

The Children's Bible, published in 28 languages — among them, Yakut

Restore Their Hope!

The Year 2000! The Children's Bible to be distributed among the most needy people in Russia and the CIS

The IBT Children's Bible spread joy and hope to millions of people in the former Soviet Union during the first wave of distribution in the beginning of the 1990's. It was especially meaningful to children, but was also a blessing to adults who read it. Now, at this special time, the emphasis will be on distribution to the most needy and vulnerable in the communities of this great nation. The focus will be on the "outcasts", the poor, the orphaned, the homeless, the sick and misunderstood, on those who have not yet had the opportunity to receive or read the Children's Bible. Today there is confusion and economic deterioration in Russia. Many have lost hope in just about everything, including a better future. Those suffering the most are the poor and weak, the children and the elderly. We know that the Children's Bible can give encouragement, faith and hope.

A unique cooperative effort crossing virtually all denominational lines is in progress

In order to be sure that the Children's Bible will reach those it is intended for there is a major coordination effort in place. Churches, missions, both national and foreign, local institutions, ministries and many other groups have formed a

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Russians, our Brothers?

"I tell you the truth," Jesus said, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Gorbachev's "perestroika" (re-building) was to bring prosperity and order. Instead it brought poverty and chaos to tens of millions of Russians. The August '98 collapse of the Russian banking system was the final straw that destroyed hope for many Russian families and individuals.

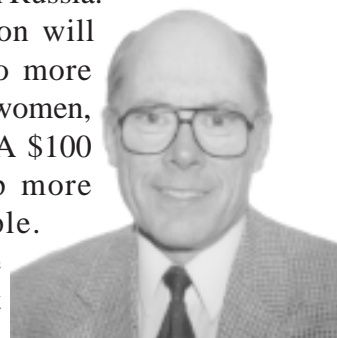
Some put their hope in politics. Said "Lilia Shestova, a political analyst from the Carnegie Center in Moscow: 'One group is hoping for stability. A second group is hoping for order. A third group is hoping that Putin will emerge as a reformer. But we all know that hope is simply a delayed disappointment.'" (LA Times)

Real Hope, the Hope offered by God's Word is never a disappointment. It is Eternal. That's the kind of Hope you and I can share with the suffering and needy in Russia. God's Word.

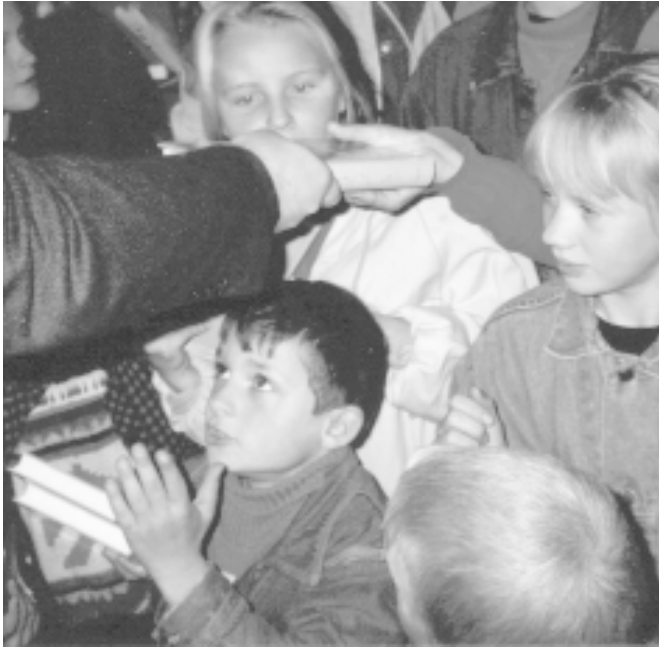
Today, please lend a helping hand to our Brothers in Russia.

A \$25 donation will bring Hope to more than 11 men, women, and children. A \$100 gift will help more than 45 people.

Together we can reach out and offer real Hope.



Curt Gustafsson
President of IBT North America



Everyone, children and adults, eagerly reads the Children's Bible

partnership to distribute and support the Children's Bible effort on behalf of the neediest people in the former Soviet Union. A unique cooperative effort crossing virtually all denominational lines is in progress. How many books could conceivably be distributed? The response: **over two million!**

You can have a part in the Millennial Children's Bible project!

