

## A Personal Reflection



By Ruth Deyneka  
Erdel

As we observe SGA's 80th year of ministry to Russia and other nations of Slavic background, I can't

help but lovingly recall my father, Peter Naumovich Deyneka. He burned with a passion to reach Russian-speaking people with the Gospel wherever he found them! And that led to SGA's birth on that January day so long ago in 1934. Missionaries were first sent to Russian-speaking Aleuts in Alaska, and then to Cuba where Russians were also living.

When I grew up, I joined my father on the mission field, first in Europe and then in South America, where I participated in Russian-language Gospel radio programs.

The stage for this was set years prior in November 1940, when I was 13. My

father was invited to South America, where he ministered to thousands of Slavic immigrants in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. In Ecuador, he preached what is believed is the first Russian-language sermon over the radio via HCJB's



SGA founder Peter Deyneka (front) and our shortwave radio ministry team.

powerful shortwave signal. It was the beginning of decades of Russian Christian programming. Over the decades, Russian-speaking people in 87 countries were reached with the story of Jesus!



Peter Naumovich  
Deyneka

My father's vision included Bible-training centers for Russian speakers around the world, and he began the first ones in Canada and Argentina. Hundreds of graduates became pastors, missionaries, and Christian workers. SGA helped answer the plea for God's Word by printing thousands upon thousands of Russian



Bibles, New Testaments, children's Bibles, and many other sound Christian books. There is so much more I could tell!

My father went to be with the Lord before freedom came to Russia and her neighboring countries. But the Lord used Peter Deyneka's tireless labors to prepare the way—anticipating the day that he

believed would come. I rejoice that my father's vision—and his life's work—continues. Praise God that for 80 years, Slavic Gospel Association has been taking the light of the Gospel to Russian people around the world. Yet many more need to hear of His love, and much work remains to be done. As my father would say, "*Much Prayer, Much Power!*"

## 80 Years!

### *Praise and Thanksgiving to God for Eight Decades of Ministry*



Dr. Robert W. Provost  
SGA President

By Dr. Bob Provost  
President

This month we are celebrating 80 years of proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our hearts are filled with praise and

thanksgiving for all God has accomplished through His people across Russia and her neighboring countries. We are also deeply thankful to you, our partners in ministry, for your steadfast faithfulness in prayer and giving. You have helped make it all possible.

When Peter Deyneka and the founding board met in Chicago and began the Russian Gospel Association—later renamed SGA—



A young Peter Deyneka in SGA's early days.

their hearts were full of eager anticipation. They knew that millions of Russian-speaking people were in desperate need of hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Their hearts were determined to answer to the biblical call and challenge . . . *How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher* (Romans 10:14)? And answer it they did!

In 1934, atheistic Soviet communism



A Soviet border gate — a symbol of the Iron Curtain.

was in full sway. Churches were being forcibly closed and God's people were being martyred. But today, in 2014,

Peter and his team would rejoice to hear the thankful reports from the faithful missionary pastors you help sponsor as they report the fruit of their ministries. Pastor Sergei Volokitin in Russia's Kaluga region is a great example—a faithful servant having powerful impact with your help. He wrote to tell how God used a tragic fire for the sake of the Gospel . . .

*Last summer, an electrical fire broke out in the night, seriously damaging our church and adjacent home. My wife Raisa and I awoke and got out just in time. The firemen said, "A few seconds more, and you would have been dead. It means God is on your side!" All the neighbors saw the fire, and listened to us tell them about God. They said we were in trouble, but I said, "No! Tragedy is when a person turns away from God. Tragedy is when we say farewell to an unsaved relative. The fire is a temporary problem. It is possible to overcome everything with God!" We were shocked at how people began to help us immediately. Our neighbor Igor (an Armenian man) tried to help put the fire out, and a woman who had visited our church named Tatyana put us up in her home for the night.*



Rebuilding after the fire.

*Today, there is much work to do yet in restoring the church, but we are reviving! Please pray for us!*

I can imagine Peter Deyneka rejoicing with us today in hearing from a faithful missionary pastor in Kazakhstan, where growing

Muslim and governmental persecution of the church cannot stop the Gospel . . .



Kazakhstan is the largest of the Central Asian CIS nations.

*We are so grateful for your prayers and financial support. Now we're trying to build relationships in a neighboring village. We became acquainted with a very needy family with seven children. They listened joyfully as we told them of the Lord. Their relatives are also watching our fellowship closely. Two new families have begun coming to our worship services, and one woman repented! May our Heavenly Father bless you and generously provide your every need!*

We know from God's Word that each repenting soul brings much joy in heaven (Luke 15:7). Peter Deyneka and SGA's first board are now with the Lord, but I praise and thank God that 80 years after it all began, this little mission is still doing exactly what it was founded to do—to rush the Gospel to Russian-speaking people everywhere. And with His help, together with you, we will continue proclaiming the Gospel until our Lord returns.



