

**Euro-Asia Division  
Second Quarter 2024  
Supplemental mission materials**

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## Countries — Mission Posts and Fast Facts for Children

### Russia

1. Russia has 31,517 Adventists and 782 churches. There is one Seventh-day Adventist for every 3,824 people.
2. The first Adventist missionary arrived in the Russian Empire in 1886. His name was L.R. Conradi. He was arrested after baptizing a Russian convert. The Russian Orthodox Church didn't want people moving to other churches, so Conradi was accused of the spread of "Jewish" heresy, converting Russian people to another faith, and public baptisms.
3. Only 47.4 percent of Russians are Christians (41 percent Russian Orthodox/6.4 percent other Christian), 38.2 percent have no religion, 6.5 percent are Muslim, and about 8 percent are "other."

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4. The official name of the country is the Russian Federation.
5. The capital of Russia is Moscow, where more than 21 million people live.
6. The population of Russia is more than 144 million.
7. The official language is Russian.
8. The currency of Russia is the ruble.
9. Russia is the world's largest country, taking up more than one-tenth of all the land on Earth.
10. Russia's most famous animal is the Siberian tiger, the largest cat in the world, which can grow to over 10 feet (3 m) long, and weigh up to 660 lbs. (300 kg).
11. Russia contains Europe's longest river, the Volga, which is 2,194 miles (3,531 km) long, and its largest lake, Ladoga. Russia also is home to Baikal, the world's largest freshwater lake, which holds almost one-fourth of the world's fresh water. It is also the world's deepest lake — at its deepest it is 5,387 feet (1,642 m/898 fathoms).
12. Russia has many folk holidays, which usually include street carnivals, traditional foods, entertainers, and children in traditional Russian dress. Boys wear a long-sleeved red or blue shirt with a round, embroidered collar, and girls wear a red or green *sarafan* (dress), a long-sleeved peasant blouse, and an ornate *kokoshnik* (headdress).
13. At the end of summer, there are three folk holidays—known as the Spas—that celebrate honey and the harvest of the apple and nut crops.
14. A traditional Russian dish, known the world over, is borsch, a beet soup made with beets, cabbage, carrots, onions, potatoes, and sour cream, common ingredients found in Russian food.
15. Famous Russians include Marc Chagall, modernist painter; Anton Chekhov, playwright; Mikhail Baryshnikov, ballet dancer; Pyotr Tchaikovsky, composer; Garry Kasparov, chess player; and Mikhail Gorbachev, politician.
16. Russia's matryoshka dolls are brightly colored figures, each a little smaller than the last, that fit inside of each other.

17. The Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, has around 80 cats who live in the museum's basement to help get rid of mice that might damage the exhibits. There are three members of staff just to look after them.
18. The Trans-Siberian Railroad is the world's longest at 5,772 miles (9,289 km). It takes a week to travel from one end to the other.
19. The world's first satellite, named Sputnik, was launched by the Soviet Union in 1957.
20. The first human in space was Russian. Yuri Gagarin was launched into outer space in 1961.
21. Russia is home to 12 active volcanoes.
22. Russia borders 14 countries: Poland, Lithuania, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, and North Korea.
23. Russia has the world's largest area of forests.

### **Salekhard**

24. Salekhard is a town in the far north of Russia. The border of the town crosses into the Arctic Circle.
25. Three Soviet camps were located in and around the town, holding 6,500 prisoners arrested for their political ideals or belief in God.
26. At the city's port, 1,500 prisoners loaded and unloaded goods at the dock, or mined metal ores. About 5,000 prisoners were made to work polishing diamonds from the Mir mine.
27. In January, the temperature gets down to minus 17.9 degrees F (minus 27.7 C); the lowest temperature ever recorded was minus 64.7 F (minus 53.7 C).
28. Many of the people who live in Salekhard are fishermen or reindeer herders.

