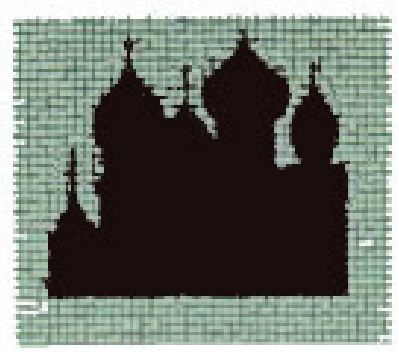


The Russian Bible Society
BIBLE **J**OURNAL



Volume 69 Issue 2 April-June 2020 ISSN 0405-7058

*Giving the Pure Word of God to the Language Groups in the
Commonwealth of Independent States*



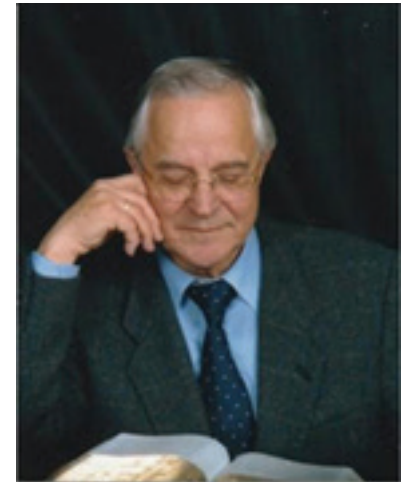
God's Warrior with the Lord

Yanis Smits
August 9, 1941 – April 23, 2020

Rev. Dr. Yanis Alfreds Smits, 78, passed away in his home in Fort Erie, Canada on April 23rd, 2020. He was born in Riga during the Soviet occupation of Latvia on August 9, 1941. At 20, Yanis married the love of his life, Ruth Bruvere in Riga with whom he had sixteen children. Already at a young age he was called to evangelism and dedicated himself to this pursuit by entering ministry at the age of 22 with Ruth by his side. This, in spite of facing certain persecution for his beliefs and evangelism efforts.

He gained widespread recognition internationally for fervently fighting for the freedom of religion in Latvia and the greater USSR — resulting in his exile from Latvia. He continued to champion this effort, receiving a United States congressional medal. Over his lifetime, Reverend Smits served as pastor of more than six churches and as the Bishop of the Baptist Union in Latvia until his retirement in 2006. He continued his ministry after retiring to Canada, serving as pastor of the Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church in Niagara Falls until the Lord called him home.

He is remembered by his loving wife, fifteen children and their spouses, 36 grandchildren and a large extended family.



Editor's Note: I had a telephone call from Pastor Bob Moore on April 29th telling me of the homegoing of Dr. Janis Smits and that a webcast of the funeral would be held that day. I was able to watch and heard the testimonies of several sons, a daughter and a granddaughter. All of them gave clear testimonies of the impact of their father and grandfather on their lives to live and labor for the Lord Jesus Christ.

I first met Brother Janis Smits in Riga, Latvia, in September 2002 at the 75th anniversary celebration of the building of Salvation Temple, which was founded and built by Pastor William Fetler, founder of the Russian Bible Society in the USA.

We commenced a friendship with Dr. Smits immediately and provided hymnals with music and children's books in Latvian and Russian. When our dear brother moved back to Canada in 2006 upon retiring, we then began working with Brother Peter Samoylich, now pastor of Salvation Temple, and have provided about 80,000 copies of the Latvian Bible, thousands of Russian Bibles and another printing of Beer's Picture Bible in Latvian, Russian and Ukrainian. While in Canada Dr. Smits oversaw the printing in Latvian of the biography of William Fetler written by his son, John Fetler, entitled *The Thunderer*, as well as giving direction and advice on the Russian edition printed in USA.

Please do pray for Sister Ruth Smits, the 15 children and their spouses, and the 36 grandchildren at this time of bereavement.

Ukrainian Ministry

Progress on the Old Testament

In a long telephone conversation with lead translator Yura Popchenko, I was greatly encouraged with the news of blessing and continued progress towards a complete Bible in Ukrainian. About half of the Pentateuch has been translated.

Dedication Cancelled

As we informed some of you in our March prayer/donor letter, the dedication of the Ukrainian New Testament scheduled for March 21st had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. At the time of preparing this *Bible Journal*, we're still not able to give a new date for that dedication in Kiev, Ukraine.

