



A bridge of hope to Russia.

SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

Good News Report

SHARING THE GOSPEL ♦ EQUIPPING THE CHURCH ♦ HELPING THE FORGOTTEN

Immanuel's Child Outreach Draws Near...

Thanks to You!

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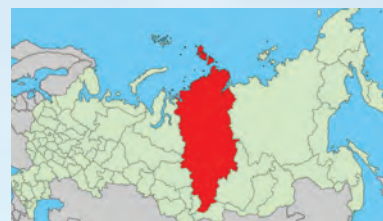


**Бог
Любит
Тебя!**

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit . . . (MATTHEW 28:19)

Suicidal Young Man Transformed by the Gospel!

In Russia's Krasnoyarsk region, SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Pavel Barsukov ministers to people from all walks of life. His evangelistic ministry also passes international borders as he has led teams for fruitful ministry in neighboring Mongolia for several years. **Not long ago, he met a young man named Denis whom the Lord rescued from ending his own life in despair. Here is Pavel's report:**



The Lord has led us in a wonderful way in our ministry to people who have troubled lives. It all began with our ministry to children, and that eventually led to organizing **an introductory course to the Christian faith for their parents.** Seven young people attending our church have recently repented and trusted in the Lord Jesus for salvation.

Denis was one of them, and it was amazing to hear his testimony. A year ago, Denis was living in Moscow and had come to total disappointment in his life. One morning after he woke up, he took all of his official documents, picked up a rope, and went to the forest intending to end his life. Along the way, he tore all of his official



Seven youth committed their lives to the Lord.

documents to pieces including his passport. He then threw them away.

Once in the forest, Denis put the rope over a tree branch and was thinking of how to make a loop, and at that very moment the Lord acted, touching Denis' heart. Suddenly a severe storm blew up in the forest, and he became so afraid that he left the rope dangling and ran back home!

A month later, Denis ended up in one of our Christian rehabilitation centers. Today, he lives without a passport, and neither Russia nor his home country of Tajikistan will recognize him as a citizen. **But Denis is still joyful, because he has become a citizen of Heaven!** ♦



Denis is grateful for his salvation.

Annual Retreat for Christian Youth Strengthens a New Generation

Pavel Barsukov also reports on the success of a second annual retreat for Christian youth that was held this past June. **More than 130 young people attended!** One thing that made this event a unique youth retreat was that **the focus was on**



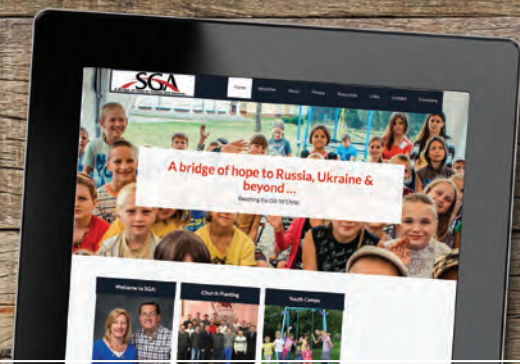
fellowship in Christ rather than sports activities or other entertainment. These youth reviewed their relationship with the Lord and committed their lives to His service. And at the event, the seven youth were baptized, including Denis!

Please pray for Pavel and his church as they continue their vibrant youth ministry, as well as their evangelistic labors in Mongolia. Also intercede for another church plant Pavel is leading in another city district of this fall. May the Word of God keep on spreading, and the number of disciples . . . *continue to increase* (Acts 6:7). ♦



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Immanuel's Child Outreach

Editor's Note: We are delighted to bring you this frontline report from Pastor Sergei Gormash in Belarus. He wanted all SGA supporters to know how big an impact the upcoming *Immanuel's Child* Christmas outreach can have . . . and to pray for a harvest of souls!

Each year, we wait for Christmastime. Christmas is such a unique opportunity to share the Gospel publicly in **schools, orphanages and other locations**. We have a team of 11 individuals for SGA-sponsored *Immanuel's Child* Christmas ministry to children.

Last year, a month before Russian Christmas in January when the outreaches usually take place, **we held a Christmas outreach for children from dysfunctional families**. On that day in early December, the parents of the children were also at the Christmas program. After it was over, the parents were very thankful and they embraced each other (as well as the educators).

According to the teachers, it was first time they had seen smiling and happy parents.

Quarrels and angry rebukes are the only things they usually get from the parents. *I am thankful to God. He is mighty to change hearts!*

That Christmas program was the beginning of our Christmas ministry. **Later, we visited orphanages and churches in five different locations across Belarus.** We shared the Gospel at a children's home in one village, where we **gathered children from other**



Pastor Sergei Gormash



The children who pa



Draws Near... *Please Pray!*



o participate receive a Bible, Christmas presents and a special card from a SGA supporter in America.

nearby villages. The Lord blessed our Christmas programs in Cherven, and the evangelical churches in our area were very blessed as a result. This particular outreach was held for orphan handicapped children.

That wonderful Christmas season of ministry came to an end, but we continued to visit

“My heart is filled with the deepest gratitude to God for opportunity to plant the seeds of the Gospel into children and elder’s hearts.”

schools and share the Gospel with children as the door had opened up! And our ministry will continue this year. Thank you so much for your open hearts, and your willingness to help the children’s ministry in Belarus. **Please pray** for this

year’s *Immanuel’s Child* outreaches, asking the Lord to save many young souls for His glory!

I am very thankful to God for the group and their ministry at Christmas time. **God set their hearts on fire for the ministry with children.** God was going before them in the ministry for children and it was easy for me to work with the team. They were encouraged and inspired by God for ministry with children and teenagers. My heart is filled with the deepest gratitude to God for opportunity to plant the seeds of the Gospel into children and elder’s hearts.

