

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



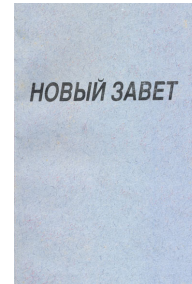
New Projects for the Republic of Georgia

Our friend and brother, Pastor Gary Arutiunov, has been in contact with us about current Scripture and literature needs for the Republic of Georgia. With the approval of the Board of Directors, we've wired \$8,950.00 for the following printing projects.

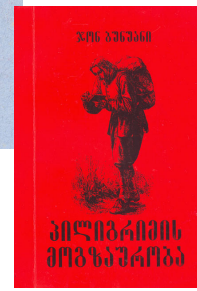
1,500 Russian New Testaments @\$1.30 each	\$1,950.00
2,000 Georgian Pilgrim's Progress @\$2.00 each	\$4,000.00
1,000 Georgian Nystrom Bible Dictionary @\$3.00 each	\$3,000.00

We've in faith wired this money and it has been safely received in Georgia. Please pray for the printer(s) as they commence to prepare for the various publications, that we will receive the best possible finished product which they are able to produce.

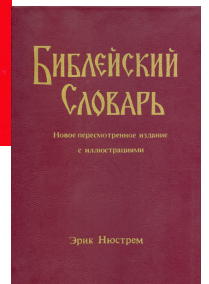
Please pray for the saints and sinners who will receive this throughout Georgia. Pray that God will prepare their hearts and bless the Word of God and spiritual truths both to the salvation of sinners and strengthening of saints. Please pray for the Lord to provide the funds which we borrowed from other funds to get the project started.



*Russian
New Testament*



*Georgian
Pilgrim's Progress*

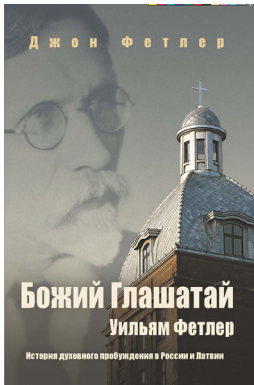


*Georgian
Nystrom*

The Thunderer Now in Russian

After months of formatting and working on a new cover, we now have at the printer *God's Herald*, the Russian title of *The Thunderer* in English. Through the labors of Sister Inna Yocum and Brother Charles Alligood, the files were sent to the printer in Virginia in October. God willing, we expect 1,000 copies in our warehouse the week of Thanksgiving. Pray as these copies commence distribution through USA. Remember that we have 5½ million Russian speakers in our country. I had the privilege of preaching recently in one of the three Russian-speaking Baptist churches in Charlotte, North Carolina, and giving a prepress copy of *God's Herald* to the pastor. I promised him a finished copy as soon as they arrive in the warehouse.

Pray for the Lord to use this book throughout the USA to call young men to preach, to call evangelists, to call missionaries from the Russian-speaking churches to other fields of service. In the month of November we had a call from a Russian-speaking missionary to the Apache Indians and other tribes in the Window Rock area of Arizona. He was ordering Russian materials for his family and wanted to know what materials our sister ministry, Global Bible Society, had in Indian languages and was also interested in materials on evangelism and evangelistic literature in English. We gladly provided the Russian materials and samples of gospel tracts and some books in English on evangelism.



October 2016

FROM: Vitaliy
Minsk, Belarus

Greetings, brothers and sisters, those who have the precious faith in our God and the Savior Jesus Christ!

Glory to God! I am joyful for the circumstance which allows me to testify of God's glory in my life.

My name is Vitaliy. I was born into a big family where the parents gave proper attention to raising and caring for their children. I lived in Minsk city where I also graduated high school. I was in the sports on a professional level. After I graduated from school I got into college majoring in economics. I was counting on everything being well in my future life.

When I turned 19 I made a fatal mistake in my life. Wanting to help my friends I committed a crime and ended up in the defendant's seat in court. All my prospects and hopes for a career in sports and for education and many other things suddenly collapsed.

At 25 I had a family of my own. My daughter, Maria, was born.

I always thought of myself as the master of my own life, yet how wrong was I!

