

Ready to Listen and Receive the Truth!

It is very hard to get through to some people who maintain a protective shell around themselves. This is especially true with Russian-speaking teenagers at orphanages, who have had more than their share of heartbreak and abusive treatment.

But you — our faithful partners in ministry — are helping faithful church workers across the lands of Russia break through that hardened shell through the power of Christ's love. And there are so many examples to share.

Warrior Camp

In Russia's Krasnoyarsk region, SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Yevgeny Shchetinsky held what he called a "Warrior Camp" geared for 14 to 19-year-olds. It was a tremendous opportunity to meet a tremendous need in young lives, and you helped make it possible. Yevgeny's assistant Alena Viktorovna explains . . .

It is very hard to convey the truth to these teenagers who were raised at



Fun games and joyful fellowship in the Lord — all contribute to warming an orphan's heart with God's love.

the orphanage. They are not trained to listen to you, and you have to prove that they can trust you. Everything you say must be real and a part of your own life!

During "Warrior Camp," the church workers along with the orphan youth lived together, ate together and overcame the challenges of rural camping together. During those ten days of Gospel witness, these suspicious, wary young people saw the church workers with them side-by-side, and participated in the evening fellowships where they heard the Gospel that they had seen put into practice.

Testimonies

When it was time to go back to the orphanage, the hearts of the young men and women were full.

I really enjoyed the goodness of the staff and leaders. We could ask any questions about anything that bothered us. I really enjoyed our Christian meetings and songs. In the Bible, I learned a lot about God. I will never forget all that happened in our camp and pray that it will continue.

Katerina

Thank you very much for this super camp!!! I enjoyed everything and I really liked that the whole day was filled with events. I think it is right that we have very little free time. I learned so much — so many new things. I really want to go next year!

Oleg

In Russian youth ministry, so much can happen simultaneously. You have evangelism, Bible training, counseling, fellowship, orphanage ministry, and worship. More than that, there is such a key emphasis to train those youth who repent and trust in Christ as their Savior. The intent is to encourage them to be youth IN ministry, and greatly enhance the ministry and outreach of their local fellowships.

“I will never forget all that happened in our camp and pray that it will continue.”

It costs just \$41 to send a Russian child or teenager for a week of camp in the summer. Partners like you have already helped Russian churches reach thousands of kids.

Please pray with us in advance for this coming summer’s camp season. May the Lord draw many to Himself in saving faith!



Pray for Viktor’s family, that the seeds planted will take root.

On the Threshold of Eternity

So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12).

Sergei Druz
SGA-Sponsored Missionary Pastor in
Ivanovo, Russia

How many times have we earnestly prayed for the salvation of a loved one who is facing death, yet remains resistant to salvation through the Lord Jesus?

Supported through the gifts of SGA partners, SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Sergei Druz was able to serve such a family in Russia’s Ivanovo region. His story is heartbreaking, yet bathed in the hope of eternity.

A Christian sister from our church came up and asked me to talk to her son named Viktor. Through a mistake in surgery, a malignant tumor in Viktor’s body began to spread rapidly, and he was now dying in hospice care.

I began to visit him daily. Viktor was in denial about his grave situation, and would not listen to my words about the Lord and the need for repentance. He planned on recovering and getting

married. But I learned that he at last had begun thinking things over.

One Sunday before a trip to Moscow, I visited Viktor. What a difference I found in him! He was happy to see me, and agreed to pray with me to repent and receive the Lord. I could see the immediate change in his countenance.

After Sergei’s return, he decided to spend as much time with Viktor as possible. He visited daily, reading the Bible and helping Viktor, who by this time could no longer get out of bed. Viktor said that hearing the words of Scripture helped him forget about the pain, and that he felt like he was “flying on the wings of faith.”

At last, Viktor went to be with the Lord he had so recently embraced. Many of Viktor’s relatives attended the funeral, and were thankful for Sergei’s message. None of them are as of yet believers except for Viktor’s mother. Pray that these Gospel seeds — planted at a time of tragic loss — will result in much fruit for the glory of Christ.

A week of summer camp amid God’s beautiful creation opens up many doors for the Gospel to reach children from all walks of life. It is a vital ministry across the lands of Russia!

