

The Lord Keeps Granting Miracles of Salvation

Oleg L.

SGA-Sponsored Missionary Pastor in Ukraine

I am thankful to be able to share with you our news, our plans, and our ministries here in Ukraine. Much of our ministry recently has been with refugees who fled from the violence in the east. We provided various kinds of aid for them, and shared God's Word with them. The first repentance in the new church we planted for the refugees happened at Easter. Maria, a refugee lady from Donetsk, repented and trusted in Christ. The next day, we held an Easter celebration for children including a puppet theater. The greatest God-granted miracle of the year was His provision for our new church, and for the new souls added to the kingdom.

Later in the spring, we held a musical and discussion program for the refugees. During this meeting, well-known Christian singers sang and shared about God's love in their lives. It so deeply moved the heart of an old friend of ours from Lugansk

in attendance that he repented, and trusted in Christ. His name is Alexander. He shared his testimony before the congregation and described his long journey to the Lord. While his mother had brought him to the church as a child, for many years he rejected his Creator. But John 6:44 tells us that God draws people to Himself, and Alexander responded to the call. Over the next two months, four more women came to Christ!

Vladlen's Story

One Sunday, a 30-year-old man named Vladlen repented. He has a special testimony. He is a professional basketball player. Five years ago, before his wedding, both of his kidneys stopped working. His mother could have been a donor, but



Vladlen (right) turned to Christ after a life in pro sports and a life-threatening health crisis.

she was diagnosed with cancer. He and his fiancée Nadezhda went ahead and married, despite these challenges. She began attending our church and after two months, Vladlen also came to church. They had moved from the war zone, and he has to have dialysis four times a week. We love this family now in our church, and we ask you to pray with us for Vladlen's physical healing and for Nadezhda's salvation.

Other ministries of our church include an English club led by our daughter Ksenya,



English-language and other clubs are fruitful Gospel opportunities.

where they study the Gospel of John. My wife Alyona leads a ladies' club attended by unchurched refugee women, and they



Refugee women are hearing of Christ's love through Alyona's loving example and teaching.



Ukraine's fertile, beautiful fields have also been the landscape for much sorrow and suffering. Your faithful, prayerful support of SGA-sponsored missionary pastors is making an eternal difference in many lives!

study the Bible. I usually come in at the end and answer their many questions. We also develop our children's ministry, holding Bible classes and distributing



Children are eager listeners as Bible lessons are taught.



Thank you for helping to provide the colorful Christian literature that the children love to receive.

children's Bibles. Please also remember to pray for our camp ministries.

Thank you very much for your prayers and financial support of our ministries. Your concern for us is so encouraging to our family. May God bless you, and reward you one hundredfold. We send our love in the Lord!



Mercy, Ministry, and Thanksgiving to God!

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)?

Pastor Nikolai in Belarus

Over a period of three months, I visited three families and have been building a relationship with them through SGA-sponsored Compassion Ministry in the southeast part of the country.

Anna's family is one of them. She is raising three children alone and working hard to provide for her family. Anna's husband abandoned the family seven years ago. Her elder daughter is 15 years old. We have invited her elder daughter to visit the church but as yet, she has not come. At the beginning, Anna was closed toward having any relationship with us. But as time has gone on, her attitude toward us has changed. She has begun to treat us with more trust, and she said that she has noticed how we have given her the food parcels without condition, and just want to talk with her. The love of Christ in action can open hardened and untrusting hearts.

Irina is a single mother. Sadly, Irina is addicted to alcohol. She has an 11-year-old son named Denis. They both do not come to church yet; however, we believe that Denis will join our Sunday school. Denis has met some boys from our Sunday

school, and moreover, they all go to the same public school. Irina is a kind woman. She began drinking after her divorce from her husband. She sometimes blames God for all her problems and doesn't want to look at her own guilt. She does believe in God's existence, and I am so happy for this. Also she doesn't believe the false stories spread about evangelical Baptist Christians.

The third family is a husband named Sergei, his wife, and their three children. Sergei is 32 years old. He lives with his son here in Belarus, while his wife Nina currently lives with her daughter Alisa in Russia. Their separation has been forced by Alisa being seriously ill and in need of medicine, which is not available in Belarus. His son attends school. They have additional sorrows—Sergei's father is also seriously ill. We have begun to help Sergei and his elderly parents. Sergei has already visited the church three times and will soon be traveling to visit his wife in Moscow. When he returns, he will begin looking for work to support their family. He also hopes that Nina and Alisa will return home soon.

I ask you to pray for these people. I trust and believe that God is mighty, and can draw many men, women, and children from all walks of life to Himself. Thank you for your support of Compassion Ministry. It is truly making a difference for many.

Ministry to Children and Widows in Central Asia

Honor widows who are widows indeed . . . (1 Timothy 5:3).

