

REPORTER

Reaching Millions For Christ



Is the Lord Opening a New Door?

When Brother Earl Poysti's ministry entered Russia in 1991 there was no thought of prison ministry, but the Lord took Earl's radio messages into prisons and the response was overwhelming! So RCR began a prison ministry with tapes, then CDs, then satellite receivers with web and satellite broadcasts. We were a radio ministry and back then we had no intention of becoming anything else, but the Lord showed us that He wanted us to publish a written testament that men and women in prison could read and so they could see how the gospel was changing lives... so we began publishing *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine.

Then the Lord showed us that the men and women leaving prison were empty and needed discipling and encouragement, so with funds given in memory of Pirkko Poysti (Earl's wife) we opened a center for rehabilitation of prisoners, our first "Pirkko Home." But the Lord wanted the center to also be used for men and women who were addicted to drugs and alcohol, as a place of peace; a place where they could come to know the love of Christ and leave their burdens of addiction... so now we have twelve Pirkko Home rehabilitation and adaptation centers where addicts and alcoholics and those leaving prison come to us looking for help - some from hundreds of miles away. They are never turned away.

None of our ministries were started by our decisions but from the Lord's leading, and by the obedience of those in leadership. None of the ministries that the Lord has led us to have been neglected; in fact, we have increased each as the funds have been made available. Even our correspondence ministry in Moscow, where letters from prison inmates receive a personal reply, keeps growing.

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Now, as the men and women in both America and Russia have become more aware of the fact that those leaving our centers often have little choice but to return to the places where sin and Satan first captured them, we have begun praying about what should be done. Many young men and women are ensnared by sin at a young age; often before they have the opportunity to learn a trade that could provide them with a reasonable opportunity to care for themselves and their families. What then should we do? What would the Lord have us to do?



The Pirkko Home rehab center managers

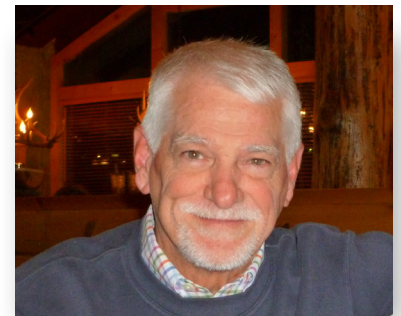
This April, a team of Americans will travel to Russia where they will meet with the managers of our Pirkko Homes, RCR staff, and hopefully pastors and business people. During this time we will pray to see how the Lord is opening still another door to minister. It is our belief that we are being directed to start vocational training for men and women so they can leave our Pirkko Home centers with skills that would allow them to work and provide for their futures. It is our belief that, with the help of American, Russian-American, and Russian churches, we can enlist men and women willing to go to Russia and teach work skills to people who are in desperate need of them. It is our belief that this is both a door opening to the men and women in Pirkko Homes, but also to the men and women looking for ministry opportunities where their work skills can benefit fellow believers.

I ask you to pray with us. Pray that we will be obedient to the Lord's leading. Pray that clear direction and planning will be presented to us. Pray that there will be people in American, Russian-American and Russian churches who see an opportunity to minister. This is not a potential ministry that can be done by RCR alone. This is a potential ministry that will be open to men and women of faith who hear the Lord whispering in their ear. This is a potential ministry that will be ongoing year after year and one which cannot succeed without the involvement of God's people.

If you are a plumber, a beautician, a cook, an electrician, an auto mechanic, a seamstress, a carpenter, a builder or possess a work skill that you feel led to teach... please pray about your involvement. If you are a church and are looking for a ministry opportunity... please pray about your involvement. In our next issue of the "Reporter" we will provide an update with the results of this planning session in Russia. Please do pray about this.

"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith, but has no deeds? Can such a faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2:14-17 NIV)

In His Service,
Ray Brumeloe, CEO and Board Chairman



Radio Ministry to Assist Prison Ministers

Russian Christian Radio continues broadcasting simple saving truths that don't lose their relevance in our high-tech age. The gospel is spread via Internet, through local radio stations, and through local prison networks.

