

# 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

MARCH 2025



www.CRFR.org

## Continuing the work of Gospel radio for the people of Ukraine and Russia: Programming strategies and New Life Radio's building fund progress

While peace negotiations and ongoing warfare are on the minds of people in the Slavic lands we serve, New Life Radio is focused on how best to meet the spiritual needs of individuals living in thousands of communities across these warring nations. It all comes down to the Word of God!

Three years after the first missile attacks came on Odessa and NLR staff scrambled to preserve our radio broadcasting from an expected invasion, today we find a radio ministry operated by missionaries scattered across five countries yet focused on providing critical Biblical instruction and encouragement to many who see no end in sight to this war or lose hope dwelling on it. In response to these difficult times, New Life Radio's 24/7 broadcasting in Russian and Ukrainian proclaims the Kingdom of Heaven and Christ's ultimate reign in glory--from tiny home studios located in Austria, Germany, Spain, Romania, and our broadcast center in Odessa.

Despite the many logistical and war-related issues faced by our staff, there is a wonderful energy and passion to carry out Christ's command to engage the Great Commission and share the Good News of Christ's redemption of mankind and His ultimate victory. Knowing our Lord is sovereign and in full control of all things, our radio team shares this confident message every day, beginning with Genesis to Revelation, encouraging listeners to trust the Savior, and for those who don't know Christ, to turn to Him in faith. Regardless of victory or defeat for those engaged in this terrible conflict, God's Kingdom is beyond earthly considerations, as Jesus said to Pilate, *"My kingdom is not of this world."*

As the war began, New Life Radio determined not to include political or news programming within its broadcast schedule, focusing instead on providing Christians in each nation with biblical principles that inform us how to understand God's perspective on the multitude of human issues that result from the sins of man. From war, nationalism or patriotism, to covetousness and pride, our conversation on the air centers on grace, forgiveness, peace and redemption. NLR is a bridge between divided Christian communities and their leaders in Russia and Ukraine who find themselves separated or angered at the response of their fellow believers regarding this war. Now that the conflict is entering its fourth year, NLR's challenge is to continue this program effort that fosters unity within the Church by proclaiming the essence of the Gospel and the ultimate plan of God for our salvation. It is a message our audience is desperate to hear.

This is our work: to share the Scriptures, proclaim Christ crucified, and to be a witness for Him no matter the cost.



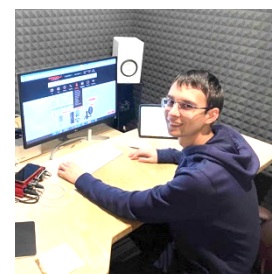
LISTENING to the radio, no one could guess how the programs come together and from where, assuming it's all from Odessa. Pictured are NLR manager Ivan Zhurakovski (seated) with Dima Safronova. Ivan is in Linz, Austria and administers both NLR and RNZ networks from his rented home.

Dima does Bible readings from Germany while his wife Lina (photo right) produces programs on theology and apologetics.



Kyrill Bezikov will be working full time on NLR-Russian by remote from his home in Spain.

Mikhail Kozakov is producing a daily Ukrainian air shift from Romania while he studies at a seminary.



Zhenya Bolgar, Yuri Ignatenko, and our new intern, Kirill Zhuravlev keep the Odessa broadcast operations going 24/7! We hope to have 6 full time Odessa-based staff soon!

## Time for a new home.

NLR Building fund update:  
Goal: **\$150,000+**    **28% raised!**



New Life Radio has rented many spaces over its 30 year lifespan to hold our broadcast operations in both Russia and Ukraine. In our last newsletter, we described the problems associated with our current studios at the Christian University in Odessa. The CRFRU board of directors determined that the only course of action to resolve our housing problem is to seek a new facility and to raise funds to secure it. We are pleased to report that as of February 28<sup>h</sup>, CRFRU partners have provided **\$41,172. Our deep thanks to those who gave!**

NLR will remain at the university through this summer while waiting for a place to be secured. CRFRU staff will go to Odessa this spring to scout out potential office sites for sale and investigate legal arrangements for a purchase. By July 2025 we hope to send a team of carpenters to Odessa to remodel the new site with studios to house our two radio networks!