Thank you so much for your concern and for supporting me in my ministry. May the Lord bless you richly! Praise God for giving you the desire to sacrifice and help with funds and food parcels, which we distribute to widows and needy families. You are truly participants in all our churches' ministries here in Central Asia.

—Nadira



Compassion Ministry Update: Belarus

Supported by SGA partners, our faithful missionary pastors in Belarus are continuing to share Christ's love with needy families by distributing food parcels and other aid as needed. In the Grodno region, Pastor Valery is asking us to pray for a young man named Viktor and his family. Through Valery's loving outreach, Viktor's heart is being *opened to respond* (Acts 16:14) . . .

At the beginning, Viktor was not very open and distrustful. As time went on, his heart opened more and more for the Gospel. He has been at my home now several times, sitting at my table having long conversations about his need. Viktor also visited our Christmas service with his children. May the Lord continue to work in their hearts, and bring them to repentance!

In the Brest region located near the border with Poland, another missionary pastor named Valery wrote that Compassion Ministry is also having an impact among youth and children . . .



Volodya

Volodya is a young man who now regularly attends Sunday school and our youth meetings. He even stays overnight at our home so we can fellowship and talk about the Lord. Please continue to pray for his repentance and spiritual growth. Svetlana is a young girl who came to the Lord and attends our church and youth meetings. She even helps at the church serving as an operator. Svetlana asks that you please pray for her mother, who has not yet come to faith. Pray that Svetlana will be granted wisdom and be an obedient witness to help lead her mother to repentance! Another young mother named Natalya has an adopted daughter named Diana, who began to change in dramatic ways after she was allowed to come to our youth camp. She has really blossomed out, her face wreathed in smiles. Natalya has been introducing us to other needy families, which gives us more opportunities to share Christ!



Svetlana

Praise God with us for these wonderful reports! Please keep praying for our missionary pastors in Belarus and Ukraine as they continue to distribute food and preach the Gospel. The needs are so great!

SGA Senior Missionary Rose Leonovich Now With Christ



On Christmas Eve 2015, our Lord and Savior called SGA senior missionary Rose Leonovich home to be with Him. She was 90 years old, and leaves behind a remarkable legacy of faithful service for the sake of the Gospel. Rose lived out her final years in California with her children at her side, still taking every opportunity to share Christ's love with each opportunity the Lord granted her. While we are sorrowful at Rose's passing, we are yet rejoicing because we know that to ... *be absent from the body [is to] be at home with the Lord* (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Rose Leonovich began her service with SGA with faithfulness on July 1, 1948. After finishing Bible school, she went to Germany, where she and Ruth Deyneka Erdel ministered to displaced Russian-speaking WW II refugees in the Allied Displaced Persons Camps. She met and married fellow SGA missionary Nick Leonovich in 1951, and then relocated to Italy, where they ministered to Russian immigrants there. In 1955, they were assigned to Toulouse, France, where for three years they ministered to immigrants from the Russian aristocracy retired there. Next, in 1958, Rose and Nick worked with Dr. Paul Freed as he launched the Voice of Tangier Christian radio ministry in Morocco. They worked to pioneer the production of Gospel programs in the Russian language.

The next stage of their radio ministry came in 1961 when Dr. Freed began Trans World Radio and moved the Russian studio to Monte Carlo. For the next 24 years, Rose and Nick worked together producing Russian programs that were broadcast over the Iron Curtain into the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union. Persecuted believers were fed and encouraged to keep pressing on for Christ, and countless souls with a Slavic background were saved as they heard the Gospel in their language over the radio.



Rose (front right) and her husband Nick (back right) in SGA's earlier days.

As Rose and Nick's ministry transitioned to service back on home soil in North America, they both continued to produce Russian radio programs at SGA's studios, then in Wheaton, Illinois. Their programs were aired over a variety of international transmitters including Trans World Radio, HCJB, and Far East Broadcasting. In later years after they stopped production of radio programs, Rose and Nick had the joy of traveling to Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, where they were able to meet many who had been won to the Lord through their radio outreaches. Only eternity will reveal their true spiritual legacy and the fruit of their labors for the Lord. Please be in prayer for Rose's daughter Christine, son Jim, her grandchildren, and extended family during this time of loss. We are deeply thankful to the Lord for Rose's decades of service for the glory of the Lord and for the sake of the Gospel.

Florence Daneliuk: Praising God for 63 Years of Faithful Service



Florence Daneliuk has always been ready to go wherever the Lord calls.

Last October was a very special month for SGA senior missionary Florence Daneliuk. At Kodiak Bible Church in Kodiak, Alaska, Florence was honored for 50 years of service to the SGA-planted congregation. But her SGA service goes back even further to December 1952, alongside her late husband, Andrew, in the Displaced Persons Camps in Europe after World War II. Her journey to ministry in Kodiak began with the tragic loss of Andrew in an automobile accident in 1965. But the Lord had been preparing her for a lifetime . . .