The cost of printing 500,000 books is approximately \$2.20/book. Normally the Children's Bible would cost twice that much. So you see, your gift of as little as \$2.20 can give life and encouragement to someone in the former Soviet Union who is needy and has lost hope. Twenty-five dollars will provide more than 11 people with God's Word in the beautiful and colorful format of the Children's Bible. You can contribute to the transportation costs as well with your gift. It is just as far from a print shop in Moscow to an orphanage in Siberia as it is from the IBT office in Stockholm to New York in the USA!

"I had no interest in religious matters — but in the Children's Bible I found Jesus"

"My first encounter with God was by reading the Children's Bible", says Ahmed from the Caucasus. "I worked hard, evenings, nights and weekends. I had neither time nor interest in religious matters. I was hardly ever sick, but on one occasion I ended up sick in bed for 2 weeks. The colorful and beautifully written Children's Bible happened to be within reach and I read it. Not once, but twice! It was extremely interesting and I learned so much about God's character

and who Jesus was. I thought that if a Bible for children could be that interesting, alive and meaningful, how much more there would be in the whole Bible for adults.

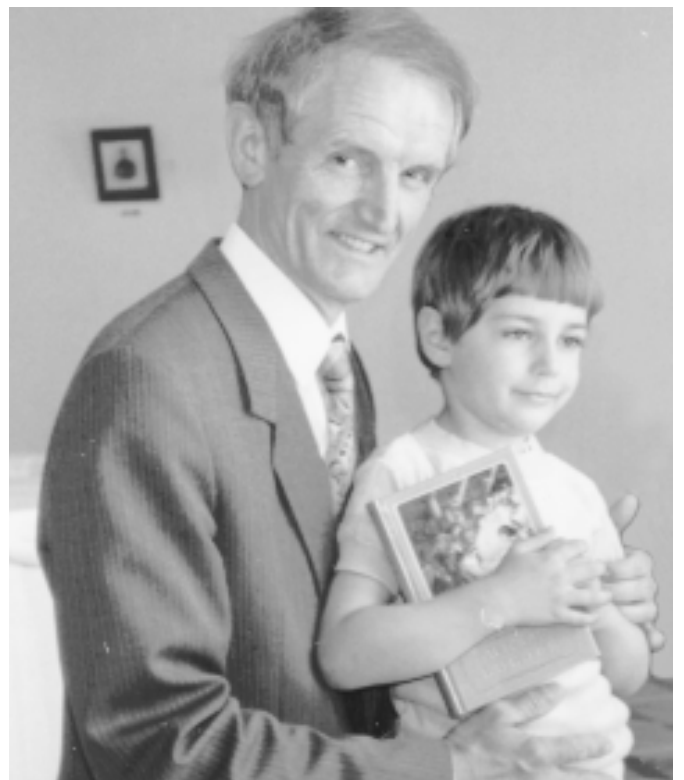
So I found a Bible and began to read. After 2 months I received salvation, and 2 months later I was baptized. I began to realize that my new life in Christ must have a purpose, so we began a small church of which I eventually became the pastor. Presently, the work is moving forward and about 500 persons have come to faith in Jesus.

Six years have gone since I first held the Children's Bible in my hands, and even today I have a hard time putting it down because God's Word gives not only me, my family and our congregation new life, but it ministers to all the people in our country."

"The woman read through the Children's Bible and experienced a joy she had never known before"

Larisa tells a story from Moscow: "In an obscure village in Russia lived a family, actually one of many such families: miserable alcoholic parents whose neglected children spend most of their time alone or in front of the TV.

One day the drunken mother placed her children in front of the TV to watch a cartoon "Superbook". The mother became interested and running across the Children's Bible at a church's book table, she began



Borislav Arapovic came up with the idea for the Children's Bible

to read it. She asked to borrow it and was told it was reserved for someone else and if after an hour it was still there, she could borrow it. The woman waited. No one came. So she was allowed to take the book home to read it.

The woman read through the Children's Bible and experienced a joy she had never known before. She stopped drinking alcohol, continued to read the Children's Bible to her children, and decided to buy it. She had some money saved for new shoes for her daughter, so she bought the book. God entered that home and this story witnesses to the fact that the power of God's Word can transform lives. The Children's Bible was the first step in the spiritual awakening for this Russian family!"

"THE BOOK OF THE CENTURY"

IBT's Children's Bible is probably the most successfully distributed book of its kind in the world. Thus far it has been printed in 28 languages, of which 24 are spoken in the former Soviet Union, now totaling nearly 8 million books. How did it come about — this book the Russians have named "the Book of the Century" or "the gateway to the Bible"?

"What if we made a shorter version of the whole Bible?"

