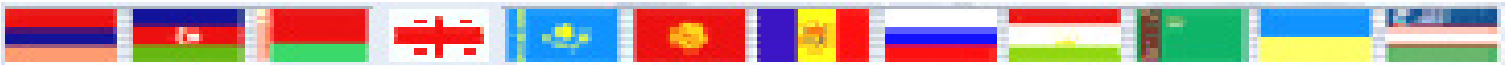


The Russian Bible Society
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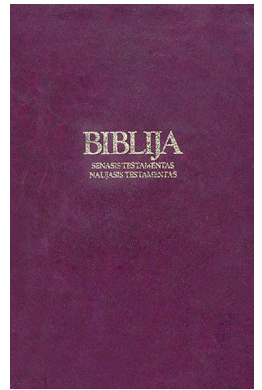
Giving the Pure Word of God to the Language Groups in the Commonwealth of Independent States



Lithuanian Bible Project, Phase II

The Russian Bible Society has had an interest in the Baltic state of Lithuania since 1999. It was that year that Ron and Melanie Peedin, who lived in the Raleigh, North Carolina area, came to Grace Fellowship Baptist Church here in Asheville to share their burden for ministry in Lithuania. In June of 2010 we printed the largest printing ever (25,000 copies) of a complete Lithuanian Bible which was finished in Korea and delivered to Lithuania. By October 2010 about 5,000 copies of the original printing had been distributed.

There was a period of slower distribution for about six years, and then again in 2016, we received information that the Lithuanian Bible Project, Phase II, had begun. In a recent email from Brother Peedin he reports: "Current Grand Total Distribution through April, 2017 is 13,583! For this exciting news we Praise God! The small black Bible seems to be the most popular size currently. The large black Bible has been more popular with older people. The burgundy Bibles has not been as popular ... but that is information that may be useful for the future. The Bibles in the warehouse are safe, secure and dry!"



In his March 2017 prayer letter he reports "What You Need to Know":

(continued on page 3)

Ukrainian Church Building Project



First, rejoice that the \$20,000.00 for the needed repairs to the church building was sent and safely received in February and March. See pictures of the roof and flooring nearly completed. However, in late April Brother Yura Popchenko sent this report: "I spoke to Pastor Shepel about their church building and he said that the work of restoration is being delayed due to two factors. First, as they work, they discover more problems. (Their is an old Soviet era building which they bought and converted into a church building. It was built terribly bad as many buildings were back in those times.) A month ago, they discovered that half of the foundation was almost non-existent and the walls had cracks because of it. So, the past month was spent in reinforcing the foundation. They had to dig under the old foundation and pour a new one. They just finished doing this and are doing other jobs. The second reason for delay is insufficient work force due to all the work being done by volunteers from churches in our fellowship. Now, as the construction season came, most construction specialists are more involved with their jobs and it is getting harder to get the crews of specialist to come and do jobs. Also, once the most urgent and demanding jobs were done, the zeal of volunteers declined. Recently, they finally had a Christian brother do the blue print for their electric work (it took him only two months) and they had it approved by the electric department. Right now, they are waiting for the electrician crew to come and do electric work for them. After electric work is finished, they will install dry walls.



(continued on page 3)

Latvian Teachers Conference Report — Just Received

“Greetings from the mission field in Latvia! Just three days ago, we finished our Public School Teachers Conference. Praise the Lord, God gave us a special team of speakers for this conference, professional and spiritual. They taught more than 200 teachers from more than 150 schools from all over Latvia. Because of you, we can do special ministry in public schools.

“Many teachers were saved and others dedicated their lives to Christ. There were many tears and testimonies how God spoke to them through every speaker and they felt how God spoke to them personally. Let us rejoice together that the teachers bring the good news to schools and their homes. Everyone went back home with Bibles.

