



Christian Radio for Russia

Sponsor of the New Life Satellite Network, Moscow Russia

SPECIAL REPORT May 2018 www.CRFR.org

A rapidly changing Russian world: how Christian radio can serve despite challenges

New Life Radio reaching in to an unreached village in Ukraine and to prison regions of the Far North

The Yarovaya Laws against evangelism in Russia: Status update and impact on the evangelical Church

Listener reports from around the world



In a changing Russian World, the Gospel continues unchanged though the strategy to share it *might*

THE NEWS from Moscow is never boring as the nation

appears to have a leader for life; Russian relations with the West are at their lowest ebb; economic conditions remain bad; unrest among young people rife; war with Ukraine continues; and no seemingly good solution to Russia achieving its dreams for a prosperous, free society. Something is missing.

There is an answer, but few in power and much of the public seem to dismiss the solutions that are as old as the days of Job: faith and trust in the Creator God and His plan for their lives. Russia in 2018 is a microcosm of things gone wrong, hopes dashed, and frustration in daily life ever present. Yet the agent of change best positioned to lead these people, THE CHURCH, continues to be restricted in their ability to share answers that can lead to a new life for the people of Russia.

And yet, God opens up opportunities every day to be a witness, and this is where NEW LIFE RADIO fits in, providing the country with an ever present broadcast of the Good News using satellite, Internet, and FM to get into communities that are otherwise without access to Christian radio or media.

Since getting our national mass media license and new satellite coverage last fall, NLR has faced many challenges in attempting to reignite their original plan to establish new FM station affiliates across Russia.

The barriers both legal and financial appear to be stifling the dreams of local Christians to take the step to apply for channels. NLR is working diligently with the various evangelical Church unions to spread the news of how to organize Christian radio. NLR has the broadcast signal ready to go; we just await new partners with vision and passion to reach their towns for Christ.

NEW LIFE RADIO-Moscow continues its primary focus as a satellite broadcaster due to the many unfolding restrictions by the state against freedom of press and religion. Why? Only a few Christian FM stations exist; it may take years for new ones to start; and the Internet now is threatened with Russia banning nearly 250 web sites daily, and giants like *Google*, *Telegram*, *YouTube*, and other social media sites facing closure threats. With the Putin government's disregard of basic freedoms, NLR can guarantee its ability to transmit across the land using its HOTBIRD satellite!



The radio missionaries at NLR have employed all the available means to distributing programming and maintaining listener communications using multiple Internet services, our two satellite signals, and our national church communication networks. Having our remote radio automation site in the US gives us additional confidence, that no matter what happens in Moscow, outstanding Christian teaching and music will continue to reach its intended audience!

To that effect, the staff has expanded their many program offerings, and we are especially pleased with the new *STUDIO LIVE* concert series produced by NLR and distributed over *YouTube* that brings the best of Russia's Christian musicians to a global audience. With so many technical means to get the timeless message of God's love for humanity out to the Slavic world, we remain encouraged that Christ will be honored and His plan of salvation properly explained to a hurting Russian-speaking people, no matter where they are. The challenges are many, but the rewards are so much greater as we explain the Kingdom of God and our glorious future in CHRIST! Thanks to our CRFR donors for making this effort possible!

See the special insert featuring NLR station manager Dimitry Vatulya describing the ministry prospects of *STUDIO LIVE*, and you can view photographs of the NLR staff in action on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/newliferadio/>



NLR site

Far North, to the region around Syktyvkar, where numerous Russian prisons are located. There are no Christian stations on the air and no Internet. NLR works alongside various Christian operated rehabilitation centers for recently-released prisoners. CRFR donors provide funds to install a satellite system and audio speakers that feed residents with the Word of God and keep them listening throughout the day. Contact CRFR if you would like to sponsor a system for a rehab center.



NLR listeners in Syktyvkar

NLR-- Reaching into unserved villages in the Ukraine and the Russian Far North via satellite

CRFR's strategic goal is to guarantee the ability of every community to have at least ONE Christian channel to tune into, and this is not limited to Russia, but all of Ukraine. For the village of Rostodski in Western Ukraine, with plenty of Russian-speakers but no Christian radio stations, nor reliable Internet access, the only good option is satellite.

The Zhurakovski family in April installed a \$50 satellite system, then connected the NLR signal from the Hotbird satellite into a \$50 one watt FM transmitter for their neighbors to listen to Christian radio as well!

