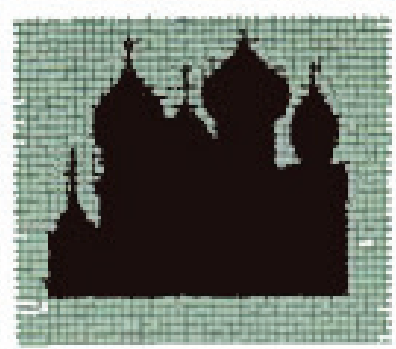


The Russian Bible Society

BIBLE JOURNAL



Volume 67 Issue 3 July-September 2018

ISSN 0405-7058

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



Ministry to Russian Churches and Russians in USA

A few years ago we researched and found that we have about 5½ million Russians in the USA. In more recent research we tried to get an idea of how many Russian Baptist churches we have here in USA. A Russian Baptist pastor in Charlotte said that there are 29 Baptist churches in an association on the east coast. Another Russian brother in Washington State said, "In USA approximately exist three hundred Russian and Ukrainian Baptist churches. Probably the same number exist of Pentecostal churches."

We've ministered to all kinds of Russian churches and Slavic speakers with our large print English/Russian Bibles first printed in 2004. We continued that ministry with a smaller size English/Russian Bible printed in 2013.

While we had Russian text Bibles from 1995 onwards, printed the Goetze Study Bible, and brought in Scofield and Thompson Chain Study Bibles, we've continuously been asked for better quality Russian Bibles in different sizes and bindings. Therefore, with the excellent cooperation of our Bible printer in South Korea, we have ordered and expect delivery in late September or early October of 18,000 Bibles and 3,000 New Testaments with Psalms and Proverbs. (We did include 2,000 copies of our English/Russian black PU cover with zipper and index of which we've been out of print for several months. Also, we ordered 1,000 copies of a paperback English/Russian New Testament, as our stock is getting low, making a total of 24,000 Scriptures.)

Please pray as we continue to minister to the Russian churches and individuals throughout the USA and Canada with Bibles and nearly 500 books, booklets, and tracts.

Ministry in Ukraine



Translating the Bible into Ukrainian

The Popchenko Family

*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
Romans 10:17*

Health Updates

No further mention has been made of Anya and her son Zachar's health, so we assume things have improved healthwise with her and her son.

In his May prayer letter Yura Popchenko said: "Thank you for your prayers about my headaches. I am pleased to report that they are almost completely gone. Also, at this point I am not sure if there is any need to send my histological preparations to Israel for a second opinion. At the moment, Yurko and Matviy are sick with some virus so please pray for their speedy recovery and for the rest of us to stay well."

However, certainly continue in prayer for the team's "good health" as we've noticed a continual attack on the health of those faithfully involved in Bible translation.



(continued on page 3)

Ministry in the Republic of Georgia

Morning by Morning by C.H. Spurgeon

Rejoice that in a recent email Pastor Gary Arutiunov said that of the 5,019 copies received (wrongly reported in the last *Bible Journal* as 3,000), they only had 748 copies left. In that same email he said: "The book *Morning by Morning* is popular, both among believers and among unbelievers. And it's nice! We distributed them to churches and organizations. Brothers and sisters took and continue to take these books for their relatives and acquaintances." In his most recent email he further added: "People who were interested in obtaining books sent their representatives in their own vehicles, and they themselves picked up the books. I will say more, they even argued about who should take how many, had to break them up. Personally, I did not have to travel much. I know that in the services, in some churches, every Sunday they started reading from *Morning by Morning*."

The total cost including translation from Russian to Georgian was \$12,074.00. This worked out to about \$2.40 a copy. As of this *Bible Journal* we need \$5,300.68 to finish the project, or finances for 2,208 copies. Please continue to pray that saints will be blessed and sinners saved through this publication.

There is an interest to have a Russian edition of *Morning by Morning*. God willing, we may print it in Russian in a few months, and if necessary, do a reprint of Georgian.



The *Morning by Mornings* have been quickly distributed. Of the 5,019 copies printed of these 368-page hardback books, less than 748 copies remain. We still need funds for 2,208 copies at \$2.40 each.

Baptisms of Grace Baptist Church, Tbilisi

Pastor Arutiunov also stated, "We are going to baptize three people. They are new believers. Maybe two more people will join us. We plan to baptize either on August 19th or August 26th, maybe even later." The dates are dependent on when most of the congregation will be there as it's also vacation time in Georgia.

