

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

December 2024



www.CRFR.org

Proclaiming the Prince of Peace: the Christ child



New Life Radio is busy preparing for its annual Christmas broadcasts in two languages to desperate nations at war

Working quietly amidst the daily challenges of war and ongoing bombing attacks in Odessa, our broadcast team is diligently working on a series of radio programs that look at the plan of God and the means of our salvation, culminating in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.



There is such a rich background of Scriptural descriptions from the Old Testament to the annals of the New that reveal how God made all things possible for us to know about and believe in His Son. For a skeptical Slavic world, especially one steeped in a sacramental religious view that places less importance on personally knowing God's Word, NLR staff have the challenge to produce a variety of materials during the month of December that will culminate in a Christmas Day broadcast that can give every listener a full and comprehensive understanding of the day they are celebrating. And now for Ukraine (by government decree), the official date for Christmas is December 25th, joining the western world in celebration, while Russia continues with its old calendar January 7th observance.

This is a lot of work, and while NLR does this every year, in 2024 we have an unusual staffing situation to cover these responsibilities. NLR's station manager Ivan will coordinate programming from Linz, Austria, while studio manager Yuri in Odessa schedules recordings from part time producers living in Odessa, Romania, and Germany. Most of these are former NLR staffers who emigrated before or after the war started, yet felt a calling to contact us to offer their services. With three full time and seven part time contributors, we hope to be able to meet all the challenges in December to make this the best Christmas broadcast ever—for each of our language networks (*New Life Radio*—Russian; and *Radio Nove Zhitya*—Ukrainian).



See our broadcast team in Odessa
<https://youtu.be/L-IVqLOo3sg>

Hear them on the air: www.NLRadio.net
www.NoveZhitya.net

CRFRU visits Odessa: an update on our operations

NLR studios
on the top
floor of the
Christian
University in
Odessa
(CEHU)



NLR had pressing issues as the fall season started, to which CRFRU staff came to deal with in October and November. Our radio network works in a 194 year old building with antiquated infrastructure, renting from a university that has effectively been shut down since the war started. CEHU is in a difficult position to maintain the facilities and has few funds to cover their utilities. The building is without gas heat, though NLR heats with our air conditioners and has been doing so throughout the entire war.

Our goal was to do whatever is required to ensure our studios have heat and electric so our staff can work in reason-able conditions. Despite daily electric power shutoffs in the city, NLR's backup batteries are keeping them on the air and warm! Please pray for God's guidance as we deal with this issue of whether NLR can remain in the building, and how to proceed during this time of war if we have to find a new facility.

While in Odessa, Dan and Oksana Johnson spent their time working with staff on programming, intensive Bible studies, and other areas where staff need to be trained and on the same page. They visited local churches scouting for people called to ministry and trust that God will place more workers for His harvest at NLR as this war ends. We are amazed at how the Lord keeps things going for NLR as they provide Russia and Ukraine with outstanding Biblical instruction and music!

Please keep our team in your prayers
and for their safety: Ivan, Yuri, Olga, Lena,
Dima, Zhenya, Danik, Kyrill, Mikhail, and Daria.



Part time staff highlight: Kyrill, Mikhail, and Daria

The history of NLR has been the story of a constant stream of servants coming and going, and CRFRU always looking for those called to ministry.

Kyrill Berezikov, who is now in Germany, joined us in summer 2022 during a tough time when we weren't sure if Odessa would be invaded or not, and Yuri was alone at the station. He contributed excellent programs on theology and apologetics, but eventually left in order to take his ailing mother to Germany for cancer treatments. He soon married and decided to remain, but Kyrill continued listening to NLR and felt a need to contribute. In summer 2024, he began producing a few programs each week and will continue on as he is able.

Mikhail is a seminary grad who was working with youth at a downtown church when we first met him. He accepted full time service at NLR in December 2021. Mikhail and Ivan Zhurakovski excelled at live radio Bible studies and his knowledge of theology was impressive. However, when the war broke out, Mikhail returned to serving at his church and eventually headed to Romania where he continues his theological education. This summer he approached NLR and again expressed his desire to contribute, so today he does weekly programs for us in Ukrainian on RNZ.



Daria Yanchishina is our newest addition to RNZ. Attending the same Baptist church as Yuri and Olga, Daria has a heart for ministry and desire to be used of the Lord and feels NLR might be a good fit for her. She is trained as a jeweler. Daria is active in her church with Bible studies and youth ministry.



NLR listeners reach out: (a small sample from November)



Oleg Bondarenko: *Greetings to you dear New Life Radio! I am thankful to God that there is such radio in our life with spiritual bread for our soul and joy in our hearts! We wish you blessings! from Pridnestrovie: (Transnistria). Thank you!*

Evgeny Nezvechuk: *Shalom our favorite New Life Radio! We are grateful for you! We want to send greetings from Chisinau, Moldova. Thank you!*

Rinat: *No matter where I go, I always turn up NLR loud on my radio, knowing that those who are around will be listening as well! Because we know that faith is from hearing, even if the flesh may resist, the soul of people is thirsty!*

Alexander from Ukraine: *Blessings brothers and sisters. Please stand strong in the Lord, not forgetting, what kind of inheritance is waiting for you, and by whom you are called. Greetings to all ministers on Radio Nove Zhitya!*

Olga Birikova: *Greetings to Ivan and NLR staff! Thank the Lord that there is such radio that is praising God, dividing God's Word, with a greetings hour that people can hear you in every city and every country, praising the Lord everywhere!*

WAR and telecom issues for NLR

As Russia continues its strategy to isolate citizens from the global Internet, NLR overcomes this using their satellite radio service to the most populated areas including rural and poor regions. CRFRU donors provide a free signal to anyone with a low cost satellite system like this farm house.



GOALS for 2025: A full staff for NLR; faithful Bible teaching on air; our listeners focused on Christ's kingdom; and Peace!

Thanks to our mission partners for sponsoring another year of radio!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at CRFRU, I would like to thank each and every one of our donors who contributed to New Life Radio's support in 2024. We finished the year covering all expenses and God has proven once again that this is His radio station, using His children to provide the means for our radio missionaries to do their work to proclaim the Gospel to peoples across the Slavic world. Your investment has eternal rewards that we can't measure today, but know that God's Word never returns void! May God bless you and we wish for you a wonderful 2025 as we serve the Lord together in the Great Commission!

In Christ, *Daniel Johnson*

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all of you!

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