



SGA
70

PRAYER MATTERS

70TH
ANNIVERSARY
EDITION

SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

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PRAYER DOES NOT FIT US FOR THE GREATER WORK; IT IS THE GREATER WORK

Oswald Chambers

Peter Deyneka, SGA's founder, passionately believed this, and practised it. From its beginnings SGA's ministry was bathed in prayer.

This booklet is designed to encourage and enable you to help God's people in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Far east Russia by prayer (2 Corinthians

1:11). Each day a country or a ministry is presented for focussed intercession, making possible informed and specific prayer for each topic, and generating a volume of prayer which, we believe, **God will graciously answer.** We hope you will not use it just for one month, but for each month of 2020, the 70th Anniversary year of SGA(UK).

HISTORY OF MISSION 70TH ANNIVERSARY

01



SGA (UK)'s ministry has developed from small beginnings to its wide-ranging involvement today in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Far East Russia. **Thousands have heard the Gospel** through SGA supported missionaries, camps, radio broadcasts, and literature

projects. Transport projects have helped extend the ministry of evangelists. Many Houses of Prayer and church buildings have been erected or refurbished with SGA support. **God has protected staff members** and used them to encourage, instruct, and bless indigenous Gospel workers.

PRAYER POINT

Praise God for His faithfulness through seven decades of ministry.

QUOTE

“We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.”

— John R.W. Stott

CRISIS RESPONSE MEDICAL MISSION

02



Imagine having to choose between buying basic food and urgently needed medicine!

That is the stark choice facing many poor villagers in South West Ukraine and North Moldova. The offer of free consultation, treatment and medicine by a

team of Christian doctors and nurses moving around this region, **has been literally a life saver for some.** More blessed even than the relief of pain and sickness, **has been the deliverance of many from spiritual death through this invaluable ministry.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for unusual wisdom and discernment for the medical teams as they diagnose and treat complicated medical conditions.

QUOTE

“Pleading the promises of God is the whole secret of prayer, I sometimes think.”

— M Lloyd-Jones

EASTERN EUROPE HUNGARY

03



With a population of around 10 million, less than 3% are evangelical believers. The majority population professes to be Roman Catholic, but there is much nominalism, and ever-increasing materialism. In many places there is still resistance

to the Gospel. Praise God that evangelical churches are active in evangelism and in church planting. SGA has been effectively supporting and encouraging this through its Leadership Training programme.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for those planning and developing new Church planting initiatives throughout the Hungarian speaking population of Central & Eastern Europe.

QUOTE

“God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it.

– John Wesley

EASTERN EUROPE BULGARIA

04



Evangelical believers make up less than 2% of this strongly Orthodox country. Over 2,000 small towns and villages have no Gospel church or established witness. Many, in rural areas particularly, equate citizenship of Bulgaria with adherence to the Orthodox Church. Leadership

Training, Leadership Support, literature projects including funding of a Bulgarian translation of the Bible, and humanitarian aid, particularly through the Widows' Project **are among the ways in which SGA supports Gospel ministry in this land.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for new evangelists and church planters to be raised up who have a passion for the lost.

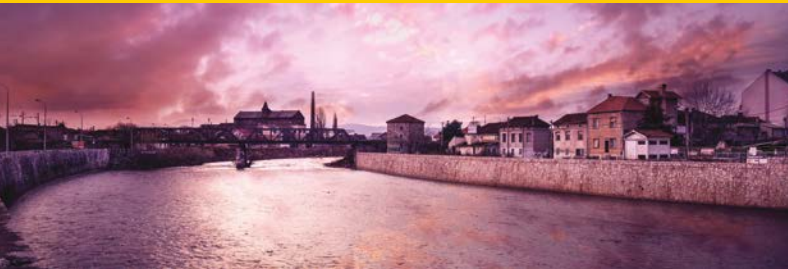
QUOTE

“Whatever we do, we must not treat the Great Commission like it's the Great Suggestion.