“Here is one testimony from a teacher: *‘This is the third year since I have been attending the conferences. I am uplifted as I wait for every coming conference, because they are like spiritual bread for me. I always like speakers so much, I like the positivism that radiates from them. I can unwrap some piece of wisdom from every lecture and compare it with my experience. I do not know how the conference organisers do that, but the schedule is that I am among many people and listen to wide information, but at the same time, it feels like it all is meant for me alone personally. I feel myself special here. And when I go back home and to school, I have strength, kind thoughts and emotional elevation. I want to share with everything that I gained. Of course, the problems do not disappear, but they become like a challenge for me to settle and smooth them out.’*

“One more time — thank you for your prayers and support to our ministry and our family!” (slightly edited)

— Pastor Petr Samoylich

Editor’s Note: A fuller report of the April teachers conference will be given, God willing, in our third quarter publication. God willing, the final teachers conference for 2017 will be held in October. You will notice that “everyone went back home with Bibles.” Please continue in prayer for God to move on the hearts of the Latvian Bible Society to grant permission for the 20,000-copy printing to proceed so that adequate supplies of Bibles for teachers and schools will be available in October.

The need of the hour is for definite, prevailing, agonizing prayer for God to rend the heavens and visit His blood-bought people. Dr. R. A. Torrey has stated, “Doubtless one of the great secrets of the unsatisfactoriness and superficiality and unreality of many of our modern so-called ‘revivals’ is that more dependence is put upon man’s machinery rather than upon God’s power, sought and obtained by earnest, persistent, believing prayer.” We live in a day characterized by the multiplication of man’s machinery and the diminution of God’s power. The great cry of our day is “Work, work, work! New organizations, new methods, new machinery.” The great need of our day is prayer. It was a master-stroke of the devil when he got the Church to generally lay aside this mighty weapon of prayer. The devil is perfectly willing that the Church should multiply its organization, and deftly-contrived machinery for the conquest of the world for Christ, if it will only give up praying. (James Stewart, “Prayer Which Brings Revival,” *Opened Windows*)

Georgian University Student Ministry

Sister Miranda sent this report of the Bible and Life Conference:

“We had 39 participants on ‘Bible and Life’ conference. The speaker was Bob Grahman, and also, our staff had seminars too. Students were from Tbilisi, Gori, Batumi and Kutaisi. Topics were about relationship with God and spending time with Him, Jesus’ Lordship in our private lives. We had seminars about how to start doing evangelistic and Bible study groups and how to start conversation about God with our unbelieving friends. After listening to the seminars, they discussed the Scriptures in small groups. Everything was simple and clear for students. They were open to hear the Word, to share their challenges and to pray together.

“Results:

- The students from Kutaisi said, that they want to start our movement in their city too. So, we started to work on it. Soon we will have our first meeting there!
- At the end of conference, almost every student decided to: read the Bible every day, spend more time with God and share the Gospel with their unbelieving friends.

“So, we are thankful to God, that our big wish — to help believing students to be more close to God and be motivated, to share Gospel to others — came true! Thank God and of course thank you, for your support and prayers!” (slightly edited)



Lithuanian Bible Project, Phase II (continued from page 1)

“Keep a sound mind, don’t panic and don’t lose clear thinking,” the manual explains. “Gunshots just outside your window are not the end of the world.” Lithuanians read these words and voice concern about the future. Everyone is talking about the new manual issued by the Lithuanian Ministry of Defense. It is almost 100 pages long and is titled “What You Need to Know about Preparedness in Extreme Situations or Instances of War.” Some 30,000 copies are being distributed to schools, universities, government organizations, and libraries. The defense minister says it is to educate the population about what to do in emergencies and war time situations and was urgently needed due to “Russia’s recurring aggression against its neighbors.” He stated that the manual would instruct Lithuanians “how to act during the organization of civil resistance, but also how to act under battlefield conditions.” The book contains information on subjects including changes in government after a declaration of war, when a building should be evacuated, and includes identification pages regarding Russian military equipment, guns, bombs, and even how to identify possible landmines. Internationally, this publication has been called a “signal” that the Lithuanian government is very worried about Russian aggression. Russia has been violating Baltic airspace and territorial waters for years but since 2014 acts of aggression have increased greatly. Russia is currently planning a joint military drill with Belarus which borders Lithuania. It is called “Zapad 2017” which translates as “West 2017.” The Lithuanian president has said this is a “demonstrative preparation for war with the West.” The Russian Ministry of Defense has stated that its railway traffic to Belarus will increase by 83% this year. This manual and all the attention it is receiving has led to a tremendous rise in fear for the Lithuanian people and for their country. What you need to know ... to better pray for Lithuania!