The same signal goes way up to the Russian



NLR Program format:



NEWLIFE RADIO

- 70% contemporary Christian music,
- 25% Bible teaching/apologetics/Christian drama
- 5% news and discussion programs of relevance to the Christian community.

www.NLRadio.net



THE YAROVAYA LAWS against public and private evangelism in Russia: A status report in 2018

In July 2016, a federal anti-terrorism bill ushered in a new era of vast restrictions on civil rights and religious freedom in Russia. Nearly two years after its enactment, *Forum 18 News* reports "Russian religious believers and communities continue to face prosecution for publicly exercising freedom of religion and belief. 156 such prosecutions in 2017, and prosecutions have continued in 2018.

Almost any expression of freedom of religion and belief outside the place of worship of a state-recognized community may lead to fines, unless individuals or communities follow legal requirements that are unclear and which the authorities apply inconsistently. This imposes a large burden on individuals and ministry organizations in fines, legal costs, and bureaucratic Hurdles--particularly for smaller religious communities.

The use made by the authorities of the "anti-missionary" legal changes has led to widespread confusion and concern among religious communities. They are "worried because they do not know how to profess their religion and share it with others without violating the law", Pentecostal Union lawyer Vladimir Ozolin told *Forum 18*. He commented that "most Christians sharing their beliefs on the street do not even suspect that they are violating the law. They learn about this later, when employees of the competent (Justice) authorities begin fabricating the case. There is reported a sharp increase in the number of fines for meeting for worship on land not designated for religious use, such as in private homes."

Nearly every evangelical group has experienced prosecution and national Church unions are vastly scaling back their public outreach for fear of violating anti-missionary and public meeting laws. In 2017 the *Jehovah's Witnesses* were deemed an extremist organization, and all activities banned by law.

NEW LIFE RADIO is technically *not subject* to the Yarovaya Laws, and with this protection, our nationwide broadcasts are helping to fill the gap in every community where believers are restricted from sharing their faith in private and public. Fear of the law may be impacting our efforts to find Christian leaders in cities across the land willing to attempt the securing of radio frequencies to rebroadcast NLR, but radio still represents an

effective and LEGAL means to evangelize and disciple on behalf of a repressed Church. We do not foresee any letup in this restrictive stance of the Putin state, and for this reason, we encourage Christians in the US to consider providing seed monies to verified groups who are willing to take the risk to apply for FM channels. Legal and filing costs range from **\$5000 to \$10,000+** in cities under 100,000 population. CRFR currently has donors ready to supply FM transmitter packages to cities that are able to get a license to retransmit NLR.

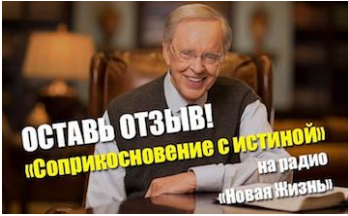
NOW MORE THAN EVER, we need prayer for God's people, and for the protection of NEW LIFE RADIO's operations.

Reference:
http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2370



NLR radio missionaries at Studio A in Moscow: Dmitry, Alena, Vladimir, & Andre.

Not pictured: Katya, Nadia



For CRFR, it is our privilege to work in a close partnership with a vast variety of evangelical believers whom are called to share their faith and expertise over our global network, in order

to build the Church. Our airwaves know no nationality, and feature outstanding personalities and programs that are informative while providing Biblical answers to the most pressing questions of life. As preaching and teaching God's Word is our highest priority, we depend on a mix of Russian pastors as well as trusted teachers from the USA. From the president of the Russian Baptist Union, to the teaching of First Baptist-Atlanta's Dr. Charles Stanley, NLR has a well rounded format that you can be sure leads people to Christ, while helping them grow in their faith.



Our listeners write in April from around the Slavic world...



I have decided to surround myself with Christian content and New Life Radio is helping me a lot with it. I'm listening to NLR every day at work and always recommend it to my friends. I started thinking less about vanity and more about heavenly things. You are the Best!

Vladimir, UKRAINE

Thank God that we have NLR! I listen every morning. I pray that we Crimeans can listen to New Life Radio without the Internet and simply by the FM receiver. God bless you!

Sergey in Crimea

I'm listening to New Life Radio in Burgos, SPAIN all the time while driving my truck. Thank you for this radio!