Preparing for Pascha (Easter)

Across Russia and her neighboring countries, Easter is called “Pascha.” For Christians, it is the holiest day of the year and a tremendous time for evangelism. The generous gifts of our partners help evangelical churches reach out with the Gospel in a variety of ways.



In the Russian city of Orel, SGA-sponsored *Orphans Reborn* worker Lena Lastochkina remembers last year’s missionary labors, and that the year they took to prepare for the outreach to the orphan children was worth every moment . . .

They said that our program last year was the best we had ever done. We praise God for His anointing and blessing. We began by reminding the children about the events surrounding the Lord Jesus’ crucifixion. Afterward, we gave a presentation on the topic of Easter.

The Orel team took this God-given opportunity to explain the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus to the children, and how they could come to know Him as their Lord and Savior. Lena is hopeful that the impact will be lasting, making an eternal difference for the children who need the Lord so desperately . . .



The children also told us how they had prepared for Easter. It is a good thing for them to remember the experiences they have with us and with other children. It is sad, because these children are later sent to various other boarding schools and they never see each other again. It is so important that they hear the Gospel!

* Editor’s Note: For many individuals and families across the lands of Russia, food costs in the stores are so prohibitive that they must survive through the winter on produce they are able to raise in their gardens. Given this reality, it is easy to understand why the caregivers remaining to fellowship was such a special gesture to Lena and the *Orphans Reborn* team in Orel.

SGA Partners with Answers in Genesis

SGA is thankful for the privilege of partnering together with Ken Ham and Answers in Genesis (AIG) to prepare a Russian-language version of AIG’s *Foundations* video for eventual distribution in the CIS. Faithful Bible teaching churches will be equipped with additional training, strengthening their commitment to hold fast to the authority of God’s Word. The 2-DVD set (with Russian-language study guide) is an epic six-hour series, which covers subjects including:

- Relevance of Genesis
- Always Ready (*Apologia*)
- Death—the Enemy
- In Six Days
- One Blood, One Race
- Revealing the Unknown God



Steve Ham, senior director of Answers in Genesis, along with Eric Mock, SGA’s vice president of ministry operations, travelled to Moscow, Russia, and Kiev, Ukraine, to distribute more than 2,000 copies of the DVD to Russian-speaking pastors from 13 countries, and introduced the work of Answers in Genesis. In Moscow, Steve presented three powerful workshops on the relevance of Genesis and the centrality of Christ to a very excited group of Russian regional pastors. In addition, they appeared on a radio program and took phone calls from all over the world regarding a young earth view of creation. Eric exhorted pastors in the Euro-Asiatic Conference in Kiev to hold fast to God’s Word as the lens of their worldview, and introduced the DVD series. SGA’s Sergei Omelchenko in Kiev, Ukraine, along with SGA staff, performed the translation and interpretation of the DVD series with video and production work done by Tim Dabner, SGA’s director of audio-visual media. Pray with us that this new video series will have a powerful impact on all who see it, and that the Lord will use it to help Russian-speaking people gain confidence in the reliability and accuracy of God’s Word.



SGA’s Sergei Omelchenko

Reaching Public School Children — By Invitation!

Ruslan Buryachok is an SGA-sponsored missionary pastor laboring in Zhytomyr, Ukraine. He wrote to tell us of his excitement at being invited into a local public school to tell children about the Lord. Can you imagine that happening in America?

The Lord opened the door wide for us. The teachers from the public school invited us to come in and talk to the children about God. There were 90 children who attended our meetings, and we distributed children’s Bibles in the Ukrainian language. We plan on continuing this ministry throughout the school year!



Youth IN Ministry

Rallying Young People With the Gospel

Your support of youth ministry across Russia is a tremendous encouragement. It is bearing wonderful fruit now, and will in the future as the Gospel seeds grow in the hearts of those who hear.

Remodeling and Witnessing

SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Pavel Kozorezov and his church work with youth in Russia's Nizhny Novgorod region. In July, nine young people witnessed to 300 people while renovating a kindergarten . . .

