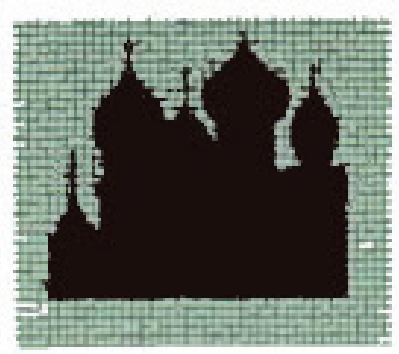


The Russian Bible Society
BIBLE **J**OURNAL



Volume 66 Issue 3 July-September 2017 ISSN 0405-058

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



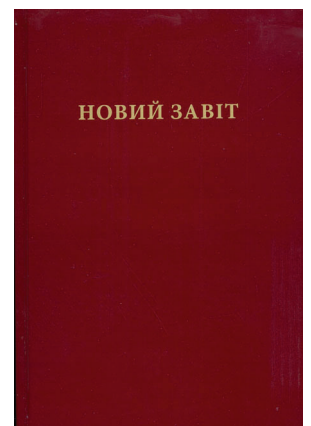
Ukrainian New Testament Project

After a recent telephone conversation with lead translator, Yura Popchenko, I share the following update. There will not be a possibility of getting copies ready for the 500th anniversary celebration in October. Many churches are involved in summer camps and Vacation Bible Schools, many Christians are spending long hours with their gardens, and others are away visiting family during the summer. However, the goal now, God willing, is to get the first printing finished by the end of the year.

Health Concerns

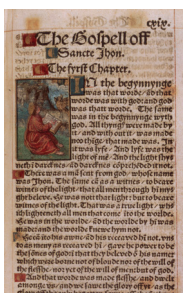
In a letter we received early in August Brother Popchenko shares his health problems: “For almost four years, I have had pain in my left leg, which recently was especially unbearable and debilitating. Last week, we finally discovered why: I was found to have a tumor in the top of my left femur. I have already been to two orthopedic surgeons at the National Orthopedic Center and to an orthopedic oncologist at the National Cancer Center. They examined my CT scans and independently came to the conclusion that I have fibrosis dysplasia (a benign tumor) and recommended immediate surgery. In this surgery, called an “open biopsy”, they will cut the bone open, clean out the inside, send the tumor to be tested and do a bone graft to refill the cavity. If the test results come back negative, nothing more will have to be done; however, if they come back positive, I will need to have hip replacement surgery and cancer treatment. I am currently looking into having a bone scan done and it looks like I will be able to get in to have one next week. Since the tumor in my bone is large and is very close to my hip, I am at high risk for a bone fracture and need to be on crutches until surgery can be done... or until God heals me. If my bone were to fracture, hip replacement surgery would be inevitable. However, using crutches for only one day seriously aggravated the pain in my palms and wrists (the orthopedic oncologist believes I also have arthritis), so instead of using crutches I try to be very careful as I walk and try to pamper my left leg.

(continued on page 3)



РОЗДІЛ I		Розділ I
Служіння Іоана Хрестителя (Мт. 3:1-12; Лк. 3:1-6; Ін. 1:6-8, 19-34)		2 Мт. 3:1; Мт. 11:10; Лк. 7:27 3 Іс. 40:3; Мт. 3:3; Лк. 3:4; Ін. 1:23
ПОЧАТОК Євангелія Ісуса Хри- ста, Сина Божого, 2 Як написано у пророків: Ось Я посилаю Свого вісника перед Твоїм лицем, який приготує Тобі дорогу перед Тобою.		4 Мт. 3:1; Лк. 3:3; Дп. 1:32-4; 194 5 Мт. 3:5-6 6 Мт. 3:4.

World Bible Translation Day

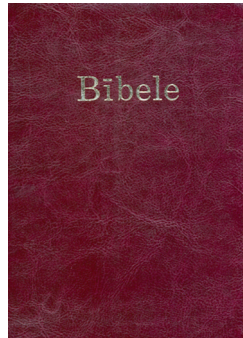


On September 30th we will celebrate with others that 52 years ago by an act of the US Congress, this day was set aside each year to honor Bible translation. This cannot be discontinued by any president. I suggest that Sunday, October 1st, would be a good day to emphasize the great privilege which we have had as English speakers, beginning with William Tyndale’s New Testament published in 1522, to have the Word of God in our language. I suggest that you might have special prayer for the Received Text translator, Yura Popchenko, and the translation team, for the Lord’s guidance as they continue to prepare the New Testament for printing, God willing, before the end of 2017. It might also be a good time to take up a special offering for the 25,000-copy printing. We estimate the cost of sewn, hardbound copy will be about \$3.00.

Projects Update

Latvia

First, rejoice that finally after months of prayer, a price of \$7.50 a copy has been agreed upon for printing the 20,000 copies of the complete Latvian Bible. On July 6th we wired \$150,000.00 to the Latvian Bible Society in Riga, which was safely received. In a recent telephone conversation with Pastor Petr Samoylich, he said that, God willing, they expect the Bibles to be in Riga in time for the third teachers' conference of 2017 to be held October 21st-22nd.