### **Zaoksky**

29. In 1987, the government gave the Seventh-day Adventist Church two acres (0.8 hectares) in the settlement of Zaoksky to build a school for pastors. A school building had burned down on the property, and the local villagers were using it as a garbage dump. Church members cleaned it up, and the next year Zaoksky opened as the first Protestant school for pastors in Russian history.

## Belarus

1. Belarus has 3,706 Adventists and 94 churches. There is one Seventh-day Adventist for every 2,514 people.
2. In the 1930s, the government didn't want people to worship God, and Adventist pastors and church members in Belarus were arrested and sent to the Far North, where it was very cold and living was very hard.
3. Christianity is the main religion in Belarus, with Eastern Orthodoxy being the largest denomination, with 83 percent. Most of the rest are Catholic or have no religion.
4. Before World War II, the number of Protestants in Belarus was low compared with other Christians. In 1917, there were 32 Protestant communities, but by the 1990s there were more than 350.

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5. Minsk is the capital and largest city.
6. The official languages of Belarus are Belarusian and Russian.
7. The flag of Belarus, adopted in 1995, is red and green with a decorative red and white pattern on the left side, showing an embroidery pattern typical of designs found on peasant blouses and shirts. The green stripe symbolizes the forests and fields of Belarus, while the red symbolizes freedom and the blood of the country's defenders.
8. The name Belarus means "White Russia."
9. Around 40 percent of Belarus is covered by forest.
10. Belarus welcomes spring with the seven-day Maslenitsa festival when people eat pancakes, play traditional games, and men demonstrate their strength by smashing flaming bricks with their fists and heads.
11. The European bison, Europe's largest land mammal, can be found in Belarus, and it is the national animal of Belarus.
12. Belavezhskaya Pushcha National Park is the oldest wildlife refuge in Europe and is home to at least 55 mammal species, including badger, beaver, bison, boar, ermine, lynx, marten, mink, otter, wild horse, and wolf.
13. The world's biggest dump truck is produced in Belarus. The Belaz 75710 is as long as two double-decker buses, weighs more than an Airbus A380 plane, has 13-foot (4 m) tall tires, and can move 450 tons (408 metric tons) at a time.
14. Typical Belorussian dishes include apples, beets, pears, peas, plums, and especially potatoes.
15. Soccer and ice hockey are the most popular sports in Belarus.

## Uzbekistan

1. Uzbekistan has 687 Adventists and nine churches. There is one Seventh-day Adventist for every 51,865 people.
2. The first Adventists appeared in Uzbekistan in 1906.
3. Seventh-day Adventists in Uzbekistan had to worship in secret in the 1930s because the government didn't want people to believe in God.
4. In Uzbekistan, almost everyone is Muslim. Only about 2.2 percent of people are Christian.

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5. The official name of the country is the Republic of Uzbekistan.
6. About 2.9 million people live in the capital, Tashkent.
7. The official language is Uzbek, but many people also speak Russian.
8. A landlocked country is a country that is completely surrounded by other countries, and has no coastline. Uzbekistan is one of two doubly landlocked countries in the world, the other being Liechtenstein.
9. The Aral Sea was once the fourth-largest inland sea on Earth, but so much water has been drained out that it has shrunk to only about 10 percent of its former area.
10. Uzbekistan mines 80 tons of gold every year.
11. Uzbek cotton is used to make banknotes in South Korea.
12. Uzbekistan was occupied by Alexander the Great when he captured Samarkand in 329 BC.
13. There is a lot of grain farmed in Uzbekistan, so people eat a lot of bread and noodles.
14. Soccer is the most popular sport in Uzbekistan.
15. Uzbekistan's flag is blue, white, and green, with narrow red stripes between the others. The white crescent moon in the upper corner represents the birth of the independent republic, and the 12 white stars stand for the months of the year.
16. The national dish of Uzbekistan is *plov*, made of rice and fried vegetables, usually eaten for lunch.

