



SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

Good News Report

SHARING THE GOSPEL ♦ EQUIPPING THE CHURCH ♦ HELPING THE FORGOTTEN



Missionary Pastors Reach Souls, Plant Seeds, and Shine Christ's Saving Light!

INSIDE: YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS AT WORK

- ♦ Family Care Center reaches desperate moms and hurting orphans
- ♦ "God is working!" Baptisms and TV outreach in Ukraine
- ♦ Your gifts bring the Gospel to a difficult region—with promising results

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)

You Help Provides Gospel Ministry to Families in Crisis

The Holy Spirit works through believers in an urban Family Care Center and through orphanage outreach!

Andrei and Marina L. in Russia's Birobidzhan Region



The Family Care Center is currently assisting five families.

For the past three months, we could see God expanding our borders and opening new doors for ministry. We continue assistance to five families, while three other cases have been closed and referred to a supervisor for further support.



The Center works with families to help keep parents and children together.

Since our primary goal is preventing child abandonment, it is very important and joyful for us when a mother comes to us for help in restoring her children back to the family: We were supporting a mother and succeeded in getting back her three children, who had ended up in the orphanage because of a tragic turn of events. The orphanage's social educator and psychologist gave the mother a good conduct report, and gradually the woman was able to bring her children home. **We provided them with clothing and food, and helped the family get to their home in a nearby village.** We stay in touch with the mother and her supervisor also helps her.

Here is another story of a woman who stays in our Family Care Center:

She had to flee from another city to our Care Center with her minor children, and the Center became a refuge for them. The woman is now in her



The mother and two of her children are currently staying at the Center.



second marriage and has three children from her first marriage who are now young adults. The minor children from her second marriage are 6, 4, and 2 years old. Her husband took measures to prevent her from receiving benefits, cut her off from any income, threatened to divorce her, and then take the children to another part of the country. Moreover, he abducted their youngest son from kindergarten, so the mother had to escape and come to us so that her husband would not take the other children. At this point, she feels more at peace and is getting stronger mentally and physically. We arranged for a psychologist and a lawyer to supervise her in the case. **Most importantly, the woman started attending the local church where she repented and asked to be baptized!** She plans to stay in the region.

We have good relationships with the orphanages in our city. We are going to hold **monthly group meetings with boys and girls at the orphanage**, where we will be able to discuss various topics and celebrate Christian holidays. Currently, our active work in the Care Center and office is underway.

Please, pray for more people to join our team, as there is more work to do, and we need more staff and supervisors. Also, please pray for the purchase of a vehicle for our center so that we can reach more locations in our area.

As a team, we keep praying for you, dear friends, for God to richly bless you and fill all your needs. ♦



The Family Care Center hopes to expand their team so that they can continue to help more families in need.

First Reports of a Harvest of Souls from *Immanuel's Child*

Pastor Ivan V. in Belarus

Editor's Note: In our next issue of the Good News Report, we will have a fuller report on the impact of the SGA-sponsored **Immanuel's Child** Christmas outreaches this past January. But we wanted to share this wonderful report with you in advance to demonstrate how the Gospel seeds you help plant throughout the year continue to yield fruit for the glory of Christ!

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord! I am sincerely grateful to you for your support, which enabled us to present a wonderful event for children on January 8th.

This event was an *Immanuel's Child* Christmas puppet show with distribution of the gifts you helped provide. I invited a puppet group from Golgotha Church in Minsk. Brothers and sisters invited children from the city to the puppet show, and children from nearby churches were also invited.

At the appointed time, **the House of Prayer was filled with children—46 in all.** Some came for the first time. The great thing is that the children who were with us in Vacation Bible School during the summer responded to our invitation to come to *Immanuel's Child*. Included are two boys whose

parents are Catholics. Their mother is not opposed to sending their sons to our Sunday school, but the father has not yet made a decision.

The children enjoyed the Gospel puppet show. And not only the children were excited. One of the mothers said, *"I thought that nothing would surprise me anymore, but here I was very pleasantly surprised."* The program presented the news of the birth of Jesus Christ in a very interesting way through a well-thought-out plot. Beautiful scenery, good voice acting, and the expressive role-playing recitations delighted even many adults. After the children were presented with gifts consisting of fruits, sweets, and Christian literature.

