

Christian Radio for Russia & Ukraine

Sponsor of the New Life Radio Network—Odessa, Ukraine

Serving the Slavic world with Christian truth through Biblical programming

April 2023



www.CRFR.org

NLR operating in two languages: A progress report

9:30 am EST. Station manager Ivan Zhurakovski is in the middle of hosting NLR's daily music request and greetings hour—serving as a Christian bridge to listeners in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus—and reminding them to send in their requests for the remainder of the hour. One request comes in from Mariupol, a bombed out city; another from a man on his way to Bakhmut to deliver supplies to needy residents and asking for prayer as he puts his life on the line. Requests pour in while Ivan gives good counsel from 1st Corinthians addressing particular issues and concerns expressed by the audience.

It's a mix and match of Christian unity expressed by music; reaffirming our loyalty to the Lord despite diverse geographic and national identities; and reminders from the Scriptures on how to live the Christian life on a daily basis. This is the Russian programming—directed this particular hour from NLR's remote studio in Linz, Austria.



Meanwhile over on the other channel from *Studio B* in Odessa, Olga is hosting the mid-afternoon air shift on *Nove Zhittya* (New Life's Ukrainian station). It's been a month since *Nove Zhittya* went live for part of the day, with radio staffers Sasha and Ilya helping Olga occasionally then returning to *Studio A* for Russian. It is a blessing to have three bilingual staff!



Olga in Studio B

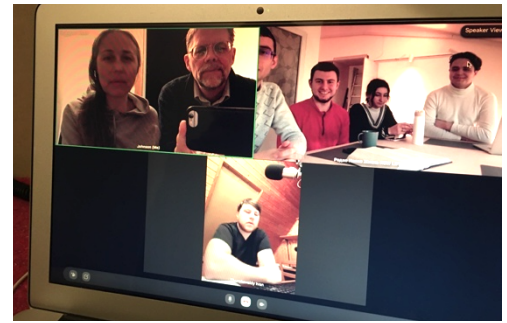
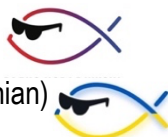
Shortly, NLR will begin to promote the Ukrainian channel during the request hour on the Russian service, offering listeners the choice of which language to tune into. At the same time, we tread carefully in how NLR is advertised, due to continuing Ukrainian government laws that restrict Russian language media. It's a very difficult time to be a broadcaster offering two languages in this wartime environment. Nevertheless, the Lord has given us fabulous opportunities to relate the

Gospel and disciple the flock in these lands, so we are excited!

In this issue we will let the listeners give their impressions on what they hear, so our CRFR ministry partners have a clear idea of what their support is doing for people whom God places in our path.

TUNE IN to and listen at www.NLRadio.net (Russian)

www.NoveZhitya.net (Ukrainian)



COORDINATING NLR from three nations: the weekly video staff meeting & Bible study

THE LISTENERS responding to NLR—typically received via *Telegram, WhatsApp, Viber, YouTube, phone text, or email.*

Anatoly: *Praise God for you! It's a pleasure to be fed spiritual food on your radio wave!*

Seryozha: *Good day our favorite radio app NEW LIFE! Thank you that you make us rejoice in such excellent content, Christian programs, and favorite Christian music! Wishing you all God's blessings.*

Natalia: *The week on radio was very effective and truthful. The main thing, in the quiet environment, the Lord hears our prayers. He is always with us.*

Irina: *Praise God that there is such a radio! Many words of comfort sound on your broadcasts. May God richly bless you.*

Ivanovich: *Thank you for your work. I am a driver and always listening to this radio!*

Constantine Zhurzhiyu: *Greetings. Please tell me if you are on regular radio. If yes, then on which frequency? I would really love to listen to a Christian radio station. Unfortunately, there is not always the opportunity to listen to Christian radio online. Praise God as the hand of help and guidance, reminding us that we are Christians.*

DOES NLR still broadcast via satellite?



YES! Our HOTBIRD satellite channel covers Europe to Western Siberia, giving us signal coverage into tens of thousands of communities that governments can't stop! Any free to air receiver can listen in 24/7!