Distribution and Blessings

In spite of Covid-19, over 2,000 of the 7,000 copies of the Ukrainian New Testament have been distributed. Brother Popchenko shared two stories of those who have received and are reading the New Testament. One was a young person who exclaimed to her father during family devotions, "I don't have to ask you to explain. I clearly understand what you're reading." The other was from a general in the Ukrainian Army who is fighting the Russians in eastern Ukraine. A pastor who has been ministering to the troops took copies, and the general gladly received one. After reading he said it was so clear and understandable that he wants copies for his men that can fit in a vest pocket.



*Presenting the New Testament
in the city of Kremenchuk*



*The new translation is going to
change the lives of this boy and girl*

New Projects for Different Sizes of the New Testament

In April we received an email from Brother Popchenko listing three further sizes of New Testaments he wants to print. The first is a 4¾" x 6½" for children and youth. He has already contacted a printer which can print 5,000 copies for \$3,650.00, or 73¢ a copy. He had about \$400.00 left over from the first printing, so we mailed a check for \$3,300.00 which will be wired by his sending church in Virginia. Pray that the printer can finish these by the end of May.

Also, please pray for the preparation for printing a 4" x 5½" which will fit into a vest pocket for the military. This will follow the printing of the size for youth and children. The final size to be printed will be for older folk, 6⅝" x 9½". Pray for all of the reformatting and preparation necessary to print these further sizes.

Ukrainian New Testaments for USA

God willing, we are expecting any day 48 hardbound copies printed in the Ukraine which were airmailed April 11th from the Ukraine. They arrived April 25th in New York, went on to Massachusetts April 29th, and we're informed that they were in transit to the next facility, which was not named, on May 3rd.

We've also ordered 5,000 copies of the original size (5⅝" x 8¼") to be printed in South Korea:

- 1,000 copies Black Bonded Leather with foil stamping
- 1,000 copies Black 1-tone PU with foil stamping
- 1,000 copies Burgundy 1-tone PU with foil stamping
- 2,000 copies Burgundy Hard Cover with foil stamping

Please pray for the printing and shipping, as they are expected to arrive at the end of July or early August.

Please Rejoice and Pray

Join us in rejoicing that years of prayers and labor have been blessed that soon 12,000 Ukrainian New Testaments will be in circulation. Pray for saints to be edified, directed, encouraged and convicted as they read the Word of God. Pray for sinners to be converted, brought to repentance from sin and place a living faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Particular prayer is asked for 500 of the bonded leather bound copies which will be shipped to Brother Popchenko, and the bulk (about 490 copies) will be given to members of the Ukrainian Parliament. Pray particularly for the Lord to prepare the hearts of these in the government to be saved. We understand there is a Baptist member of Parliament who can oversee the distribution of these copies.

*"The entrance of thy words giveth light."
(Psalm 119:130)*

Please Pray for America!

OUR NATIVE LAND
Dedicated to Free America

Presented to the First Lady at the White House,
Washington, D.C. on June 10th, 1940.

*This peaceful land!
Which other country can compare with thee—
Thou land of progress based on liberty!
Thy portals strong, but not through wicked chains,
Thy fields are watered not by poisonous rains.
Thy highways are for commerce, not for war,
And peace must reign in thee from shore to shore.
Thy principles are glorious and grand—
My native land!*

*I understand,
America, why art thou dear to me!
Of all earth's countries thou the first wast free.
For here are people who will not be slaves,
A nation which does not destroy, but saves;
Who, being free themselves, do not oppress
Their neighbors by deeds of unrighteousness;
Who to the needy reach a helping hand—My native land!*

*Our Country's stand—
Invincible, because one of free choice,
Not moved by terror, but our hearts rejoice;
Rejoicing not because of might, but right,
Not on account of darkness, but of light;
The light of justice, truth and lofty aims,
Fair play to all, but no unholy claims.
In God we trust,—and bless from strand to strand
Our native land.*

BASIL A. MALOF

Washington, D.C.
June 8th, 1940

A booklet first published in 1949 entitled *The Cross Versus Godless Communism* by Pastor Basil Malof is so related to our present political situation in America, with the forces of godless socialism (communism) seeking to take our nation from freedom to bondage. May I ask your daily prayers for our beloved country? In less than six months our constitutional republic could be lost to godless communism.

The Humanist Manifesto in 1933 was the organized beginning of a planned attack on the foundations of America and its Biblical heritage. In the 1970's we see a lengthy revision with Humanist Manifesto II and the battle against our godly values becomes more vigorous.

