

"Much Prayer, Much Power!"

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SGA

Prayer & Praise

Slavic Gospel Association



Scripture theme for April 2016

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called . . . (Ephesians 4:1).

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

1 **Reflection:** Let us begin April pondering the wonderful future awaiting all who trust in Christ as their Savior . . . *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling places of the Most High (Psalm 46:4).*

2 Please lift up in prayer SGA president Dr. Bob Provost. Bob has a heavy travel and ministry schedule this spring. Ask for continued strength and blessing.

3 We praise the Lord for all of our partner churches across North America that support SGA's ministries across Russia and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent

States (CIS). Each one is a tremendous blessing and encouragement.

4 The IB Times paper reports that the Islamic extremist group ISIS is trying to get recruits from the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Indonesia. Pray for the Gospel to advance in these troubled regions, changing hearts instead to embrace the peace and love of Christ.

Ukraine

5 Please remember SGA's Kiev Regional Ministry Center (RMC) team in prayer today. We praise God for the support they provide to Ukrainian churches in these difficult days for their nation.

6 Please continue to intercede for the people of Ukraine. Ongoing political and economic pressures are growing and impacting the churches along with everyone else. May Gospel opportunities increase in these troubled times.

7 We praise God for the donors and all who have given to the Crisis Evangelism Fund to help those needy and afflicted families in the region. Many people have received urgently needed aid, and God's love has been shown through practical needs being met.

8 Pray for Pastor Valery Antonyuk, leader of the Ukrainian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (UECB). Pray that God will give him and his fellow pastors abundant blessing and wisdom as they shepherd the flocks in their charge.

9 Pray for the SGA-sponsored Irpen Biblical Seminary, the faculty, and students. We praise God for the impact this doctrinally sound Bible school is having across the CIS.

10 SGA-sponsored missionary pastor Vasily Khudyak and a team from his church in Ukraine were blessed to go on a missionary trip to Central Asia, where they held evangelistic meetings and children's outreaches. We praise God for the new believers who came to Christ as a result!

Russia

11 Pray for Valery Kazakov and our staff at SGA's Moscow RMC. We thank God for their service to churches in Russia's huge capital city, as well as across the country's 11 time zones. May the Lord bless and meet their every need.

12 Intercede for vast regions of Russia that have yet to be reached with the Gospel, especially in the Far East and Arctic where access is difficult. Pray for more workers to be sent to gather the waiting harvest.

13 Pray for the SGA-sponsored Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary as they train more students for Christian service. Ask the Lord for increased resources as they continue to build distance learning opportunities.

14 Pray for Pastor Alexei Smirnov, president of the Russian Baptist Union. Also lift up the seven regional vice presidents and faithful regional pastors serving in oblasts (states) across Russia's vast expanse.

Belarus

15 Please lift up Piotr Podrez, director of SGA's Minsk RMC. Piotr and his team serve some 50 churches and missionary pastors across Belarus, encouraging their hearts and equipping them with needed resources.

16 Join us in praising the Lord for the strong Christian youth movement in Belarusian evangelical churches. May the Lord grant them tremendous Gospel opportunities and encourage the next generation of church leaders.

17 Intercede in prayer for Pastor Leonid Mikhovich, president of the SGA-sponsored Minsk Theological Seminary. Leonid also maintains a heavy personal ministry schedule in addition to his leadership at the school.

18 With severe restrictions on evangelical churches in Belarus, summer camp season can be challenging. Ask God to open doors for the churches to reach as many children as possible despite opposition.

19 Continue to intercede for ongoing Compassion Ministry sponsored by SGA. Food and other types of aid for poverty-stricken families opens many doors to share Christ.

Central Asia, Caucasus, and Israel

20 Please lift up our brothers and sisters in the nation of Azerbaijan. Islam is strong in this nation of 9.4 million people. Ask the Lord to protect His people and to change the hearts of the authorities who oppress the churches.

21 Pray for the SGA-sponsored Almaty Bible Institute in Kazakhstan. We praise God with thanksgiving for the leadership of director Alexander Karyakov. May God grant him continued wisdom and blessing.

22 Intercede in prayer for churches across Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan—two Central Asian nations where persecution of the church is severe. Our brothers and sisters trust in the Lord, who grants them . . . *victory that has overcome the world* (1 John 5:4).

23 As tensions continue to simmer in the Middle East, please pray for congregations across Israel, and for our partners at Israel College of the Bible. Ask God to continually protect His people and open doors for Gospel ministry.

24 SGA is thankful to sponsor the Tajik Bible Institute, where students are being grounded in God's inerrant Word. May the truths that they learn strengthen and encourage their home churches.

25 Chechnya, Ingushetia, and Dagestan are all republics in the Caucasus region of southern Russia. Due to Islam's influence, ministry there can be very dangerous. Intercede for SGA-sponsored missionary pastors there today.

26 Please continue to pray for evangelical leader Dr. Levan in the republic of Georgia. Ask God to protect his health as he lifts the name of Christ in a difficult place for ministry.

27 Please continue to pray for the family of SGA missionary Rose Leonovich, who went to be with the Lord December 24, 2015. May the Lord bring them comfort, as well as rejoicing that Rose is now with the Savior she loved and served.

28 May 1 is the day CIS churches celebrate Easter. Please intercede for the many evangelistic outreaches that will take place in the week around this holiest time of year.

29 Provision of Russian-language children's Bibles and Christian literature is a key part of the upcoming summer camp ministries across the CIS. Pray for God's faithful provision of these resources.

30 **Reflection:** We conclude the month with this wonderful reminder from the writer of Hebrews . . . *Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire* (Hebrews 12:28-29).

Partner Prayer Requests

Pray for my friend whose 20 year old son was recently killed . . .

Aiea, Hawaii

Pray for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing for our children . . .

Culver, Indiana

Pray for a young mom and her children . . .

Middletown, New Jersey

Pray for comfort, grieving the loss of a loved one . . .

Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania

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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