

The Russian Bible Society

BIBLE JOURNAL



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



Ukrainian Church Building Project

In Yura Popchenko's January prayer letter he mentioned: "The only weekend in January when I was comparatively well, I planned to present our Bible translation in one of the churches in Central Ukraine. This would have been a very important meeting because there would have been representatives of about 20 churches. However, it had to be cancelled because the church had a fire a week earlier. The firemen said it looked like arson. As a result of the fire, the roof was completely burned and the walls and floor were destroyed by the water. The church has begun to restore their building with other churches in our fellowship sending money and man power to help. However, due to limited resources, it will be another two or three months before they can fully use their building, if that soon. Please pray for the quick restoration of this local Baptist church in Cherkasy."



Further contact with Brother Popchenko revealed that the church and other churches in the fellowship had given about \$20,000.00 for materials, and almost all of the labor had been provided by the men in the church and other churches. They needed another \$20,000.00 for materials, and again the labor will be provided by the local church members or the brethren from other churches.



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Latvian Teachers Conference Report



"Three weeks ago, January 21-22, we finished our second Public School Teachers Conference of this academic year. It was the sixtieth conference since we started our ministry 20 years ago. Through all these twenty years, more than 3,000 teachers have been trained at our conferences. This time, we welcomed 200 teachers; they came from 180 different schools, from different areas in all regions of Latvia. Forty of them came for the first time. They enjoyed two full days of fellowship and blessing, and for the first time, they studied the Bible from different perspectives. It is great to see that teachers start coming from towns that have not been previously represented at our conferences. It is a wonderful reward for us to know that the wisdom and knowledge of God is brought to such schools where it was not heard before. We hear unbelievable testimonies how God has worked in the teachers' and their students' lives. Since the last conference in October, we have given away to schools more than a thousand Bibles and Children Bibles. Some of these teachers who came first or second time receive Jesus as personal Savior. For many of teachers, this conference was a life-changing unforgettable event. Please pray for the teachers as they continue to share Christ in their schools with Bibles and renewed inspiration. Please pray for the new teachers who received Christ.



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National Revival Needed in USA

We thank God for His recent mercy in our election. However, unless we have a national revival, we will lose our Republic. I read of four kinds of revival in the Word of God:

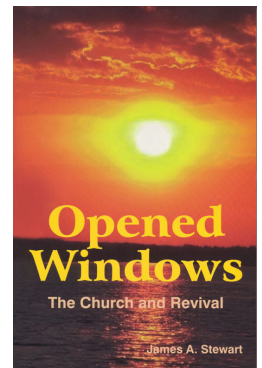
Personal (Psalm 138:7)
Church (Psalm 85:5-6)
God's Work (Habakkuk 3:2)
National (II Chronicles 7:13-14)

John Newton, the author of "Amazing Grace" and pastor in the Church of England, said in 1778: "The whole system of my politics is summed up in that one sentence, *'The LORD reigneth!'* [Psalm 99:1].

C.H. Spurgeon, in a sermon entitled "The Story of God's Mighty Acts" preached in 1859 at the Music Hall, Royal Surrey Gardens, to a crowd of thousands said: "Now, my dear friends, this morning I intend to recall to your minds some of the wondrous things which God has done in the olden time. My aim and object will be to excite your minds to seek after the like; that looking back upon what God has done, you may be induced to look forward with the eye of expectation, hoping that he will again stretch forth his potent hand and his holy arm, and repeat those mighty acts he performed in ancient days."

