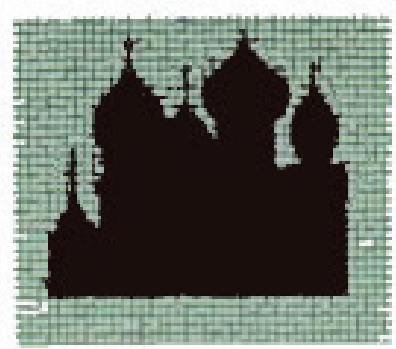


The Russian Bible Society

BIBLE JOURNAL



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



Republic of Georgia

In 1978 the Russian Bible Society, which had been previously involved with the East Bible Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, in some Soviet minority language projects, began a huge project of sponsoring a new translation of the Georgian Old Testament to then be joined with a New Testament for a complete Georgian Bible. This was completed and printed in Germany in 2002 and then reprinted several times in the Republic of Georgia.



Jerry Young & Pastor Arutiunov

With the collapse of socialism/communism in the Soviet Union in the early 1990's called glasnost, the doors opened for missionaries to go to Georgia.



One of the early Baptist missionaries from USA was Brother Randy Shields of South Carolina. Out of his labors came Grace Baptist Church of Tbilisi, Georgia, which was then pastored by Brother Gary Arutiunov, who continues as pastor until now. In May of 1990 Brother Jerry Young, board member of the Russian Bible Society, made a trip into Leningrad, Moscow, Kiev and Tbilisi carrying Russian Bibles and New Testaments and the Gospel of John in Russian, Ukrainian and Georgian.

For several years Evangelist Randy Bane of North Carolina held yearly meetings in some of the largest halls in Tbilisi with the backing of Grace Baptist Church. Then the Russian Bible Society started helping with a student ministry led by a young Christian lady, Eliso Beradze (now married with two boys) who is a member of Grace Baptist Church. Later, some men surrendered to preach and another Baptist church was planted in Batumi, Georgia, with Arkadi Movsesyan as pastor, who recently resigned. Over the years we have printed various Christian books in Georgian and Russian in the Republic of Georgia, as there are both Georgian and Russian-speaking Baptist churches in the country. This last year we printed 10,000 copies of a Russian Study Bible in Belarus and sent 3,000 of them to Georgia. Pastor Arutiunov has overseen the warehousing and distribution of books and Bibles for years.

Recently, we started helping a new ministry led by Sister Eliso which reaches out to youth and children of Tbilisi where there is very little Christian witness. Eliso finds a believer in those areas and holds house meetings there. In August we sent finances to Eliso to help with poor children affected by the layoffs of their parents who are in need of food.

How we thank the Lord for the prayers and support of our faithful churches and individuals which have enabled us to minister for over 42 years in Georgia.

Please pray for the doors to remain open. President Putin wants to take Georgia back under his control. Unfortunately, the present leadership are pro Putin. In recently conversation Pastor Arutiunov said, "Brother Bob, I do not want to be under communism again." Pray for the Lord to call more Georgian men who will surrender to the ministry and for the Christians to use the liberty which they presently have.

Letters from Georgia

Pastor Gary Arutiunov, Grace Baptist Church, Tbilisi

I believe that my letter will reach you in good health and happiness!

As you already know, we were in tough situation for about a couple of months due to Corona virus. Financially this affected majority of population including members of our church. We emphasized our ministry of helping those in need by delivering food, medical supplies, and paying for rent and utilities. I want to thank you one more time for the invaluable help that you provide to our country and our people. It is hard to overestimate! God bless you! Our widows convey gratitude and continue to pray for you.

During time of isolation we transitioned to virtual church services. Three times a week I went live on Facebook to preach. In addition, a chat room was created for communication and Bible studies. Now, although the services have been restored in person, people have asked to continue the sermons on the Internet. Communion was delivered to homes, individually to everyone.

Through remote sermons, two relatives of Lena's sister (a doctor) in Russia, the city of Volgograd, turned to the Lord. One of them had an oncological disease and had a difficult operation. By God's grace, everything went well.

Three new sisters have begun attending our Sunday services, so we are preparing for the baptism of these sisters.

