



Scripture theme for May 2017

From the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations (Malachi 1:11).

Join us each day this month in prayer and praise for the work of Christ in the lands of Russia.

Reflection: We begin the new month praising our God and Father ... All the earth will worship You, and sing praises to You; they will sing praises to Your name (Psalm 66:4).

Pray for SGA president Bob Provost, who continues a heavy travel and ministry schedule. Ask for God's ongoing blessing, continued good health, and wisdom.

Intercede in prayer for SGA's ministry division, led by vice president of ministry operations Eric Mock. Our ministry team is committed to the service of evangelical churches across the Commonwealth

of Independent States (CIS) as they preach the Gospel.

One more month and it will be summer camp season across Russia and her neighboring countries. Please keep interceding in advance, asking the Lord to help the churches reach as many children as possible with Christ's love over the summer.

Russia

Lift the faculty and students of the SGA-sponsored Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary in prayer today. Pray especially for the continued expansion of distance learning opportunities across Russia. Former Soviet nations such as Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus continue to experience significant economic difficulties and poverty is increasing. Please pray for God's provision for compassion and other humanitarian aid ministries as the needs arise.

Please pray for Pastor Alexei Smirnov, president of the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists. Ask for God's ongoing wisdom and direction in Alexei's leadership of Russia's largest evangelical church fellowship.

Lift SGA's Reach Russia Now initiative in prayer today.

Pray that God will open doors and resources to send missionary evangelist pilots to help reach the six million unreached people across Russia's huge Far East.

Pray for Valery Kazakov and SGA's Moscow Regional Ministry Center (RMC). We are so thankful for Valery and his dedicated team as they faithfully serve Bible-preaching churches across Russia's 11 time zones.

10 The SGA-sponsored Immanuel's Child outreach this past Christmas opened some wonderful ministry opportunities for missionary pastors in Russia's Ryazan region. Pray for them as they conduct follow up ministry in rural villages.

Ukraine

11 Please pray for Ruslan Muratayev, director of SGA's Kiev RMC. May the Lord grant him wisdom as he helps oversee ongoing Crisis Evangelism Fund-related ministry in eastern Ukraine.

12 We praise and thank the Lord for the SGA-sponsored Irpen Biblical Seminary and the growing influence it is having across the entire CIS. President Dr. Igor Yaremchuk and faculty are dedicated to teaching the inerrancy of God's Word and sound doctrine.

13 We continue to praise the Lord that the Reformation is being celebrated across Ukraine this year by presidential proclamation. Pray for many new opportunities to preach the life-changing Gospel to those who have not heard!

14 Pray for SGA-sponsored missionary pastors in eastern Ukraine, which locals call the "Donbass" region. Ministry conditions there remain dangerous and many families remain in great physical need in the face of ongoing fighting.

15 We are thankful to the Lord for His provision for the SGA-sponsored *Orphans Reborn* ministry across Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and other CIS nations. Thousands of needy, forgotten

children are hearing that they have a Savior who loves them through this wonderful ministry.

Belarus

16 Pray today for Dr. Viktor Krutko, president of the Belarussian UECB. We are thankful for Viktor, his servant leadership and his commitment to sound biblical doctrine.

17 Lift the staff of SGA's Minsk RMC in prayer. Led by Piotr Podrez, our Minsk team serves the churches of Belarus in many ways, including provision of Bibles, Christian literature and missionary pastor support.

18 Intercede for the faculty and students of the SGA-sponsored Minsk Theological Seminary. Pray especially for Pastor Leonid Mikhovich as he continues to serve as president of this strategic Bible school.

Recent changes in visa laws should make it easier to visit and encourage SGA-sponsored missionary pastors in Belarus. We pray that the doors for ministry will open even further.

20 We praise and thank the Lord for the vibrant youth ministry the Lord is building across Belarus. Pray for SGA's Dima Podrez as he helps encourage these ministries, and serves himself in leadership.

Central Asia, Caucasus, and Is<u>rael</u>

2 1 Alexander Karyakov is the director of the SGA-sponsored Almaty Bible Institute in Kazakhstan. May the Lord grant him ongoing wisdom and direction as pressure increases on evangelical churches and related ministries.

2 Pray for Angelina Korotky, daughter of Dr. Oleg Korotky—one of SGA's key Bible training coordinators. Angelina continues to progress in recovery from a very serious auto accident in December 2016.

The Caucasus Mountains region can be very dangerous for evangelical ministry due to the influence of radical Islam. Pray for SGA-sponsored missionary pastors serving and sharing the changing power of Christ's love.

Pray for the churches across southern Russia and the Caucasus region that will be discreetly holding children's summer camps. May many young children come to know of Christ's love and trust Him as Savior!

25 Pray for the students and faculty at SGA's partner
Bible college in Israel. We praise and thank the Lord for the opportunities
He provides to support training of

Russian-speaking congregation leaders.

Please pray today for our mission's board of directors, chaired by Warner Tillman. Ask for God's ongoing wisdom and direction as they prayerfully oversee the ministries of our mission.

2 Pray for SGA's administration division, led by chief financial officer Beverly Braunsky. Ask for God's guidance in navigating changing regulations, laws, and other challenges governing evangelical ministries.

28 We praise God with thanksgiving for each of our faithful partners who help make our ministries across the CIS possible. Our staff holds daily prayer groups where we pray for their needs, and count it a privilege to do so.

29 Some areas in Russia's Far East are so remote and difficult to reach that they can only be accessed by air. Pray regularly for the new *Reach Russia Now* initiative, asking for God's gracious provision of missionary pilots and financial resources.

Pray for SGA's international offices in Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Australia. We praise and thank God for the support and encouragement they give Bible-preaching churches across the CIS and Eastern Europe.

Reflection: We conclude May with the psalmist's wonderful encouragement . . . Why are you in despair, 0 my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence (Psalm 42:5).

Partner Prayer Requests

Pray for healing from dental procedure . . .

Sullivan, Illinois

For reconciliation in loved ones' marriage . . .

Dallas, Texas

Please pray for health and strength in old age . . .

San Jose, California

For unspoken family needs . . .

Fairfield, Connecticut

The SGA staff is honored to bring your requests to the Lord. We thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this way.



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