## Georgia

1. Georgia has 338 Adventists and 12 churches. There is one Seventh-day Adventist for every 10,953 people.
2. Dr. Vagram Pampaian, an American medical doctor with an Armenian background, arrived in Tbilisi with his wife and brother in 1904 and was the first official Seventh-day Adventist missionary in Georgia.
3. Pastor Albert Ozols, a young man of Latvian origin and a medical doctor, arrived in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1907. In 1914, he was arrested and sent to Siberia. On his way to exile, he treated patients among the prisoners.
4. In Georgia, 83.4 percent of people are Orthodox Christian and 10.7 percent are Muslim.

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5. Georgia's capital is Tbilisi.
6. Georgia's name comes from the Persian word *gurğ*, meaning wolf.
7. There are at least 500 species of spider in Georgia.
8. Rugby is considered Georgia's national sport. Other popular sports in Georgia include soccer, basketball, wrestling, judo, and weightlifting.
9. A *supra* (literally, "tablecloth") is a traditional Georgian feast where a large table is set and all the food piled on it at once, rather than served in courses.
10. Walnuts are an important part of Georgian cuisine.
11. Singer-songwriter Katie Melua was born in Tbilisi in 1984. She left Georgia with her family when she was 8.
12. Georgia has a long tradition of fine metalwork. Beautiful bronze, gold, and silver objects have been found in tombs from the first and second millennia BC.

## Armenia

1. There are 820 Adventists and 30 churches in Armenia. There is one Seventh-day Adventist for every 3,616 people.
2. Legend says that Jesus' disciples Thaddeus and Bartholomew first brought the gospel to Armenia.
3. Armenia was the first country to make Christianity the official religion.
4. In the 1930s the government didn't want people worshiping God, so they destroyed many Adventist churches, and people had to worship in secret.

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5. The capital of Armenia is called Yerevan.
6. Armenians consider Mount Ararat, where Noah's ark came to rest after the Flood, to be a national symbol even though the mountain is located outside the borders of modern Armenia.
7. The original name for Armenia was Hayk', who legend says was the great-great-grandson of Noah.
8. The world's earliest-known leather shoe and skirt were found by archaeologists in Armenia.
9. Armenia is the homeland of the apricot, which is the national fruit, and has been cultivated there since ancient times.
10. The *duduk* (doo-DOOK) or *tsiranapogh* ("apricot-made wind instrument"), is an ancient Armenian instrument made out of apricot wood.
11. Armenia was the first country in the world to make all children learn to play chess in school.
12. Lavash is an Armenian flatbread cooked in underground ovens called *tonir*.
13. The Tatev aerial Tramway connecting the Tatev monastery and the Vorotan River Gorge is the longest nonstop cable car in the world and is 18,871 ft (5,750 m) long.
14. Armenia is home to stork villages. Stork nests are set on top of poles throughout several areas of Armenia to provide resting places for storks that migrate to and from Africa every year.
15. Just about every person in Armenia can read and write.
16. Nearly three times as many Armenian people live outside Armenia (around 8 million) than inside the country (3 million).

## Countries — Flags

### Armenia

Color the top third red, the middle third dark blue, and the bottom third light orange.



### Belarus

Color the top 2/3 red, and the bottom third green.

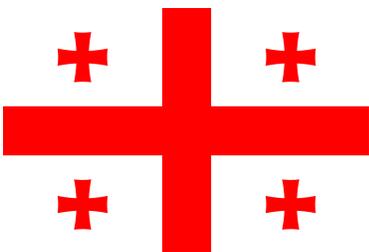
Fill in the dark areas of the pattern on the left in red.



[It is too complicated to describe how to color the pattern on the left of the flag. Would it be possible to slightly grey out those areas on the coloring version so the children can follow the pattern?]

### Georgia

Color the large cross and the four small crosses red. Leave the rest white.



### Russia

Leave the top third white. Color the middle third dark blue and the bottom third red.



### **Uzbekistan**

Color the top third teal and leave the moon and stars white. Leave the middle third white. Color the bottom third green. Color the thin stripes above and below the white third red.