Ministry to Widows

When asked about an update on the ministry to the widows connected with Grace Baptist Church, Pastor Arutiunov replied: "We have twelve widows now. Money is not always distributed evenly, but according to the needs. Last month, one of them needed dentures. It was necessary to help. Others did not seem to mind, and so on. And as of today it turns out 50-51 lari (about \$20.00). Sisters from the heart give thanks for the support!"

Georgian University Student Ministry

We sent \$1,465.00 for the Georgian University Student Ministry for the third quarter and had hoped for a report. However, the students there are on vacation and some of the workers also take a break.

Pray for the new semester and contacts with new students and the continued ministry with the Christian students. Remember Miranda in particular as she labors faithfully in evangelism and discipling future leaders in the Republic of Georgia.

Batumi Baptist Mission

Brother and Sister Movsesyan, who labor in the seaport town of Batumi in the Republic of Georgia, sent this report in early July: "Continuing to serve in Shelter we meet there new people. Recently we met the youngest son of Svetlana (we have meetings in her room). His name is Shota, he is about 40 and he also lives in this shelter with wife and 3 children. Last Friday he attended our meeting and I shared him Gospel. He said that he has peace with God (which in my opinion is not so), but he has some problems and has no time to read Bible and attend Church. We ask you to pray for him and his family.

"Eldest son of Svetlana always attends our meeting, his Name is Omari. He has the last stage of cancer. He read Bible before we met, but some questions he sees through orthodox beliefs and superstitions.

"Except these two men we have three ladies in our group. We ask to pray for salvation of this group of people and their family members, and their joining to Church.

"One of our sisters every week attends day shelter for homeless and difficult children. We ask to pray for their salvation and for salvation of head teacher there whose name is Tiko. Also we ask to pray for young woman Mary, who sells her body, whom we recently met. We preached her Gospel and invited to our Church. She promised to come but didn't.

"We ask to continue to pray for spiritual growth of each member of our flock and desire to serve Lord, and for saving faith for children of Sunday school and their family members.

"We thank RBS very much for spiritual and financial support, and ask to give warmest greetings to everyone, who knows us and prays for Batumi ministry. God bless you and keep you in His peace."

Ministry in Moldova

We had the privilege of donating and sending a pallet containing over 500 Romanian Large Print Bibles to be included in a shipment with other Christian materials to Moldova in April. We have not received notice yet of the container's arrival. But join with us in prayer that the Lord will use these 1,978-page Bibles to edify, encourage and direct the saints who receive them. Pray that sinners who receive them will be saved.

Future Ministry in Latvia

God willing, 10,000 Russian Bibles measuring about 5½ x 7½ x 1¼ inches, containing 1,129 pages of text, with 16 full-color maps and gold colored stamped cover and spine with stained edges will arrive in Riga, Latvia, in late September or early October. These Bibles will be used by the Russian-speaking Baptist churches in evangelization of approximately 500,000 Russian speakers in Latvia.

The printing costs are \$4.40 a copy, and with maps, shipping, customs costs and taxes we're estimating the final costs to be about \$5.00 a copy. Rejoice that the Lord has supplied \$25,525.98 of the estimated need of \$50,000.00. Join with us in prayer for the Lord to use His Word to the blessing of His people and bring sinners to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Savior of sinners.

In recent emails from Pastor Petr Samoylich, who pastors the Salvation Temple in Riga, Latvia, founded by Basil Malof, who will be receiving these Bibles, he shares about his summer ministry in camps and VBS: "Greetings from Riga, Latvia or I should say — Christian Camp Center 'Norkalni'! This week, we are holding our children camp. More than 80 children are enjoying a wonderful week with different activities, sports, games, making new friends, and of course, learning about Jesus and growing in the knowledge of Him. We appreciate highly your prayers, especially for the orphans. Please pray that they can open their hearts for God's love. Also, thank you for your prayers for the work of our team.

"I want to thank you all for your prayers! We had a wonderful week of children camp. We praise God for the 25 children who received Christ! Please pray for our coming VBS in our new church area Vecmilgravis next week, July 16-20. We are expecting more than 200 kids. Please pray for God to prepare children's hearts to receive the gospel, please pray for harmonious teamwork of our local volunteers and teams from abroad. Thank you for your faithful support in prayers!"

Ministry in Ukraine (continued from page 1)

Challenges on Editing Trial Edition

Yura Popchenko reports: "In our translation work, we stand on the shoulders of our predecessors. The upside of this is that we don't have to tread a completely new path and can use many of the tough translation choices that were made for us long ago. The downside of this is that we inherited some unfortunate translation choices that we have to deal with today.