– Charles Swindoll

EASTERN EUROPE SERBIA

05



As in neighbouring Bulgaria, there is a strong strain of nationalism in this country whereby one's citizenship is defined by one's religion. The Orthodox Church holds sway for the vast majority, and although there is much nominalism, **there is also serious opposition to Gospel witness.** Almost one quarter of the population lives in

or near the capital, Belgrade, a city with acute social and economic needs. SGA partners with **Bread of Life** in its Gospel care programmes, provides help through the **Widows' Project**, supports ministry through **Leadership Support**, and has **funded the translation of important Christian books.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for an outpouring of God's Spirit in Serbia. National leaders claim the Church has never known revival.

QUOTE

“
Oh! It is a glorious fact, that prayers are noticed in heaven.
–
C.H. Spurgeon

EASTERN EUROPE POLAND

06



Materially more prosperous than many Eastern European countries, Poland continues to be spiritually impoverished. **The vast majority of its 2,500 'gminas' (municipalities) have no evangelical church.** SGA's contribution in past decades was largely support for camp ministry

which was blessed of God and the means of bringing many young people to Christ. **Today Polish leaders carry on this ministry.** SGA continues to support this work financially, but also trains and supports leaders, **and provides finance for the invaluable radio ministry, 'Voice of the Gospel'.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for a new generation of Polish Pastors, preachers and evangelists to take the Gospel to their people.

QUOTE

“
The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.
–
Henry Martyn

EASTERN EUROPE MACEDONIA

07



Part of the former country of Yugoslavia, Macedonia remains one of the most evangelically impoverished nations of Eastern Europe **with an estimated total of around 3,000 believers in a predominantly Orthodox population.** Though small, the evangelical community is active

and **reaches across potentially divisive ethnic boundaries to share the Gospel with all.** The small nation is surrounded by countries from which it feels somewhat isolated and threatened. Greece has its own internal region of Macedonia and continues to dispute the country's claim to this name.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for a growing and united church that will bear witness by its word and example to the transforming power of the Gospel.

QUOTE

I have found that there are three stages in every great work of God; first, it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done.

–
Hudson Taylor

BIBLICAL LITERATURE

08



The pen 'mightier than the sword' continues to be true in Gospel work across our world. From its beginnings SGA(UK) recognized the powerful role of sound Biblical literature, both for the work of evangelism and for the strengthening of believers. **The translation of carefully selected**

books has been the target of substantial financial input, and has been blessed by God in the maturity of many. Ivan Grozdanov (Macedonia) and Ben Faragau (Romania) have been supported in their 'in-country' writing of books and commentaries.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for more national authors who will write biblical literature for their context and people.

QUOTE

I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help Him. I ended up by asking Him to do His work through me.

–
Hudson Taylor

EASTERN EUROPE ROMANIA

09



The dramatic collapse of the Communist regime in 1989 brought **unprecedented opportunities for believers in the former 'underground' churches to expand and intensify their witness to their fellow citizens.** The results were both thrilling and deeply challenging, **for many**

new churches were planted, but were without trained ministry and leadership. **SGA had been involved in the secret training of leaders from the 1970s** and has provided valuable training for hundreds of evangelists, pastors, children's and youth workers.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for more Christian leaders who will effectively teach God's Word and prove to be faithful models to follow.

QUOTE

“Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness.

– Martin Luther

ADVANCE IN ROMANIA

10



The range and variety of SGA's contribution to Gospel work in Romania is arguably broader than in any other field of its operation. **The training and support of Christian workers continues steadily**, along with significant help offered for ministry to widows and orphans, the translation and

production of Christian literature, Christian radio, transport needs, and the vital work of Emanuel Christian University in Oradea. **Many regions of Romania are still without a strong, stable Gospel witness**, and SGA continues where possible to offer Leadership Training in these parts.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for new evangelistic initiatives, particularly in the south and east of the country where resistance to the Gospel has been greater.

QUOTE

“Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work.

– A. B. Simpson

HOUSES OF PRAYER

11



The provision of a place of worship is often critical for the work of evangelism and church planting in Orthodox countries such as Moldova, Serbia and Romania. Orthodox adherents have an inflated view of the Church's structures and furnishings, and are opposed to any idea of

worshipping in a building used for other purposes. **The need for a dedicated meeting place, a 'House of Prayer' is therefore critical and essential to the ministry of church planting.** SGA's Houses of Prayer project endeavours to address that need.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for the effective witness of each fellowship that meets in a 'House of Prayer'. Pray that the light of the Gospel will shine forth into their communities.