At 28 I ruined everything I had. I went to prison. When I got out I could no longer find strength in me to live a normal life. I got into alcohol too much, all kinds of mischief. Constant problems came into my life which I could no longer solve on my own.

I often heard of God, His omnipotence, His goodness and love for the sinful man. God was always near but I didn't pay attention to His calling for me, a man who was perishing in his own lusts.

I had an old friend who at some point had the same kind of problems but later accepted Jesus Christ into his life, who changed his life and healed his soul. God gave him a family, a ministry in the church, and sufficiency in everything. This friend invited me to church and told me of God's way of salvation for a sinner like I was.

On a day predestined by God in my life I made the decision to go to the rehabilitation center. The next day after arriving at the center we went to a service at Bethany Church where I reconciled with God through repentance. I opened up to Christ repenting before Him all my sins that caused Him pain when He was dying on the cross for me. And Jesus opened His embrace for me. Since that moment a new life began for me, life in Jesus Christ. A spiritual battle began each day: the battle of thoughts, flesh, and spirit.

Gradually came cleansing and freedom from all that was weighing me down and preventing from living in joy over every day granted to me by God. Today I am glad to have fellowship with God, a new family in Christ, new relationships, and a new perspective on life. I thank Jesus Christ for His mercy and grace to me. Amen.

— translated from Russian

In our last *Bible Journal* (July-September 2016) we mentioned a new repressive law signed by President Vladimir Putin, effective July 20, 2016.

An independent Baptist missionary, Donald Ossewaarde from Illinois, who first began evangelism in Russia during a 1994 visit and moved from Ukraine to Oryol, Russia, in 2003, on August 14th recounted on his website his detention and charge with violating the new "yarovaya" anti-terrorist law: "Three policemen came into the house while we were singing. They did not knock on the door or ring the bell; they just walked in. They wanted to ask questions, but I told them they would have to wait until after the service. I invited them to stay for the service. They were there for singing and the entire sermon. After the service, they asked questions for about 45 minutes. They talked to all the people, too, and wrote reports. They said they needed a complete package of documents on us just in case any questions arise. I asked if there had been any complaints against me. They said no." The pastor also claims that he was fingerprinted and questioned in a locked room for nearly two and half hours before being charged with violating the new law for gluing two gospel tracts to a bulletin board at the entrance of an apartment building and for conducting a religious service in his home. In court he was found guilty of breaking the law and fined \$650.00.

Please pray as Brother Ossewaarde has appealed his case to another court, according to one source: "While Ossewaarde's family has returned to the United States, the pastor has stayed in Russia to fight the charges with assistance from ICC and legal counsel from the Slavic Center for Law and Justice. We are very hopeful that the judge in this case will do the right thing and overturn Donald's case on appeal," King [president of International Christian Concern] said. "We're also encouraged to see the U.S. State Department taking an active interest by sending personnel to attend his trial. Russia should not be allowed to get away with crushing religious freedom at no diplomatic cost to itself."

On July 20, the day the law was enacted, the authorities raided a Baptist children's camp run by Pastor Aleksei Telius, who was ordered to pay a fine of 5,000 rubles. Then in August, Ebenezer Tuah, a Christian leader from Ghana, was fined 50,000 rubles for performing baptisms in Tver.

Again, we appreciate the spirit of one brother who earlier said: "If it will come to it, it's not going to stop us from worshipping and sharing our faith ... The Great Commission isn't just for a time of freedom." Please pray for our brothers and sisters in the Russian Federation in this time of persecution and trial.

(Sources: DonOssewaarde.com, FoxNews.com, ChristianTimes.com)



Dear Prayer Partners,

Greetings from the Popchenko Family! Over the past month, the Lord has answered the prayers of His people and blessed our translation work in many ways.