Please pray that God will enable the printers to produce the best possible Bible and that they will arrive in time for the October teachers' conference. Pray for the Lord to prepare the hearts of the teachers as many who come will be unsaved. Pray for the Lord to fill each speaker with the Holy Spirit with the result that the Christian teachers will be blessed and instructed and that the lost teachers will be convicted of sin, being brought to repentance and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Please also pray for the Bibles and Christian children's books which will be freely given to the teachers that an even greater ministry will take place in the homes and schools throughout Latvia.

Pray also for all the Vacation Bible Schools and youth camps which have taken place throughout the summer vacation that the Word of God will continue to work in the hearts of children and teens. Pray especially for the children from four orphanages who attended some of the camps.

Ukrainian Church Building

Earlier this year we wired \$20,000.00 to Cherkasy Baptist Church in Central Ukraine to repair their fire-damaged building (possibly through arson). In a report received from Yura Popchenko, who had just spoken to Pastor Shepel, we heard: "I talked to pastor Shepel. He just came from a youth camp that he does each summer. He said that they have had two



huge jobs done since I talked to him last time. First, they practically finished insulating the outside of building. Second, they had all the electrical work done. He said he will send the pictures. The next huge job is to put dry wall and do the finishing

job on the dry wall. He hopes to have a few crews of volunteers come this month and do the job. They already bought sheet rock and they will only need to buy plaster. He has been spending money very frugally and carefully and he said he has about \$2000 left. Much of it will be spent on plaster and he hopes the remaining money will be sufficient to finish the building." God willing, we should have pictures of the restored building in our final issue of the *Bible Journal* this year. Thanks for your prayers and gifts!

Georgian University Student Ministry

By the time you receive this, the 5th year of the summer project "Come, See, Change" will either be in progress or over. Do pray for the anticipated 80 students who will participate and the GUSM team, along with the student leaders, who will gather August 28th through September 3rd. Pray as it is to be held three days in Batumi, Shota Rustaveli State University, and then the final days in the mountains. The topic for the final days is "Change Begins in Me."

God willing, there will be students from the state universities in Tbilisi, Gori, and Batumi. For the first time they will have students from the fourth state university in Kutaisi. This is near the village home of Miranda.

Pray that the Word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit will do its work in the hearts of all attendees. Pray that the Christian students and student leaders will grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that the unconverted will be brought face to face with their sin and brought to repentance from sin and faith in the crucified, resurrected, ascended, and coming Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray for all the funds to be supplied. The students will pay a nominal registration fee of about \$20.00. The need for the remainder of the costs is about \$8,000.00. If the Lord leads you to have a part in this outreach, please use the response coupon on page three.



Grace Baptist Church, Tbilisi

In a recent report in mid-August, Pastor Gary Arutiunov gave this update (edited): "Along with the usual Sunday services and Sunday school [which we have in Russian, translated into Georgian], we now have a Bible-study program that covers the book of Genesis. This is intended at showing the members of our fellowship the spiritual background of how the world came to its current state and why God had to intervene and bring about the Messiah ...

"Our efforts with the Georgian-speaking population have been less effective, mainly because of the lack of capable Georgian-speaking men who could seriously impact this work. This is something I am praying about—we need to be able to somehow get through to the Georgians, though this is a difficult task for us.

(continued on page 4)

Ukrainian New Testament Project (continued from page 1)

“Since many fields of Ukrainian medicine are outdated and orthopedic surgeries in particular don’t have a high success rate, we are looking into the possibility of getting evaluation of my problem and treatment in Israel, one of the most common countries for Ukrainians to get treatment abroad. I have done research on that option, read many people’s reviews and even talked to a person who had cancer treatment in Israel with very good results. This, however, would be much more expensive. Ukraine has socialized medicine (hence, we don’t have health insurance) and everything is supposed to be free, but in reality you have to pay for much of it. If treating my problem in Ukraine could cost a few thousand dollars, doing it in Israel could cost about ten times as much. Anyway, I sent my information to a clinic in Israel yesterday asking them to evaluate my CT scans. Pray that they respond quickly. Also, if any of you know of an orthopedic specialist in the US who is willing to evaluate my CT scans and tell how problems like mine are treated in the states, we would appreciate any information.”

In a recent email Brother Popchenko gives an update: “Last week, I heard from a clinic in Israel. They too believe that my tumor is benign but they cannot say for sure what treatment I should have until they see me. I decided that it would be best to see a doctor in Israel before undergoing any surgery to make sure this is what they also believe I should do. I am planning to go to Israel for 2-3 days in the beginning of September (right now is the vacation season and they don’t schedule until September). Thank you for your prayers. Please continue to pray for guidance.”

**Persecution Continues in Commonwealth of Independent States
Korean Church in Tajikistan Called Illegal**

A pastor of the Korean Christian church "Sonmin Sonbogym" ["Grace Good News"] in northern Tajikistan was sentenced to three years in prison on a charge of extremism.