In the framework of cooperation with prison ministers in the coming year, in addition to the magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, we will also create an audio edition on CDs of the programs produced in our studio. Ministers who lead the work in the field will receive audio materials six times a year on a regular basis, along with the magazine. The excerpt from the letter below helps explain the situation in this ministry:

"We have a prison ministry and I correspond with more than thirty prisoners. We also visit nearby prisons. The group of ministers is small. Our leader himself is a former prisoner. If possible, please send audio programs to listen to; prisoners ask for sermons and testimonies. I'll pass them out to those who ask for them." (Antonina Razumov, Russia, Yaroslavl region.)

“I was in prison and you came to me” - Letters from Prison

With the Lord's blessing and your faithful support, RCR's ministry to those behind bars (and barbed wire) continues to spread the Gospel through the magazine of the same name - *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*. We are pleased to inform you that starting this year the number of copies printed of each issue will be increased to 6,500 copies, up 500 from last year! Considering the need in prisons, this additional amount is not large, but since it is funded 100% by freewill donations, it is still a step of faith for the ministry, especially with the ever increasing costs of postage in Russia. But we believe that God will provide and fulfill the needs of His ministry, and our faith is based on multiple blessings and miracles we have seen. As our faith and desire to help was encouraged by these letters we received from prisoners, we would like to share some of this inspiration with you, too:



Nikolai Fedotov (Russia, Khabarovsk Krai region): *Through your magazine, “The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire,” (which came into my hands by accident) I believed in the Lord, and now, sitting in solitary confinement, with great interest I perceive God, although I had not even thought about Him before. It all started with your magazine. After reading it from cover to cover, I felt like I was born again. I felt such warmth in my heart, although some very dark thoughts have visited me, about which it is better not to write. The Gospel came into my hands as if it heard my soul cry out in despair. I am immensely grateful to you for your hard work, which basically saved me; right on time it straightened me out. Thank you, dear ones. Please help me, if possible, with the next issues of the magazine.*



Natalia Kolomoets (Belarus, Vitebsk region): *Thank you very much for the work you do, for all the content is written in understandable and accessible language for those people who are in most need of God's Word. I have a big request to ask of you. If possible please send us more magazines, even if they are not from this year. We will be happy anyway.*

Andrei Gurin (Belarus, Brest region): *We are grateful to God for this magazine, which is published by the grace of God. I send all the magazines I receive to prisons, where they are necessary. Christian brothers ask for them, and unbelievers read them. Glory to God! I have a couple new addresses for prisons. If you have the opportunity, please send two more copies.*

Sergey Lypoi (Ukraine, Rivne region): *For a long time I received your magazine behind bars, for which I thank you and our Lord. Now, by the great mercy of our Lord, I was freed from prison and would love to receive your magazines here in freedom too. In advance, thank you.*

Nikolai Baranov (Russia, Perm Region): *Accept my respect for you for all that you do for the glory of God and to save the sinful souls of prisoners. Some of your magazines are sent here from other places and then we can take them from the library. I wish to receive a newer magazine from you.*

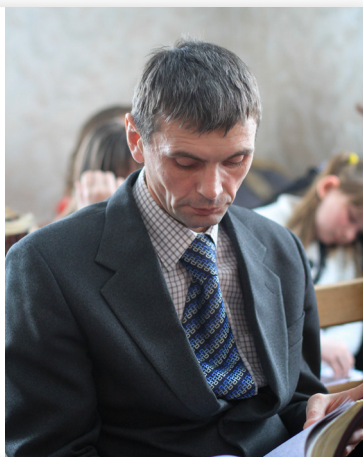
Rinat Gimatdinov (Russia, Altai region): *I am here because of robbery. This is my fourth time. Previously, I was irritable, nervous and unstable emotionally. I didn't know what to do. One guy came from another prison. He told me about himself and how he believed, and gave me the Bible. Then he gave me your magazine and address. I read it through and it was interesting. I had not read spiritual literature before, but I am more attracted to it, and now this is all I read and study.*

