

Christian Radio for Russia

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



Ministry Update: 12/1/22

www.CRFR.org

NEW LIFE RADIO (NLR): carrying on the call to Mission, even when the power is cut...

272 days of war and the day before Thanksgiving...

At 7:50 am, Ivan Zhurakovski, NLR's station manager calls from Budapest Hungary to Daniel Johnson in Pennsylvania informing him that the entire city of Odessa is out of electrical power. The Russian military has just hit a critical power distribution line near Kiev, shutting down the power grid connections to Odessa and the city is dark. NLR's emergency generator automatically kicks on and there is power in the main studio to do a few hours of broadcasting before the gasoline runs out. NLR engineer Yuri Ignatenko wants to finish the listener song request and greeting hour before turning off the generator and transferring over the radio network control to Ivan in Budapest to maintain our 24/7 transmissions. As the generator quits, Yuri covered up equipment, prayed, then sang out the hymn *Who is like our God*, went to sleep, and the lights came back on!

People in Odessa are panicking--as in numerous cities across Ukraine--and many think only of survival as winter approaches with no light, heat, or water. These are the circumstances of life that New Life Radio is ministering in, and our team has the challenge of encouraging them to trust their very lives to the Lord of the Universe who can take care of their every need. Only He can give hope in the midst of death and destruction.

Not knowing how long this crisis will continue, no matter what happens, we seek God's protection and provision to continue carrying out our work to proclaim Christ and His Kingdom to nations at war. While it is tough for Ukrainians to consider something like a *Thanksgiving* holiday at the moment, all of us at CRFR and NLR are thanking the Lord that we can continue on our work from the safety of Budapest and keep the broadcasts continuing over our satellite and Internet networks. We can only pray that the power stays on and the Lord ends this conflict in His perfect will and timing.

From Odessa to Iasi to Budapest

In December 2021, NLR made contingency plans to relocate our network facility just in case Russia did the unexpected and actually sent their troops into Ukraine. Manager Ivan was willing to uproot his family to go wherever required, and we have watched the Lord take care of him and us as he quickly moved our radio gear across the border, first to Moldova, then Romania and now Hungary. In each place Ivan has been able to take over the network as needed, but we hope to bring him back home to Odessa by spring. *photo: NLR studio in Budapest*



Holding down the fort in Odessa:

Yuri Ignatenko & Oleg Dolgov with Oksana Johnson as she heads out to NLR-Budapest

Nove Zhittya: A progress report



Despite the challenges of the war, CRFR continues to work with our radio staff and the wider Christian community in both Ukraine and the USA to develop our newest programming venture called *Radio Nove Zhittya* (*New Life Radio* in Ukrainian).

One of the consequences of this conflict is the growing rejection of the Russian language by Ukrainians, coupled with the new state law against use of Russian in radio broadcasting throughout Ukraine. If NLR is to minister effectively to audiences throughout the country in the future, it must be done on the basis of Ukrainian. At the same time, we will continue our outreach to Russia, Belarus, and to Russian-speaking countries and individuals globally.

So where do things stand today? RNZ is available to listen to on the Internet at www.novezhitya.net with a 24/7 automated radio schedule. It is not live radio, but music with a few teaching programs and audio Bible readings. It is a seed waiting to develop! We do not yet have a program manager for the network, as we look for the right candidate.

The NLR Russian staff spends 15% of their workday loading music and information for RNZ. We hope to have a minimum of 2 staff working on the Ukrainian station by January 2023.

CRFR is reaching out to new potential church partners in America to invest in this outreach as we seek to fund the \$5200 per month we need to fully staff RNZ along with satellite and Internet broadcasting.

Pray that God provides all that is needed for RNZ to witness to Ukraine for Christ!