- Roe vs Wade (1973), which gave rise to the murder of over 63 million babies, averaging almost 52,000 a month in 2019. Our state of North Carolina had its democratic governor continue to leave open Planned (Murder) Parenthood and the state run booze shops so that during our shutdown to protect us from Covid-19 babies and boozers continue to die.
- The removal of the Ten Commandments, morning devotions, prayer at sporting events and graduations
- Banning of the Gideons from giving out New Testaments in our public schools
- The passing out of condoms in our schools and teaching our children the perversion of the gay and lesbian agenda

Remember, our Lord Jesus Christ warned of coming judgment on sexual perversion on two separate occasions in Matthew. One such occasions He said: *"Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city"* (Matthew 10:15).

Lest you think that the socialism being proposed by the Democrats is different from communism, *Pravda* (the official organ of the Soviet government) said in an article on June 12, 1929, "Tell the workers of other countries that our task is to weld the millions of toilers, regardless of their nation and race, into one world union. Together with them we will storm the earthly strongholds of capital, as well as the heavenly citadels. We are against God, we are against capital. We are for Socialism. We are for a World Union of toilers. We are for the Communist International."

Again updated in 2003, the final statement of Humanist Manifesto III is "The responsibility for our lives and the kind of world in which we live is ours and ours alone." The American Sign Language translation is titled *Life without God*. Pray for America!

----- RESPONSE COUPON -----

YES, HERE IS MY GIFT OF SUPPORT TO MEET THE SPIRITUAL NEED OF PRECIOUS SOULS

_____ \$25.00 _____ \$75.00 _____ \$150.00 _____ \$300.00 _____ OTHER

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| _____ Georgian Projects | _____ Georgian Widows | Revival Behind the Iron Curtain |
| _____ Georgian University Student Ministry | _____ Translation Consultant | _____ 1 copy (\$6.00) |
| _____ Georgian Youth and Kids Ministry | _____ Ukrainian Translation (OT) | _____ 10 copies (\$40.00) |

Prayer for America

“Is there hope for America? Will we become the nation that we are capable of becoming? Is it possible for our country to turn to God for moral direction and government based on integrity? Or will we slip deeper and deeper into moral and spiritual decay?”

“Our first responsibility is to set our own hearts on doing God’s will. During the days of Micah the prophet, God’s people kept straying spiritually and nationally. He asked them, ‘... What does the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?’ (Micah 6:8).

“When our own hearts are right with God, then we can join together to humbly seek God’s forgiveness and guidance. Only God can turn our nation from its downward spiral and put it on the road to righteousness.

“A guiding prayer for such a hope was first spoken several years ago in the Kentucky legislature by Pastor Bob Russell: ‘Heavenly Father, We come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says ‘Woe to those who call evil good,’ but that’s exactly what we have done ... Guide and bless these men and women ... who have been ordained by You, to govern ... Grant them your wisdom to rule and may their decisions direct us to the center of your will ...’” (Crossway).

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:1-4).



**Global Baptist Gospel Projects
Missions Inc** in association with the
Russian Bible Society
PO Box 505, Skyland, NC 28776
Phone: 1-800-252-8896

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.”

(John 17:17-19)

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The Lord’s Treasury — Need for Q3 Projects

As we complete a fourth of the year 2020, our 76th year of ministry, we rejoice in the Lord’s provision through churches and individuals. Although our office is closed to visitors, we have been able to provide Bibles, books and other materials through telephone and Internet contacts. The Lord has provided for all of our projects for the first two quarters, except for our translation consultant. God willing, we will be sending wires around July 1st for our third quarter commitments. Below are listed our projects and supply as of this publication.

	Total Need	In Hand
Georgian Projects	\$2,405.00	\$686.85
Georgian University Student Ministry	\$750.00	\$3,005.02
Georgian Widows	\$1,125.00	\$903.36
Georgian Youth & Kids Ministry	\$750.00	\$835.47
Translation Consultant	\$8,750.00	(1,492.78)
Ukrainian Translation (Old Testament)	\$3,450.00	\$1,027.76

RUSSIAN BIBLE SOCIETY

THE RUSSIAN BIBLE SOCIETY has been at the frontline of providing Bibles for Russia and its people since 1944. We believe the greatest gift we can give to any people is the pure Word of God in their native tongue. Therefore, we are committed to continually providing word for word translations based on reliable manuscripts, such as the Received Greek Text. Thus, the Bibles we publish are the “Synodal Translation” of the Russian Bible and its accurate translation into the minority languages of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

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BIBLE JOURNAL

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