"Long ago I saw a detailed and beautifully colored edition of Biblical illustrations", says Borislav Arapovic, founder of Institute for Bible Translation, with headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden. "Later I was told that the pictures were from the beginning of this century and that they were used in Sweden at the time and are discovered from time to time in older homes and churches. Then I had an idea!

What if we made a shorter version of the whole Bible, including pertinent Scriptures from the time of the Creation to the book of Revelation and using these beautiful pictures as illustrations?

By translating such a book we will bring the message of the Bible more quickly to the many unreached peoples who would otherwise have to wait many years for a New Testament in their language and even longer for the whole Bible. The book will be called the Children's Bible, but will be written in such a way that even adults will benefit from reading it. The original text will be in Russian and successive languages in the Soviet Union will be translated from it. Who could then have known that the Russian language edition, alone, would be reprinted more than 40 times, numbering 5 million copies."

"In the beginning of the 90's the average printing of Children's Bibles reached 100,000 copies every month"

To ensure the greatest accuracy of the Russian translation, the Scripture selections were copied directly from the Russian Bible. The first printing of 5,000 copies was ready in 1983. It had taken 3 years to complete. Large quantities were also printed in the same year for the Lithuanian and Tajik peoples. In those years distribution could only be done in secret — smuggling the Bibles over the borders. And the response from the Russian people was phenomenal. They had never seen a Children's Bible, let alone one with such beautiful pictures! When the Soviet Union opened its borders, as Communism fell, a flood of mail streamed out requesting Bibles and Children's Bibles. Everyone wanted them, it seemed. Organizations in the West placed large orders, the presses began to roll, and in the beginning of the 1990's the average printing of Children's Bibles reached 100,000 copies every month. Little by little, more Bible selections were added and the book was reworked so that it now encompasses 544 pages; half of which are pictures. The Children's Bible was first printed in Sweden, then in Croatia, Hungary and Slovenia. Now it is primarily printed in the former Soviet Union.



There is hope!

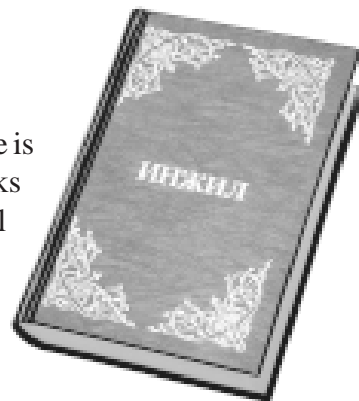
New Testaments

New Testament texts in several languages are undergoing final checks this year. Please pray that the work will go smoothly. We hope that the fruit of many years of labor will soon be available to the following people groups for the first time: Gagauzi, Kalmyk, Kurdish (Kurmanji dialect), Ossetic, Tatar and Tuvin. They number 8.5 million people.

Books still available

Our Moscow warehouse is full! We still have books from the past several years available in varying quantities. Please write to us for the latest price list or to inquire about a particular language.

We also accept orders for single copies. Help us spread the Word to those who need to hear!



By the Grace of God, IBT published the following books in 1999:

Bibles

Tajik (2nd ed.)

New Testament

Uzbek (pocket size reprint)

Bible portions

Ruth & Jonah in Azeri

Luke in Balkar

Luke in Karachai

Four Gospels in Karakalpak*

Luke in Karelian (North)**

Acts in Karelian (Olonets)**

Matthew in Komi-Zyrian**

Luke in Mari (Low)**

Matthew in Mari (Meadow)**

Luke in Nogai*

Proverbs & Ecclesiastes in Tatar

13 Epistles in Tatar

Psalms in Udmurt**

Acts in Veps**

"Stories about Jesus"

Russian

Children's Bible

Moksha-Mordvin**

Romanian (4th ed.)

Russian (34th ed.)

"Jesus, Friend of Children"

Buryat

Evenki

* First Scripture published in this language

These publications were financed in partnership with Bible Societies and other Christian organizations in various countries.

** The printing of Bible portions in Finno-Ugric languages is handled by IBT's office in Helsinki, Finland.

Institute for Bible Translation

Institute for Bible Translation was founded in Stockholm, Sweden in 1973, its main task being to publish Bibles for "non-Slavic peoples in Slavic countries." In the CIS 130 different languages are spoken. Since then we have worked on Bible translation into more than 80 of these languages. We have printed the Bible or portions of it in about 50 languages, including two first whole Bibles, in Moldavian and Tajik, and 11 New Testaments. We welcome your support for our continuing efforts in bringing the Word to those in the former Soviet nations. All peoples of the world should have the Bible available in their native language.

We sincerely invite you to support Bible translation work.

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