A little more than a month ago, the isolation was lifted and we distributed 200 Bibles. We helped two families of unbelievers that live near the church with food and medicine. May all serve to the glory of God! Please pray for them!

In June I visited Batumi. I was able to meet with church members. Unfortunately, there is no growth yet. This is another prayer request! In Batumi, believers continue to visit the shelter for the homeless, after isolation. If the Lord permits, I plan to go there again tomorrow. Information is being circulated that they may reintroduce isolation, as it seems like the virus is returning. So I want to have time to do more. Pray for me, too! I firmly believe that the Lord opens up opportunities where there seem to be no longer opportunities!

I wish your family, friends and relatives, employees, of God's abundant blessings!

We are praying for your country. It sometimes seems to me that many of your citizens have gone crazy. However, as in our country as well. Is it possible to destroy such a beautiful country? Only the crazy or enemies are capable of such. With love and respect, your brother in Christ.

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."
(John 9:4)

Miranda, Georgian University Student Ministry

I hope that you are well and safe from the virus, which changed our lives and plans in the ministry...

I'm good, thanks to the Lord. He cares about me, my husband and our little daughter Alexandra (she just started to walk by the way:)).

We moved to Tbilisi as you know. I feel so blessed that we're not renting a flat anymore!!! Our flat is not big enough, there is not even space for baby's bed :) but, anyway, we're thankful to God!! Hope our life in Tbilisi will be fruitful and God will use me for the students here.

Now, about ministry: because of corona virus, all the schools and universities are closed now, and everything works online. Also, there are some rules: you have to wear the mask everywhere; it is forbidden to do some meetings; now they recommend that maximum 10 persons can meet together.

Because of all these regulations, we also have online meetings with our students and coworkers. I prepared some topics from Philippians and John. Also, I organized a big zoom meeting with all our students from Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Gori and Batumi. This week I'm planning to have a meeting in open areas: the zoo, botanical garden, park. I'm trusting God that there will be not problems and I could do His work as it is possible in this situation. Thanks to Him, we have at least this minimal opportunity, to serve Jesus and continue ministry. Of course I'm saying thank you for supporting me! I would not be able to do anything without you!

Praying for your health and your ministry.

Eliso, Youth & Kids Ministry

Warm greetings from Georgia. We hope that in this unstable time your trust to Lord is growing. We regularly pray for our brothers and sisters in the USA, that our Lord keep you safe in His hands.

Now, most ministries all around the world can divide their story in three parts: ministry before COVID 19, during it and almost after it for some of us.

One day, when as usual we were planning activities for children in Care Centers, we received a note that from tomorrow on everything would stop, no meetings allowed, nothing would be open except food shops, pharmacies and hospitals. After couple days of shock we realized that parents of children in Care Centers where we serve, if they have any job, it is almost always day rate base work. They come in the morning, do heavy work, get money in the evening, go home, buy food for tomorrow. So, there is no social obligation from owner for the next day.

Now when all business stopped, not owners, not government were going to pay them. We started to think how we could help them.

God's Word reminded us that, "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" (James 2:15-16).

We decided with resources we had to visit as many families as we could and take relief packages to families and also to give them some encouraging words and help them to focus on God and His will and not to panic over all that surrounded all of us by that time. Parents told us that they were more afraid of not being able to feed their kids than getting any kind of virus. For many families that we visited it was a matter of survival at that moment. With God's help we visited some families every month, but most of them every two weeks during quarantine in all five locations where we serve kids.

On July 1st we received news that there were no more restrictions for activities that hold outside. We planned ahead that in case restrictions changed we could be ready for that. With God's help we were able to run a camp at the very beginning of July in Tamarisi. We are so grateful to our Lord that kids and even their parents from not Christian background joined our camp. It was amazing how open and attentive they were at the Bible lessons where we clearly stated the Gospel of our Jesus Christ. Parents after lessons asked us so many questions, about God, salvation, and the Bible. Please, pray that God will help us to find way to serve them on regular basis in their village.

We hope to run at least two more camps this summer, and if God allows, even three. After difficult springtime we do not want to waste time.

