



Christian Radio for Russia

Sponsor of the New Life Radio Satellite Network, Moscow Russia

March 2016

www.CRFR.org

NLR from 1996 to 2016: Looking to the future of Christian radio inside Russia, from an interesting past

Moscow station, staff and CRFR updates

Russian-American Christian partnerships in the midst of difficult political relations

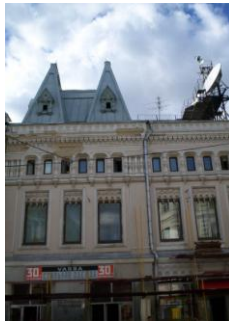
70 years of Soviet control over broadcasting came to an end in 1992 as a new Russia and new laws gave the right of mass media ownership back to individuals. For the first time it became possible to establish Christian radio stations in this land of atheism, and in the next year, the Evangelical Covenant Church denomination sent Daniel Johnson to Magadan, Russia to begin the development of Christian radio.



A spiritually dark city, formerly known as the center of the Soviet gulag prison region, a three year effort of licensing and station building took place before NEW LIFE RADIO-Magadan finally went on the air in 1996, becoming the first Christian FM station in Russia. It soon became apparent that the rest of the nation needed Christian FM as well, but the costs and expertise was seemingly beyond the means of small evangelical churches to afford and maintain. A solution had to be found.

The solution lay in adapting a new media for the purpose: direct to home satellite radio. If a centralized radio facility could transmit 24/7 satellite signals across Russia's 9 time zones free of charge to all users, then American Christians could provide a low cost FM station package to local Russian Christian radio organizers who upon securing a radio channel, would only need to pay space and power costs for a full time FM radio affiliate. No personnel or large building would be needed, and residents still had the option to receive the programs using inexpensive home satellite equipment. So this became the strategy that created NEW LIFE RADIO-Moscow!

In 2000, Daniel and a team of young Russian believers miraculously set up shop in a restricted government communication facility next to Red Square in Moscow that allowed them to link to the new *ABS satellite* that provided signal coverage across 11 time zones!

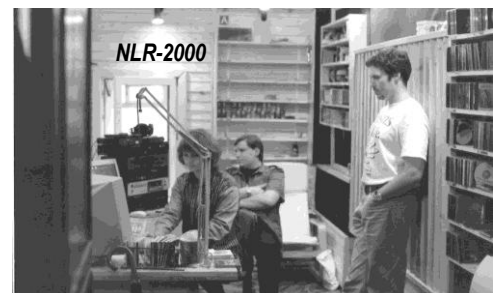


In December of that year, New Life Radio inaugurated nationwide Christian satellite radio, featuring a Christian contemporary music format and Bible teaching for a young target audience of 18-45. Soon, Christians across Russia began applying for FM channels, while Dan and his colleagues at HCJB Radio worked closely to offer legal expertise and provide FM station gear.



NLR was a station that offered the Russian public an option and style never before heard over domestic radio, and its unique blend of music, Christian drama, and Biblical instruction served a useful tool for local evangelism and discipleship.

Over the next few years, a number of cities obtained licenses and NLR expanded its FM affiliate network.



By 2006, New Life Radio was a full fledged radio network offering satellite, FM, and initiating 24/7 Christian Internet radio. Sadly, it was also a year of increasing government restrictions over the free press as well as freedom of religion. The pioneer station in Magadan was closed as the Kremlin refused to renew its broadcast license. Other FM affiliates lost their licenses as well due to various pretexts involving state control. New licenses would not be issued to Christians who had been waiting as long as 5 years for a local FM channel.



Despite these losses, New Life Radio—led by Station manager Dima Vatoulya--began developing a global radio audience as it now had the means to connect with Russian-speakers via satellite or Internet. Listener

responses from places as varied as Sacramento to Siberia, Chukotka to China, as well as Europe and even down to Israel came in.

It was clear that NLR's format was effective in reaching young people for Christ, and as a realization set in that the days of developing Christian broadcasting within Russia were closing, New Life Radio would become an even more important media resource for the evangelical Church. With Christians locked out from accessing secular media, and 99% of communities without a local Christian station, the challenge for providing a Christian voice to the nation remained forefront in the mission.

Over the next ten years, with changes in personnel, satellites, and FM affiliates, New Life Radio continued in its primary task to transmit Biblically-sound teaching, preaching, music, and encouragement to a new generation of Slavic youth who need to hear the good news of new life in CHRIST!

Formed as a spiritual partnership between Christians in America who provide the financing for transmission, studio, and Moscow staff support—with the radio missionaries responsible for reaching their own people with the message, *Christian Radio for Russia* carries on as a non-profit ministry designed to ensure that NLR can meet its broadcast obligations and support the evangelical Church in Slavic lands.

With no commercials, no on air requests for funding, and free air time for Russian producers, 20 years of NLR is a miracle!

The future of NLR: 2016 and beyond



New Life Radio today faces challenges as the Russian government has closed the window for foreign control over mass media.

New laws coming into force in February 2016 required changes in the organization of New Life Radio, but it will continue to be supported by your gifts through *Christian Radio for Russia* and will continue to broadcast the Good News to our listening audience.

Station manager Dima Vatoulya comments:



“It seems more and more that ministries like NLR are not being welcomed in Russia. That only means that NLR is more important these days than ever before, and we should be strong, trust the Lord and keep doing our work.

