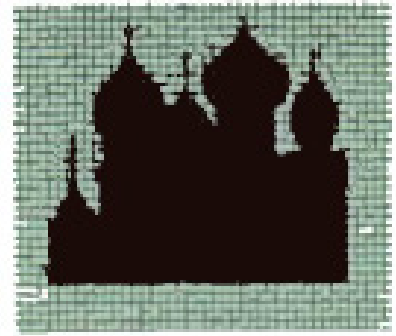


The Russian Bible Society

BIBLE JOURNAL



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



Latvian Ministry

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Pastor Petr Samoylich gives this update of his ministry in Latvia in a recent newsletter: “Our summer was very, very busy for us, we celebrated our 21 YEARS of MISSION WORK in LATVIA. Praise the Lord for His work in Latvia! We always remember how we made decision to come to Latvia for just a year and plant a church here. But we have had a very long one year, and with God’s help, we have planted three churches.

“Now I want to thank you for your prayers and support through all these years, only working together with the same vision, we can change this world. People who are in darkness can see the light and people who are in bondage—they can receive freedom. Being in the mission field, I am always very busy, but at the same time, I see miracles and miracles how God works in the lives of many people.



Summer Events



“God blessed us so much—we held two summer camps and three VBS’s. More than 500 kids and youth went through our mission work events. We thank God that 90 per cent of the children and youth are from non-Christian homes. Plus we had orphans from 4 different orphanages at our camps. I always rejoice to welcome orphans in summer camps. I always praise God for my Dad who grew up as a homeless orphan. But God changed his life, because some people told him about Christ. Thank you, my dear friends, for helping support these projects! Thank you for your prayers! We receive one reward together for changing and saving lives. When we save an old man, we save their soul; when we save a young boy or a girl, we save their lives and souls.

“Through both summer camps, together 52 souls were saved. God is so good, He works in many hearts, especially in our camp team, they worked very hard and did a great job. For me, it is a big privilege to see the present camp leaders have grown up in our camps, they used to be the kids and teens some years ago. Some of them got baptised this year at the end of the youth camp. Their parents are still unsaved. Please pray for these youth and their families! I want to thank God, my dear friends, for helping us with children camp and youth camp.”

God willing, the 10,000 Russian Bibles will arrive in Riga, Latvia, November 2nd. They are in shipment from South Korea and will go to Hamburg, Germany, and in a smaller vessel will be shipped to Riga. Pray for the container to arrive safely and for the Lord to prepare hearts to receive each Bible. Rejoice that the Lord has provided \$39,506.98 towards the anticipated cost of \$50,000.00 or \$5.00 a copy if we have estimated freight, taxes, and cost of maps correctly. Pray that the funds will be provided before the end of 2018.

Robert A. Fetler's Ministry, Family Separations and Martyrdom

The mid-term elections are history. The Great Eternal God of the universe has once again in His providence set up rulers (senators, representatives, judges, sheriffs, etc) over us. *"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will"* (Proverbs 21:1). *"But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another"* (Psalm 75:7). The same God is described in Ephesians 1:11, *"who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."* Wicked rulers are elevated to punish a wicked electorate. Good rulers who love our Republic are elevated so that we may live our lives in peace and holiness in the fear of the Lord.

God willing, we will begin our 75th year of ministry in 2019. Will we see our Republic march on to Socialism and then Communism? How we take for granted our liberty and freedoms each passing year.

This year we printed in Russian *My Memoirs: The Pleiad of Dom Evangelia*, written by Stephan V. Sevastyanov, a poet, Russian Baptist historian, lead choir singer, deacon, member of the Evangelical Christian-Baptist Union, and a wounded WWII veteran. Sevastyanov was born on November 8, 1901 in the village of Pechersk, Smolensk region and went to be with the Lord on November 25, 1984 in Riga, Latvia.

One of the mighty and faithful Baptist pastors he tells about is the brother of the founder of the Russian Bible Society in USA, Robert A. Fetler. The following is based on an interview with Tatyana Fetler, the wife of Robert Fetler, on June 20, 1973. The Robert Fetlers ministered in Omsk, where he became assistant pastor. However, they hoped to come to the USA and moved to Vladivostok where there was an American embassy, but they were denied visas, as they "were feared to be Communists." The way to the USA never opened, and they moved to Riga, Latvia, in 1925, pastoring first the Calvary Church, a Latvian Baptist congregation, for ten years. He then was invited to pastor the Russian congregation at the Salvation (Baptist) Temple for the next six years.