QUOTE

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

– Martin Luther

GOSPEL ON THE MOVE TRANSPORT

12



Christian workers face constant problems as they attempt to sustain ministry in scattered locations or advance into new areas. **Road and transport systems are often poor or even non-existent.** Those who own and run vehicles are faced with recurring repair bills, as the roads take their

toll on wheels, tyres, suspension units and so on. SGA's supply of motor bikes to some and good second-hand cars to others, have been a rich practical blessing and help to pastors and evangelists in their spiritual ministry. **Gospel work has been significantly enhanced through this project.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for more Gospel work to be done in new locations as evangelists and missionaries make use of SGA provided vehicles.

QUOTE

If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honour, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?

– David Livingstone

EASTERN EUROPE UKRAINE

13



The history of Ukraine is one of almost continuous subjugation to other powers such as the Vikings, Mongols, Poles, and Russians. The vast region of Ukraine has only become a fully independent nation with the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, although the spectre of a hostile Russia

continues to throw a dark shadow particularly in the continuing struggle in the east of the country. The majority religion is Orthodox with a large Catholic community too, but there is a small rich vein of evangelical church life, **with an emphasis on evangelism and church planting.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for the Ukrainian missionary movement as believers seek to bring the Gospel to their people as well as other former Soviet states.

QUOTE

All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on God being with them.

–
Hudson Taylor

COMPASSION FOR UKRAINE

14



Following the annexation of Crimea by Russia in March 2014 serious agitation by pro-Russian sympathizers in the east of the country quickly degenerated into open warfare. **The UN reports in excess of 13,000 dead and over 1 million displaced people.** Evangelical churches were perceived to be 'western' in

sympathy and were the target of violent action. **Many believers fled, but some have remained and in the face of grave danger, continue to care for souls.** SGA has responded by offering financial support to the churches so that they can respond to critical needs in their communities.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for Christians living in Eastern Ukraine who are facing growing opposition and discrimination from the 'separatist' authorities.

QUOTE

Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.

–
William Carey

70TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

At the heart of our 70th anniversary celebrations is an initiative which will by God's grace promote the spread of the Gospel and bring Good News to ears which have never heard it before. **The central thrust is to raise support in prayer and finance for seventy new church planters** – one for each year of SGA's existence – **to establish light where before there was only darkness.** Over half have already been identified, with others under prayerful consideration.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for 70 new Mission Pastors to take the hope of the Gospel to Eastern Europe, Central Asia and far East Russia.

QUOTE

Christ wants not nibblers of the possible, but grabbers of the impossible.

–
C.T. Studd



PRAYER POINT

Pray for new and committed partners for SGA (UK) who will join us in the task of serving Christ's Church and equipping His people.

QUOTE

The history of missions is the history of answered prayer.

–
Samuel Zwemer

EASTERN EUROPE MODLOVA

17



Moldova is one of the poorest countries in which SGA ministers, with many living on the poverty line. SGA's long involvement in Gospel work in Moldova has resulted in a wide range of projects and activities, including the Widows' Project and other humanitarian aid initiatives.

The support of Gospel workers, financially and practically, has been essential to the sustained multiplication of evangelical churches. **In the year 1993 there was a Gospel church for every 15 villages; today it is estimated that there is one for every 4 villages.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for churches as they deal with the constant emigration of their young people to western countries. This is a common problem across eastern Europe.

QUOTE

“
Prayer is not a last extremity, it's a first necessity.
–
Author unknown

ADVANCE IN MOLDOVA

18



The SGA Mission school in Balti has been operating for over **twenty-five years**, and several hundred graduates now serve in the churches in various ministries. The period of intense spiritual renewal following the collapse of Communism, has diminished significantly but, **with the support**

of SGA, church planting initiatives continue to be undertaken, and Houses of Prayer refurbished or constructed to aid these. Transport is provided for many pastors and evangelists who serve in multiple locations, and mini-libraries given to help Christian workers develop and sustain their ministries.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for a rejection of formal religious tradition and an openness to authentic Gospel truth among those who regard themselves as Christians because of their connection to the Orthodox church.