Everyone enjoyed the Christmas program. After the end, I addressed the parents of the children with the Word of God. I told them that the birth of Jesus Christ is a great holiday, but there is also a sad connotation because the only begotten Son of God came into the world in order to die for the sins of all people, to give us salvation. Thus, both children and adults received spiritual food at this event.

Dear brothers and sisters, once again I sincerely thank you for your participation in the Gospel, through which God saves people. May God's grace fill your hearts! ♦



(Left) Two boys at the Christmas outreach; (Right) The children with their stars and gifts.

“GOD IS WORKING!”

He is Using Your Support to Bring Salvations, Baptisms, and TV Outreach in Ukraine

Pavel D.

SGA-Sponsored Missionary Pastor

Dear faithful ministry partners, greetings from Ukraine! I thank God for each of you every time I pray, and am so grateful to God for your dedication to the Lord, and for your spiritual and financial support of our ministry.

Our church is slowly **growing and people are getting saved**, and we praise God for that. Sometimes churches do not have baptisms of new believers for years, but we have been blessed to have held **two baptism services in the past year**. The first one was in the summer and five people were baptized. Then God called a few more people and in the last quarter of the year, we had another baptism service where two young people were baptized. We celebrated with another Baptist church in a nearby city. It is a great blessing to see how God is calling people to Himself!



Baptism celebration.

I have one amazing testimony to share about one family who was strong in a nominal church in a new village we visited. The grandfather in this family even conducted the choir and is a major authority in this village. There are five children, and two of the girls heard the Gospel last year and were saved. They were baptized a few months ago. **During the baptism service at the river, the whole family**



Pastor Pavel's church has been growing.

came out to see what was going on and also heard the Gospel. God began His work, and another girl became saved and she was baptized last Sunday.

Pray with us that the rest of the family will come to true saving faith in Christ!

I also have some great news to share about media ministry. **Last spring, I was able to contract with a new television station to air my evangelistic programs.** We have the main program for 30 minutes twice a week, plus three minutes of short Gospel presentations every day before the local news. A few days ago, I had a meeting with the station management and we made a new contract to air **53 new programs** and one repeat during 2022! This means a total of 106 messages will be on local television and many people will hear the true Gospel! One unbelieving person took a picture of me on TV preaching the Gospel and sent it to me, telling me that God really moved in him and to thank me for preaching the Good News that touched his heart!



An unbelieving person took a picture of Pastor Pavel preaching on TV.

really moved in him and to thank me for preaching the Good News that touched his heart!

God is working! May God bless you richly, and please continue to pray for us! ♦

Good News from the Caucasus!

Your gifts help faithful churches reach one of Russia's most difficult regions

Andrew B.

SGA-Sponsored Missionary Pastor in Russia



New families have joined the ministry team.

I greet you, dear brothers and sisters! We have been staying in this particular region of the Caucasus for seven months. **We have been prayerfully trying to motivate believers from across Russia to come here and live, and to take part in advancing the Gospel. Our small team grows and it encourages us so much!** Right now we have 10 adults and six children, with two families joining us very unexpectedly. God is preparing something in this place, bringing in new workers.

Many Roma people now attend our church. Some of them are believers and some are not. **One of them comes forward every service to repent.** I talked to them after the service and they told me that they



Many Roma people now attend the church.

come forward to promise God to leave their former way of life, but they are very afraid that they might not be able to keep their promise. **We realized then that we need to disciple them, and we invited them to our home for Bible study and fellowship.** We have tea, study God's Word, and we're having a great time!

In a nearby neighboring region, our girls attended a gymnastics club that had been organized by a Muslim woman named Ralina. One day a new leader came, and we were told that Ralina had left the republic. To our great surprise, we met her back in our city where she had opened a gymnastics academy and our girls resumed their training. Our girls had told Ralina about their faith, and recently she asked them to come for training on Sunday. When our girls told her that they went to church on Sundays, Ralina began to ask questions about the church, and we then found out that she had two cousins in Tatarstan who had Baptist husbands. Ralina is the only Muslim in their family. In October, we celebrated "The Day of the Coach" and decided to give Ralina a copy of the Bible. We prayed and did not know if she would accept it. Later that evening, Ralina sent the girls a text message thanking them for the gift, and that she wanted to read it. Please pray for her as we build our relationship with her.