## Languages — Counting From 1 to 10

### Armenian

One	<i>mek</i>
Two	<i>yer'ku</i>
Three	<i>ye'req</i>
Four	<i>chors</i>
Five	<i>hingue</i>
Six	<i>vets</i>
Seven	<i>yot</i>
Eight	<i>oot</i>
Nine	<i>'inneh</i>
Ten	<i>tas</i>

### Uzbek

One	<i>bir</i>
two	<i>ikki</i>
three	<i>uch</i>
four	<i>to'rt</i>
five	<i>besh</i>
six	<i>olti</i>
seven	<i>yetti</i>
eight	<i>sakkiz</i>
nine	<i>to'qqiz</i>
ten	<i>o'n</i>

### Russian

One	<i>odin</i>
Two	<i>dva</i>
Three	<i>tri</i>
Four	<i>chetyre</i>
Five	<i>pyat</i>
Six	<i>shest</i>
Seven	<i>sem</i>
Eight	<i>vosem</i>
Nine	<i>devyat</i>
Ten	<i>desyat</i>

### Georgian

One	<i>erti</i>
Two	<i>ori</i>
Three	<i>sami</i>

Four *otkhi*  
Five *khuti*  
Six *ekvsi*  
Seven *švidi*  
Eight *rva*  
Nine *tskhra*  
Ten *ati*

### **Belarussian**

One *adzin*  
Two *dva*  
Three *tri*  
Four *chatiri*  
Five *pyatzi*  
Six *shestz*  
Seven *syen*  
Eight *vosyem*  
Nine *dzyevyatz*  
Ten *dzyesyatz*

## Craft — Uzbekistan: Papermaking

### **Papermaking**

Samarkand in Uzbekistan has one of the world's longest paper-making traditions: thousand-year-old Persian manuscripts written on Samarkand paper survive to the present day.

### **Supplies**

Toilet paper  
Empty plastic container (a water bottle would be perfect)  
Kitchen strainer  
Newspaper  
Plastic wrap or waxed paper  
Rolling pin  
Dry dish towel or sponge

### **Instructions**

Cover a flat space with layers of newspaper.

Place 12 squares of toilet paper in the plastic container. Fill the container half full of water and close tightly. Shake the container vigorously until the mixture looks slushy and you can't see any large pieces of paper.

Pour the pulp into the strainer, pressing it up the sides as much as possible to make a flat layer — not a lump in the bottom. Squeeze as much of the water out of the pulp as you can.

Turn over the strainer to let the pulp fall onto the layer of newspaper. Cover the pulp with a piece of plastic wrap or waxed paper and use the rolling pin to flatten it and squeeze out any excess water. Remove the plastic wrap or waxed paper and use the dish towel or sponge to absorb the water pressed out by the rolling pin. You may have to do this step several times.

Once you've pressed out as much water as you can, let the paper to dry overnight, and you now have your own piece of handmade paper!

## Recipe — Georgia: Khachapuri (Georgian Cheese Bread)

### **Khachapuri (Georgian Cheese Bread)**

This soft, cheese-filled bread is the national dish of the country of Georgia.

#### **Ingredients**

##### *Dough*

3 tablespoons (43 g) butter  
1 cup (227 ml) milk  
1 1/2 teaspoons sugar  
1/2 teaspoon coriander  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
2 teaspoons instant yeast or active dry yeast  
2 3/4 cups (330 g) flour (bread flour works best)

##### *Filling*

2 cups (227 g) mozzarella cheese or Muenster cheese, shredded  
1/2 cup (113 g) ricotta cheese  
1/2 cup (57 g) crumbled feta cheese  
1 large egg  
2 tablespoons flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 to 1 teaspoon black pepper (optional)  
2 tablespoons coarsely chopped fresh parsley  
2 tablespoons finely chopped chives

##### *Egg wash*

1 large egg beaten with 1 teaspoon water

##### *Garnish*

4 large eggs, cold from the refrigerator  
4 teaspoons butter

#### **Instructions**

##### *Dough*

Heat the butter and milk together in a small saucepan or in the microwave until the butter melts. Put the sugar, coriander, and salt in a large bowl, and pour the hot milk over it, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Cool to lukewarm, about 100–110°F (38–43°C).