QUOTE

“
The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history.
–
Andrew Murray

CENTRAL ASIA TURKMENISTAN

19



To the south, Turkmenistan borders Iran and Afghanistan, so at once it is clear that Turkmen believers face immense challenges in seeking to live and witness for their Saviour. **Evangelicals are numbered at a few thousand in a population of over 5 million**, and many of

these are not ethnic Turkmen, but of Russian and Ukrainian stock. However, in recent years, despite unrelenting opposition and persecution, **ethnic Turkmen believers are growing in number and witnessing to their own people.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for Christians as they seek to live for Christ in one of the most difficult countries to be a believer.

QUOTE

There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!

– Abraham Kuyper

CENTRAL ASIA UZBEKISTAN

20



A ‘closed’ country to the Gospel after the fall of Communism, it is encouraging to hear of a recent softening on the part of the government to the outside world. However, this will take time to filter down and ease pressure on believers in this country. **Evangelical believers number less than 0.5% in a population**

of almost 30 million – an infinitesimal minority. The vast majority in this strongly Muslim country have never met a true believer in Christ. SGA, with Bibel-Mission, supports outreach into this country by radio, literature, and humanitarian aid projects, and the IBCS training course.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for encouragement and steadfastness in faith for believers in Uzbekistan who often have to meet in secret underground house churches.

QUOTE

Against the persecution of a tyrant the godly have no remedy but prayer

– John Calvin

CRISIS RESPONSE ORPHANS & WIDOWS

21



‘Pure religion’ we are told by James, is to care for the fatherless and widows in their need. We are so conscious that this resonates with SGA supporters. The Widows’ Project and the various children’s projects undertaken have never failed to draw the prayerful and

practical support of our partners. More recently the building and maintenance of Hope Centres in Central Asia **has been the focus of much SGA prayer and financial aid**, initiatives which have resulted in physical, material, and most importantly, spiritual blessings for many.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for ongoing efforts to relieve the practical and spiritual needs of the most vulnerable in society.

QUOTE

“
He said ‘Love...as I have loved you’. We cannot love too much.
–
Amy Carmichael

MISSION WITHOUT WALLS RADIO MINISTRY

22



The title given to SGA’s radio support project, ‘**Mission Without Walls**’, is appropriate and descriptive of the power and influence of this vital ministry. **The ‘voice’ of the radio can enable those in circumstances of suppression and persecution to feed on God’s Word.** It is a

source of encouragement as it reminds them that they belong to a larger family of God. **Radio outreach was one of the earliest channels of outreach by SGA**, and it continues today in Poland, Romania, and Central Asia.

PRAYER POINT

Prayer that God will use radio broadcasts to encourage believers and reach those whom Christians cannot meet face to face.

QUOTE

“
Oh, will you pray? Stop now and pray, lest desire turn to feeling and feeling evaporate.
–
Amy Carmichael

CENTRAL ASIA KYRGYZSTAN

23



Squeezed between Kazakhstan and China, Kyrgyzstan's six million inhabitants **are predominantly Muslim, with a tiny proportion of less than 1% evangelical believers.** As in other Central Asian countries Islamic worship is often superficial and syncretistic, with shamanism and occultic

practices still widespread especially in rural communities. **There are continuing reports of violent action against believers, especially those who have been converted to Christ from Islam.** Yet believers continue to witness, and the churches continue to grow.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for the small church to mature in faith and be blessed by God as they witness to the truth and uniqueness of Jesus Christ.

QUOTE

His authority on earth allows us to dare to go to all the nations. His authority in heaven gives us our only hope of success. And His presence with us leaves us no other choice.
- John Stott

CENTRAL ASIA TAJIKISTAN

24



A rugged and beautiful country of Central Asia, **Tajikistan remains one of the most spiritually needy regions of the former Soviet Union.** Large areas of the country lack any Gospel church or witness. **There is need of a Tajik translation of the Scriptures.** SGA, in partnership with Bibel

Mission, **is helping to establish 'Hope Centres' – places of Gospel witness,** which also provide help and humanitarian aid to vulnerable adults and children. Support is also provided for church planters through the 70th Anniversary project.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for the provision and distribution of a faithful Tajik translation of the Bible.

