

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

Special Edition
January 2025



www.CRFR.org

Investing for the future of Christian radio to Russia and Ukraine: NLR seeks a place of its own

2024 was a challenging yet rewarding year for the missionaries at New Life Radio in Odessa. Coming off a wonderful Christmas season program schedule full of outstanding Bible teaching, festive and celebrative music, and reviews from listeners of growing in their faith, our radio team is excited about the prospects we have to increase our presence and influence for Christ in communities across Russia and Ukraine in 2025.

While the war and attacks on Odessa continue, new challenges for our audience in both countries are giving us opportunities to provide an ongoing witness for the Lord using technology and methods that can overcome restrictions these people face every day. Because we know the power of God's Word, and His directive to share the Gospel globally, it is with a sense of assurance that NLR can tackle all the obstacles they are now facing this month. In this issue, we will outline some of these that you may pray about and consider how to help as God directs you.



Time for a new home.

In the last newsletter we reported on our attempts while in Odessa to negotiate with the University NLR rents from, to resolve the lack of gas heating in the building, as well as installing solar panels to help alleviate the station from the daily city power outages due to the war. Sadly, we were unable to solve the problems, with no prospect to improve the general condition of the building and its utilities. The facility remains unheated and has become run down, while zoning issues prevents

NLR from independently obtaining separate utility services. Its difficult enough for our staff to contend with operational problems each day, but dealing with the uncertainties of this old building forces us to seek alternatives in order to give them the best working conditions we can provide.

It has been 30 years since NLR began their radio broadcast efforts to the former Soviet Union, and all this time without a permanent home. From renting two rooms for their first site in Magadan, Russia in 1994, to their next studio on Red Square in Moscow and a production center in central Moscow, NLR has been at the whim of its various landlords that eventually forced them out of their facilities for a variety of reasons both financial and space related. This is the 4th time NLR has faced expulsion.

To provide for them, a Capital campaign to raise \$150,000 has begun

LOOKING to put NLR's Ukrainian & Russian services in a new location



CRFRU's board of directors have authorized this fundraising effort with the following parameters:

1. Preference to purchase an office space in Odessa with 5 to 7 rooms that can properly house two separate radio networks along with office & kitchen, with options to install solar generators to offset the expected 250% increase in electric rates that NLR's organization will be paying.
2. Maintain an option for purchasing a home in the city to house NLR or purchase land outside Odessa that is suitable for building a small facility.
3. CRFRU estimates a minimum price of **\$150,000** for an office space purchase plus additional renovation for six radio studios. Setting a goal of raising this amount **by March 2025**, and offsetting funds needed for the renovation with existing resources, we feel we can get NLR into a new home by summer of 2025, Lord willing. The time has come to give NLR the stability they need to broadcast for the long term in their own facility, while keeping their operating costs low.

Please keep this fundraising effort in your prayers and share the need with your church and others. Tax deductible gifts can be directed to the "NLR Building Fund" in care of CRFR.

NLR's Studio A: *listen at www.NLRadio.net*



Reemergence of the USSR in control over information.



In January 2025, RUSSIA has greatly increased restrictions on the Internet and press access from the West, shutting down independent websites accessible within the country including Facebook, YouTube, and a million more. Citizens must register their private information before being given new access to social media and email. In essence, a police state scenario has reestablished itself and users can be imprisoned for comments deemed harmful to state interests. With this heightened federal control that has limited the ability for evangelical Christians to promote the faith over the Russian media, the need for an independent source of programming is greatly increased, and NLR can meet this via its satellite radio broadcasts over the *Hotbird* 13 satellite. To maintain our Internet radio links globally, we use servers in Finland and Amsterdam.

www.NLRadio.net www.NoveZhitya.net



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS via radio: New Life Radio's role in Biblical instruction and service against false teaching

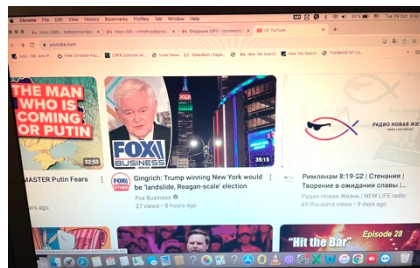
JESUS warned His Apostles that wolves would come and penetrate into the Church teaching false doctrines and leading many astray. Peter, Paul, and Jude wrote about describing the wolves and how God's people could identify them. Knowing the Scriptures is our best defense in this battle, and New Life Radio has designed its radio format to present a systematic approach to understanding the Old and New Testaments through clear expository teaching from every pastor assigned to our daily broadcasts.

One of our favorite Bible teachers (now in heaven) wrote, "satan continues to send false teachers and even teachers who proclaim to be prophets. Peter describes many of their teachings and attitudes, warning against them. This warning is very appropriate today, for false teaching in the name of Jesus is rampant today as never before, ranging from subtle heresies to flagrant denial of His divine and human nature."

NLR is extremely focused on sound doctrine and correct interpretation of the Bible (*Scripture interprets Scripture in context*), knowing that many in our audience have not had access to proper teaching and instruction, and there is much disunity and confusion in the Slavic church as a result. Please pray for this aspect of our ministry to Russia and Ukraine, and for God to send us the very best teachers of His Word for us to broadcast!



NLR Listeners can receive our programs in a variety of ways, even on a YouTube menu (outside of Russia) featuring Putin, Newt Gingrich, or NLR's Bible radio show teaching on Romans chapter 8! (far right) God provides a way to get His Word out!



OUR LISTENERS respond: (a sample from December 2024):

Irina: *Good morning favorite radio! I want to thank God for you that you exist! Your radio really helps and supports. Songs and sermons which help to live and stay strong in tough times. May God richly bless you all! Thanks!*

From Argentina: *Greetings and Merry Christmas NLR! We are so glad we found this radio! We listen to it daily! Really helpful programs for children. May God bless your ministry.*

Tanyusha: *How I love listening to Christian songs, sermons, commentaries, messages—really thankful to the Lord God for your radio!*

Galina: *I am generally just trying to find out about your faith and to learn about God. Forgive me if I'm not writing correctly—I am not Russian.*

Ruslan Andreevski: *Greetings from Florida! Thank you for encouraging words. May the Lord bless you to continue bringing words of Grace.*

Oleksander Kolosov: *Recently I found your radio. Thank you for your work. Very good Biblical instructions and well chosen songs.*

Greetings NLR! Olga really explained so well the meaning of Christmas! Big thanks!

Galya Tomashevskaya: *Greetings favorite radio! I am always listening to your radio with pleasure. I am grateful to God for your labor!*

Ruslan Suponin: *Please help me understand. You are saying we are saved by grace, and not by works. I am thinking that if you live in holiness, then God will accept you to himself. But grace is something I don't understand. Help!!*

Danik: *A big thank you for your ministry, for the radio and proclamation of Christ and His mercy!*



CRFRU note: On Dec.29th, NLR listeners in Russia lost access to the popular VIBER messaging service used for daily contact with our stations, due to Kremlin actions against all Internet-based phone applications. Pray that they find new ways to write to us, especially for the daily NLR song request and greetings hour that unites believers across the Slavic nations.

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

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