



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 Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation (Psalm 118:14).

1 Reflection: We begin the New Year with the timeless instruction of Hosea the prophet . . . *Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them. For the ways of the Lord are right, and the righteous will walk in them, but transgressors will stumble in them (Hosea 14:9).*

2 SGA president Michael Johnson maintained a considerable travel schedule last year and that will no doubt continue in 2025 as the Lord allows. Pray for ongoing traveling mercy, and that God will use him to continually encourage the churches we serve across the former Soviet Union.

3 Lift up SGA's international offices in prayer today. Located in Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Australia, these autonomous offices take great joy in serving churches and advancing the Gospel both at home and in the former communist nations.

4 With winter in force across the former Soviet Union, the need for SGA-supported Compassion Ministry is great. Join us in asking the Lord for the resources to help churches respond with warm clothing, food,

and other vital needs of poor families in their regions.



BELARUS



5 Pray today for the staff of SGA's Minsk Regional Ministry Center (RMC) in Belarus. Especially lift up Lilia Podrez, the wife of director Piotr Podrez, as she battles some significant health challenges.

6 A recent Radio Free Europe report claimed that orphan children in Belarus were being sent to "military-patriotic" camps for training in weaponry and other things. Pray for more opportunities to reach orphan children with the Gospel through the SGA-supported *Orphans Reborn* ministry.

7 Russian Christmas: *The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them*

(Isaiah 9:2). Lift up the many *Immanuel's Child* Christmas outreaches being held today, not just in Belarus but also in many other former Soviet nations. May God bring many children to Himself as they hear the Gospel.

8 Intercede for Pastor Leonid Mihovich, president of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (UECB) in Belarus. Leonid carries many leadership responsibilities for the Union in addition to leading the SGA-supported Minsk Theological Seminary.

RUSSIA



9 Pray today for Dr. Piotr Mitskevich, president of the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (UECB). Pray also for the seven regional vice presidents who oversee churches across the European and Asian territories of the Russian Federation.

10 We are thankful to the Lord for Pastor Vitaly Zanin, who serves as national youth director for the Russian UECB. Please lift this faithful brother in prayer today, asking for God's blessing in Vitaly's ministry.

11 Intercede for the faculty and students at the SGA-supported Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary. Especially pray for new seminary president Igor Khokhlov, who recently took over for the retiring Pastor Eduard Genrikh.

12 Lift SGA's Moscow staff in prayer today. Valery Kazakov and his team fulfill many different responsibilities, especially in helping to coordinate travel when necessary and the distribution of resources for

the churches we serve across Russia.

13 Pray for the evangelical churches SGA serves in the Kursk region of Russia, which has seen heavy combat in the war between Russia and Ukraine. Ask for God's protection, and for open doors to proclaim peace and salvation through the Gospel.

14 Anytime there are tensions between Russia and Western nations, this always has the potential of impacting our service to Bible-preaching churches across the country. Please pray with us that the ministries of the churches will not be hindered, as well as for a lessening of political pressures.

UKRAINE



15 Next month will be three years since Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the start of the Ukraine war. Pray for a final end to the conflict, and that God will open many more doors for Bible-preaching churches to proclaim peace through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

16 Now that the holidays are past, students and faculty at the SGA-supported Irpen Biblical Seminary will be back at full schedule in their Bible and theological studies. Please lift them in prayer today.

17 Oleg is an SGA-supported missionary pastor in Ukraine's Poltava region, which sustained a very heavy attack in the war late last summer. We are thankful to God for His provision in helping Oleg and church teams distribute aid to affected families. Pray for many open Gospel doors!

18 Please pray today for director Ruslan Muratayev and our team at SGA's Kiev RMC in Ukraine. We praise and thank God for the privilege of serving the churches He is building, which Ruslan and staff do with great joy.

19 As always, please remember Pastor Valery Antonyuk, leader of the Ukrainian UECB, in prayer often. Valery and his fellow pastors carry a heavy burden in these troubling days, but their dedication to the Lord and the cause of the Gospel is unshaken.

CENTRAL ASIA, CAUCASUS, & ISRAEL

20 While SGA isn't working in the former Soviet nation of Kyrgyzstan at present, a restrictive religion law update is being drafted there, matching similar trends in the other Central Asian nations. May the Lord protect our brothers and sisters there, and grant them many opportunities for the Gospel.

21 Located in Central Asia, the other former Soviet nations where SGA supports churches are Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Believers there face many challenges from governments and dominant Islam. Intercede for them today.

22 Fatkhulla is a faithful missionary pastor supported by SGA in Central Asia, and he has



faced significant health challenges in recent months. Join us in praying for complete healing, and for God's ongoing blessing in his ministry.

23 Pastor Gia Kandelaki serves as president of the UECB in the former Soviet country of Georgia. Ask for God's continued guidance and wisdom for Gia and his fellow pastors as they shepherd their congregations.

24 Join us in praising the Lord for the ministry of the wives of SGA-supported missionary pastors. Laboring alongside their husbands, they joyfully serve in many capacities from teaching other women and children, Compassion Ministry, worship, and other service to the body of Christ.

25 Pray today for Oleg, SGA's director of Bible training in Israel. Also please lift up our partners at Israel College of the Bible as they continue to develop training for Russian-speaking immigrants.

26 With sound Bible training the top priority of the churches we serve as well as at SGA, pray with us for continued wisdom and direction from the Lord as more opportunities arise to provide such training, especially through the *Antioch Initiative*. We praise God for His faithful provision!

27 Lift SGA's executive leadership team in prayer today—our president Michael Johnson, chief financial officer Beverly Braunsky, senior vice president of ministry operations Eric Mock, and vice president of partner engagement Garland Gould. May God guide them continually in their many responsibilities.

28 As scrutiny of evangelical churches continues to increase

in the former Soviet Union, continual wisdom from the Lord is needed as we adjust our ministries to in-country conditions. Remember this ongoing matter in prayer regularly.

29 Pray for SGA's Mark Miles, who serves our mission in the area of partner relations. We are thankful for the opportunities he has to travel



and visit those who support our mission and share with them the fruit of what God is doing.

30 Pray for Sergei Omelchenko, assistant to SGA president Michael Johnson and our mission's chief book editor. Sergei and his family live in Ukraine, and the war has presented them with many personal challenges and sorrows.

31 Reflection: Let us end January with the psalmist's song of trust in God . . . *Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him. The help of my countenance and my God (Psalm 42:11).*

Partner Prayer Requests

For ongoing health needs and strength . . .

Anchorage, Alaska

Pray for continued healing from cancer . . .

Peoria, Illinois

My husband recently passed away . . .

Crawfordville, Georgia

Pray for two local pastors who are beginning new ministries . . .

Saugus, Massachusetts

Please pray for salvation of loved ones . . .

Prior Lake, Minnesota

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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