

An “Ark” for Orphan Children

Arise, O Lord, to Your resting place, You and the ark of your strength (Psalm 132:8).

In God’s Word, we read of Noah’s ark, in which Noah and his family were carried to safety in the midst of the flood. This past spring, orphan children in Krasnoyarsk experienced a special spring break camp called “The Ark.” With the help of SGA partners, these children—some with special needs—learned they can have an eternal refuge through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Camp worker Alena Barsukova reported that even the most aggressive children were soon altered by the love of Jesus on display . . .

We had six boys from my group in Yemelianovo (Krasnoyarsk region). Two boys named Pasha and Zhenya, were among the most aggressive, and are the oldest in the group. The other children follow their example. They were problems at first, but they ended up really enjoying their time, and the Lord gave wisdom and love to the camp workers, and the ability to



In most former communist countries, special needs children face especially severe challenges.

convey the Gospel.

When the children were driven back to the orphanage, they were reciting the Bible verses they learned by heart during camp, and competed as to who could recite more without mistakes—especially Pasha. This was the first time Vadim (the driver) had ever seen such a situation. We noticed also that the children did not talk much about the entertainment part of camp. Instead, they talked a lot about the worship services and the lessons! My heart is filled with joy because our

Lord is so great, and I cannot wait for the meetings we will have with these children each Thursday. We will award prizes for memorizing verses.

Russia's Krasnoyarsk region is where the SGA-sponsored *Orphans Reborn* ministry began years ago. Today, the team serves in nine orphanages housing 600 children. A little more than half attend the Bible lessons and activities. The Gospel is presented in the lessons, and the team also distributes children's Bibles, Christian literature, and study materials along with occasional clothing and special treats of fruit and other nourishment.

12-Year Old Yuri: God is at Work

So many of the children encountered by the teams end up in the orphanage through tragic circumstances. A significant number are known as "social orphans," or children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. Whatever their personal circumstances, it is always a matter of rejoicing when a child responds to the love of Jesus.

Yuri—now 12—came to the Primorsk orphanage at age eight. Team member Elena Krasnikova shared his brief story . . .

Yuri is very different from the other children because of his calm and

friendly character. We can see how he loves the Bible lessons, and they capture his attention more than the other children, or even the prizes and sweets the team brings. He loves to ponder the Bible truths we study in the lessons, and he openly shares examples from his own life—both good and bad. Unlike some boys who boast of bad things, Yuri speaks of them with sadness and regret.



Yuri's young life has been forever changed by Christ's redeeming love.

I notice how Yuri enjoys reading and studying the Bible. Not long ago, we had a competition mixing many Bible verses up, and the challenge was to put the words in the right order into correct verses. I was so glad when Yuri was the winner, and so was he! I believe this boy is very open to the Lord, and that God is working on his character. God is blessing the seeds we are planting, and we are thankful for your support of our work!



Today, *Orphans Reborn* is reaching thousands of lonely, forgotten children in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Central Asia. Please keep praying for their salvation!

Overcoming Opposition to Hear God's Word

Kristina Rudaya *Orphans Reborn* in Krasnoyarsk

Greetings from Krasnoyarsk! Each week, our team here meets with orphan children, and the children want to come despite opposition that gets thrown in their way. We are thankful and joyful that we can share Christ with the children and become friends with them, but saddened when we see the cold hearts of some staff members who try to prevent the children from coming to our meetings. They try to find different "urgent" tasks that must be done right at the moment we arrive. Because of this, many of the children arrive late.

But one girl always amazes me with her ability to find a way around the obstacles, and she gets to our classes earlier than anyone else. Ulyana is a joyous, active, and beautiful girl who is at the orphanage with her brother Kirill. Kirill is a serious young boy and one of the best students in our meetings. At first, Ulyana seems quite the opposite and you think she is not paying attention. But in the next lessons, she joins right in and is able to relate the major idea of the previous lesson, answering all the questions! It brings us joy to see the genuine effort she makes.

There is another special thing about Ulyana and Kirill—their love for one another. They obviously treasure each other, and Kirill takes good care of his sister. When she finds things difficult, she turns to Kirill for help. At the end of one meeting, the children recited the Bible verses they learned by heart. At first, Ulyana was confused and overcome by shyness, and she immediately ran to Kirill. But he helped her and reminded her of the words from the Bible, after which she enthusiastically recited the verse correctly.



Ulyana and Kirill

Please pray for these dear children, that the Gospel seeds being planted will take root and grow. Pray that God will change the hearts of the orphanage staff who oppose our lessons. They also need salvation in Christ, and Lord willing, they will come to repentance as they hear of His love.

So will My Word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:11).

Orphans Reborn



From its humble beginnings in 2000 in the Russian city of Krasnoyarsk, the SGA-sponsored *Orphans Reborn* ministry has impacted the lives of thousands of lonely forgotten children. Your prayers and generous, faithful support have brought the hope of the Gospel and a certain eternity with Christ to the neediest of boys and girls. Thank you!

5 Countries

104 Orphanages

7,820 Orphans

52
Graduates in
Orphans Reborn
ministry





Ministry Through Medicine in Georgia

From time to time, we have featured the unique ministry of the physician and church leader we call Dr. Levan in the Caucasus Mountain nation of Georgia. Dr. Levan recently sent a note of thanksgiving for the prayers of SGA partners, and for their support of his ministry. Through his medical clinic, as well as making visits to homes, the Lord is giving Dr. Levan many opportunities to reach people for His kingdom.

