

# JESUSCHRIST.RU CHRISTIAN WEB PROJECT

## DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

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## DESCRIPTION

**JesusChrist.ru** is a popular Christian website in Russia, which attracts about 2,000 visitors a day, making more than 10,000 page impressions daily. The monthly average of visitors in October 2003 was only 27,000 and in 2002 only 16,000. Now there are more than 30,000 visitors and more than 400,000 page impressions on a monthly basis.

The project, started in October 1998, has grown to be a large project, providing many Christian online services to Russian Christians.

The JesusChrist.ru project first presented a free download of the freeware Russian Bible research tool, called **BibleQuote** ("Tsitata iz Biblii"). This tool is popular among Christians of all denominations and is a unique feature that attracts new visitors to this mostly Protestant web project in an Eastern Orthodox land. BibleQuote also has the capability to be used with other languages. So its version 4.0, when packed with the KJV Bible and cross reference materials, received 4 stars from ZDNet Downloads.

During the period of 2000-2002, supported by Mission Aviation Fellowship Distant Education project, this tool has been enlarged to become a full-featured Bible reference CD, packed with many excellent Bible translations, commentaries, dictionaries and books for the Russian-speaking Bible student. The CD, which was called **Bibliologia CD 1.0**, has spread widely through the EAAA seminaries and various bookstores. Since the release of version 4.5 and then 5.0 of BibleQuote, the program has been downloaded more than 50,000 times from the JesusChrist.ru website. Geographically, BibleQuote has a presence of users in more than 70 countries of the world. Most of the users are Russian-speaking, but with the efforts by mission boards, the program is also being used by international pastors in several countries that are currently closed to the Gospel. The newest version of BibleQuote will support Unicode texts and can be used virtually everywhere in the world. Arabic and Thai versions are being developed at this moment. Details about Bibliologia can be found at <http://maflt.org/projects/cd.htm>

The Russian Internet was born in the 1990s, but Christian projects of note appeared only in 1999. Around that time, several users of BibleQuote gathered together to create **Christian chat**, which has become the most

popular Christian chat room in Russian Internet. This service attracts about 300 frequent visitors a day, making the average number of online users to be around 30 at any given moment. Russian-speaking Christians of different time zones are able to gather together in one place, getting to know each other and building strong Christian relationships. The Christian chat is now celebrating its fifth anniversary.

Based on the success of the Christian chat, JesusChrist.ru began to focus on communication tools, and started a **Christian forum**, which has more than 3,000 registered users and many readers. A **postcard service** was also opened, which has an unique feature of sending a card directly to email. This service is not merely making new visitors by linking them to the website, but has also created real communication between people.

In August 2001, JesusChrist.ru launched a **news digest service**, which gathers news articles from Christian and secular sources. News can later be commented on by forum users, which foments a source of Christian dialogue on current hot topics. For example, in September 2001, JesusChrist.ru became a good place where Russian Christians living in America could meet with their peers in Russia and other countries and share their feelings and views on the 9-11 events. Currently, the news digest is being delivered daily to more than 1,200 subscribers. Our Christian news headlines are also being imported and shown at news.yandex.ru. Yandex.ru is the leading web search service in Russia.

JesusChrist.ru also has sub-projects, which are Molitva.ru (Christian prayer center), Clib.ru (Christian online library), and Praise.ru (Christian music project). All of them are supported by the JesusChrist.ru **mailing list service**. Molitva.ru is a **prayer center** where Christians can submit their prayer requests and get support from all around the world. The prayers are also being distributed daily to email subscribers. Clib.ru is a **Christian library** containing copyright-free online books, covering many theological and practical topics of the Christian life. Praise.ru is a free **musical service** of sharing Russian Christian songs through electronic music sheets (no mp3's at this time). Musical servants also meet together to discuss topics of their ministry through the [people@praise.ru](mailto:people@praise.ru) mailing list.

While being a technically advanced website, JesusChrist.ru is also aiming at providing **daily devotional material** for the Christian web surfer who needs spiritual guidance. The website has a searchable online Bible text, a daily Proverb with commentary, the "Daily Bread" reading (one short paragraph with commentary), and the Russian version of Oswald Chambers' "My Utmost for His Highest". All of these are also available to email subscribers to be read off-line. The Bible section includes has a Bible lexicon, which gives descriptions from various available dictionaries.