# Pray for SGA-Sponsored Missionary Pastors!

The following are excerpts from reports we've received over the past year from the faithful missionary pastors you help support across Russia and her neighboring countries. Chosen from various locations, these reports are a glimpse of their tireless, day-by-day labors to win their people to Christ.

*Departing, they began going throughout the villages, preaching the Gospel . . . (Luke 9:6).*

## Vasily Furta, Ukraine:

We met 18-year-old Kolya while we were singing in the park, and he stopped out of interest in our music. The spiritual content of our songs attracted him. He asked a lot of questions about the Lord and the church. He comes to services and participates in the music though his parents forbid him to come. Please pray for him to repent and trust Christ, and for God to use Him for His glory!



Vasily Furta

## Pastor Mikhail Pimonenko, Ukraine:

Eight years ago, Andrei attended our summer camp. He was a constant discipline problem. After camp, we heard nothing about him for a long time, but the Lord had a special plan. A few months ago, he repented! Now Andrei and his girlfriend, Lena, attend Bible study to prepare for baptism!

## Alexander Nagirnyak, Ukraine:

We are grateful to you for your prayers and constant support. We had Easter celebrations in the orphanage, where the children listened to the story of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. We also visited small daughter churches in the villages of Kayutino and Korsuny. Thank God, the work is advancing and people are repenting!

## Alexei Bikov, Russia:

During the holidays, we organized evangelism around the city Christmas tree in our town. We put up a pulpit and a table with literature, calendars, CDs, Bibles, and children's literature. The people were coming up to us and asking questions, saying they never heard such music. We distributed all that we had, and evangelized for five hours!

## Georgi Vasilyan and Mikhail Moshkov, Russia:

We've done Christmas puppet shows and held Bible lessons for 25 children from unbelieving families (along with their parents), and made visits to the drug rehab center in Ryabichi. One of our brothers shared his testimony, then we counseled. We had 28 evangelistic fellowships and visits to villages!



## Tajikistan (Central Asia) (Name of Missionary Pastor Withheld for Security)

We have been holding camps for unbelievers. We held a spring evangelistic effort and visited families, nursing homes and the disabled. They send their greetings and thank you for your spiritual and financial support. I thank you and pray for you!







## More than Orphans

*Editor's Note: While SGA-sponsored Orphans Reborn teams largely focus on children housed in orphanages and children's homes, they also reach out to children from needy or dysfunctional families who often end up on the street. As Lena Liskina reports from Krasnoyarsk, Russia, in many ways, these children are orphans in all but name.*

Vika is 15 and lives with her Mom and two brothers. One of them is disabled. All of them live in a tiny 180 square foot apartment, and that is why Vika spends much of her time on the street. She has spent every summer outside, and was glad to be able to go to our summer camp.

Next to Vika in the photo are Ruslan, age 10 and his 7-year old sister—children from a different family. Their mother is raising them alone, and we paid for them to be able to come to the camp. The children needed medical help. Two days before we were to leave for camp, their mother said they could not get medical cards so the children could not go. I was upset since their situation at home is unsatisfactory. I went to visit them. The children were home alone playing outside. Ruslan always hangs the keys to their apartment on a rope



Vika (right) Ruslan and his sister (left)

around his neck. I decided to take them to the clinic and get them a medical card. We went into the house, where I washed them, found some clean clothing, got their medical insurance and quickly went to the clinic. On the way, I prayed that God would help me get their medical cards. The doctor examined them, and then agreed to give them the cards! I was so happy. Now these children could hear the Word of God for 10 days and have a chance to rest. And praise God, when their mother found out that they had their medical cards, she was thankful and allowed them to go!

There are two more children—Timur and Alina. This past spring, they lost their home and were temporarily staying with relatives. I am helping them with clothing and food, and I hope that the authorities will provide them some sort of housing. They were also at our camp.



Timur and Alina with their mother.

I thank God for these opportunities. I hope and pray that the seeds of God's love sown in their hearts will bring forth fruit. We will keep visiting these kids, talking with their parents, and trying to help them. Thank you, dear friends, for your help and kind hearts. You are our co-workers in God's Siberian harvest field!

## Sensible Stewardship

From time to time, SGA receives questions about why we enclose notes about planned giving, wills and estates in some of our mailings. We're thankful for the questions, as it gives us an opportunity to share an opportunity!