Even though I was raised in a Christian home, it wasn't until the age of 11 that I received Christ as my personal Savior. The conviction was strong for a long time that I was not ready to meet Christ if He should come. I would wake up at night and listen for the breathing of my sisters and brothers in that farm bedroom in Alberta, Canada. I knew that if I heard them, Christ had not come yet. It was after a Sunday school class at a farm home in Alberta that I finally yielded and received Christ. Since that time, I had the conviction that one day I would be a missionary.

Over the past 50 years in Kodiak, Florence has served her Lord faithfully in a number of capacities. She has conducted Bible studies with Navy women and female Coast Guard personnel. She participated in young adult ministry, Bible studies, prayer meetings, dinners, and retreats at a local Bible camp. She has conducted Bible studies out on the Coast Guard base at Kodiak. In fact, the Coast Guard chaplain also presented Florence with a plaque for 40 years of service on the base! She and the church have reached out to Russian fishing and military boats that stopped in Kodiak after the Cold War ended, distributing Russian Bibles and Christian literature. She has opened her home to roommates, and has managed a local apartment complex where she has faithfully witnessed to tenants, held Bible studies, and in the church, taught junior high-age children.

Florence celebrated her 85th birthday last summer, and is still pressing on, even with some health challenges. Please join us in praising and thanking the Lord for Florence and her steady faithfulness to His calling.



Florence teaching her Jr. High Sunday school class.

CIS in the News



Orthodox churches get fast approval to build, yet evangelical churches can face determined opposition for their building plans.

Oppression of Evangelical Churches Rising in Georgia

We were grieved to read a recent report in Forum 18 regarding growing pressure against evangelical churches in the former Soviet country of Georgia in the Caucasus Mountains region. The report said that non-Orthodox Church faiths, including Protestant evangelicals, repeatedly face obstruction from local municipal councils

and national state bodies. Quoting the report . . . *Typically, local Georgian Orthodox clergy and congregation members oppose proposals to build non-Georgian Orthodox places of worship. Then the local council finds excuses to obey Georgian Orthodox demands, even if the demands go against a court decision, often using spurious reasons to deny the building permit application.*

In past years, we have seen several reports of extreme physical violence against other religious groups. Please intercede in prayer for our brothers and sisters, asking God to grant them protection as they continue being . . . *a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard (Acts 22:15).*

How You Can Help

There are so many ways that faithful, hardworking missionary pastors sponsored by SGA are reaching the lost for Christ, and we are excited to be able to share their testimonies in the pages of *InSight*. Through Compassion Ministry, Bible-preaching churches are helping to meet very deep physical needs in the lives of poverty-stricken individuals and families across Russia and her neighboring countries. More than that, your generous support and prayers help provide Bible training, Russian-language Bibles and Christian literature, children's ministries, missionary pastor support, and much more. Please pray about how you can help today!



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Canadian Connection

by Bill Ball

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts . . . (Col. 3:12).

Even realizing that the real question is not, "Who is my neighbour?" but rather, "Whose neighbour are you?"—most of us still need Paul's reminder to keep on putting on compassionate hearts as God keeps placing those in our path who need help.

As we lovingly do that, imagine for a moment, what you would do if the number of people around you and the magnitude of their needs was overwhelming. Most of us would call for help as we do the best that we can.

The pastors and churches served by SGA/Canada are doing their best but they need help. Pastor Michael



Pimonenko, a caring pastor in the Sumy region of Ukraine, wrote of witnessing in word and deed . . .

The seeds of the Gospel are being sown in the hearts of those who need salvation. And we have an opportunity to perform good deeds through this sowing. It's wonderful that we can care for the needy

families when we take food sets to needy families. . . We continue attending a few families with handicapped children. Most of these families were in our Special Needs Camp organized by the church. 60 people spent a week at camp where brothers and sisters from Grace Church served them with love. It was special time of grace and God's work. Eight people repented and asked God to come into their lives. Praise God for His grace. . . We continue to care for refugee families that are very needy and God opens doors for us to meet and serve these families, some whose fathers are defending our nation in east Ukraine. These dear folks are very open and we have a chance to tell them of God's love. And there are families whose husbands or fathers were killed or wounded in the war. It is extremely hard for these families. The wives are very grateful to receive a packet of food and the Word of God. God is merciful! Praise the Lord!

We pray for all of these families to come to know the Lord through our Compassion Ministry, We believe that the seeds sown will bear fruit in the Lord's time.

As you pray for Pastor Michael and those for whom he is caring, please also pray for the Lord to provide more resources for Pastor Michael and the many other pastors and churches that need a helping hand to be caring neighbours. They need your help.



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