Stir in the yeast and flour, mixing until a shaggy dough forms. Cover and let rest for 10 minutes and then knead until smooth. Add 1 to 2 tablespoons flour if the dough is too sticky.

Place the dough in a greased bowl, cover, and let rise for 1 to 1 1/2 hours, until it increases in size by at least one third.

### *Filling*

Place all the ingredients in a large mixing bowl and beat to combine, leaving a few larger bits of cheese intact.

### *Assembly*

Line two baking sheets with parchment. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and divide it into four equal pieces, about 5 oz (150 g) each. Roll each piece into an oval shape about 10–6" (25–15 cm). Cover and let rest for 15 minutes.

Spoon one quarter of the cheese mixture (about 4 oz/119 g) into the center of each and spread to within 1" (2.5 cm) of the edges.

Pull the dough's edges up around, but not over, the cheese, folding and twisting the ends to form a boat shape.

Cover and let rise for 20 minutes, or until puffy but not doubled. While the bread is rising, preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C) with two racks toward the center.

Brush the dough with the egg wash and bake for 15 to 20 minutes, until they feel set, but not browned.

Remove from the oven and use the back of a spoon to make an indentation about 3 inches (7 cm) across in the filling of each khachapuri. Crack an egg into each, place a teaspoon of butter on top, and bake for an additional 8 to 10 minutes (for soft-set eggs), or 12 to 15 minutes (for firmer eggs).

Remove from the oven and serve warm. Garnish with additional fresh herbs, if desired.

Store any leftover khachapuri, well wrapped, in the refrigerator for up to five days.

Song — Russa: Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus Loves Me**  
**Любит Иисус меня**

1. **Jesus loves me! This I know,**  
Любит Иисус меня –  
Lyu-bit I-i-sus me-nya!

**For the Bible tells me so;**  
Говорит мне Библия.  
Go-vo-rit mne Bib-li-ya.

**Little ones to Him belong;**  
Защищает деток Он,  
Za-shche-shcha-yet de-tok On

**They are weak, but He is strong.**  
Мы слабы, но Он силен.  
My sla-by, no On si-len.

**Refrain:**  
**Yes, Jesus loves me!**  
Любит Иисус меня,  
Lyu-bit Iisus me-nya,

**Yes, Jesus loves me!**  
Любит Иисус меня,  
Lyu-bit Iisus me-nya,

**Yes, Jesus loves me!**  
Любит Иисус меня,  
Lyu-bit Iisus me-nya,

**The Bible tells me so.**  
Так учит Библия.  
Tak u-chit Bib-li-ya.

2. **Jesus loves me! He who died**  
Любит Иисус меня –  
Lyu-bit I-i-sus me-nya

**Heaven's gates to open wide;**  
Говорит мне Библия.  
Go-vo-rit mne Bib-li-ya.

He will wash away my sin,  
Жизнь Свою мне подарил,  
Zhizn' Svo-uy mne po-da-ril,

Let His little child come in.  
От греха меня омыл.  
Ot gre-kha me-nya o-myl.

English version on YouTube: [bit.ly/Jesus-Loves-Me-Eng](https://bit.ly/Jesus-Loves-Me-Eng).  
Russian version on YouTube: [bit.ly/Jesus-Loves-Me-Rus](https://bit.ly/Jesus-Loves-Me-Rus).