"One such choice is the translation of the Greek phrase 'in the Spirit' as found in expressions like 'to be in the Spirit' (Rev. 1:10; 4:2), 'pray in the Spirit' (Eph. 6:18; Jude 1:20), 'call by the Spirit' (Mat. 22:43), 'say by the Spirit' (Mar. 12:36), 'speak by the Spirit' (1 Cor. 12:3), 'come by the Spirit' (Luk. 2:27) (Greek literally has 'in the Spirit' for the English 'by the Spirit'). As our latest survey indicated, the current Ukrainian renderings of 'in the Spirit' are both unclear and ambiguous. The rendering 'to be in the Spirit' is ambiguous since the phrase in Ukrainian means 'to be in good spirits' or 'to be in good mood'. The rendering 'speak by the Spirit' is unclear because the construction in Ukrainian means the same as 'speak with the Spirit', making the Spirit an instrument of speaking as in 'speak with the tongue'. The rendering 'come by the Spirit' does not make any sense at all in Ukrainian. This prompted us to work on a solution that would conform to our translation principles of accuracy, clarity, and readability. We covet your prayers for God to give us the 'spirit of wisdom' (Eph. 1:17) so that we can come up with a satisfactory solution to this translation problem.

"[Another area] we gave our attention to was rendering the phrase 'the abomination of desolation'. There are two different words the Ukrainian versions use for 'desolation'. One of them denotes a desolate state and the other the process of desolation. Which one to use? To make a decision, we needed to understand what the phrase means. Some commentators suggest it means 'abominable desolation', others 'the abomination that makes desolate'. The Greek phrase in the New Testament comes from a Greek translation of the Hebrew Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11 and there the Hebrew literally means 'the abomination that makes desolate'. This prompted us to go with the Ukrainian word that means the process of desolation. Please pray for God's wisdom as we make many translation decisions all the time."

Prayer Requests

- 1) Man who would help handle printing and distribution of the New Testament
- 2) Strength and wisdom to finish editing trial edition in the next couple of months

Rejoice!! If our estimate of printing costs for 25,000 copies is accurate we only need \$405.02 to complete the project. We're also thinking of binding some copies in leather for members of the Ukrainian Parliament and Baptist preachers.

RESPONSE COUPON

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

_____ \$30.00 _____ \$75.00 _____ \$150.00 _____ \$240.00 _____ OTHER

_____ Georgian Projects

_____ Georgian University Student Ministry

_____ Georgian Widows

_____ Georgian Morning by Morning (\$2.40 each)

_____ Russian Bibles for Latvia (\$5.00 each)

_____ Ukrainian New Testament (\$3.00 each)

_____ Ukrainian Translation

Ministry in Russian Bibles, English-Russian Bibles to US Jails

Since we are a republic ruled by law, we have the largest prison and jail population of any country in the world (over two million). One of the great disappointments to Russian and other Slavic parents has been their children getting involved in crime and ending up in US jails. In fact, we've heard of some parents moving back to the CIS, feeling it would be better back there to raise their children.

Some years ago we received a letter from a chaplain at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, Oregon: "I am the Intake Chaplain at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. The Intake Center is where men who have been sentenced come for testing, medical and dental care, before they are sent to their permanent facility. They are at Intake from 30 to 40 days.

I do have men that read Russian and would like Russian Bibles to read while in Intake. I have had a few, but now am out. Is it possible you could send me some?"

We responded by providing English/Russian Bibles. Other individuals and churches ask us to send Bibles to inmates in jails or prisons, and we're glad to respond, getting the Word of God into prisons.

*"I was in prison,
and ye came unto me"
(Matthew 25:36)*



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

"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever" (Psalm 12:6-7).

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Lord's Treasury

We thank the Lord that all of our second quarter commitments have now been met through you, our faithful donors and prayer warriors. Here are our third quarter and ongoing project needs for 2018.

	Total Need	In Hand
Georgian Morning by Morning	\$12,074.00	\$6,773.32
Georgian Projects	\$3,147.00	\$485.86
Georgian University Student Ministry	\$1,465.00	\$300.00
Georgian Widows	\$750.00	\$228.44
Russian Bibles for Latvia	\$50,000.00	\$25,525.98
Ukrainian New Testament	\$75,000.00	\$74,594.98
Ukrainian Translation	\$3,150.00	\$450.71

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

BIBLE JOURNAL is a quarterly newsletter published by the Russian Bible Society, PO Box 505, Skyland, NC 28776. *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.