Tatyana continues her description with what happened July 14, 1941:

What happened that disastrous day? In the morning as usual I went to a grocery store to get milk. There were five children in our family: two sons and three daughters. The oldest son barely turned 20. The youngest daughter was 10. When I return from the store I couldn't figure out what was happening? There are five unfamiliar men in our apartment. Three in civilian clothes, one in military uniform, and the fifth is a Latvian in a police uniform. "What is happening?" I ask. "Don't ask! Pack fast! Take your warm clothes. You are going to Siberia!"

It's hard for someone who hasn't experienced what we had to go through to imagine the kind of feelings that filled our hearts. The harsh, angry answer to my question paralyzed my mind. What thoughts? Were there any? What to take? What to think of? We were given only one hour to pack. There is a vehicle awaiting down-

stairs and the five men keep rushing us the whole time. What could we take? How did we pack? It's impossible to describe. One detail stood out in my memory: I usually took my wedding band off at night and left it on the nightstand till morning. It was the same that ill-fated morning. I went to the grocery store before I put on the ring and I no longer found it in its place when I came back. One of these five did such a low thing characterizing a heartless individual without any sense of integrity....

With bundles and suitcases we were hurriedly loaded into a small truck and then at a train station we were moved to a boxcar train where several families like ours were already sitting. A whole long boxcar train filled with ordinary families from that moment doomed to being exiles, deprived, and even death... Here were all who made to a list of "the questionable, dangerous, unreliable..." Sitting in the boxcar each was strenuously thinking: "For what? For what?"

Suddenly a woman comes up to the boxcar and commands: "Men out! Women and children stay where you are!" All the men opposed in unison declaring: "We are not going anywhere! We will stay with our families, wives and children!", and shut the boxcar door. After a little while we hear a new command: "All out! This boxcar is not going anywhere!" We all had to get out. And here we were cruelly sorted with men being taken to a different boxcar. Robert left us and two of our sons with him taking the heavier belongings that all of us needed very much. From that moment on I was left alone with my three girls. And alas! I never have seen neither my husband, nor my sons ever again in my life. That was the last day in the life of our big friendly family. That day became the beginning of our earthly separation from each other! When the train reached the border we were separated once more, the young from the old. Thus our family was completely shredded apart, forever separating the sons from their father. Later we learned that Boris and Yura ended up in Novosibirsk region in the village of Vasuchanka, doing heavy labor on collective farms. We never were able to get records about my husband.

Hunger! Unfamiliar, exhausting collective labor! Loneliness, grief, and lastly separation from family completely broke the health of my boys. Twenty-year-old Boris died in the same place November 31, 1941. Eighteen-year-old Yura was still living. Only in 1949 NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) notified us that Yura passed away in 1943. Oh, the pain of "the sword piercing through the very heart"! Only mothers who went through similar sufferings could understand my grief and torment over losing loved ones...

My girls and I were brought to Krasnoyarsk region, Tasevsky district, Sukhovo village, being housed in a peasant family's home. Crowdedness, dirt, discomfort, constant exhaustion... How did we survive all that? Only God knows...

Thus after many long years of exhaustion in the deep country of Krasnoyarsk Krai, bearing the unbearable, of

The Greatest Gift

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving and celebrating the Greatest Gift ever given—“*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son*” (John 3:16)—let us pause and thank God for our Bibles. Creation reveals the existence of an omnipotent, omniscient and eternal God. The Bible reveals the Lord Jesus Christ in prophecy, poetry and divine history. The greatest gift that can be given to any people, of any nation, is an accurate translation of the Word of God from the inspired and preserved Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic texts.

Therefore, it is with great anticipation that we look forward to three twenty-foot containers arriving at their destination in the next few weeks. One twenty-foot container is due in Riga, Latvia, around November 2nd. Two twenty-foot containers are expected to arrive in the Asheville area after November 13th. All contain Russian Bibles, and the two coming to the United States also contain parallel English-Russian Bibles and New Testaments, and a New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs.

