful

brother as well as Alexander Karyakov, the former director who is now stepping into the role of academic dean.

**12** Continue praying for the development of SGA's service to evangelical churches in Moldova. Several in our mission's leadership have made visits to meet with church leaders, and we praise God for the opportunity to help them advance the Gospel.



**13** Pray today for Sergei, an SGA-supported missionary pastor in Uzbekistan. Sergei and his church regularly minister among sick children and orphans, and due to the dominance of Islam, they face frequent opposition. May God open many hearts to the Gospel!

## UKRAINE

**14** In addition to his duties as director of SGA's Kiev RMC, Ruslan Muratayev also pastors a small local church in the region. We praise and thank the Lord for this faithful brother and his commitment to the Gospel in Ukraine.

**15** With still no end in sight for the Ukraine war, the need for SGA-supported Compassion Ministry remains great, especially with winter drawing closer. Please join us in lifting this need before the Lord.

**16** As with other SGA-supported seminaries across the former

Soviet Union, Irpen Biblical Seminary is in the midst of the fall term of study. Please intercede in prayer for the faculty and students, asking for their safety as war continues to rage in Ukraine.

**17** Pray for Pastor Valery Antonyuk, president of the Ukrainian UECB. Ask for God's wisdom, direction, and peace during these difficult days for evangelical churches across the country.

**18** The summer missile strike that hit a children's hospital in Kiev underscores the brutality of the war that has raged since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Join us in praying for peace while also lifting up the churches as they minister Christ's love to families grieving in the aftermath.

## BELARUS

**19** Please pray for Lilia Podrez, the wife of Piotr Podrez who serves as director of SGA's Minsk RMC. Lilia has faced some significant health challenges in recent months. Ask for the Lord's healing touch.

**20** With the war in neighboring Ukraine, tensions between Belarus and Western nations have increased again. Join us in praying that ministry will not be hindered, and that there would be no expansion of war into the country.

**21** Alexander is an SGA-supported missionary pastor in Belarus' Cherven region. Pray for the fruitful children's and youth ministries in which the church is engaged. Praise God for these opportunities to share the Gospel with the children and young people.

**22** Summer camp season has concluded for the year in Belarus, but follow up ministry will continue with the children who attended. May the Lord prepare the way for ongoing Gospel ministry.

**23** SGA-supported missionary pastors in Belarus continue ministering to needy families through distribution of food and other aid as part of their Compassion Ministry. Pray that the hearts of many families will be open to hear of Christ's love.

**24** In addition to Bible training at fixed location evangelical seminaries across the former Soviet Union, SGA also supports biblical and theological training in various locations through the *Antioch Initiative*. We are thankful to God for His provision in strengthening pastors and church ministries in this way.

**25** Keep interceding for SGA's international offices in Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Australia. May the Lord provide for their ministries and direct their steps in the days ahead.

**26** Lift up SGA's executive leadership team—our president Michael Johnson, chief financial officer Beverly Braunsky, senior vice president of ministry Eric Mock, and Garland Gould, vice president of partner engagement. They carry great responsibility in oversight of our ministries, and lean on God's wisdom and direction.

**27** Pray in advance for SGA-supported *Immanuel's Child* Christmas ministries that will take place over late December and early January. We are praying for God's provision in

helping churches to reach another record number of children across Russia and her neighboring nations.

**28** Next month is the U.S. presidential election, and international relations always impact the churches we serve and our ministries in some fashion. Yet we trust in God's Word, which says . . . *For the kingdom is the Lord's and He rules over the nations* (Psalm 22:28).

**29** Join us today in praying for the wives of SGA-supported missionary pastors across the former Soviet Union. They play a vital role in supporting and participating in ministries, as well as lovingly caring

for their families. We praise and thank the Lord for their love and dedication to the Gospel!

**30** Pray today for the staff of SGA's Loves Park, Illinois, office and their families. Each plays a vital role in support of the Gospel ministries that take place through the churches we serve overseas.

**31 Reflection:** We close October with the wonderful promise of God's Word . . . *For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins* (Colossians 1:13-14).

## Partner Prayer Requests

*Pray for us as we have moved . . .*

Poplar Bluff, Missouri

*For physical health and work to be done . . .*

Seatac, Washington

*Pray for recovery from surgery . . .*

Arenzville, Illinois

*Lift up our children's ministries . . .*

Hanover, Pennsylvania

*For clarity and wisdom . . .*

Americus, Georgia

**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 Gospel Association ♦ Canada  
766 Old Hespeler Road, Suite #204  
Cambridge, ON N3H 5L8  
519-621-3553 ♦ www.sgacanada.ca