Local news media reported that the sentence of the clergyman was issued in late July but it has become known only now. It is reported that 42-year-old Bakhrom Kholmatov was arrested on 10 April of this year in Khujand after an inspection of the protestant church with Korean roots.

It was stated in an official report of a law enforcement agency that the man was arrested on suspicion of extremism.

Tajikistan authorities maintain that the Christian center “Sonmin Sonbogym” does not have official registration and therefore its activity on the territory of the country is illegal. However the website belonging to the Korean church reports that the



Translating the Bible into Ukrainian
The Popchenko Family
“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
Romans 10:17

Prayer

Brother Popchenko praises the Lord for finding the reason for the pain in his left leg and thanked folk for their prayers. He asked for further prayers:

- 1) Pray that if God wills he would be healed.
- 2) Pray for clear guidance about what to do.
- 3) Pray that he would not have a bone fracture.
- 4) Pray for traveling mercies as he goes to Israel and for wisdom as they give advice about leg treatment.
- 5) Pray for needed funds for all tests and treatment.

Continued Progress on the New Testament Translation

Do continue in prayer as Yura and the translation team continue to evaluate suggestions by readers and Baptist pastors who received trial copies as pictured (front page). Also, pray as cross references and text headings are added by the team.

Progress in Financing

Rejoice that through several special gifts and love offerings which we’ve put into this project, we now have \$22,607.91 in a fund towards this printing. We still estimate a cost of \$3.00 a copy of a hardback, sewn Ukrainian New Testament. Our goal is to raise \$75,000.00 for this project by year’s end.

center “Sonmin Snbogym” was officially registered in 2009 in the Committee for Religious Affairs of Tajikistan.

The Christian center has operated in Tajikistan since 1993 and before the adoption of a new law on religious activity it functioned in the capacity of a missionary organization.

At the present time over 70 non-Muslim centers and organizations are active in Tajikistan.

Recently, Tajikistan has been subjected to criticism for infringing the rights of believers. Thus the American Commission on International Religious Freedom considers Tajikistan a "country of particular concern" in the matter of guaranteeing freedom of religious confession. The authors of the report write that in Tajikistan, persecution of citizens for religious reasons is continuing. (Interfax-Religiia, 7 August 2017)

RESPONSE COUPON

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

_____ \$30.00 _____ \$75.00 _____ \$150.00 _____ \$300.00 _____ OTHER

_____ Georgian Projects

_____ Georgian University Student Ministry

_____ Georgian New Testament

_____ Georgian Books

_____ Ukrainian Translation

_____ Ukrainian New Testament (\$3.00 each)

The Lord's Treasury

We rejoice in the Lord's supply for all of our first and second quarter projects. We've gotten off to a good start for third quarter needs. Kindly find God's supply and our needs as of August 22nd for the third quarter of 2017:

	Total Needed	In Hand
Georgian Projects	\$3,147.00	\$1,878.03
Georgian University Student Ministry	\$1,465.00	\$1,350.40
Georgian Widows	\$750.00	\$750.00
Ukrainian Translation	\$6,150.00	\$3,460.12

Grace Baptist Church, Tbilisi

(continued from page 2)

"One good way of doing it is through offering the Georgian public some good Christian literature, which is nearly non-existent in the Georgian language. Though we have distributed most of our *Pilgrim's Progress* and Nystrom Dictionary, we could still use Georgian New Testaments—people regularly approach me for these. Also, as we have discussed, I would like to have Spurgeon's diary translated into Georgian—these books may raise some interest towards the Baptist church in general, and ours in particular ... (continued below)



Global Baptist Gospel Projects
Missions Inc in association with the
Russian Bible Society
PO Box 6068, Asheville, NC 28816
Phone: 1-800-252-8896

"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."
(Hebrews 13:3)

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Asheville, NC
Permit No 161

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"I have not been feeling very well lately, and it has been just over a week that I have more or less recovered from bad pain—though the disease hasn't gone away fully yet."

With the need for Georgian New Testaments we'll ask Brother Gary for a printing quote. With the interest in Spurgeon, we will send the books we have here by Spurgeon in Russian and start praying for someone who can translate from Russian into Georgian located in Tbilisi.

Please join with us in prayer for the personnel and finances to accomplish both a reprint of the Georgian New Testament and the translation of materials into Georgian.

*"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature"*

(Mark 16:15)

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.

Rev. Basil Malof / William Fetler, Founder

Board of Directors

Dr. Bob Doom, President

Mr. Bob Akins, Secretary

Rev. Danny Hardin

Brother Jerry Young, Assistant Director

BIBLE JOURNAL

BIBLE JOURNAL is a quarterly newsletter published by the Russian Bible Society, PO Box 6068, Asheville, NC 28816. *BIBLE JOURNAL* is published to promote the various projects and ministries of the Russian Bible Society. It is sent to all donors and interested persons for \$1.00 per year donation. To start, cancel, or change the address on your subscription to the *BIBLE JOURNAL*, please send your instructions along with your name, your current address, and your address label (if you have one) to the above address.