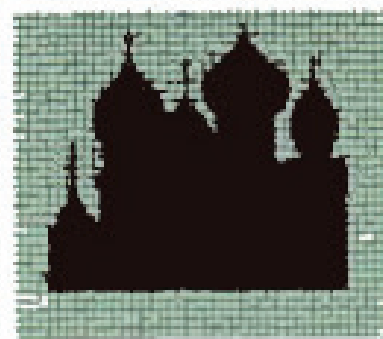


The Russian Bible Society BIBLE JOURNAL



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



Russian Bibles Arrive in USA

Rejoice that in November and December we received two twenty-foot containers and a truck partially loaded with 21,000 Russian Bibles and New Testaments. Also we received a 2,000-copy reprint of our English-Russian Parallel Bible and a 1,000-copy reprint of our English-Russian Parallel New Testament. In total we received 24,000 copies of the Word of God for ministry to some of the 600 Russian-speaking churches and 5 ½ million Russians in the USA.

Rejoice that nearly 1,000 copies have already been distributed throughout the USA, and some have been shipped to the former Soviet Union. Pray that the Word of God which is “able to make ... wise unto salvation” will work mightily in the hearts of the saved and lost as distribution continues throughout 2019 across America, Canada and in parts of the former Soviet Union.



Russian Bibles Arrive in Riga, Latvia

One twenty-foot container of 10,000 copies of Russian Bibles arrived in Latvia on November 5th and at Salvation Temple in Riga November 9th. Pastor Petr Samoylich (pictured right) holds a copy. He was very pleased with the binding, the study helps of center column references and the sixteen maps. Many have already been distributed to Russian speakers in planned outreaches through the new church plant in Vecmīlgrāvis and through two cultural centers in December. Pray for souls to be saved. Pray as these 10,000 copies of the Word of God continue to be distributed throughout Latvia in the coming months.



We anticipated the cost would be about \$5.00 a copy. Rejoice! The cost was only \$4.74 a copy. Rejoice! All of the funds for this project were provided in 2018.



Distribution of Bibles in Lithuania

Some may remember that in 2009 we printed 25,000 Lithuanian Bibles. The distribution of all the Bibles was interrupted due to some problems with missionary personnel. However, Phase II of that distribution has recently begun. Please pray particularly for an outreach scheduled for June 11-21 in Šiauliai. An evangelistic team from USA will be holding special meetings, and God willing, 500 copies of complete Lithuanian Bibles will be distributed then. Join with us in prayer for the Lord to prepare hearts to freely receive the Lithuanian Bible and for souls to be saved.

“The sower soweth the word ... And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit.” (Mark 4)

75th Anniversary 1944-2019

The Russian Bible Society is the oldest established mission to the part of the world now called the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Russian Bible Society was first founded in 1812 in a time when the iron-handed church state relationship was loosened somewhat. For fourteen years the society went well, with the cooperation of Czar Alexander I and under the leadership of Prince Galatsin. A good Russian translation of the New Testament was printed. There is no doubt God used this period to spread His Word in the language of the Russian people, which produced an evangelical revival in the land. However, for fear of an evangelical Reformation in the Orthodox Church, the Orthodox clergy stirred up opposition against the Bible Society. So, in 1826, under Czar Nicholas I the Russian Bible Society was disbanded.

The Russian Bible Society was brought to new life in 1944, under the direction of Pastor Basil Malof (William Fetler was his birth name). When he was naturalized as a U.S. citizen he took the name Basil Malof). Pastor Malof was converted at fifteen years of age in the little Baptist assembly that met in his father's house. He was baptized with other converts after midnight for fear of persecution and imprisonment. Shortly after this he was called to preach and gave his first sermon at the age of sixteen. He was trained at Spurgeon's Pastors College in London, England, as there were no evangelical training schools in Russia.



In 1907 he graduated with honors and returned to Russia with this conviction: "If John Knox could claim all Scotland for Christ, why can I not claim all Russia for Christ?" God led him in the founding of three Baptist churches. The first was the Dom Evangelia (Gospel House) in St. Petersburg. Later he established the Moscow Baptist Church. This church is still in existence today. Pastor Malof also started the Salvation Temple in Riga, Latvia, which was recently returned to the Baptists in Riga and has both Russian and Latvian-speaking congregations.

In 1914 Pastor Malof was arrested and sentenced to Siberia. Later this sentence was commuted to banishment abroad. He then began to evangelize the two million Russian war prisoners in Germany and Austria. He later came to the United States from where he was able to send large quantities of Bible portions and other Christian literature and gospel tracts, which were translated into Russian by his wife. These were distributed to the Russians who were prisoners in Germany.

Pastor Malof never forgot the people of Russia. His burden was to reach his own people. In 1944 he reopened the Russian Bible Society and began the first real effort in modern

times to get Bibles into Russia. Basil Malof went to glory in 1956. The work continued by his capable friend and fellow laborer, Dr. James Stewart, until his own passing in 1975. Since then Dr. Bob Doom has been the International Director.

*"Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and **send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared:** for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength."*

—Nehemiah 8:10

We want to thank God for sustaining this ministry for the past 74 years. Our God has kept us through trials, difficulties and attacks of Satan. He has enabled us to not apostatize from the faith "*once delivered unto the saints.*" Many churches, schools and Christian organizations have turned their backs on the verbal plenary inspiration and full preservation of the Holy Bible, the Word of God. Many have turned from salvation only through the substitutional, finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and His physical, bodily resurrection three days later, His ascension into heaven, His session at the right hand of God the Father, and His present ministry as High Priest, awaiting the completion of His church. Many have forsaken the truth of His personal, visible return for His bride. Please pray that the Lord will keep the Russian Bible Society true to His Word and to His person and work until He calls us home to heaven. Please pray as we consider projects for this 75th year.