Yours Faithfully,
Sergei Gormash

Gospel Hope Reaches Troubled Young Souls

A report from Oleg Bobkin , SGA-Sponsored Missionary Pastor in Voronezh, Russia:

Recently, the Lord enabled us to have a five-day camp for orphan boys from a local school for juvenile delinquents who are between 10-14 years of age. My three teenage sons worked with me in the camp. There were 39 boys in all, and many of them decided to repent, trust in Christ, and live a Christian life at the end of the camp.

Our time included worship services, alongside activities like soccer, volleyball, craft lessons, art, a hike, visiting an Ice Palace, a

museum, a Park of Dinosaurs and finally a boat trip. We had a great time and became friends with many of these children.

A couple of the boys were willing to share their testimonies . . .



Oleg Bobkin with some of the boys from the camp.

“I decided to ask God to forgive me”

I was put into this specialized school because I drank alcohol, smoked, and stole money. When I first got there, I was in quarantine. Oleg visited me and told me about God, and how He loves me. I decided to ask God to forgive me. I prayed together with Oleg and asked God to forgive me of my sins. When I was in the camp, I saw Oleg and his children and how he loves children and all people. I want to serve people too in the future, who have no hope and who will only find peace in God. I read the Gospel daily and pray and ask God to help me to become a good person. When I call my relatives, I tell them now about God and how they can be saved. Thank you for everything you do!

—Nikita Kozyrev (age 12)

“ . . . children like me, whom no one wants.”

When I was 8, my father and mother were imprisoned. I stayed with my grandmother for three years. When Granny died, my aunt took me to her home. I lived the way I wanted to and listened to no one. When my mother was released, she took me back home but she did not want me. She had a man living with her and they lived their own way. I spent much time in the street, smoked, drank alcohol, stole things, and robbed people. I committed a serious crime and was sentenced to three years at the reform school. I thought about my life and how it was when I was free, and God touched my heart at one of the camp services. I came up to Oleg, decided to repent and live the Christian way of life. Now I read the Bible daily, and pray for my parents and relatives who live without Christ. I do not miss any of the services. I came to know many interesting and useful things in the Christian camp. I thank God and all those who make it possible to have such camps and help children like me, whom no one wants.

—Ivan from Vorkuta (age 13)

Thank you for your prayers and support of our ministry. Please pray for these children, and all the others who have come to faith in Jesus.

CIS IN THE NEWS

GROWING TERRORISM CONCERNS IN CIS

A recent report in The Times of Central Asia cited growing concerns about the terror group ISIS targeting Central Asians as recruits. The report said that these efforts take place both online and abroad, adding . . .

"The Ferghana Valley is notorious for being a hotbed of terrorism in Central Asia, and it is the origin of many Central Asian fighters in the Middle East."

The Ferghana Valley is shared by the nations of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, and the porous borders make it easy for insurgents to slip between countries. A recent spike in attacks also seems to be tied to Central Asian nationals. In April, a Kyrgyz-born Uzbek man with Russian citizenship blew himself up in a St. Petersburg Metro car, killing 14.

Ultimately, the only hope for true peace and reconciliation comes through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for our brothers and sisters in these troubled lands as they share the love of Christ and keep building His church. ♦



HOW YOU CAN HELP

It seems like 2017 has gone by so fast! And with the evangelical churches across the CIS getting ready for *Immanuel's Child* and other Christmas outreaches in January, it's a very busy time as we wind down the year. Your faithfulness helps accomplish so much in addition to children's ministries. **You help provide Bible training for pastors and youth leaders, children's ministries, provision of Bibles and Christian literature, and compassionate aid such as food and clothing—and so much more.**

Please prayerfully consider how you can help today. And please pray for fruitful ministry in 2018!



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Canadian Connection

December 2017

This month, as we draw close to Christmas and the conclusion of another calendar year, we bring family and friends together for times of sharing and expressions of love. So many we know and to whom we minister do not have such a privilege, and these are difficult days. The hope of the Gospel and new friendship in the family of God bring great blessing in previously unimaginable ways. We see lives changed from tragedy to triumph!

In this edition of Good News Report, you will read of both young and older lives transformed in miraculous behaviors and beliefs. With invitations extended and encouragement by caring individuals, lives are being changed for eternity one at a time. There is nothing complicated about this process: a simple ask, a place to come to, generally a meal provided and the Gospel shared clearly with an offer to respond in repentance. Instantly, a soul is saved from the brink of disaster and bound for heaven with Jesus our Savior that died in their place. This is why the baby Jesus came to this sin-ravaged earth.

Would you consider for just a moment how you could be a link in the chain of providing the open door for others to hear the claims of Christ for lost sinners who need a loving Saviour? For just \$35.00, our *Immanuel's Child* program at Christmas gives a child the opportunity of being invited to a special service at a local church to receive a gift of a Bible, food, clothing, and the presentation of the Gospel. Many will hear this message for the very first time. Our goal this year is to reach 20,000 children.

Adults come during this giving season and hear that God loves them as well. Some come with their children, but others come because of their own desperate needs. It could

be the result of bad choices, bad behaviour, war, crisis created through daily struggles, and this list goes on and on. Our churches are anxious to reach out to the most unwanted, repressed, and discarded people in society. In some locations, it also involves those at the other end of the spectrum who have everything the world has to offer and feel they have no need of God.

God is searching this earth without prejudice for those who will respond to His offer of salvation, and we seek to provide that time, place, and interaction for men, women, boys and girls to find the Savior. Your gift will make this possible during the Christmas season when hearts are softened to attend a meeting in a church or special program at an orphanage, prison, community center or rented facility. We support some of the most creative servants with a passion to share Christ.

Thank you for your generous donation that makes all this possible! ♦



Immanuel's Child brings Christ's love to Russian speaking children.