Valery in Spain

You can't even imagine how you have influenced my family life and how thankful we are to you for it! You've happened to be the only source of the real and living Word—Jesus--that we've found on the air. Thank you for New Life Radio!

Alexander

I love your radio! I have been listening to it for 9 years every day! Thank you for your work.

Marina Sviridova, Belarus

I thank God for creating your station for us! I always listen to you and take joy in the holiness and happiness that comes through NLR. We love you very much!

Alexander Fisher, USA

NLR is a great blessing and opportunity to have Christian fellowship. The world has so much information that is trying to drag our attention away from God and faith in Christ. New Life Radio is a great help for growing in faith and edification.

Andre

You are the best among Christian radio stations! Keep up the good work in the same spirit!

Vysheslav, Belarus

Dear NLR, you have such a wonderful team there! I spend most of my time with you since I work as a driver, so I recommend your station to all my friends, people I witness to, and to everyone I love—to the whole world basically!

Vyasheslav Burlak, Moscow

Dear NLR, thank you so much for the new songs you are playing on the air. I've just heard the song, "Be a hero to your family," and now I'm sitting at work all in tears and I'm so thankful to God for my family and for your wonderful radio that brings love and light into people's lives.

NEW LIFE RADIO
monthly budget: \$16,000

Please consider making an estate gift planning investment to keep NLR on the air, OR make a monthly support pledge for one of our radio missionaries in Moscow.

NLR Facebook fundraiser
<https://www.facebook.com/donate/189208858366177/>

Christian Radio for Russia



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REACHING out to a new generation of Russian-speaking youth worldwide via YouTube and social media: NEW LIFE RADIO-Moscow's new program outlet: "STUDIO LIVE." A Special report by NLR station manager, Dmitry Vatulya.

STUDIO LIVE

In 2017 New Life Radio launched a new multi-media project called– *STUDIO LIVE* – a high quality video broadcast that can be viewed via the NLR YouTube channel and social media. *STUDIO LIVE* is a combination of a live concert and interview with the most talented and influential Russian Christian musicians both worship teams and CCM bands.



Why are we doing it?



New Life Radio's main goal is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the world, to help Christians grow in their faith, to make Christian performance in the Russian-speaking world appealing and to build the good image of Christians in the society.

Whom do we target?

The future of any society is its young generation that needs to embrace good values and a right perspective from a Christian point of view. NLR was looking for the new ways and ideas of reaching the world with its ministry and understood that multi-media, social networks and short eye-catching videos became the main way of reaching young and active people, *namely, "the Millennials"* (age range 18-35)



What our hopes are for this ministry component of NLR?

We already see how this new approach is bringing fruit – New Life Radio's ministry is becoming increasingly recognized among both Christian and secular audiences; the station is getting more listeners and we are growing!

From the beginning of this project, videos of *STUDIO LIVE* have been watched via NLR channels almost **400,000** times. We have also witnessed the dramatic growth in our public accounts in social media during this year as they grew over **50%** and right now NLR has over **13,000** followers. You can view the latest NLR *STUDIO LIVE* show at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=650&v=TOfJcaRs8cs





In February 2018 we have launched a crowd-funding campaign encouraging our fans to invest at least \$10 every month into our ministry support. This way we are hoping to build NLR financial independence in the future.



Why it needs financial backing

We have already wired and equipped the studio for this project, which stands alongside NLR's remote radio studio, courtesy of donations from CRFR partners! The production of these videos is being made by NLR staff and the most talented cameramen are shooting the videos for the lowest price (\$500/session)

We were able to make four *STUDIO LIVE* concerts so far and see the need to reach further and invite the best Russian-speaking musicians from outside of Moscow. Their talent and deep faith in Christ will be a great blessing and good encouragement for everybody who will be watching our new videos. It involves covering their travel expenses if possible. The NLR crowd-funding Internet campaign is at its beginning so in order to continue reaching out the young people with our multi-media ministry **we need your ongoing help!** *In Christ, Dmitry Vatulya, NLR-Moscow*



Dmitry Vatulya (far left) with the NABAT Band



***STUDIO LIVE* is part of NLR's global outreach strategy to target Slavic youth who use social media daily. Sharing our faith through music is key to reaching them. We hope CRFR partners will consider supporting this new work!**

One immediate need is a request for new microphones (7 needed) for a total of \$1000. If your church can sponsor a production for \$500, please contact CRFR today!