In the light of the above information Brother Peedin gives this update: “All indications from the news indicate that in fact railway ‘military’ traffic from Russia to Belarus has been increasing as promised. The latest information that we have is that the ‘demonstration’ of power is set to begin in September of this year. Lithuania’s border with Belarus seems to be a target area for this ‘show of power.’ Many are concerned because of the additional border Lithuania shares with Russia from the sea side (Kaliningrad). Because of all the Baltic States past history with Russia, most everyone in all the Baltic States are watching closely. Information has been more limited lately.”

Brother Peedin mentioned three prayer requests:

- (1) Please pray for Lithuania.
- (2) Continue to pray for the Lithuanian Bible Project.
- (3) Continue to pray for increased monthly support.

I would draw your attention to this faithful couple (29 years of service) and their need of additional support. If you feel led of the Lord to give, support should be sent to CMC and not the Russian Bible Society.

Central Missionary Clearinghouse
PO Box 219228
Houston, TX 77218
281-599-7411

Please join with us in prayer that the remainder of the Bibles will soon be placed in the hands of needy Lithuanians and be used for the salvation of many souls and the edification of the saints.

Ukrainian Church Building Project (continued from page 1)

They have 8-10 people from their church working every day but they are not specialists in respective areas of construction. So, with all this in mind they think they should be able to start using their building by the end of the summer. Pastor Shepel said he will send more pictures later.

“Meanwhile, they are using for their church services a small room which did not suffer much damage and which they restored to the point that they can use it. However, it is too small to fit the whole church. This prompted them to use the situation for even larger outreach. Within the past ten years, their church started over 20 churches in their county and right now they have 15 daughter churches that depend on them for preachers. Folks from their church visit each Sunday those churches and conduct services. Now, because of lack of space at their own church building, more people started visiting daughter churches!”

Hallelujah for this local church’s vision and outreach to their area of the Ukraine! Continue in prayer for the completion of the repairs to the foundation, electrical installation, dry wall hanging, painting, etc.

Thanks to some churches and individuals who have sent gifts to help on this project. Pray for wisdom, strength for all the workers, and that they will indeed be enabled to get back into their building by summer’s end to praise, pray, and preach the Word of God. If you feel led to help on this project, see coupon below.

RESPONSE COUPON

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

_____ \$25.00 _____ \$130.00 _____ \$200.00 _____ \$300.00 _____ \$737.00 _____ OTHER

_____ Georgian Projects

_____ Ukrainian Church Building Project

_____ Georgian University Student Ministry

_____ Ukrainian New Testament (draft)

The Lord's Treasury

We rejoice in the Lord's supply for all of our first quarter projects. We've gotten off to a good start for second quarter needs. Kindly find God's supply and our needs as of April 28th for the second quarter of 2017.

	Total Needed	In Hand
Georgian Projects	\$3,147.00	\$1,708.00
Georgian University Student Ministry	\$1,465.00	\$639.40
Georgian Widows	\$750.00	\$750.00
Ukrainian Translation	\$6,150.00	\$5,715.72

The Price of Revival — Praying without Ceasing

Gather for prayer each Saturday night. When possible, spend the whole night in prayer. Each Sunday, gather for early morning prayer from 5 to 8 o'clock, praying down God's blessing on all services. Have a prayer meeting every Sunday prior to the evening service.

Conduct a prayer meeting every weekday morning from 6 to 8 a.m. This may seem impractical, owing to different times of work by the various members of the church, but if the church is willing for Revival, from the youngest to the oldest, they will seek to gather at the various hours that suit them best.

(continued below)



“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

After each Sunday night service, there should be prayer — asking God to put His seal on the services of the day. From our experiences of revival blessing in Eastern Europe, where we had continual cycles of prayer every moment of the twenty-four hours, we would warmly recommend to the leaders of the assembly to arrange for this chain of prayer.

Make out a schedule whereby there will always be praying men, or praying women on the “Lord's Prayer Tower” every moment of the day and night, or as nearly so as consecrated zeal and devoted love can make it.

If this sounds fanatical and impossible in your local company of saints, then there is no use praying for revival or expecting it in your midst *“for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth ...”* (Isaiah 66:8). (James Stewart, *Pastures of Tender Grass*, RBS Director 1957-1975)

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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