Please pray for our team, for unity and for wisdom from God on how to reach people. **Pray for more faithful workers in our team.** Pray for repentance among the Roma with whom we are ministering, and for the development of a home Bible study with them. We are thankful to you for your support and prayers. **We are sure that the Lord sends out workers according to our prayers, and will continue His glorious work in our region.** ♦

CIS IN THE NEWS

Pastors Help Orphans Face Housing Problems

A recent Radio Free Europe report highlighted problems that orphans in Kazakhstan are facing as they leave the orphanage and have to find housing.

The law states that children raised in an orphanage have the right to state-funded housing when they grow up and leave the orphanage, but in practice many wait for decades to get their “permanent” home. The article said, “Some of them moved into a (temporary) dormitory as young couples and went on to have children and even grandchildren, yet still haven’t received homes from the government. After a difficult start in life, many Kazakh orphans continue to struggle financially

and socially, even some of those with a university education.”

While this particular article was focused on Kazakhstan, orphans across the former Soviet Union can face these kinds of difficulties. **We praise and thank God for His provision through the SGA-supported *Orphans Reborn* ministry.** Church workers often teach orphan graduates basic skills like cooking and money management, and try to help them with housing needs as they are able. **Most of all, we are thankful for the thousands of children who have heard the Gospel through this outreach, with many coming to faith in Christ. ♦**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

In each Good News Report, we are thankful to be able to share many reports and testimonies from the **faithful missionary pastors you help sponsor** in the former Soviet Union. They—and the churches they are planting and leading—are the Lord’s hands and feet for all the ministry that you help equip and support through SGA. Whether it be through provision of **Bible training, Russian-language Bibles and Christian literature, sponsorship**

of missionary pastors and church workers, children’s workers, or support of Compassion Ministry, you are truly making an eternal difference in countless lives. Please pray about how you can help today! ♦



Children from an orphanage visit a church.



A woman and her grandson receive aid from believers through SGA-sponsored Compassion Ministry.

Canadian Connection



Life has changed for many in the last two years. Our world faces political unrest, global health issues, rumors of war, food shortages, loss of jobs, fear, anxiety, and the list grows ever longer. This is the reality of our present day in most regions around the globe.

When considering these truths, I turn to Psalm 136 and read at the end of all 26 verses these words: "For His steadfast love endures forever." What a healthy

reminder that we are not forgotten nor forsaken by our God who knows the plight we each face. Life is a challenge and we need not face it alone.

We are appreciative of the faithful missionary pastors supported through SGA/Canada, who are meeting the real difficulties presented to people every day in the former Soviet Union countries. Eurasia is a hard place to live for thousands especially during these winter months. Your generous gifts make a difference in homes where heat and food are supplied. God's love is shared in these exchanges and many turn to Christ.

Through the Christmas Star ministry called *Immanuel's Child*, more than 1,800 children and 700 adults received Christ as their Saviour. We exceeded our goal of 50,000 stars this year! Stories continue to come into our office, and some are found in this Good News Report.

While governments are attempting to reduce the number of children housed in orphanages, the number of abused, neglected, or abandoned children increases. It is a societal tragedy that harms children the most. We are thankful through our *Orphans Reborn* ministry, a difference can be made in rescuing little ones from this downward spiral. For \$1.00 a day, you can make a huge difference in a child's life. These funds allow the church to visit children and their families either in the orphanage or their home and provide for practical necessities. This in turn opens the door for sharing the Gospel and many have turned to Christ.



While much has changed with travel restrictions, Covid testing, and quarantines, for others the routine of life's struggles remains constant. Through your donations, we are making an impact with God's love to thousands of homes every day. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for giving sacrificially. If you haven't shared recently, do so today with the enclosed return envelope and read about changed lives.

Serving together,

Bill Ball
Executive Director, SGA/Canada

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