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www.NLRI.net

**WORKING on a new home for NLR's Russian and Ukrainian language networks, with new opportunities coming our way to increase our ministry outreach**



After 30 years of renting, NLR finally has its own new home!

It has been a busy springtime as we successfully worked on a building fund campaign to give NLR a place to operate from, while reorganizing our ministry to reflect our expanded mission.

In our last newsletter, we wrote about all the changes happening to NLR as well as the challenges it faces while serving the cause of Christ within an active war zone. War or no war, New Life Radio is busy reaching out to audiences living in nations in conflict with each other, and the logistics of making our broadcasts work day in day out gives NLRI plenty of chances to improve our services and iron out logistical problems (ie., housing, staff, and financing) that confront the radio network coming from a variety of sources. Every ministry faces tasks of administration that requires dependence on the Lord to work out as it is His ministry we serve and His to ensure. Fortunately for us, He has blessed us with ministry partners, who, when a need is expressed, have such hearts that move to meet those needs!

NLR needed a new place to work from. And today we have it! We are blessed! (More on this in the enclosed insert).

## FROM CRFR to NLRI: how is the transition going?

In April, we officially changed our name from *Christian Radio for Russia* to *NEW LIFE RADIO International*. Transition in our public relations and contact with diverse ministries with a new name takes time, but our donors seem to be unaffected and accept the need for the change. We continue to work on a new website and inform our partners of the transition. Doing Internet searches for "Christian radio in Russia" still points people to NLRI so we know that for those who want to find out about us with a new name, God will lead them to us.

For over 24 years, we identified Russia as our main target audience since

it includes all populations across the former Soviet Union, including a Russian-speaking Ukraine. Today, we devote 50% of our efforts to developing our Ukrainian channel and see the most potential for growth in this country. Even as the war rages on, the potential for *Radio Nove Zhitya* seems unlimited, subject mainly to our ability to finance and expand our programming into multiple media channels, and all according to God's will for this Christian broadcaster.

Sadly, the state of Russia and its descent into authoritarianism makes it ever more critical for NLR to continue its coverage to communities across that country. From our inception as a direct to home satellite radio station in Moscow, to an Internet radio service providing critical Bible teaching to a small evangelical Church population, the need to maintain satellite is paramount, now that the Russian government has nearly completed its technical strategy to block all non-western media sources on the Internet. Station manager Ivan Zhurakovski reports occasional outages of Internet reception by our listeners across Russia and these outages are of great concern to us and them. This is why we continue our coverage via the *Hotbird* satellite that the Putin government cannot interfere with.

Transition is always part of life and that certainly is the case with New Life Radio. Regardless of how things play out, we are committed to proclaiming the Word of God to a Slavic world in desperate need of knowing the Savior and our Father in heaven. The future of our work is in His hands, and we pray for God's will to be carried out in this process of transition.

## STAFFING at NLR

Our team in June now includes Ivan, Yuri, Kirill, Zhenya, Dennis, and Olga. We hope to add two or more full timers starting in June/July. They are doing an excellent job on both radio networks and are an efficient, productive mission team!



## LIFE IN ODESSA at a Christian radio station: by a visiting guest

Early morning, we make our way on the tram to the NLR building. As usual, bomb attacks happened late at night, but life gets back to normal as the sun rises, and the passengers seem to be doing their daily routine commuting to work like nothing happened. They are just glad to be alive yet are tired of this war. Getting to Kutuzakia Street, we see this old former Orthodox monastery building on the corner and look up to the top floor where there is a satellite antenna with fish logo on it, painted in Ukrainian colors. That morning, the gate to the building was locked, so I jumped over the fence and opened it up. Then we made the 4 story trek up the stairs to a small metal door with a fish logo by it. And as the door to the station opened (watch your head), there was Yuri, bright eyed and with a smile. That's the welcome we get every morning at 9 am.



Taking our street shoes off, we head past the Ukrainian on air studio where Zhenya is doing his morning air shift. Across the hallway, the Russian station control room is empty that hour as the computer takes on the broadcasting featuring a previously recorded air shift from Lena, Olga, or one of the other staff. Ivan in Linz is ready to take over the airwaves at a moment's notice, and we are amazed at how the network switches back and forth between studios in different countries. Other staff arrive and start their day, usually doing productions in one of the smaller studios. Some work both Russian and Ukrainian networks because of their fluency in each language. All of them come prepared with material based on the sermons or writings from a select list of Bible teachers, some living, some dead—even the Puritan fathers of England get their due on the air. NLR is an interesting mix of young people manning the daily broadcasts, while the elders of the faith do the heavy lifting of teaching sound doctrine and expository analysis of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

As the team finish particular programs, they send them over to Yuri in the editing booth, and he polishes up the sound making the audio sound professionally done. Oksana is in the station, and often takes time with each person and talks about their production, ways of improving their presentation, even discussing particular ways to pronounce words that are similar between Russian and Ukrainian—yet easily confused. NLR aims to feature clean accents and with our bilingual team, they need to be reminded once in awhile how to speak so our Russian listeners in Siberia can't tell the announcer is from Odessa. In fact, no one knows we broadcast from this city, as we maintain an international presence.

On Mondays, the collected team gather in Studio C for a 90 minute Bible study via teleconference, so Ivan and Misha (in Romania) can attend. They dig deep into doctrines and apologetics so there is a unity of theological thought and clarity that permeates the broadcasts of NLR. Four in the afternoon is audience prime time on both networks, as it is the listener song request and greetings hour. Announcers take music requests, share greetings from cities across Eurasia, and make the most of opportunities to share the Scriptures as it relates to the lives of those listening. NLR is known by many for their great music, featuring the finest Christian songs in each language, filled out with superb instrumentals at the end of each hour by the world's best artists—even jazz.

After eight hours of live work and producing, the staff head home at 5 or 6 pm. God's Word goes out well taught, people are encouraged, and another live day of Christian radio completed as the automation computer takes over. The Gospel is presented properly, and believers are disciplined. That's the mission of NLR!

LISTENERS respond in May (a sample):



On 5/15, **Shom** called in from Chukotka, across from Alaska saying "Chukotka is listening to you!" and our Odessa DJ was so excited he had our signal from so far away--until the director reminded him NLR got its start on FM not far from that area in Magadan Russia. That was a generation ago, yet we remain excited as ever!

**Nazar Boyko:** *Blessed laborers of NLR, I thank God for you and for such deep thinking and excellent explanation of the Truth; for songs which touch and go deep into the soul. All of that supports and strengthens my faith and helps us walk through life with Jesus on this earth.*

**Katerina:** *I am so impressed by our Lord! Today, internally I had a question about fear. I am turning on NLR and here is the answer. Praise God!*

**Tanusha:** *I thank the Lord God that He creates such radio channels as yours! May He continue to lead you altogether in peace and love of Christ the Savior!*

**Katya** in Russia: *Such a wonderful sermon! Thank you! I could not catch all the references from Revelation talking about the rapture of the church. Please repeat those Bible references.*

**Ruslan Andreyevski:** *I am sending you greetings from Florida. I really love listening to your radio, and that word of Grace that you bring!*

**Sergey.** *Greetings NLR and God's blessings! Thank God that we have you! Praise Christ!*

Places where listeners write in from: Komi Republic (Russia), Minneapolis, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Luhansk People's Republic (under occupation), Voronezh, Russia, and many other areas that we don't have room to print here.

We can't express enough our gratitude to our NLR donors who faithfully give and keep us on the air every month, and for those who gave to our building fund, even more than we were seeking. Blessings to all!

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