Zoya Abdullina (Russia, Amur region): *I have been working for more than 13 years as the Lord grants me the strength and opportunities to serve the sisters of IK 12. In 2000 I was released from there with an official pardon, and since then I keep in touch with the sisters.*



Tamara Macedonian (Russia, Primorsky Krai region): *Thanks for the two parcels. Here in Primorsky, there are no other magazines like this, but a lot of prisons. May the Lord bless your work and prosper you.*

Sergey Gaidym (Ukraine, Dnipropetrovsk region): *This work is not in vain, as the magazine, “The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire,” is expected, loved, and edifying. Thanks to the magazine, many of the convicted are now more acquainted with the teachings of Jesus Christ, and many repented and were baptized.*



Oleg Murashev - Dyatkovo Pirkko Home Staff, before and after rehab.

Oleg Murashev – “Only God Could Help Me”

My name is Oleg. I'm 43 years old, and was born and raised in the city of Volokolamsk in the Moscow region. My father passed away early, when I was only three years old, and my mother raised me and my older brother alone. Mom worked hard to provide for us, and I spent all my free time on the street, although in school I was a good student. Early on I learned to smoke, and began drinking light alcoholic beverages; then I moved on to vodka and drugs like marijuana. For me, it was not interesting to spend time with my peers, and I was befriended by guys older than me. I was expelled from the technical college for

my appalling behavior, and repeatedly was taken to the police. By age 18, I was taken into the army.

After serving in the army I returned home, and I decided to get married and try to start a better life. In the early '90s the time was “fun” and carefree - it was possible to become very rich in five minutes, or to go to jail, or even to end up in the cemetery. I was somewhat lucky, and ended up behind bars. My wife immediately filed for divorce, and my friends also disappeared somewhere. Prison had its own life; there I tried heavy drugs, and quickly became addicted to them. Prison became my home, where I felt good and was understood. When I got my freedom, I felt like a stranger. My friends had families and jobs, and some had already died.

I was released again in 2000 and a month later my mother died. It was a tragedy for me! I thought I knew how to live, but left alone, I realized that I did not know anything. I started to drink heavily and drank so much that I slept the whole night out in the -36° C (-33° F) cold weather! In the morning, when I was brought to the hospital, the doctors did not believe their eyes; they said that I should have been frozen. It was decided that they would need to amputate both my hands and my feet, but the Lord performed a miracle! Subsequently, I only had three fingers amputated on the left hand and one finger on the right hand; my feet miraculously had healed! After leaving the hospital I did not worry for a long time. Again I began to steal, cheat, rob - and again was sent to prison....

Before being released, I was lost in thought about my worthless life, and saw no way out. The doctor came to me and said, “If you stop smoking, then you will live for another three years.” For 15 years I had been ill with tuberculosis. I told him that it's better to live only a year, and not refuse myself anything. After release, one day I met a very interesting man. He did not turn away from me, did not despise me; he listened to me, understood me. I told him almost everything about my life. He listened carefully and said, “Only God will help you.” He suggested that I go to a rehabilitation center. I did not know what that was. I was thinking, “Again a prison, but now a voluntarily one,” but then thought, “I'll go and take a look.”



From that moment a completely different life began. In rehab, I realized why I was given a life on this earth, why God kept me all these years, even when I lived for myself. The rehabilitation center helped me to find the Lord and Savior of my life, Jesus Christ. In five years, the Lord has blessed me so abundantly. The Lord gave me my wife, Oksana, and together we do the work at the Pirkko Home rehabilitation centers in Dyatkovo, Bryansk region. She works with women; I work with men. We met during our ministry in the Nikulino Pirkko Home rehab centers. In 2010 I was baptized and promised the Lord that I would serve Him with a good conscience, and to this day I do this for Him. What is impossible for men is possible for God!

