

Christian Radio for Russia

Sponsor of the New Life Radio Satellite Network—Odessa, Ukraine
Serving the Slavic world with Christian truth through Biblical programming



SPECIAL REPORT 5/18/22

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NEW LIFE RADIO—boldly broadcasting the Gospel in war



Ivan at the NLR remote studio

Psalm 27: THE LORD IS MY LIGHT and my salvation; whom shall I fear? Thou an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, on this I will be confident...wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart!

A timeline of events and actions at New Life Radio

84 days of war have passed since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The city of Odessa, once spared attacks by Russian forces for the first two months of the war, is now experiencing daily artillery shelling indiscriminately hitting civilian targets and other points of military significance. The outcome of the conflict is uncertain and may continue for a long period. But despite the suffering, destruction, and death that is manifested nationwide, THE CALL OF THE GOSPEL continues as we reach out to the people of Ukraine and Russia.

A RECAP: On February 27th, to save the NLR network in case of destruction of our facility, station manager Ivan Zhurakovski and our programmer Eva vacated Odessa to set up a studio in Iasi, Romania. They now produce a live 5 hour daily broadcast, then switch the radio signal back to Odessa for relay to our satellite and Internet networks using radio automation to program the late night and early morning hours. The NLR main station is managed by our radio engineer (Yuri Ignatenko) who remains alone at the facility in Odessa living and working there 24/7.

CRFR is now seeking additional missionary staffing to complete our Russian service, though this may take time as potential candidates are focused on dealing with the war. NLR needs at least two more people who are seminary-trained and able to teach the Scriptures to nations.

It is unclear what the future holds, yet we will trust in the Lord as He is sovereign over this world and we will follow in whatever path He chooses for us. We ask for prayer, that there would be peace, and that our ministry stay equipped to carry out Christ's command to proclaim the Gospel to the Slavic world. **THANKS to our CRFR partners** who have generously invested so we can operate both the Odessa and Iasi studio operations.

Please PRAY for the protection of the NLR station on Kutuzakia St. in Odessa, that the Lord would spare it for the future use of our expanded radio outreach to both Russia & Ukraine!



HOW ARE THE BROADCASTS GOING?

NLR, having audiences throughout Russia and Ukraine, is in a unique position to help Christians—who are on opposing sides of the war—make sense of the crisis they find themselves in, providing reasoned Biblical explanations dealing with war, military service, duty to government, discerning the good or evil actions of political leaders, forgiveness, fear, hope, and even how nations prosper when they follow God's Word and commands. Many listeners write from cities suffering from bombardment and an out of control Russian military, asking the basic questions of why, where is God, how do I have hope for the future, how do I act toward those bent on our destruction?

NLR provides chat lines on various social media sites to field these listener questions and responses. NLR airs daily song request hours and listener greetings, dedications, and comments as we seek to instill a sense of Christian fellowship focused on our family identity and relationship in Christ. NLR depends on the Scriptures to provide sound counsel as they are the best means to meet the deepest needs and concerns of the listener. Our staff does this daily, even as they themselves face dangers from similar assaults by Russian forces targeting Odessa. The NLR remote studio in Iasi, located miles from the Moldova border may also need to relocate as the area is being threatened by Russian forces in Transnistria. So as the staff reads *Psalm 27* on the air, they do so knowing the risks they face and the comfort the Bible gives them!

LIGHT in the midst of darkness: A development plan for NLR



In Matthew 24, Jesus told His disciples they would hear of wars and rumors of wars, and said *"see that you are not troubled, for all these things must come to pass, and the end is not yet."*

Christ's command to reach the nations continues on. As we pray for peace and resolution during these times of mass terror and war, we look for new doors that the Lord might open to further His mission of evangelism and discipleship to those we are called to reach. In our last news update, we gave you a hint of opening doors and we ask you to petition the Lord to give us insight and discernment in this process.

As the devastation and impact of this war increased, NLR has witnessed the growing rejection of all things Russian—including political, social and cultural ties, and more importantly, language—by the suffering people of Ukraine. It now seems paramount to establish a second radio service of NLR, this time in Ukrainian, in order to present God's Word to hundreds of struggling communities across the nation in their own language. But can we pull it off, given the logistical, financial, and personnel needs involved?

Ukraine is in a similar situation as Russia, where 97% of communities have no local Christian radio station. This is where NLR's model of radio ministry can make the difference as we provided programming via satellite FM and Internet. NLR can now replicate what we developed 22 years ago in Russia. We propose to call the service **РАДІО НОВЕ ЖИТТЯ**

It will be as big a ministry challenge that we faced when we first started our mission in Russia, and NLR can only take this on as we perceive that the Lord is directing our path toward this goal. The new channel can be our contribution to public evangelism in this land, and to the future of Ukraine, as even its leaders understand this nation needs to redevelop its social and political institutions based on a Christian worldview and moral framework, that is the historic underpinning of their culture and identity.

The Details: The NLR radio facility in Odessa has sufficient studio space to easily create two separate channels, but the challenge will be to **1)** Raise new funds to support four radio missionaries to form the core of the Ukrainian service. **2)** Establish an Internet radio distribution of the signal. **3)** Leasing a second radio channel over the *Hotbird* satellite for 100% coverage of Ukraine will set the stage for the final phase of our plans: **4)** A national network of FM radio affiliates! NLR, in conjunction with local Christian radio organizers across Ukraine can begin applying for hundreds of FM radio frequencies in villages and cities in order to retransmit the NLR satellite signal using local transmitters that can be purchased by American church partners. This will provide a 24/7 Christian station, without requiring staff to operate! Local churches will be responsible for maintaining compliance and fees for the yearly channel usage, and electricity costs for transmitters. **Total NLR network satellite cost to CRFR: \$7,000/mo.**

PRAYER REQUESTS over the next few months:

NLR staff: PRAY for this time of transition as our split up radio team continues to do their work. CRFR has made arrangements for Ivan and Eva to secure a house through the summer for family and two studios in Iasi even as they hope to return to Odessa as soon as possible. They will stay in Romania until it is safe to return.



Eva live on air from Iasi, Romania

YURI in Odessa: pray that God keeps Yuri in good spirits as he lives and works alone at the station. We are looking for new staff to join him as soon as possible. Pray for the right candidates to work at New Life Radio.

Pray for the many Ukrainian seminaries and ministry contacts that we will be dealing with over the next months. NLR has a huge work ahead in order to secure Ukrainian language Bible teaching, apologetics, and music programming for a 24/7 broadcast day. Pray that God puts the right people in our path to accomplish these tasks.

As of today, we don't know how this new project will turn out, but we do know the people of Ukraine and Russia desperately need to hear the Gospel and the comfort of hearing the Word of God properly taught.

CRFR now has a new video detailing this effort: Write to us if you want a copy of it!

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!