NLR LISTENER reactions continued:

Kostia: *May the Lord bless you in this beautiful labor. May the Lord help you to get regular radio waves in Russia, to be able to listen to radio without Internet. Amen!*

Tatiana: *Huge thanks dear Radio New Life for sermons of Charles Stanley and IN TOUCH. It is really helping to purify my life with the Lord. Peace to you and your homes, Peace and grace to your families. May God protect you!*

IRINA Pushka (Kazakhstan) *Thank you Ivan for the encouragement!*

Sergey: *Andre Vovk (preacher) says "God's fire." I recognized his voice and smiled. Greetings to all!*

Olga Son: *Dear Radio! I want to thank you for wonderful choices of sermons by Alexander Kolomitsev, A. Prokopenko, and others. Very edifying! And also for interesting themes that you bring up during the broadcast day. Big thanks to you! Stay thirsty and seeking, that God's people would continue to grow in the knowledge of the Lord and His Word. Blessings to you and your families.*

Natalia Bakmetova: *Good evening NLR! May the Lord be praised through your radio. Greetings from Siktivkar, north Russia.*

Stefan Semchuk: *Ivan, when you are on the air, that is a blessing! May God bless you!*

Tatiana Trifonova: *Thank you for the song! As usual, right in my heart! When you want to listen to some song and you don't know which one, you always play what is appropriate (just what I needed to hear)!*

Oleg: *Thank you brother for this teaching! Its very timely and useful!*

Alesya: *Good morning! Could I request the notes of this program, about contentment that is on the air right now?*

Natalya: *Ivan! Thank you for your greetings! Its very pleasant that in this world we are not alone, and that we always can find help and support and that the Lord speaks to us including through other people. Have a blest weekend!*

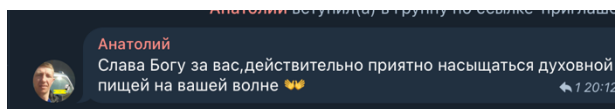
Valeria: *Hello. Please tell me what was the sermon at 6 am today, and what was the name of it?*

Galina Shaova: *Good day dear ones! Could I have the link to the sermon of Kolomitsev on the Book of Nehemiah that I heard yesterday morning? Thanks for your labor!*

Vasili Posnyak: *Glad to hear dear pastor to our heart, Vitaly Roshko! May the Lord bless him! Timely preaching during these anxious, uncertain times.*

Nadezhda: *How I want to wish good beginning of the work week, with excellent mood and God's blessing! I appreciate life given by God! Please play this song "SMILE" by Vladimir Litvenova!*

Listeners send us their comments like this ---



DJs Sasha and Ilya in Studio A-Odessa

Natalya: *Greetings to all! Special greeting to DJ Ivan! It was so nice to hear him today on the air! Please play a song by Simon Khorolski for me. Thanks!*

Oksana: *Where can I listen if I miss something and want to hear it again?*

Valery: *Greetings dear ones. I listened today about a program on Seventh Day Adventists. How can I hear it once again? Please send me a link to it. Really good information. We ourselves are evangelical Christians, but our friend's neighbors are Adventists, and we communicate with them. Its relevant and we are trying to open their eyes to the truth. Please send the link!*

Ksenia: *Good day! Very interesting theme about obsession. That is an answer to the prayer from my sister. Please tell me how we can hear the full version of the program again?*

Valeria: *Hello! What is this program about the Church of Pergamos? Where can I listen to it again? (Revelation Chapter 2:12)*

Mikhail: *Beautiful song on the air right now! "As a deer pants for water" by Darina. How can I find it? And also not just that one, but the next one was very pleasant to listen to and have the recording of it. "Psalm 41" by Roman Ivanko. Thanks ahead of time for your answer.*

Irina Bashkistrova: *Greetings to everybody! Wishing you a good week, good news, and joyful meetings! God is always good! Amen!*

Anonymous: *I am listening to a program right now about Jewish synagogues. It turns out that even then, there was corruption when in the synagogue, they would offer you a better place if you were better dressed!*

Valeri: *Good morning. Can I please ask you for a sermon by Charles Stanley about ministry that was on at 6 am.*

Anonymous: *Thank you for the radio station! Praise God for your labor! Its good that you are there. Through you there is such a pleasant opportunity to greet our families and close ones!*

Gleb. *Big thanks for this wonderful radio and blessings to you all and happiness! From Minsk, Belarus*

Olga Chuyanov: *Praise the Lord! Oksana, big thanks for explanations on the Book of Revelation!*

Alex. *Greetings to all from the United States. Peace to you all!*

Greetings! It is I, Shahbaz Yakub, from Pakistan. I am a pastor and a teacher. May the Lord bless you and your families! Please continue to pray for peace and comfort in Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria. God help them in the name of Jesus!