Please, pray for us that God will lead us during summertime to be able to serve kids in summer camps and for coming fall semester when we hopefully will restart regular work of Care Centers. May our Lord keep all of you safe and blessed in His hands.

The Lord's Treasury — Need for Q4 Projects

	Total Need	In Hand
Georgian Projects	\$2,405.00	\$2,061.85
Georgian University Student Ministry	\$750.00	\$2,275.02
Georgian Widows	\$1,125.00	\$1,663.36
Georgian Youth & Kids Ministry	\$750.00	\$470.47
Translation Consultant (Q3)	\$8,750.00	\$3,917.19
Ukrainian Translation (Old Testament)	\$3,450.00	\$2,307.26

Ukraine

Printing of the Received Text New Testament

Rejoice that Brother Popchenko just received 5,000 copies of the smaller size New Testament. This now means that there are 17,000 copies in print. We have 4,500 Ukrainian New Testaments in transit from South Korea to USA which should arrive near the end of August. Please pray for 500 bonded leather copies being shipped from South Korea by air freight to Ukraine for distribution primarily to the 450 members of the Ukrainian Parliament. The other 50 copies will be given to Baptist pastors and church leaders in Ukraine. Pray that each Parliament and/or family member might read the New Testament and that souls will be saved.

Translation of the Old Testament

Brother Popchenko reported in his latest prayer letter: "We continue to work on the Old Testament. Genesis through Leviticus is ready in the first draft and we are working on Numbers and Deuteronomy right now. This month, I decided to use my son Yurko's summer vacation and had him join Irina and Maria, two Ukrainian linguists, in their work on the first draft of the Old Testament. Yurko is working on the book of Numbers and I am glad to see him doing well. It is good practice for him before he joins us full time. As for me, I continue to check Yurko, Irina and Maria's work, while simultaneously producing the second draft of the book of Genesis."

Dedication of the Ukrainian New Testament

Brother Popchenko has talked with Ukrainian Baptist pastors and the Ukrainian New Testament dedication has been rescheduled to September 19th in Kiev. Please pray for me as I make travel arrangements again. I need if possible to also visit the Republic of Georgia on this trip. Pray that I will not be quarantined in either country.

Political Situation in Ukraine

Mr. Putin wants Ukraine back under his authority again. He took Crimea and invaded Eastern Ukraine with no reactions from NATO or the United States. At the present the Russians have daily military maneuvers on the border between Russia and Ukraine. The present Ukrainian leadership is favorable to a Russian takeover. If that happens, persecution of Christians will begin again in Ukraine as it has in Russia, especially since 2019.

The Russian Bible Society has a long history of ministry in Ukraine, beginning with printing Ukrainian Bibles in 1961.

--- 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

_____ Georgian University Student Ministry

_____ Translation Consultant

_____ Georgian Youth and Kids Ministry

_____ Ukrainian Translation (OT)

Then and Now — The Bible in America

In 1967 the United States Congress established the last Sunday in September as "Bible Translation Day." Then President, Lyndon Johnson wrote "to participate in the observance of this Bible Translation Day is to acknowledge a good that is too immense to be calculated by any human accountant."

1983 was proclaimed "The Year of the Bible" by President Reagan and in that proclamation he said, "Of the many influences that have shaped the United States of America into a distinctive nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible."

President Bush signed a bill in December 1989 designating 1990 as the "International Year of Bible Reading." This is of course a great encouragement to those of us who are involved

in producing Bibles for the various peoples of our world who long have been without God's Word.

What a blessing it is to live in this great country where our leaders have seen the benefit of the Bible and recognized its influence on our country's development. Many of our other presidents, such as Washington, Jackson, Lincoln and Wilson have recognized the benefit and blessing God's Word has brought to our nation. The plain spoken Andrew Jackson said, "Go to the Scriptures ... the joyful promises it contains will be a balsam to all your troubles." He referred to the Bible as no less than "the Rock on which our Republic rests." Indeed, it was the teaching of the inspired Word of God that inspired concepts of civil government that are contained in our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

continued below



"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."
(Proverbs 14:34)

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Then and Now (continued from above)

But how sad to see pictures in the month of August of Bibles being burned in the streets of Portland.



"Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 5:24).

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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