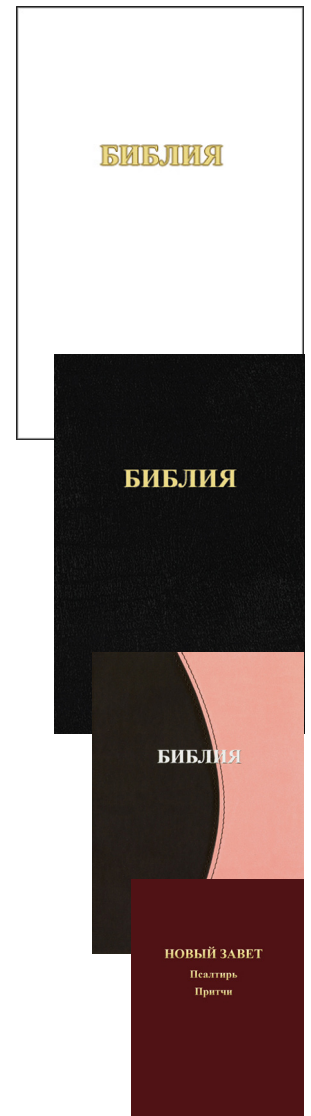
The four sizes indicated on the right represent the four new size publications we have coming to particularly minister to some of the 5½ million Russian speakers in the USA.

- The largest size is 6⁵/₈” x 10” in three different colors. This is the first time we have produced a white Bible—with indexing, two white ribbons and gilding in bonded leather. The other two colors are black and burgundy with indexing and zippers in bonded and genuine leather.
- The medium size is 6” x 8¹⁵/₁₆” in three colors, black, brown and burgundy, with indexing, zippers and gilding in bonded and genuine leather.
- The small size is 5” x 7” in black, brown and dark chocolate/pink, indexing, with and without zippers, and gilding.

All of the Bibles have sixteen pages of full-color maps with a gazetteer.

- The final size is 4½” x 6½”, a white-edged paperback New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs.

Thus, we are adding fifteen new Bibles and one New Testament to minister in edification to Russian-speaking saints and in evangelism to Russian-speaking sinners.



The Lord’s Treasury

	Total Need	In Hand
Georgian Morning by Morning	\$12,074.00	Completed
Georgian Projects	\$3,147.00	\$231.86
Georgian University Student Ministry	\$1,465.00	Completed
Georgian Widows	\$750.00	\$618.44
Russian Bibles for Latvia	\$50,000.00	\$39,506.98
Ukrainian New Testament	\$75,000.00	Completed
Ukrainian Translation	\$3,150.00	\$74.00

Georgian University Student Ministry

I will start with the best news for this year: me and Vladimer are waiting a baby! We already know that it’s a girl and we are sure that this is God’s greatest gift for us!

We have a great news in SKSK also. We are starting a ministry in the new city, Kutaisi. Family of missionaries are moved there and they are working, to start pioneering. Also, we have a new intern in Tbilisi, one of the girls, who became a Christian in our ministry and now she wants to be a part of our ministry too ... November 1-3, we are planning one big project, “Bible and Life”. This is the conference where believer students are learning how to study Bible with inductive method ... Thank you for your prayers and support.

— Miranda

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

_____ Russian Bibles for Latvia (\$5.00 each)

_____ Georgian Widows

_____ Ukrainian Translation

Georgian Projects — Church Planting, Batumi

As usual, we want to share with you news and prayer needs of Batumi ministry.

1. Elderly woman Svetlana from Shelter started to attend our Sunday services. Last Sunday she brought her grandson Anry in Sunday school. We continue Bible reading group there and ask you to continue to pray for people there.

2. Last Sunday, after summer holidays, started Sunday school. 9 children came, and we wait for two more. There is great need in prayers for them and their families salvation. For example: one girls parents, whose name Lera, forbid her to be present on adults services (because of they have strong orthodox relatives) when we with children sing praise. She comes only in Sunday school (they think that it is not sin because it is not Church).

3. If you remember, one period I visited in Chakvi old men Iliia. He died about one year ago. Unexpectedly his daughter Viola came to our Sunday service last Sunday. Please pray for her. She is about 20, and little bit strange and very closed.

4. Women's group continues their meetings. There are two unbelievers. They are our neighbors, know everything, but don't open hearts. They only like relations in group. Please pray for them and other unbelievers, whom we preach Gospel. Their names are Julia and Nailia.

As usual, we thank Lord for all kinds of support of RBS.

Yours in Lord,
Akadiy and Milena



“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Psalm 9:17).

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Robert A. Fetler (continued from page 2)

which the most difficult was the loss of loved ones, sons and husband, now I am in Riga again, in the city where once was so much joy, blessed days surrounded by family and friends, among people of same faith. But the awful experience of that disastrous day, June 14, 1941 hasn't been forgotten.

This way my girls and I have roamed not knowing that my husband, their father is long gone. Only in 1947 I learned that my dear Robert died before our sons on October 3, 1941... (November 30, 1941, according to another source).

It was discovered only in the last few years that Robert Fetler was shot in the head by KGB agents.

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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