Anya: *Ivan, really nice to hear you and I love the radio!*

Tanya. *Praise God for the new radio staff and those who have been working for a long time! Please put for all the DJs, "My Lighthouse."*

Maxim: *I agree! Praise God for your ministry and good radio!*

Nikmaskov: *I am listening to you from Tolyati, Russia.*

Anatoly Zelinkov: *Peace to you! I am listening to you from Moldova!*

Fyodor: *Peace to you! We are listening to you from Khanti-Mansi Oblast, Russia.*

Sergey. *Good evening to everybody! I am listening to you from Cherkaz, Ukraine. God's blessing to all!*

Serozha: *Very convenient to use the NLR radio app. I really want to thank those people who participated in creating and developing this radio I-phone app. (THANKS TO CRFR donors for sponsoring this app produced in Belarus)*

Viktor Zaitsev: *Greetings to NLR and all brothers and sisters in Chicago! Please play something in English!*

Vasilli: *Thank you to brother Roman Tesluk, for the program full of information and a very rich and deep sermon! I took a lot of it for myself!*

Vasya from Brest Oblast, Belarus: *Dear and favorite radio! I am listening to you through a satellite antenna. Such juicy radio waves! I will be bold and will request a song for those who in a period of technical progress, do not abandon their radio receivers! Please put a song of Korop on the air called "Radio receiver." It is a song from old broadcasts of NLR, and I hope it didn't get lost in your music archive.*

Greetings to you dear ones. Recently, you added another continuous faithful listener, Fyodor from the village of Dobroye (Good) to whom I helped hook up a receiver to a satellite dish. Please play for his family, a song with guitar of your choice!

THANKS for helping our missionaries and Bible teachers at New Life Radio reach our listeners for CHRIST during these perilous times!



WHY DOES NEW LIFE RADIO use satellite and Internet?

NLR started its ministry in Russia as that nation's first Christian FM radio station in 1996. Over the years, we attempted to create a national network of FM affiliates, but was stymied by the Russian government. Today, 98% of cities in Russia have no local evangelical Christian radio station. Satellite and Internet give us the means to penetrate Russia in 2023; while we hope to create a new FM network for Ukraine when the war ends. 97% of all settlements in Ukraine have no local Christian FM station.

From January to March 2023, NLR tracked cities where we have listeners via Internet. Here is just a sample of the many towns we have confirmation of serving, and *does not* include the comprehensive international coverage given by our satellite broadcasts.

Kazakhstan: Nur-Sultan, Alma Ata

Ukraine: Rivne, Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyi, Zakarpattia, Vinnytsia, Crimea, Kyiv, Chernivtsi, Luhansk, Zaporizhia, Mariupol, Lviv, Poltava, Volyn, Odessa, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Gomel, Hrodna, Kharkiv, Gai Rostodski, Pochaev

Baltics: Riga

Belarus: Minsk, Brest, Vitebsk, Mogliev

Russia: Kaluga, St. Petersburg, Tula, Tyuman, Kaliningrad, Omsk, Stavropol, Vinnytsia, Voronezh, Kemerovo, Kirovohrad, Tolyatti, Khabarovsk, Primorsky Krai, Smolensk, Bryansk, Penza, Volgograd, Moscow, Irkutsk, Krasnodar, Altai, Krasnoyarsk, Nizhni Novgorod, Samara, Sverdlovsk, Novosibirsk, Rostov, Tatarstan, Chelyabinsk, Yaroslavl, Bashkortostan

Moldova: Chisinau, Transdnestria

Europe: Saxony, Ile-de-France, Thuringia, Austria, Rheinland-Palatinate, North Holland, Zurich, various towns in Germany, Budapest

Israel: Tel Aviv, Jerusalem

USA: Chicago, Portland, Michigan, South Carolina, Illinois, Alabama, California, Texas, Washington, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Alaska, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, New York, Florida

NLR: Covering the globe for the price of 2 or 3 American missionary families!