So let's be encouraged, do what we should to develop the station even more, broadcasting the Lord's Gospel while being a spiritual support and encouragement for our listeners!”



CRFR PRESIDENT's note on the situation in Moscow:

NOW THE GOOD NEWS! We are very encouraged by recent amendments to the Russian media law that should make it a simple process to ensure the continuity of our current radio network structure. The Lord is obviously responsible for this!

Christian Radio for Russia will continue to oversee the financing of NLR, as well as its technical facilities in Moscow. CRFR has full contractual control over NLR's Hotbird satellite radio channel from our earth station site in Israel, as well as the station's Internet broadcast service—facilitated by a Christian streaming service in the USA.

While we have the technical issues under control, there is a spiritual battle in this land that has for so long been under repression by our enemy and his dark minions. We ask our ministry partners to keep NLR in daily prayer as our radio missionaries take on the challenge of proclaiming the Gospel every day to a hurting nation engaged in wars; repressed in their freedom of faith and press, and struggling financially during these times of Russian economic turmoil.

Daniel Johnson

OUR 2016 NEW LIFE RADIO staff to keep in prayer:

*Dima Vatoulya,
Nadia Zakirova,
Andre Ryabenko,
Andre Mironov,
Vladimir Gorlan
Dennis Gorlov,
Artyom Novikov*



NLR Moscow BUDGET \$15,000/month

You can help sponsor ...

- one hour of global airtime for \$60
- a full time missionary for \$1700/month
- our station rent for \$900/mo. Internet radio for \$50/day

CRFR Update...

The CRFR board of directors is pleased to announce the addition of a new board member and treasurer.



Marlene Hamrick, of Youngsville, PA has taken over this most important job that oversees the donor contributions, financial operations of CRFR, and the transferal of funding to NLR in Moscow.

Marlene is employed by Jamestown Community College and has many years of financial experience. We are grateful to have her serving with us!

CRFR would like to publically thank those who have completed their service as board members:

*Serge Taran, Dallas TX
Dave Shelton, Seattle, WA
Stacey Daugharthy, PA*

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in serving on our board, and can assist with fund raising or logistics, please contact Daniel Johnson at the CRFR office. FOUR POSITIONS are open at present.

Current board members:

*Rev. Ken Wagner, Chair
Rev. Randy Vaught
Brian Bettger
Marlene Hamrick*

OUR LISTENERS respond to NLR

I want to thank all people working at NLR for their labor! May God bless you!

Vladimir Blackburn (England)



Thank you New Life Radio for your work, especially lately - new programs, new intros! When I go somewhere and there is no Internet I miss you so much! God is using your radio sketches, sermons, so often to speak to me, comfort me and even to do something good! Recently I've met a girl in a park and I didn't have a Bible with me, but I remembered about your radio and we found it together on the Internet. I hope she continues to listen to it! God bless you, grow in God's glory!

Ekaterina (Krasnodar, Russia)

Love and Amen! Hello my dear radio. Right now I'm sitting here and listening to your radio - I live with your radio! Wonderful living and new music is filling my house. Everything is good.

Igor

Dear NLR radio team, You are carrying the Gospel to people as Jesus commanded. Thank you for what you took in your heart as a real challenge—to bring the light of the Gospel over the airwaves, following God's dream. I believe that your work, your dedication to God and to the service of his church will bring a lot of beautiful fruit that will glorify our Creator. Let the rain of blessings of God be shed on those seeds of faith that you continue to sow in fulfillment of God's plan

Very informative programs! I like the short radio dramas because they communicate the sense of our Father's Word in heaven. Thank you for the music—always fresh and new! DO NOT STOP! I always recommend to all my friends your radio station. And forgive me, I'm doing you a little advertising on social networks!

ARKADY (Russia)

I personally love your radio station very much! Here in the deep village areas you are like a gateway to heaven! It is so great that even though we don't have a church here in our place, God provided NLR as a voice of the Word of God here. Not all our neighbors like that, but it is great that you are here. May the Lord bless you!

ALEX

Hello NLR. I am your listener since 2004. First I heard your short radio spots somewhere, then I started to listen on the satellite. Now I listen to you on the Internet: at work, home, anywhere. This is so convenient! My co-workers are not yet Christian, but they also listen with me: talk shows, music, etc. You influence people so much! It is so obvious that you have a great radio team.

ALEXEI

I listen to NLR for more than 5 years! I like your music and programs and get encouragement and new knowledge every time I listen to you!

IVAN (Russia)

Hello NLR! I am with you for more than 4 years already! I thank God for your hard work, for your love that one can see in your programs and that you invest in this radio station.

Your work has so much meaning for us! You are never boring: you are positive, teaching, instructing, energetic, musical. Your interviews are always interesting. Preaching, short dramas, programs for women, stories, Old Testament history and much more! Be blessed, may God strengthen you in your ministry!

IRINA (Russia)

Hello NLR! I listen to you every day at work; I like your format of active talk and interaction so please continue doing this. I listen to you even at home via satellite. May the Lord help you in every way!

NIKOLAI (Russia)

**LISTEN to NLR daily at:
www.NLRradio.net**

**Christian Radio
for Russia**



Box 428

Jamestown, NY 14701

CRFR@juno.com

A 501©3 non profit org.

All contributions tax-deductible