## GOALS

The main goal of the JesusChrist.ru project is to become a tool which the Lord can use to connect Russian-speaking Christians from all over the world and to equip them with rich spiritual content. We also look forward to creating English material to connect international Christians to Russian-speaking Christians, churches and organizations, first through providing news and prayer topics, then through giving effective communication tools.

In order to reach this goal, we hope to become a professional team working full-time (if possible) on the project, solving its spiritual (creating and managing the content and user base) and technical issues (programming and web-design). Currently the main team members are secular company employees, so the website development depends heavily on volunteer time which is humanly limited. The BibleQuote, which is the main off-line product of the project, is also being too slowly developed due to the same reasons. We clearly understand that the Lord works through all human limitations, and He has helped us thus far. But we also pray that the Lord's new blessing may be on the project so it may become a full-featured, professional project, like many Western Christian projects that we have learned from. We believe that the technical and spiritual skills we have been given by the Lord were not given in vain and we pray to be used in His time for His good purpose.

Therefore, we are seeking Christian sponsors who are interested in investing in the development of a Russian Christian project which could be a gospel-centered, Bible teaching web resource for a Russian web surfer, as well as a place to connect Russian-speaking and international Christians. We need material help in the first stages of the new development, to help main programmers leave their secular jobs to work full-time on the website. Later, JesusChrist.ru is planning to join with the Christian web-design company GEHARD (which has successfully worked with New Life/Campus Crusade for Christ in Russia and various Christian organizations, both in Russia and abroad). So the funding will mainly be laid on the GEHARD company, in addition to the revenues that come from web advertisement on JesusChrist.ru pages. We are already doing advertisement for Christian projects and plan to work with Christian web shops to make content-dependent advertisements for their goods.

There is room for the JesusChrist.ru project to grow both in spiritual and technical matters. Once given a new start, we will invite new authors to create daily devotional content, to write more in depth news comments, to enrich the library and Bible study tools, etc. We will also develop a distribution network for BibleQuote and its reference materials. We also plan to develop a Russian language Christian cataloging and search service. Since we are called "JesusChrist.ru – Christian communication server", we will also focus on this by integrating all of current aspects of communication – chat, forum, prayer requests – and add new things such as classifieds. Therefore, the JesusChrist.ru project wants to grow up to be a portal where a Russian-speaking surfer can find virtually everything that is Christian, ranging from spiritual content to fellowship with Christians around the world.

## APPENDIX

A. Independent web statistics as gathered by Mail.ru, one of the top secular Email, cataloging and ranking service in Russia. The original URL for these statistics is <http://top.mail.ru/stat?id=185318;what=hits;period=2>. Quoting here are the 2004 statistics, from January through September. They are also compared with September and October of 2002 and 2003 to show the progress of the project.

Month	Visitors	IPs	Page impressions
September 2004	36,981	46,817	442,415
August 2004	33,031	42,519	431,712
July 2004	29,388	39,477	437,181
June 2004	31,360	41,404	420,132
May 2004	37,602	47,800	460,149
April 2004	49,033	56,655	536,850
March 2004	38,805	49,667	542,179
February 2004	27,919	37,173	383,784
January 2004	35,149	47,682	481,653
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October 2003	27,606	39,035	438,914
September 2003	19,465	30,346	421,032
...			
October 2002	16,472	28,102	406,588
September 2002	13,381	24,219	349,848

<http://top.mail.ru/Rating/Mysterious-Religion/> shows that JesusChrist.ru is in the top four Russian-language religious websites, including two Russian Orthodox and one Islamic website.

B. The JesusChrist.ru team:

1. Timothy Ha – programmer and project leader. Location: Moscow, Russia. Church: Presbyterian (Russian-Korean).
2. Dmitry Bintsarovskiy – programmer and maintainer of Clib.ru (the library). Location: Ternopil, Ukraine. Church: Baptist.
3. Vladislav Petrusevich – news editor. Location: Canada. Church: Mennonite.
4. Oleg Salmanov – news editor. Location: Moscow, Russia. Church: Pentecostal.
5. Dmitry Gerasimov – GEHARD director. Consultant in design and development. Location: Moscow, Russia. Church: Evangelical.
6. Forum and chat moderators, varying from Evangelical Baptists to Messianic Jews from all around the world.

## CONTACTS

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