## Countries — Mission Posts and Fast Facts for Youth and Adults

### Armenia

1. Armenia has 19 churches, 11 companies, and 820 members. In a population of 2,965,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 3,616 people.
2. Legend says Christianity was brought to Armenia by apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew. In 302 AD, Armenia became the first country to adopt Christianity as a state religion. Today, 97 percent of the country is Christian, and 93 percent of them belong to the Armenian Apostolic Church.
3. Thanks to the efforts of Adventist pioneers, the Adventist message was proclaimed and Adventist tracts from Germany were distributed in Armenia. In 1896 about 100 people in the village of Bazarchay called themselves Adventists.
4. The government repressions in 1930s destroyed many Adventist congregations, public worship services stopped, and the remaining believers went into hiding.

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5. The capital of Armenia is Yerevan.
6. About 98 percent of the country's population is ethnic Armenian.
7. The original name for Armenia was Hayk', after the legendary patriarch of the Armenians and, according to legend, a great-great-grandson of Noah.
8. Armenia lies in the highlands surrounding the mountains of Ararat, although the mountain itself now lies within Turkey.
9. In 2010 and 2011 archaeologists discovered the world's earliest known leather shoe, skirt, and wine-producing equipment.
10. Armenia is considered to be the homeland of the apricot, which is the national fruit, and has been cultivated there since ancient times. The apricot is the national fruit.
11. The duduk (doo-DOOK) or *tsiranapogh* ("apricot-made wind instrument"), is an ancient Armenian double reed woodwind instrument made of apricot wood.
12. Armenia is the first country in the world to make chess mandatory in schools.
13. Lavash is an Armenian bread cooked in ovens called *tonir* (similar to tandoor) and is listed in the UNESCO list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
14. The Tatev aerial Tramway connecting the Tatev monastery and the Vorotan River Gorge is the longest non-stop cable car in the world and is 18,871 ft (5,750 m) long.
15. Armenia is home to stork villages. Stork nests are set on top of poles throughout several areas of Armenia to provide resting places for storks who migrate to and from Africa every year.
16. Armenia reported a literacy rate of 100 percent as early as 1960.
17. Nearly three times as many Armenians live outside Armenia (around 8 million) as within the country (3 million).

## Belarus

1. Belarus has 66 churches, 28 companies, and 3,706 members. In a population of 9,318,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 2,514 people.
2. In 1901, the North Russian Missionary Field was organized. It included the territory of Belarus, where the first Adventists, helped by Adventist tracts and other literature, were converted.
3. In the 1930s, Adventist pastors and church members in Belarus were convicted and deported to the far north or to Siberia. Many members moved to remote villages to escape persecution, while others left the church.
4. Christianity is the main religion in Belarus, with Eastern Orthodoxy being the largest denomination, with 83 percent. Most of the rest are Catholic or have no religion.
5. Before World War II, the number of Protestants in Belarus was low compared with other Christians. In 1917, there were 32 Protestant communities, but by the 1990s there were more than 350 Protestant communities.

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6. Minsk is the capital and largest city.
7. The official languages of Belarus are Belarusian and Russian.
8. The flag of Belarus, adopted in 1995, is red and green with a decorative red and white pattern on the left side, showing an embroidery pattern typical of designs found on peasant blouses and shirts. The green stripe symbolizes the forests and fields of Belarus, while the red symbolizes freedom and the blood of the country's defenders.
9. The name Belarus means "White Russia."
10. Around 40 percent of Belarus is covered by forest.
11. The bison is the national animal of Belarus.
12. Belarus welcomes spring with the seven-day Maslenitsa festival when people eat pancakes, play traditional games, and men demonstrate their strength by smashing flaming bricks with their fists and heads.
13. There have been five Nobel prize winners from Belarus: Simon Kuznets for Economics in 1971; Menachem Begin for Peace in 1978; Shimon Peres for Peace in 1994; Zhores Alferov for Physics in 2000; and Svetlana Alexievich for Literature in 2015.
14. The European bison, Europe's largest land mammal, can be found in Belarus.
15. Belavezhskaya Pushcha National Park is the oldest wildlife refuge in Europe and is home to at least 55 mammal species, including badger, beaver, bison, boar, ermine, lynx, marten, mink, otter, wild horse, and wolf.
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17. Typical Belarussian dishes include apples, beets, pears, peas, plums, and especially potatoes.
18. Soccer and ice hockey are the most popular sports in Belarus.

