



Christian Radio for Russia

Sponsor of the New Life Satellite Network—broadcasting from Odessa, Ukraine via satellite & Internet at www.NLRadio.net

Fall 2022

www.CRFR.org

NEW LIFE RADIO: ongoing challenges as war continues

9/23/22 Friday, 2:32 pm Studio C: Odessa

Air raid sirens penetrate the thick windows of NLR's many studios with long howling blasts that makes it impossible to speak into the microphone for the afternoon air shift. The staff takes a break in the lounge getting ready for the upcoming listener request hour.



Unbeknownst to them, Iranian drones operated by the Russians attack the naval port facilities just a mile or so down the street. The staff are used to the sirens, but it's different for CRFR's Daniel Johnson in Studio C checking out the new Ukrainian language broadcast, not knowing what was going on. All were thankful the missiles didn't hit the building. Daniel had just painted the blue and yellow colors of Ukraine on the NLR satellite dish installed on the outside of the fourth floor studios, and hoped it would keep authorities away from the station, but it makes a good bulls eye for the opposition. It's been a tough week for men, but a good one for radio! *How Great Thou Art* is playing on the air from Studio B. God is in control and NLR finishes out another week of live broadcasting confident that the Lord has a job for them to do, and not even a war is going to stop them.



Earlier in the week, Vladimir Putin announced a large mobilization to expand the war in Ukraine and the chances for peace seemed to ebb away from recent hopes for an end to the conflict. The fact that this is spiritual warfare hasn't been lost on the NLR team as they have been fighting various issues connected with the war. NLR manager Ivan Zhurakovski, who recently left Romania for Budapest to operate our remote studio, was recently subject to laws forcing him as a Russian citizen to resign as the station's "official" manager. Other state laws against

everything Russian even froze NLR's bank account, while a host of issues needed resolving. Russian attacks on power stations caused our studio electric lines to fluctuate wildly, potentially damaging equipment; the station's Internet service had sporadic outages due to war-related attacks on infrastructure and Russia blocked NLR's Odessa server for www.NLRadio.net (forcing us to use computer servers in Turkey that allow Russians to listen to our broadcasts). What else could go wrong for a Christian station? Fortunately, all the issues are being tackled one at a time, and the station is working fine via satellite and Internet even though a legal process needs completion for a new board director (Peter Zhurakovski).

What's next on the agenda?



NLR is still just developing the *Nove Zhittya* Ukrainian radio service (from Studio C) that will hopefully make our outreach more effective across Ukraine, while keeping the state at bay. A nationwide search for a program director is underway and we wait on the Lord for the right candidate. *Nove Zhittya* now broadcasts on Internet via новежиття_укр. Still experimental with Ukrainian and English Christian music, NLR is now adding teaching programs from David Jeremiah (Turning Point) and *Thru the Bible Radio*, who graciously have provided both Russian and Ukrainian versions. Bible readings from Genesis to Revelation will be the next addition, and we hope eventually to develop a format similar to our current one as we add new staff.

In the meantime, we continue the NLR Russian service, but in a more clandestine approach while the war continues, doing our best to stay in compliance with new state language laws and doing this with audio encryption equipment that links our Odessa studios with Budapest, and hopefully soon, with our satellite uplink in Rome so we can bring Ivan Zhurakovski and family back to Odessa to oversee NLR operations.

CRFR is especially thankful to those special donors who provided extra funds to allow us to cover the costs of sending Ivan to Iasi and Budapest in order to safeguard our radio network during uncertain times. We expect him to remain there for six months until the war situation is clearer.



Ivan arriving in Budapest with NLR equipment

PRAY for the ending of this war, for God's protection of our NLR facility and for the boldness of our staff to proclaim the Gospel fearlessly!

A RATIONALE FOR SUPPORTING NEW LIFE RADIO's teaching function:



Troubling facts from the war include the departure of hundreds of pastors from their churches in Ukraine, escaping the country for a variety of reasons; plus the physical destruction of more than 400 church buildings nationwide. Churchgoers who stay behind, question why their leaders left in time of crisis, and for the few pastors who do come back, there is a lack of respect and loss of reputation for leaving their flock. Losing access to the pulpit is often the result, while the need for solid Biblical instruction for the congregation and suffering community is clear and New Life Radio's Bible teaching broadcasts can make a difference daily. Our radio never left these people, and listeners are depending on us for our lineup of outstanding teachers like Alexey Kolomitsev, Charles Stanley, Dan Duncan, Steve Lawson, and others to deliver the Word.

Down in Crimea, near Odessa, *Forum18 News* reports freedom of religion and belief is, along with other human rights, severely restricted within the Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory. Violations include forced imposition of Russian laws and restrictions on exercising human rights, including freedom of religion or belief; jailing Crimean prisoners of conscience; forcible closure of places of worship; and fining people for leading meetings for worship without Russian state permission.

New Life Radio's daily broadcasts into Crimea (and the eastern Donbass region) via satellite and Internet radio can penetrate every population center there, and listeners can quietly tune in without the authorities knowing about it. This is part of the *persecuted church* in both countries that radio can meet to support with God's Word, properly taught, and with encouragement to live out their faith in Christ even amidst the most desperate of times. CRFR DONORS are making this outreach possible on behalf of these people living out the war daily, asking the big questions of life and death, purpose and hope. And it is the hope of the Gospel we have to share with them!

FROM listeners to the NLR staff:

TATIANA: Thank you for God's Word! It really helped me understand the meaning of life! I want to hear more!



ROMAN Sadowski: Thank you New Life Radio for your airtime! Thank you that you broadcast Christ! Special thank you for the leading of the Holy Spirit in the study of the Scriptures. Thank you that Good News doesn't stop and there is a time for those who seek God. May the Lord bless you and can keep you in the truth of God.

ANDRE: I am from Kharkiv, Ukraine. Today, despite the war in our country and shooting up of our city, God loves us and we have reason to be thankful to Him! Thank you to your radio that you today encourage us and pray for peace in our country, that evil would be defeated. Maranatha! God is unchanging in His Word. Today for Christians in Ukraine there is an opportunity to show Christ to people in such circumstances and with that, praising HIM! God save Ukraine!

A sample of listeners continued:

KIRILL: Today's message for me is like anointing oil! Thank you for speaking truth!

TANYA: I thank God for you New Life Radio! May the Lord keep you!

TYLER: Thank you for the translation, broadcasting hope in this dark and insecure world. May God's revival come throughout the whole earth!

ANDRE Radayev: Greetings to all from the rehab center in Krasnodar. Greetings to all listeners and Ivan and all the team at NLR, with gratitude for your priceless work! May the Lord bless each one of you!

Greetings beloved! I am so grateful for you. I am from Alma Ata, Kazakhstan, listening to all these important programs.



Joining our team is Oleg Dolgov (left next to Yuri) a seminary graduate from Odessa who is ready to help with NLR's Bible teaching format. He will begin part time but we need supporters to bring Oleg to full time status.

Our missionaries at New Life Radio are on fire for the Lord and thankful that they have the privilege of working in this radio ministry daily! All of us at CRFR thank you ahead of time for continuing your support of this vital Christian media network throughout 2022 and beyond. God bless you!

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