The heartbeat of Malof, reflected in a poem written by him in 1919, is still our heartbeat.

A Missionary's Longing

I have seen your thriving cities,
I have walked along your streets;
I have heard your homely ditties
And have tasted all your sweets.

But my heart is longing, longing,
Where is heard my native speech,
Where the hungry crowds are thronging
Just to hear us simply preach.

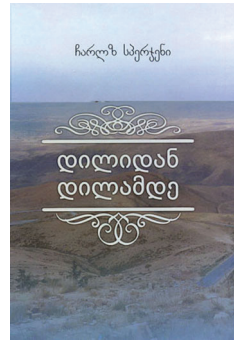
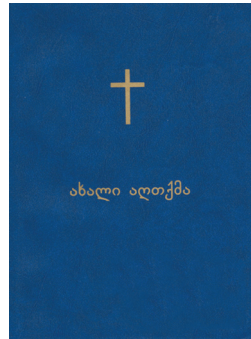
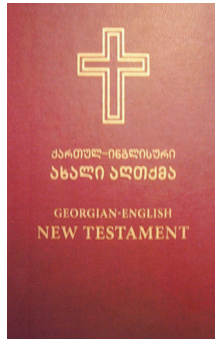
And to preach — that is my calling:
Woe to me if I forget,
When the need is so appalling,
And the crowds are waiting yet!

Let me go! Oh, do not hold me!
They are dying — can I stay?
I must go, for He has called me,
And I must my Lord obey!

Ministry in Republic of Georgia

In a recent email and by telephone Pastor Gary Arutiunov gave a report of the work in Georgia. The Grace Baptist Church has usual Lord's Day services. During the week they have two Bible studies and prayer meeting, along with a weekly men's fellowship. In addition, there is another Bible study group for young mothers which is held in homes.

Also, at the entrance of the church bilingual New Testaments in Georgian and English, New Testaments in Georgian, Georgian Bible Dictionaries, Georgian *Morning by Morning* and Georgian *Pilgrim's Progress* are available for members and attendees to freely take.



"The two sisters, who are responsible for the distribution of Christian literature, regularly attend various institutions, such as schools, orphanages, hospitals, etc ... The following case may be of interest. One family's daughter was kidnapped for ransom. We learned about it and have been visiting them and began to pray together. We also read the Bible. Of course, we gave them one. Psalm 34 in the Russian version touched them especially. Mother repented (prayed the sinner's prayer). A few days later the police detained the three kidnappers and brought the girl home. The organizer of the abduction was their own relative. Parents say that without the support of the Word, these days would be unbearable for them ... Regarding the ministry in Alekseyevka ... We go there once a week and meet the people.

"Our widows are thankful for the increase and pray for you and Brother Balcom and for those people who donate for them. They send warm greetings and best wishes. Two of them walk with difficulty. And when they ask, we bring them separately to the services on Sunday."

Special Prayer for Batumi Baptist Mission: Brother Arkadi Movsesyan, who has labored for eight years in Batumi, has resigned as pastor as of January 1, 2019. First, pray for the Lord to direct him and his wife Milena as to their future. Pastor Arutiunov has made a trip to Batumi and will again oversee that church plant. Pray for the Lord to supply a man to further lead the mission.

"Please pray for us, for the spiritual and physical growth of our church, for widows, for God to add more brothers and youth to the church, for the Batumi group. If I write about all of our prayer needs a whole day would not be enough to list everything."

Pray for Pastor Arutiunov and us that the Lord would give direction about Scriptures and/or books needed for the ministry in the Republic of Georgia in 2019.

Population:
4,926,087 (July 2018 est.)

Ethnic Groups:
Georgian 86.8%
Azeri 6.3%
Armenian 4.5%

Languages:
Georgian (official) 87.6%
Azeri 6.2%
Armenian 3.9%
Russian 1.2%

Religion:
Orthodox (official) 83.4%
Muslim 10.7%



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

_____ Ukrainian Translation

In January we wired funds to continue support of Miranda in the University of Batumi. She continues her labors in that ministry until about February 13th, as God willing, her first child will be born. Her husband, Vladimir, who was converted through the student ministry, is a merchant sailor and is due back into Batumi soon. Pray for the Lord to give her a safe delivery and a healthy baby and for Vladimir to be there in time to support Miranda at the birth.



We rejoice and thank the Lord for your prayers and gifts. Rejoice that all of the needs for the printing projects and ministry were supplied in 2018. We received one gift for the University Student Ministry that covered the first quarter of 2019, and as of the end of January the needs of the Georgian Widows and Ukrainian Translation are also met. We only need \$598.00 to complete the first quarter for Georgian Projects. We have increased our support of the Widows to \$1,050.00 quarterly.

The Lord has been faithful to supply \$2,641.92 for Scripture projects this year. Kindly see The Lord's Treasury below showing our needs for the remainder of 2019. Of course, we will have Scripture and book projects as the Lord directs.

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

“And the word of the LORD was precious
in those days” (1 Samuel 3:1).

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***The Lord's Treasury
for 2019***

| | Total Need | In Hand |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Georgian Projects | \$9,376.00 | \$1,746.00 |
| Georgian University Student Ministry | \$5,860.00 | \$2,100.00 |
| Georgian Widows | \$4,200.00 | \$1,087.86 |
| Ukrainian New Testament | \$75,000.00 | completed |
| Ukrainian Translation | \$12,600.00 | \$3,394.00 |
| Scripture Projects | --- | \$2,641.92 |

*“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:20)*

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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