First of all, I was able to present my work before the leaders of Puhova Baptist Church in Kyiv. Among the 24 men present, there were pastors, deacons, preachers, and other Christian workers. They were pleased with the presentation as well as with my answers to their numerous questions. After the presentation, the brothers received copies of our translation of Mark & John and one of them called me later to say that he thoroughly enjoyed it and that it is the best translation he has ever seen! As a result of this presentation, another presentation was scheduled to be conducted at their regional fellowship meeting in December. Also, Pastor Velichko suggested that a presentation be conducted at the western regional meeting. I already spoke to a pastor from there and he was very excited about it and is working on scheduling me in the near future. In addition to that, I was able to schedule a presentation in November with a group of pastors from south-western Ukraine, as well as at two of their churches. Lastly, another group of pastors from western Ukraine wants me to present the work with them and they are in the process of securing a date. We praise the Lord for these opportunities and ask you to pray for the Lord to raise from among these men those who would participate both in our ongoing surveys and in proofreading the second draft.

Second, four new books were added to the second draft this past month. Third, the Lord has answered your prayers for my assistant Anya's health and she has recuperated and is feeling well right now. Please continue to pray for her health in general and for her pregnancy in particular. The Lord has shown His mercy in the area of health to me also this last month. For the past few months, I have experienced severe lower back pain that was shooting down my leg, sometimes so badly that I could not sufficiently concentrate on my work. Through a Christian friend, God led me to a chiropractor who in just two sessions was able to drastically lessen my back pain. Please pray for the pain to completely go away. Fourth, even though we had to completely redo the floor in our living room (pull up the wood floor and pour a concrete slab), most of the work is completed and soon I won't have to deal with it anymore. We hope to have it completely finished in about a week ...

Praises and Prayer requests:

1. Praise the Lord for the successful presentation at Puhova Baptist Church in Kyiv!
2. Praise the Lord for the other presentations that have been and are being scheduled!
3. Praise the Lord for my lower back improvement and Anya's renewed health!
4. Pray for our work on editing the New Testament.
5. Pray for laborers to participate in our surveys, to proofread the second draft, and for young people to join us in the project.
6. Pray for the war in Ukraine to end.

Editor's note: Rejoice that we have sent the final check needed for this year's support. God willing, in January we will send another \$6,150.00 to care for the first quarter support for 2017.

"... Send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared ..." Nehemiah 8:10

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ Russian New Testament (\$1.30 each) | _____ Georgian Nystrom Bible Dictionary (\$3.00 each) |
| _____ Georgian Pilgrim's Progress (\$2.00 each) | _____ Latvian Bible (\$7.37 each) |
| _____ Georgian Projects | _____ Ukrainian Translation |
| _____ Georgian University Student Ministry | |

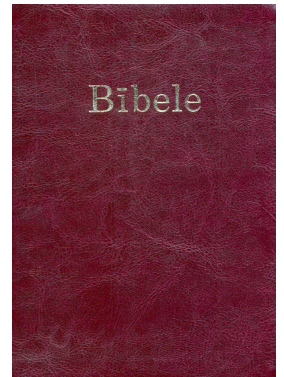
Latvian Bible Project — Help Needed to Finish

We rejoice in the privilege to help our brethren in Latvia with providing 20,000 complete Latvian Bibles. This 1,227-page Bible, measuring 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 7 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x nearly 1", with gilded edges and gold stamping on cover and spine and thumb index, includes a small concordance, explanation of some Biblical words, and a six-page full-color map section. Estimated cost is \$7.37 a copy, delivered to Latvia.

These Bibles will primarily be distributed to high school students and teachers throughout Latvia. Of course, Baptist churches which need Bibles for evangelism and church members will freely receive them.

In light of the political turmoil in that part of the world, we feel an urgency to get these printed and into Latvia as soon as possible. Depending on where we print, we will need to either give the printer half of the cost or the entire amount before the project is begun.

Rejoice that we have \$124,508.46 of the anticipated need of \$147,400.00. Pray and give as the Lord directs to help us finish this project in 2016.



**“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works”
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)**

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The Thunderer Now in Russian (continued from page 1)

We've also been in contact in November with our friends in Latvia, and out of the population of nearly two million, there are about 475,000 Russian speakers. We may print an edition of *God's Herald* there.

We're considering a larger printing for the Russian Federation, with distribution throughout the country. We are in contact with a brother who has ties with a Christian publishing ministry in Ukraine. They used to have a good outlet for Russian literature throughout the CIS, but due to Russia's invasion into Ukraine that ministry has been hindered and almost brought to a standstill.

Please pray with us for God's direction and wisdom about *God's Herald* in Russian.

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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