

Christian Radio for Russia & Ukraine

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

February 2024



www.CRFR.org

Sharing the Light of the Gospel in a time of darkness

2 Corinthians 4:6 “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

TWO YEARS OF WAR and many opportunities to share the GOSPEL

Odessa, Ukraine: Every morning, New Life Radio staff make their daily walk to the Christian University building. The entrances are locked up and a caretaker is called to open the many doors leading to the top of the building where NLR’s studios are located. There are no more students at the college, the building has little heat, and winter creates a gloomy environment with air raid sirens going off daily. Every day they are on the air is a miracle!



For the residents of this city, there is much uncertainty as people shrug off the threats faced by war, along with enduring power, water, heat and other disruptions. Life is much different compared to January 2022 and a sense of hopelessness is a common theme among many. Everyone wonders when the war will end. They need a ray of light in this darkness.

“*In thy light, we see light*” is the message of Psalm 36, and this provides a backdrop for the role of Christian radio and its challenge to bring the light of the Gospel and understanding of the faith to those God has called to listen to our signal. This is what New Life Radio delivers through its 24/7 program schedule that features insightful expository teaching by our small group of outstanding Bible teachers. Station manager Ivan Zhurakovski reports constant listener requests across Russia and Ukraine asking to replay or send them the sermons they just heard so they can share it with friends and family. What is clear, is they are hearing Biblical explanations on Christian doctrine and the Gospel often for the first time. There is a hunger for delving deep into the Word, for the light and hope and joy that Christ provides, and the radio is nourishing them with meat in this task of discipling and maturing the believer. God’s plan is being clearly revealed!

The programming on both *New Life Radio* and our Ukrainian language *Radio Nove Zhitya* station is well positioned to shine Gospel light into thousands of communities via satellite and Internet radio, and we thank the Lord for His provision and protection as we work to continue this critical broadcast service to nations at war. *Thanks to our CRFRU partners!*

LISTEN to us at www.NLRadio.net and www.NoveZhitya.net



CHALLENGES and opportunities

In 2019, New Life Radio needed to move from Moscow to Odessa due to many factors involving a repressive state and loss of basic freedoms to do Christian radio. God was clearly preparing the way for NLR to continue its outreach to our intended audience across the former Soviet Union. Our new operations center in Odessa gave us a whole new life and opportunity to expand our network with full freedom. Then came February 2022. Had NLR remained in Russia, it would be impossible today to do this ministry and we thanked God for the freedom we had while working in a unique Russian-speaking city inside of Ukraine.

NOW, NLR is working inside a nation that is under martial law, and the conditions have changed dramatically. Our radio staff have the challenge to broadcast in ways that are within the law, while working to overcome potential restrictions on our Russian and Ukrainian transmissions.

Ukraine today has basically banned Russian language on FM radio and other media. Because NLR is satellite and Internet radio, we have been able to avoid this ban. However, reports in January 2024 reveal new actions against Russian media reception over these platforms. Because NLR’s *Hotbird* satellite transmits Russian, we keep a backup studio in Austria that can independently feed our Russian audience, while our studios in Odessa play up our Ukrainian service for the public and state authorities there. It is a balancing act to serve two different countries, with both working to restrict media from the other side.



GOOD NEWS: Our Russian programs have never sounded better, with great teaching and fabulous music all day long. Our *Nove Zhitya* radio format is coming along, but still needs many teaching programs and music, and a program director to organize it. Pray for more staff to come to Odessa!

ON A LIGHTER NOTE--Wedding bells at NLR

Our dedicated studio manager, Yuri Ignatenko has been a Godsend for NLR during this war, remaining at the studios day and night protecting the station and ensuring its ability to arrange all programming functions. Many a month he was alone, sleeping on the floor at night, being a true servant!

Last February, God put a young woman in our path to serve at NLR, and unbeknownst to us, for Yuri as well. So it was a surprise when Yuri and Olga announced their engagement. On January 28, 2024, the couple was married and now we have a husband and wife team on staff! They rent a new apartment next to NLR, so Yuri's days of sleeping on the floor are over! We wish them both God's blessing on their lives and service to HIM!



A sample of NLR listeners writing (1/24)



Grandma Olga: Good morning workers of NLR. Brothers and sisters in Christ. A blessed day to all! I also would like to ask to send me sermons from REVELATION about churches. Thanks in advance, may the Lord bless you!

Valeria: Good morning dear radio! God's blessings in the new day and God's help to all! Could I please ask you for the sermon of Charles Stanley (today's) with teaching about life after death

Tatiana: Sorry I did not get answers about the sermon. I really would like to hear it again with my husband. He only has one day off tomorrow. Huge thanks, my husband and I will be waiting. God's blessings to you and your team.

Good day! I listened to the radio on January 7th (Russian Christmas) and there was a teaching, the woman was talking about the details of the birth of Christ, and his genealogy—why he had to be born from Mary and Joseph and many other interesting details. I would like to hear that information again! Thanks

Gennady Rummyantsov: Good evening dear on air hosts! Can I please ask you to send me a sermon, "The paradox of Christmas," if it's not too difficult and possible. Thank you for your ministry!

Pyotr Chebonenko: Greetings to Radio and I want to greet all the listeners with The song "The beauty of Christ shines in me," and if possible, please send me the sermon "WORD OF THE LORD TO HIS CHURCH in Sardis." Thank you.

Lera: Good day! Can anyone tell me how to relisten again and download sermons which were on the air? I really wanted to listen and share with my friends the sermons that I heard.

Irina Ovdyskina: Peace to all! Very good sermon from the Book of Revelation!

Yelena Stepnakova: Thank you for the beautiful praise of the Lord!

Ivan, greetings to you! I would like to congratulate you with the Birth of Christ, with great pleasure we are listening to the radio. May God bless you, with respect. Center of Help to Alcohol and Drug Addicted, in the city of Orol, Russia.

NLR listeners write (continued)

Ola: Good day! Please send me the sermon about which you just spoke on the air, and also if possible, please send links to morning sermons by Alexey Kolomitsev from Tuesday till today. They are very powerful. I would like to share it with my acquaintances.

Tanya Vyiborova, Siktivkar, Komi Republic Russia. Greetings to you dear workers on God's harvest. I am blessing you in the name of our Lord and ask you to send a sermon by Charles Spurgeon about Christmas that you recently aired. I would be very grateful! May God be praised again! With love, Tanya

Dmitri Svatok: Peace to you friends! Could you please send me a sermon: Superiority of the final revelation of God: Hebrews 1:1-3. Thanks and God's blessings to you.

Lion surf administration: Good thing there is New Life Radio, because now I am home alone and will be alone on New Years. God bless you!

Peter: What a luxurious sermon! I am jealous of your sisters on the radio and their knowledge of God's Word!

Daria: Greetings! I am anticipating that God is coming! I would like to repent and be baptized, but the world is holding me back. Please pray that I would come to God.

CRFR&U budget needs in 2024:

NLR operations cost/month: \$8,550
(personnel, facilities, satellite, utilities, & telecom for two sites—Odessa and Linz, Austria)

Cost to expand Nove Zhitya: \$3,500
(3 new staff and Internet radio, without satellite. RNZ shares facilities with NLR at no extra cost)

We are grateful to all of you for your help

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