QUOTE

We talk of the Second Coming; half of the world has never heard of the first'
- Oswald J. Smith

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

25



After the collapse of the Soviet Union the greatest need of the evangelical churches was for trained church leaders. 'Ad hoc' teaching which had been conducted secretly in the forests and mountains of Romania during Soviet times, was developed into a 'School of the Prophets', and

after 1989 into SGA's structured Leadership Training Programme which is in operation today. By request it was 'exported' to other countries, and has helped prepare thousands of Gospel workers across our fields of operation.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for the leadership training taking place in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

QUOTE

I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible.

–
D. L. Moody

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING – IBCS

26



The Independent Bible Correspondence School is organized by SGA's Central Asian partners, Bibel Mission, in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Courses in nine languages are sent to students scattered through the five Muslim countries of Central Asia, providing teaching for

believers who have no other means of Biblical education. **Many undertake the courses secretly for fear of persecution.** Lessons are discretely distributed in hard copy or by coded access to the internet. SGA supports this ministry financially and by prayer.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for the students of IBCS as they are equipped for evangelism and various forms of Christian leadership.

QUOTE

Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure.

–
D. L. Moody

FAR EAST RUSSIA

27



It is difficult to convey the geographical isolation of this vast region. **It is one of the most sparsely populated parts of the world with less than one person per square kilometre.** Average winter temperatures are below - 35. The absence of any kind of infrastructure in many

regions, coupled with lack of the usual means of communication, and the complexity of ethnic divisions, makes this an extremely difficult and challenging area to evangelize. **Russian Orthodoxy is the official religion, but many practise shamanism and folk religion.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for God's blessing on new evangelists and church planters who are bringing the Gospel to an effectively unreached part of the world.

QUOTE

“
The Gospel is only good news if it gets there in time.
–
Carl F.H. Henry

CENTRAL ASIA KAZAKHSTAN

28



The largest land-locked country in the world has a population of less than 18 million, most of whom live around the periphery of the country. Enormous natural reserves have made a minority of the population very rich but left many in poverty. **The majority population is Muslim,**

but this is often syncretized with shamanism and forms of folk religion. Recent legislation, passed in order to counter Muslim radicalism, has had spin-off effects on Gospel ministry, **but the country remains relatively open.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for the growth of the Church among the ethnic Kazakh population who are traditionally Muslim.

QUOTE

“
To belong to Jesus is to embrace the nations with Him.
–
William Carey

SPECIFIC LITERATURE KAZAKH BIBLE

29



There are eleven million Kazakh speakers in the country, but until 2010 there was no complete Bible in Kazakh. Only a limited number of this edition was produced, and it was a less than satisfactory translation in some respects. SGA in partnership with

Bibel-Mission has sponsored a new, faithful translation. **100,000 copies will be produced and placed in Kazakh 'extended family' homes** with the potential of reaching up to 1 million Kazakh speakers.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for the conversion of many Muslims to Jesus Christ as the Bible is distributed among the Kazakh people.

QUOTE

The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It needs no furlough and is never considered a foreigner.

– William Cameron Townsend

CRISIS RESPONSE GENERAL

30



From its inception SGA(UK) endeavoured to minister to the 'whole man'. Much of its early ministry was offering humanitarian help. However, in the conviction that 'faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God', SGA's Crisis Response is Bible

based and Gospel orientated.

The various regular aid projects, as well as intervention in emergency and war situations, **have provided invaluable opportunities to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for wisdom and discernment for those involved in humanitarian projects so that care is directed to souls and not just bodies.

QUOTE

The purpose of the church is to make the invisible kingdom visible through faithful Christian living and witness-bearing

– J I Packer

UNITED KINGDOM MINISTRY

31



The generation which lived during the repressive rule of Communism in E Europe and C Asia is diminishing, **and one of the great challenges on the home front is to convince a new generation that these countries are a desperately needy mission field.** As older supporters go

home to glory, the ranks of prayer warriors need to be strengthened with new blood. **Part of the 70th Anniversary celebrations is to achieve this by gaining access to new churches and presenting our ministry to a wider audience.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for new opportunities to present the work and ministry of SGA to more individuals and churches.

QUOTE

The Great Commission is too big for anyone to accomplish alone and too important not to try to do together

—
Steve Moore





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