## Georgia

1. Georgia has 8 churches, 4 companies, and 338 members. In a population of 3,702,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 10,953 people.
2. Dr. Vagram Pampaian, an American medical doctor with an Armenian background, arrived in Tbilisi with his wife and brother in 1904 and was the first official Seventh-day Adventist missionary in Georgia.
3. Pastor Albert Ozols, a young man of Latvian origin and a medical doctor, arrived in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1907. In 1914, he was arrested and sent to Siberia. On his way to exile, he treated patients among the prisoners.
4. In Georgia, 83.4 percent of people are Orthodox Christian and 10.7 percent are Muslim.

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5. Georgia's capital is Tbilisi.
6. Georgia's name derives from the Persian *gurğ*, meaning wolf.
7. There are at least 500 species of spider in Georgia.
8. Rugby is considered Georgia's national sport. Other popular sports in Georgia include soccer, basketball, wrestling, judo, and weightlifting.
9. A *supra* (literally, "table-cloth") is a traditional Georgian feast where a large table is set and all the food piled on it at once, rather than served in courses.
10. Walnuts are an important part of Georgian cuisine.
11. Singer-songwriter Katie Melua was born in Tbilisi in 1984. She left Georgia with her family when she was eight years old.
12. Georgia has a long tradition of fine metalwork. Beautiful bronze, gold, and silver objects have been found in tombs from the first and second millennia BC.

## Russia

1. Russia has 451 churches, 331 companies, and 31,517 members. In a population of 120,510,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 3,824 people.
2. The Russian Mission was the first Adventist Russian church unit, established in 1890.
3. The very first Adventist mission work in the Russian Empire took place in Crimea when Russian emigrants sent Adventist literature from the United States back to their homeland.
4. The first Adventist church was organized in the Russian Empire in 1886. The first Adventist missionary to Russia was L.R. Conradi, who arrived in 1886 from Germany. He was arrested for "heresy" at his first baptismal service.
5. Only 47.4 percent of Russians are Christians (41 percent Russian Orthodox/6.4 percent other Christian); 38.2 percent have no religion, 6.5 percent are Muslim, and about 8 percent are "other."

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12. Russia's most famous animal is the Siberian tiger, the largest cat in the world, which can grow to over 10 feet (3 m) long, and weigh up to 660 lbs. (300 kg).
13. There are about 120 ethnic groups in Russia, speaking more than a hundred languages.
14. Russia contains Europe's longest river, the Volga, which is 2,194 mi (3,531 km) long, and its largest lake, Ladoga. Russia also is home to Baikal, the world's largest freshwater lake by volume, containing 22–23% of the world's fresh surface water. It is also the world's deepest lake; at its deepest it is 5,387 ft (1,642 m/898 fathoms).
15. Russia has many folk holidays, which usually include street carnivals, traditional foods, entertainers, and children in traditional Russian dress. Boys wear a long-sleeved red or blue shirt with a round, embroidered collar, and girls wear a red or green *sarafan* (dress), a long-sleeved peasant blouse, and an ornate *kokoshnik* (headdress).
16. At the end of the summer, there are three folk holidays — known as the Spas — that celebrate honey and the harvest of the apple and nut crops.
17. A traditional Russian dish, known the world over is borsch, a beet soup made with common ingredients found in Russian food — beets, cabbage, carrots, onions, potatoes, and sour cream.
18. Famous Russians include Marc Chagall, modernist painter; Anton Chekhov, playwright; Mikhail Baryshnikov, ballet dancer; Pyotr Tchaikovsky, composer; Garry Kasparov, chess player; and Mikhail Gorbachev, politician.