2023 Quarterly review by CRFR
President, Daniel Johnson



It's hard to believe sometimes that this radio ministry is almost 30 years running, and to places I never imagined possible. But with the Lord, all things are possible! I also never thought about how a communist land and people could one day become integral components of a Christian family seeking to be salt and light to a fallen world. But here we are in April 2023!

It's been a rough 12 month period for New Life Radio, beginning last February, as Ukraine and Russia are in the midst of a terrible war of destruction and attrition, and the last three months have been difficult for all of us. However, the start of 2023 has given us wonderful opportunities to reach out with the Gospel to peoples desperate for answers to life's biggest questions. The fear of death and uncertainty for the future puts people in a frame of mind to be open to the message of salvation that only Christ provides. And this is the task of New Life Radio to address.

Every day, NLR is putting out expository Biblical instruction and sound doctrines of the faith that will inform the listener about the incredible plan of God that spans from Genesis to Revelation. For many, this is new information, and for some, it is as if a veil has been lifted to reveal a Bible they never knew. It's all part of the process of evangelism and discipleship, reaching out to the non-believer with the claims of Christ, while discipling and maturing the Church by feeding them the "meat" of God's Word. Having fabulous Christian music between teaching, apologetics, and devotional materials makes for the kind of Christian radio we love to program, and it's all possible through the partnership of our CRFR donors!

Now New Life Radio is transmitting in two languages, and we have the challenge to develop the Ukrainian service into a strong program format that is just as effective as our Russian service. We have a 29 year head start on developing outstanding archives of Biblical material and music for the Russian service, so you can imagine how difficult it is at present to find the same amount of material for the Ukrainian service. Many international ministries produce radio programming in Russian, but not Ukrainian, so we have to develop much of the material from scratch, while searching worldwide among the scattered Ukrainian Christian community for relevant programming and music. Unfortunately, we have yet to find a qualified program director for *Radio Nove Zhittya*, but in the meantime, we have our newest staff in Odessa with the language capability to serve on both stations, and they are doing their best to source music and teaching to program a 24/7 station designed for Ukrainian audiences. You can pray this process develops quickly, as we prepare for the next step of outreach.

CRFR is committed to a strategy to establish a truly national radio network for Ukraine when the war ends, using a combination of Internet and satellite to provide the backbone for new local FM radio affiliates of *Nove Zhittya*. This effort will require new CRFR donors to help us fund three additional radio missionaries, plus transmission costs (total: \$5,200 per month. We made a similar effort in Russia over 20 years ago, and while we don't kid ourselves concerning the difficulty of pulling this off in Ukraine, we know if God wants it, it will surely happen!

To each of you who makes a Kingdom investment into CRFR and NLR, I thank you from the bottom of my heart! **May God bless you!**

CRFR says goodbye to our long-term board member, Rev. Ken Wagner.

Over the years, we have been privileged to have a number of godly men and women serve on our CRFR board of directors. They protect the ministry with wise counsel and prayerful interaction to guide NLR in its journey of evangelistic service to the Slavic world. Ken has served for more than a decade, and will now retire and take on new assignments from his home in Mt. Vernon, Washington. He has been a treasure to us and he will be missed! Thank you KEN!

Please keep in prayer our current members: Brian Bettger, Marlene Hamrick, Doug Kibbe, Oksana Johnson; advisor Dr. Robert Larson, and our newest board member candidate, Mark Baldwin from Stockholm, Sweden.

THE WAR's impact on NLR operations



Over the last few months, Odessa has experienced occasional bombing by Russian forces. Often, large parts of the city are without power for hours, and when that happens, NLR uses an emergency electric generator to power the studios. In some cases, Odessa automatically switches over the network control to our remote studio in Austria, in a manner that the listener is unaware of the interruptions. So NLR has been able to broadcast without problems to our satellite and Internet networks. Russia has Internet firewalls to stop our servers in Odessa, so NLR contracts with providers in Finland and Turkey to transmit our Internet signals INSIDE of Russia. Thankfully our satellite guarantees uninterrupted coverage. Please keep our radio team in prayer and that God's will be done for New Life Radio!

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