Our young people witnessed of God's love to the employees. They gave free cold drinks to everyone who agreed to participate in interviews. Questions were asked such as, 'Do you do good to people impartially? Do you know what great good God has done for people?'

The youth shared the Gospel and invitations to evangelistic services. A youth camp followed, where 10 unbelieving teenagers joined our youth. The purpose of this was to rally young people together to communicate the Gospel to their unbelieving friends.

No Exile in This "Patmos"

Scripture tells us that the Apostle John was exiled to the island of Patmos for the sake of his testimony (Revelation 1:9). In Vladivostok, there is a different kind of Patmos where young people are joyfully

encountering our Savior.

Missionary pastor Sasha Dubynin tells the story of a young woman named Tanya . . .

Tanya had come to camp last year as a participant. She was baptized in November, and this year came back as one of the girls' team leaders!

We had 13 youth repent this past summer, and in September we began to have youth meetings. The number of young people involved is growing, and we want them to grow in their faith.

Youth Movement in Belarus

Teenagers from Minsk's Golgotha Baptist Church participated in a "walking tour" for an entire week. SGA's Dima Podrez tells us a key goal was to establish relationships with young people reached through the youth ministry . . .

They have a lot of friends who are not Christians, so it would have been easy for them to drift away. At Bible study, the teens were open about their struggles. It was a great opportunity to demonstrate how Christian people react to hardships encountered during the tour.

Afterward, the parents told us they could see marked changes in their children when they returned from the tour. Praise the Lord for this opportunity!

News and Analysis

Kazakhstan Crackdown Continues

Forum 18 and other media report that Kazakhstan began enforcing the new religion law signed by President Nursultan Nazarbaev even before it legally came into force.

In the city of Atyrau, police and secret police officers raided the worship of an officially registered Protestant church, claiming that under the new law, the church cannot meet outside its legal address. The church had been forced to meet elsewhere due to secret police pressure.

During the raid, a 17-year-old woman was allegedly hit by a policeman, leaving her unconscious. No disciplinary action seems to be being taken against the policeman responsible, despite the presence of a Public Prosecutor's Office official.



Police raids are becoming more frequent at churches across Central Asia!

Other religious groups, including Muslims and Catholics, have all expressed concerns to Forum 18 and SGA about the new laws and their impact, but are wary of doing so in public fashion. Please make this a matter of continual intercessory prayer, asking God to . . . *take note of their threats, and grant that [His] bondservants may speak His Word with all confidence* (Acts 4:29).

How You Can Help

Evangelism, Bible training, counseling, fellowship, orphan ministry, and worship are all vitally important elements of ministry to people across the lands of Russia. Whether faithful workers are reaching out to those in their communities through the local church, to children and youth in orphanages, or through outreach programs such as summer camp, the goal is to equip believers to live fruitful lives IN ministry — advancing the Gospel for the glory of Christ. Your prayers and financial support helps to equip faithful church workers and missionary pastors with the resources they need for effective ministry.



Canadian Connection



O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth. (Psalm 54:2)

That is how Julia prayed when she knew that she needed the Lord's intervention.

Julia recently gave her testimony in a church in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. Initially, Julia's life was ideal and problem free. After graduation, Julia and her husband had a baby. They were satisfied, successful business people who did not need God. But their comfortable lives soon unraveled. Within a year of her husband using drugs, Julia also became a drug addict. Their lives changed drastically. Bankruptcy, her husband's imprisonment for theft and her mother raising their child did not dissuade Julia from increased drug use leading to deteriorating health and eventually HIV. The HIV diagnosis led to depression and more drugs with the result



that Julia lost the use of her legs. Horrified, Julia began to call her friends, one of whom was Eugene, a Christian man who had been a drug addict.

Eugene suggested that Julia go to the rehab centre for women. Julia did not see any other way out and agreed. Because of her poor health, the 800 km trip to the rehab center seemed impossible. But the believers prayed

and Julia, who before could not sit for more than an hour, travelled 8 hours by car to the rehab centre. There, Julia heard about the love of God and received the Lord as her personal Savior. Julia has been baptized and her health is improving.

We thank God for His special grace for Julia and hearing her sincere prayer.

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