## Thinking ahead: Can RNZ expand its mission inside of Ukraine via FM radio? (RNZ is *Radio Nove Zhitya*—Ukrainian)



Looking forward to a time of peace, CRFRU may pursue our original idea of developing the Ukrainian radio service from its initial Internet radio-based format to one that can expand to satellite and FM radio. 25 years ago, NLR-Moscow worked to promote a network of small FM stations across the country, using our central studios to provide programming. Given the small penetration of Christian FM radio inside of Ukraine today, we have the potential to replicate our past efforts in order to provide a 24/7 radio service to small communities to assist local evangelism and discipleship, especially in towns that were destroyed or damaged by war.

To pursue this, RNZ would have to register as a national mass media organization with full broadcasting rights, and probably *triple* its current budget. If Christians across the world could invest roughly **\$15,000** per month, RNZ would have a realistic chance to facilitate a network of small independent FM stations across the country. The need is clear, but we seek the Lord's direction and confirmation—on whether to proceed or not.

## A sample of comments from our listeners in February

Vladislov Krivtsov: "Greetings, beloved by our Lord God Jesus Christ! Recently I listened to NLR's program on the Book of Revelation and my brother (he is an unbeliever) became an involuntary listener of your radio. He was interested in what he heard and asked to send him a link or a recording. I ask you, precious presenters, help me with these issues on the Book of Revelation and send me recordings. Glory to Jesus Christ for you, precious ones!" from Rostov, Russia

Pavel Shurga: Thank you for the explanation. May the Lord bless you! Really fresh and interesting presentation of the Gospel of Luke.

Olga Palgonin: Is it okay that everyone I meet I recommend your radio station?  
Our listeners can tune in at [www.NLRadio.net](http://www.NLRadio.net) or [www.NoveZhitya.net](http://www.NoveZhitya.net)

UPDATE: Station manager Ivan Z. has noted a large increase of radio listeners with Russian Orthodox backgrounds calling into our daily request hour. As the Orthodox Church has been aggressive using its priests and media to support and promote Russia's war effort, there is a withdrawal by many within its flock to seek out a more Christ-centered, Bible-focused *Kingdom* perspective, which is what NLR provides them.

Ruslan Suponin: *Peace to you, God's messengers! I thank God for everything. I am really grateful to you. The deceiver did not want me to read my Bible and I felt bad, and today I turned on your radio and I felt power from the sermon, and light started to shine in my soul! I listen to your sermons and rejoice. Praise God!*

Katerina: *Can you send me a link to the radio? I don't know how to send it to another person who just repented today. His name is Sergey.* (Katerina listens to NLR on the Hotbird satellite)

Nikola: *I am waiting with joy tomorrow's air shift to receive God's nourishment from the Bible!*

From a Beauty Salon in Israel: *Good morning dear radio! Thank you for this sermon on Babylon. Wow! That is something! Thanks!*

Kostia Siezko: *Ukraine. Thank you for your ministry! It's really important because through radio you spread & widen the Kingdom of God!*

Tatiana Trifonova: *How wonderful! I am working and singing along with you! I want to greet Olga Ivan and Oksana--your air shifts are like a life preserver; when you are going down, your air shifts do not let us sink. Even when it's difficult to listen, I am still listening to you. Thank you for your support, it's really needed!*

Lika: *Peace to you all listeners and NLR DJs! Can you send me some of your recorded sermons? I would be very grateful. Praise God for your ministry and your sermons that instruct God's people, teach, convict, and lift up with the Lord's help and reveal God's truth!*

**Please keep our staff in your prayers!**

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