REACHING OUT IN TIME OF WAR: A sample of comments from NLR listeners



Duisberg, Germany: *Radio New Life, greetings! BIG THANKS to you that you guide us and speak about God and give opportunity to people to share and greet each other from different continents during the Song Request Hour. This unites us and makes us stronger. Beautiful songs and a good mood being in God!*

Tatiana Trifonova

Hello Ivan and greetings to all who listen to you. Right now I am going through very tough times. I have gone into total silence, but your air shifts are pulling me out of my clamshell. I go, but I stumble. I feel such heaviness on my heart. For now, praise music is holding me up that I would not get discouraged completely.

Alona Musatova. *Hello to you beloved radio! Brothers and sisters. I am grateful for your labor for the Lord and for his glory, and of course for us. Super theology, with the themes you pick and life lessons!*

Elona Aksonova. *Its great that there is such radio. Thank you!*

Tatiana. *Thank God for your radio, New Life, for your ministry. The Lord keep you safe. Blessings!*

Vera Babishkina (Ukraine) *Ivan, good day! Sincere thanks for a wonderful air shift! It is truly spiritual bread that truly strengthens, and there is something to think about. Sincerely wishing you and all your team at the radio station even more inspiration and blessing from the Lord in your future labors!*

Yulia Fedortsova. *Greetings to all! We are glad that we can listen to your radio. We are sending greetings from Bobruisk, Belarus. Wishing you to grow in the Lord. You are a big blessing for all of us. May the Lord richly bless you all!*

Boris from Russia. *Peace to you! I am a brother in Christ and my name is Boris. I listen through the satellite to your program and decided to contact you.*

Alexander. *Praise the Lord! I saw your message and was glad to see it as I praise God for your radio, for the SPIRIT translates through your labors. When I turn on radio, I get answers from God!*

Irina Pushka. *Huge thanks to NLR staff for spiritual support ! Your radio doesn't go silent in our house! In joy and in sorrows, NLR works at all times in our life!*

Alexander Neskin. *Greetings! God speaks to you! I listen to God's Word about peace. I listen to the sermon and understand that God speaks about me! Right now I am getting better and today I didn't sleep until 4 am, having different thoughts, and the next day I hear this WORD! Thank you to the announcer who spoke that word. Praise God for your radio, NEW LIFE. I want to ask if you can drop this sermon to me again?*

Irina Bashkirova. *Huge thanks to you! For your labor and your sensitivity and speedy answers. May the Lord bless your broadcasts and all workers on radio.*

Anonymous listener from Russia. *Huge thanks! I adore your radio. My mornings only start with your radio.*

THANKS to our CRFR donors for helping us reach these listeners daily!

Some reflections on our ministry:

Every day is a new opportunity to reach one person at a time with the Gospel, no matter what country they may be in, or the type of channel used to communicate the message.

For each hour that New Life Radio is on the air, we give thanks to the Lord who has so wonderfully guided this ministry, even in the very worst of times and circumstances, like right now!

One of the most important roles we can play is the dissemination of sound Christian doctrine and Scriptural teaching that can give the listener truth despite conflicting views coming from religious entities that are part of this wider war in Russia and Ukraine. As traditional faiths war with one another; with patently untrue faith statements coming from public authorities; as churches split or even evangelical communities fall out of communion because of nationalism, how can Christian radio reach out to present the Gospel faithfully? This is what New Life Radio strives to do for anyone who tunes in.

Our teaching and preaching programs feature the very best Bible instructors who are trusted and long tested, so you can be assured that our listeners are hearing from the Scriptures, tested by the Scriptures. But we need more resources, more programs, and more mission partners. The tiny team at NLR has a huge challenge as we share God's Word to many nations, and we ask for prayer that the Lord would lead the right people to us to produce and transmit exactly what He would have us broadcast.

On December 10th, NLR will start our Christmas programming, explaining the story of God's salvation plan for mankind featuring a baby in a manger leading to a man hanging on a Cross, revealed as our glorious reigning Messiah! Pray that listeners would understand the message of Christmas and come to know Christ!

Thanks for partnering with us in 2022!

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