Opened Windows by James Stewart

One of the books available to our Russian speakers is James Stewart's book *Opened Windows*. In chapter four of this book Brother Stewart says of revival in Latvia: "During the mighty days of revival in Latvia when God brought His Church out of bondage into a glorious elevated position with Christ in the Heavens, I discovered over a period of four years that it was necessary for us all to be periodically broken down before the Lord and to renew our vows of devotion and loyalty. There was always a tendency to relax in our fervor and to rely upon a past experience. We soon realized the necessity to watch and pray and keep abiding in Christ by the systematic reading of His Word and prompt obedience. One of the local churches that had experienced possibly the mightiest awakening of all and who saw the mighty movement of God in the salvation of souls, within nine months was found sleeping. The very first night of my series of meetings on my return to that church, I was appalled at the deadness and coldness I felt in their midst. I was heartbroken as I told the group of some five hundred believers that it was impossible for me to preach that night, and that unless they repented of their sin and came back to their 'first love' we might as well close the meetings. The Spirit dealt faithfully and tenderly with them until Calvary's Love broke them down afresh before the face of the Lord God. In bitterness, humiliation, and shame they confessed that they had taken the Lord's presence for granted as He had been so gracious and glorious to them during the past months. Their biggest sin was their presumption upon the continued unsought blessing of the Lord. They had let their fire burn low in this careless attitude. The majority of these dear saints had been mighty intercessors, but now were seldom found in their prayer closets. I knew that drastic action was necessary, and so called at once a late prayer meeting along the line of Joel's prophecy, chapter two: *'Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD' (Joel 2:15-17)*. Some left the building in order to make arrangements at home for their late return. How blessed it was to see this church, with its devoted pastor, stay right on their knees until three o'clock in the morning when they could stand up together as a united group of believers and sing the doxology. Needless to say, the blessing of the Lord was outpoured the next evening in the salvation of many souls, and the tide of blessing rose higher and higher as the days went by. It was my privilege to watch this church maintain her glorious position in and for the Lord over a period of years.



"When the prophet Habakkuk prayed fervently, *'O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years,'* he was really praying, 'O Lord, preserve Thy work! Keep it alive!' ... Oh, that we might live such a life of unclouded fellowship with our God, always doing that which is well-pleasing to Him, depending upon His grace for our sustenance moment by moment—that ours would be a life fragrant with the very presence of God!"

Dr. James Stewart was the second director of the Russian Bible Society. On Pastor Fetler/Malof's deathbed he asked James Stewart to take over as director. Having preached and labored with William Fetler when he was only twenty-one, he joyfully assumed the leadership in 1957 until his death in 1975.

Opened Windows and other titles on revival are available from our sister ministry, Revival Literature: phone: 800-252-8896, email: revivallit@bellsouth.net, or order online: www.revivallit.org/rl54.

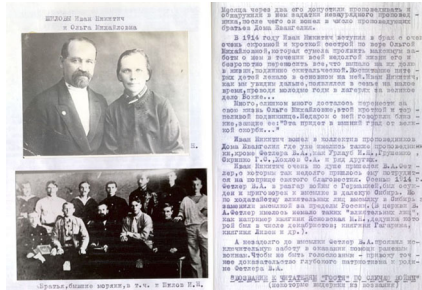
New Book in Russian in Preparation for Printing The Pleiad of Dom Evangelia

The story of Pastor William Fetler's life and ministry is both fascinating and inspiring, with spiritual revival brought to Russia and Latvia, thousands converted, and churches built — but what happened with the churches and leaders after he left and moved on to his next calling? Who took his place? What is their story?

This new book sheds light on the stories of some of these Christians. It is a collection of biographies of members and ministers of Dom Evangelia, the Saint Petersburg church founded by Fetler. Their zeal for sharing the gospel, their love and care for one another as well as the community, their heroic commitment to Christ while they chose to sacrifice decades of their lives in prisons and lay down their lives in concentration camps for His Name, and their families' broken lives without them were recorded by a surviving church member, Stepan Sevastyanov. At an old age he passed this collection of writings to a younger friend who kept them safe until he, being nearly seventy, graciously forwarded them to the Russian Bible Society with the request to publish them.



*Dom Evangelia
Saint Petersburg, Russia*



It is a great privilege for us to prepare this historic and very personal and interesting account by Sevastyanov. We pray that many who will have the opportunity to read this book once it is published will be as touched and inspired by this captivating read as we were. Currently we are preparing the book to be published in Russian (its original language) with very minimal editing (not available in English). Please pray for Lord's blessing on this project.

Note: "Pleiad" means "an outstanding or illustrious group of seven people or things." It is precious to see this original typed copy of the stories with pictures of some of the men martyred after the Communists took full control of the Soviet Union.

Ukrainian Translation Project Update

"Greetings from the Popchenko Family! January was one of the most trying months our family has had health wise in a long time. Our oldest son, Sashko, was sick three times, myself and the three younger boys were sick twice. As usual, I suffered the most and was ill almost the entire month. Early in January, I got a sinus infection and treated it with antibiotics for 10 days. A week after the treatment, I got a bad case of tracheitis plus another sinus infection, from which I have not yet recovered. I feel as if the gates of hell have risen against me trying to prevent me from finishing the second draft. However, God's sustaining grace has enabled me in the midst of physical weakness and terrible headaches to add another book to the second draft — 1 Corinthians. I urge you to 'strive together with me in your prayers to God for me' (Rom 15:30) so that I would be completely healed from this sickness and regain my strength ... Many of you already know that on December 31st, my assistant Anya gave birth via c-section to a son (4 lbs 3 oz, 17 inches). Anya has already taken Zachar (Ukrainian for Zechariah) to his first check-up and the doctor said he is developing well. Anya has recovered from the surgery to the point of being able to ease back into her work on the translation. Pray for her as she finishes checking 2 Corinthians, her last book of the New Testament."