Through the years, many of SGA's faithful ministry partners have generously chosen to include our mission in their wills and estate plans. In so doing, they express their heartfelt desire to see a portion of their resources be used for the progress of the Gospel and service of Christ after they have gone to be with Him in glory. Other concerned, interested partners call or write us to ask for information on how to best go about leaving such a legacy. Our desire is to help provide them with the information

that they request, and more—to make others aware that resources are available to protect their estates by minimizing taxes, providing for families and retirement, and to help them increase their charitable gifts as they desire.

SGA has made special arrangements for you to look into such matters with the help of an independent group called PhilanthroCorp, a nationally known Christian charitable planning firm that works exclusively in the areas of estate and gift planning. There is no cost or obligation to you for this service. To learn more, visit our website – [www.sga.org](http://www.sga.org). Or, you can call PhilanthroCorp at 800-876-7958 to visit on the phone with one of their Estate Specialists.

## How You Can Help

When ministries such as SGA reach major milestones such as an 80th anniversary, it is always good to pause and reflect on God's gracious provision. More than that, it provides yet another opportunity to realize what has been accomplished across Russia and her neighboring countries for His glory, and for the sake of the Gospel. And through it all, our faithful partners have steadfastly walked by our side in ministry. *Much prayer, much power!*

Your prayers and support help accomplish so much—providing Russian-language Bibles and Christian literature, Bible training, compassion ministry, sponsorship of summer camps and other children's ministries, and support of hardworking missionary pastors dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider how you can help advance the Gospel in the CIS.



# Canadian Connection

by Allan Vincent

*"Every good tree bears good fruit" (Matt. 7:17).*

In very few places is the above Scripture more true than in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. Seven years ago, shortly after Vasily Kozorezov became the Regional Pastor there, a coalition of several Atlantic Canada churches formed an *Antioch Initiative (AI)* partnership with the Baptist churches in the Nizhny Novgorod region.

Twice a year for seven years, pastors from the Atlantic Canada churches faithfully taught the Nizhny Novgorod Pastors and church leaders a series of Bible college-level courses. When the Canadian pastors taught, they also saw ministry needs and opportunities with the result that the Canadian *AI* coalition partnered with Rehab Center, Summer Camp and *Orphans Reborn* ministries. Local pastors are also being supported.

With more trained pastors, new churches are being planted in Nizhny Novgorod, and there are many new believers. One of them is from a Muslim background. Aziz (not his real name) came to Russia from a Central Asian Republic to find work. Those who promised to help, tricked Aziz, leaving him in a difficult situation. When Aziz visited a barber shop where a Christian sister works, she told him about the Lord and invited him to church. Eventually, Aziz became very interested and came to church. When Pastor Vasily met with him, Aziz talked and he shared his problems. Aziz had grown up in a Muslim family and had never heard

about Christ before. He had tried to be diligent and obedient in fulfilling all the demands and rituals of his religion. But when he came to church and heard about Christ, something happened in his heart. Aziz did not understand much, but he realized Whom he was looking for and needed very much, the Lord Jesus. Since then, he has never missed a single service. Aziz learned about Christ and began to read the Gospels. In time, Aziz repented of his sins, turned to Christ and was baptized. Aziz is now married to a Christian sister and sings in a men's church choir.

Last March was a special milestone for the Atlantic Canada *AI* partnership. The final course had been taught, but over the years, the teaching times had resulted in unforgettable fellowship, joy and blessings from the Lord. Pastor Vasily is especially grateful for the devotedness of the Canadian pastors who left their families and churches to serve and teach pastors in Nizhny Novgorod, giving them a greater knowledge of the Word of God. The Lord graciously brought this partnership together and for that we praise Him.

Although the formal training process is finished, the *AI* partnership is not. Pastors and ministries in Nizhny Novgorod continue to be supported and Lord willing—some of the Canadian pastors will be involved in an annual Nizhny Novgorod pastors' conference.



*InSight* is published to report religious news about Russia, the rest of the CIS and the ministries of:

Slavic Gospel Association  
— Canada  
55 Fleming Drive, Suite 26  
Cambridge, ON N1T 2A9  
www.sgacanada.ca  
E-mail: info@sgacanada.ca  
Phone: 519-621-3553  
Fax: 519-621-7571

To start, cancel or change the mailing address on your subscription to *InSight*, please send your name, your old address, and your new address to the address listed above. Please allow six to eight weeks for the fulfillment of your request.

#### *International Offices*

Loves Park, USA  
Noble Park, Australia  
Eastbourne, England  
North Shore, New Zealand

#### *Canadian Board of Directors*

Dr. Stephen Code, Chairman  
Ivan Barber, Vice Chairman  
Carol Dean Jeffries, Treasurer  
Dr. Allan W. Vincent, Director  
John C. Goetze  
Walter Gnida  
Arnold Heron  
Michael Nichols  
Rod Wilkinson  
Dr. Robert W. Provost

*SGA is a member of:*



Evangelical Council for  
Financial Accountability