19. Russia's matryoshka dolls are brightly colored figures, each a little smaller than the last, that fit inside of each other.
20. The Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia has around 80 cats who live in the museum's basement to help get rid of mice who might damage the exhibits. There are three members of staff just to look after them.
21. The Trans-Siberian Railroad is the longest in the world at 5,772 miles (9,289 km). It would take a week to travel from one end to the other.
22. The world's first satellite, named Sputnik, was launched by the Soviet Union in 1957.
23. The first human in space was Russian. Yuri Gagarin was launched into outer space in 1961.
24. Russia is home to 12 active volcanoes.
25. Russia borders 14 countries: Poland, Lithuania, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, and North Korea.
26. Russia and the United States are just 51 miles (82 km) apart at the Bering Sea.
27. Russia has the world's largest area of forests.

### **Salekhard**

28. Salekhard is a town and administrative center in Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russia. The border of the town crosses into the Arctic Circle.
29. During the Tsarist and Soviet periods many people were exiled to the area, including the political leader Leon Trotsky. Three Soviet camps were located in and around the town, holding 6,500 prisoners arrested for their political ideals or belief in God.
30. At Salekhard's port, 1,500 prisoners loaded and unloaded goods at the dock, or mined metal ores. About 5,000 prisoners in two camps near Salekhard were made to work polishing diamonds from the Mir mine.
31. Average low temperature in January are  $-27.7C$  ( $-17.9F$ ); the record low is  $-53.7C$  ( $-64.7F$ ).
32. Most residents of Salekhard are employed in reindeer herding, fishing, and the services sector.

### **Zaoksky**

33. Zaoksky Adventist University is located in Tula Oblast of Russia,
34. Zaoksky Adventist University houses five educational institutions: Zaoksky Theological Seminary, Zaoksky Christian Institute of Arts and Sciences, Zaoksky Christian Professional College, Zaoksky Seventh-day Adventist School (K-11), and The Mittlaider-Agro Study Center.
35. In January 1987, Soviet authorities granted the Seventh-day Adventist Church a plot of land of approximately two acres in the settlement of Zaoksky, which contained an old school building that had burned down, and which local villagers used as a garbage dump. In December 1988, Zaoksky opened as the first Protestant seminary in Russian history.

## Uzbekistan

1. Uzbekistan has 9 churches and 687 members. In a population of 35,631,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 51,865 people.
2. The first Adventists appeared in Uzbekistan in 1906, in villages of the Khodjent District in the Samarkand Region.
3. Seventh-day Adventists in Uzbekistan suffered from the repressions of the 1930s. The congregations held worship services in secret, believers gathered in small groups, the number of ministers was insufficient, and new baptisms were sporadic.
4. In Uzbekistan 96.1 percent of the population are Muslim, 2.2 percent are Christian, and 1.7 are "other."

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5. The official name of the country is the Republic of Uzbekistan.
6. The capital of Uzbekistan is Tashkent, with a population of 2.9 million.
7. The official language is Uzbek, but Russian is commonly spoken.
8. Uzbekistan is one of two doubly landlocked countries in the world (a landlocked country completely surrounded by other landlocked countries), the other being Liechtenstein.
9. The Aral Sea was once the fourth-largest inland sea on Earth, but it has shrunk to about 10 percent of its former size since the 1960s, when overuse of its water began.
10. Uzbekistan mines 80 tons of gold every year.
11. Uzbek cotton is used to make banknotes in South Korea
12. Uzbekistan was occupied by Alexander the Great when he captured Samarkand in 329 BC.
13. There is a great deal of grain farmed in Uzbekistan, so both bread and noodles are common in Uzbek cuisine.
14. Soccer is the most popular sport in Uzbekistan. Traditional wrestling is also very popular.
15. Uzbekistan's flag is blue, white, and green with narrow red stripes between the others. The white crescent moon in the upper corner represents the birth of the independent republic, and the 12 white stars stand for the months of the year.
16. Uzbekistan was once the heart of the Silk Road, the route between the East and West through which goods traveled across Asia and Europe.
17. The national dish of Uzbekistan is *plov*, a Central Asian pilaf consisting of rice and fried vegetables generally eaten for lunch.