In further correspondence with Brother Popchenko, God willing, they are working toward printing the second draft of the New Testament in an 8.5 x 11 format with two inches of space all around so that suggestions from readers can be made. They are working to get this draft ready to print by the end of March or early April. We will be willing to pay for this printing, which will be around 100 to 125 copies. The anticipated cost is about \$1,000.00.

Ukrainian Church Building Project (continued from page 1)

I contacted the Board of Directors of the Russian Bible Society, and they unanimously agreed to help with this project. Pastor Shepel of the Cherkasy Baptist Church said that "to insure transparency and accountability, the pastor will be giving a written account of the money spent, signed by three leading men in the church, as well as sending before-and-after photos of the church building. Pastor Shepel is very thankful for your help. He shared with me today, that he has been discouraged thinking the church will not have enough money for the restoration. Your help lifted his burden." We wired \$8,000.00 to them on February 8th which has been safely received. We plan to send two more wires of \$6,000.00 each, God willing, in March. Pray for the Lord to give wisdom, safety, and strength to speedily get this "Prayer House" back in use.

RESPONSE COUPON


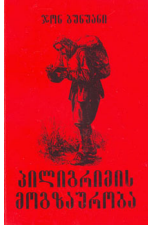
YES, HERE IS MY GIFT OF SUPPORT TO MEET THE SPIRITUAL NEED OF PRECIOUS SOULS

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>_____ Georgian Pilgrim's Progress (\$2.00 each)</p> <p>_____ Georgian Projects</p> <p>_____ Georgian University Student Ministry</p> | <p>_____ Georgian Nystrom Bible Dictionary (\$3.00 each)</p> <p>_____ Ukrainian Church Building Project</p> <p>_____ Ukrainian New Testament (draft)</p> |
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Progress of Projects in Georgia

Rejoice that in late December we received word that the printer had finished printing the 1,500 copies of the Russian New Testament, the 2,000 copies of Georgian *Pilgrim's Progress*, and the 1,000 copies of the Georgian Nystrom Bible Dictionary. In an email on February 6th Brother Gary Arutiunov reported most have already been distributed. He had only 127 copies of the Georgian Nystrom Bible Dictionary, 480 copies of Georgian *Pilgrim's Progress*, and 385 Russian New Testaments left. Please pray for Christians to be edified and challenged and sinners to be saved. Rejoice that the Lord has provided all of the funds needed for printing the Russian New Testament and for our ministry to the Widows.

 <p><i>Georgian Nystrom Bible Dictionary</i></p>	 <p><i>Georgian Pilgrim's Progress</i></p>	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">Total Needed</th> <th style="text-align: right;">In Hand</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Georgian Nystrom Bible Dictionary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,000.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$556.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Georgian Pilgrim's Progress</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$4,000.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,770.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Georgian Projects</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,349.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2,075.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Georgian University Student Ministry</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,465.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,204.40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Total Needed	In Hand	Georgian Nystrom Bible Dictionary	\$3,000.00	\$556.00	Georgian Pilgrim's Progress	\$4,000.00	\$1,770.23	Georgian Projects	\$3,349.00	\$2,075.02	Georgian University Student Ministry	\$1,465.00	\$1,204.40
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**Global Baptist Gospel Projects
Missions Inc** in association with the
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PO Box 6068, Asheville, NC 28816
Phone: 1-800-252-8896

“If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:13-14)

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Latvian Teachers Conference (continued from page 1)

“We want to thank everyone who prayed for the conference and thank everyone who sponsored Bibles for teachers! At the last two conferences, we have been praying together with teachers for our big vision and need to print 20,000 Bibles this year. We believe nothing is impossible for God and we trust His complete provision and guidance in carrying out this project” (Pastor Petr Samoylich).

Editor’s Note: The Russian Bible Society has in an account \$147,400.00 for printing the 20,000 copies at an estimated cost of \$7.37 a copy, which was the cost of the last printing of only 10,000 copies. However, the copyright owner suggested a ridiculous price of about \$18.00 a copy. Pray with us that the Lord will move on their hearts for a reasonable royalty.

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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