Wintertime is the most favorable time for reaching people due to Georgia's extensive agricultural economy. The people spend the majority of the spring and summer outside in the fields. But in the winter, you can find them home and visiting them is much easier. The Gospel is shared and people are receiving Christ. There are regular follow up visits and the new believers are invited to become part of the church.

Dr. Levan also ministers at a Christian clinic, and often has the opportunity to share the hope and salvation of Christ with those who are dying. In these moments, the families open the door of opportunity to speak to the patients about salvation. We are thankful that many have turned to the Lord and trusted in Him for salvation—entering eternity

with Christ with hope! Praise God!

Dr. Levan also heads up free clinics for the poor, always keeping in mind the Lord's great compassion . . . *He who*



Levan's patients are receiving medicine for their souls as well as their bodies!

oppresses the poor mocks his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy honors Him (Proverbs 14:31). Christ is shared and literature is distributed. In one village where the free clinic was offered, more than 35 families came, both adults and children. Before they were examined, they read from the Bible and heard about the love of Christ. The people listened attentively, and when Dr. Levan gave an invitation, three people repented of their sins. The Lord continues to build His church in Georgia! Praise His Name!

The fields are truly ready for the harvest, and Dr Levan is one of many who are reaping souls for Christ with your prayers and support. We can never thank you enough!

CIS in the News



Belarus Adopts New Military Alternative Service Law

The nation of Belarus has for the first time adopted a new law that purportedly will allow conscientious objectors to serve in other ways besides compulsory military service. Thus far, the law only allows young men with religious objections to apply, and not those with non-religious pacifist convictions.

Some religious groups welcomed the new law, however other human rights monitors say that it needs to be broadened to be compatible with international standards. Analysts from the Forum 18 News Service reported that the law is unclear as to specific religious objections for alternative service. Traditionally, many evangelical fellowships have adhered to pacifism in military matters, although that has been changing in more recent years. Above all, Russian believers view service in the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus as paramount, and proclamation of the Gospel as their main mission. Pray for wisdom for church leaders, and for clarity in understanding the implications of the new law.

How You Can Help

Across Russia and the nations of the CIS, there are thousands of children in orphanages or children's homes. While some are true orphans who have lost both parents, still more are "social orphans" who have been taken from their homes due to their parents' alcoholism, abuse, and neglect. But through the *Orphans Reborn* ministry, SGA partners are making an eternal difference, and young lives are being changed for eternity. Your prayers and support also accomplishes so much more—providing Russian-language Bibles and Christian literature, Bible training, children's ministries, compassion ministry, and help for missionary pastors in the field proclaiming the Gospel. Please pray about how you can help today!



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Canadian Connection

by Allan Vincent

*To Timothy, my true child in the faith
(1 Tim. 1:2; cc Titus 1:4)*

What do Vasily (center), Dmitri (right), and Vitaly (left) have in common with Paul, Timothy, and Titus? They have spiritual children. That is a very special relationship

In June of this year, I met three successive spiritual generations of



Ukrainian pastors who are training new leaders and entrusting them with ministry. Vasily Furta serves in Buzivka and is the spiritual child of Dmitri Shilyuk, who serves in Knyazhyky. As a young believer, Vasily was disciplined by Dmitri and entrusted with their youth ministry. Vasily and some of the young adults eventually became the core group for a daughter church plant.

Later, Vasily married and became one of the pastors in Buzivka, his wife's home church. By God's grace, that was where Dmitri repented and was disciplined.

Today, Vasily is the regional pastor for the Cherkassy region where these

towns and cities are located. **Like Paul, Dmitri and Vasily have spiritual children – Vitaly and Dima** (cover/appeal letter).

Vitaly pastors a church in Khrystinovka that also serves Verkhyachka. 27-year-old Vitaly is married with three children. In addition to his pastoral duties, Vitaly has finished his first year at the SGA-sponsored Irpen Biblical Seminary. **During breakfast at Vasily's, Vitaly shared how a widow came to faith in Christ.** Having no water on her property, she drew her water from her neighbour's well because the village well was too far away. That was until her neighbour denied her access to his well. **When the believers heard about her dilemma, they dug a well for her and did not stop there. They split and piled much needed firewood.** When asked why they would do this for her, they explained that it was the least that they could do after what Christ had done for them. Hearing the Gospel, that dear lady repented, was baptized, and is now part of their church.

Vitaly and Dima are reproducing themselves spiritually. Please pray for the prayer and financial partners that they and other fruitful missionary pastors need.

AI's Itinerary:

October 1-5 – SEMBEQ – Montreal QC – Church Based Coaching Training for Strategic Russian Pastors

October 15 - 18 Meeting with pastors near **Edmonton AB; 16 – SGA Banquet – Edmonton AB, 18 – Wetaskiwin Mission Church – Wetaskiwin, Reformed by Grace Baptist Church – Vermilion**

October 25 – November 1 – Ministry in Southern ON Churches with **Dr. Igor Yaremchuk (president of Irpen Biblical Seminary – Ukraine); 25 – Southend Baptist – Owen Sound, ON, Community Bible – Ilderton, ON ; 27 – Heritage College & Seminary; 28- Fresh Encounter - West Highland – Hamilton, 29 – Seniors' – Calvary Baptist – Guelph, ON (tentative); 30 – Seniors' – First Baptist – Waterloo, SGA Banquet – Heritage; 1 – Boston Baptist Church – Waterford, ON**



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