



REPORTER

Reaching Millions For Christ



“That Which We Have Seen With Our Eyes”

In this issue of “Reporter” you will see some of the first of what we believe to be remarkable photos; before and after photos of those who have come to our Pirkko Home rehab centers. Please look closely at the photos on this page of Aleksander Epifanov. **YES**, these are photos of the same man! On the back page is Artem Panin, whose testimony is featured. In the past we have attempted to tell stories of the transformation in lives of the men and women who come to our Pirkko Home rehabilitation centers. Recently we began receiving pairs of actual photos of some residents, photos taken when they arrived and subsequent photos after their rehabilitation period. Words simply cannot compare to these pictures and we wish to continue to bring you this evidence so you may join us in celebration and praise to our Heavenly Father whose mercy and grace is generously given to all who come to Him.

As 2014 progresses we will continue the paraphrased theme of “That which we have seen with our eyes” from 1 John 1:1. We know you will be blessed by the transformations YOUR eyes will see, as we present to you men and women who bear witness in their countenance of their born-again lives. Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow!



Active Life and Ministry in the Dyatkovo Pirkko Homes

Our men's Pirkko Home rehabilitation center in the city of Dyatkovo, Bryansk region, was opened three years ago. The local church here began to meet in a larger building, and decided to use their old building to develop a social ministry. To do so, they needed a team of committed ministers so they contacted Dmitry Gusev, head of RCR's Pirkko Home ministry. Notably, the church had made a previous attempt to establish a rehabilitation ministry but it was not successful because of a lack of devoted leaders.



There are now two rehabilitation centers here, one for women, as well as one for men, housed in neighboring buildings. The work is directed and run by five staff members: Andrey Fetisov, Ilya Ignatov, Oleg and Oksana Murashev, and Natalia Sitkina. Oksana Kharitonova also helped for a short time, but she has recently moved to be a ministry assistant at the Ruchiyok Christian Camp, where RCR is opening a 2nd adaptation center for Pirkko Home graduates, a center for women. In the course of the past year, the number of residents at our two Dyatkovo rehab centers has numbered as many as 20 at a time, and 16 have been reconciled with God.

The men work hard here at the centers with many projects: building a garage for the minivan, and renovating the women's quarters by moving the kitchen into the basement to maximize our use of space on the first floor. In addition, they work in the city, cleaning garbage containers. The women, on the other hand, maintain the household and vegetable garden.

Brothers from the local church continue to lead Bible studies, and provide spiritual support and encouragement to our team. The Lord inspires them to assist us in any way they can - construction, repairs, etc. Thanks to their help, we installed new linoleum on the floors of the women's building, and fixed the gas boilers which means the heating will work this winter. Yea!

Numerous guests brought us great joy when they visited us this past summer. Groups visited us from local area churches, including a church in the city of Bryansk. A visit with our brothers and sisters from the "Hope" Church in Moscow was an outstanding event. They have been praying and spiritually supporting our ministry for quite some time now.

We are also grateful to the Lord for the opportunities to visit other places. On Easter, most of us went to Bryansk, where we got to enjoy "St. Matthew's Passion" - a classical composition performed by a chamber choir, followed by the evening church service. That experience was spiritually uplifting for the men and women going through rehabilitation.

God also enabled us to make a trip to the city of Orel, where we helped post information about the Pirkko Home rehabilitation program and attended a service celebrating the opening of a local rehabilitation center. Brothers and sisters from our centers participated by sharing their testimonies, poems, psalms, and singing praise to the Lord.

Brothers from the church in the small city of Kokino, southwest of Bryansk, invited us along with the Lgov Pirkko Home, to lead a concert and seminar about narcotics and their destructive consequences. The event was prepared by both rehab centers and the church, and was concluded with a call for repentance. A person from our center responded and came to Christ!

We recently celebrated our three-year anniversary. Many former addicts who have gone through our program attended the celebration, as well as guests from the Moscow region and rehab centers in Lgov and Rylysk. We conducted an open seminar (held out on the street) against drugs, presenting the Gospel and providing information about our rehabilitation centers. The results were fruitful - several people repented and two went into rehabilitation.

We thank our Lord that He brings people into these centers, touches their hearts, and changes their lives.

Demand for RCR's Prison Magazine is on the Rise

Currently, there are 1,194 regular subscribers to the magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* (not counting subscribers in the US). Many of these subscribers are missionaries who receive multiple copies. They visit jails and prisons, correspond with prisoners and distribute our magazines in prisons. This year the number of subscribers increased by more than 120 and we continue receiving new requests.

Here is one of these requests:

Ruslan Korepanov (Ukraine, Donetsk region):

"At the end of 2012, our church, Bethany Baptist, started a prison ministry and I was put in charge of this ministry. I myself came to faith in prison colony #82, then went to the rehab center, became a member of the church and now am engaged in prison ministry and in the "Gideons" ministry. Some Christian brothers and I visit the detention center in Mariupol and prison colony #138 in Kamensk village. I also visit prison colony #82 in Ostry and tuberculosis colony #3 in Zhdanovka village. Please, if possible, regularly send me 20-30 copies of the magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, for distribution in the jail and in the penal colony in Kamensk village. Thank you in advance. God's blessings to you!"

Also our magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, is being sent directly in response to personal letters, not only to prisoners but to anyone in Russia wishing to read our magazine. (It is available in the Russian language only.)

In the US, subscriptions may be ordered for \$30/year by writing to our office in Estes Park, Colorado.



Eduard Zavedeyev (Moscow) preparing to send out the prison magazines.

RCR's Radio Programming Reaches Out to Those Seeking God



Natasha Chernakova in the studio

Over the past six months, many interesting guests visited RCR's Moscow studio and participated in our radio ministry by recording their testimonies for the "Choice" radio program. They shared about their sometimes very uneasy lives and the difficult circumstances through which they gained their faith in God. When people were unable to visit to us, we sometimes traveled to the Pirkko Homes in order to record interviews... and every time the degradation of sound quality was more than offset by the recorded testimony!

The spiritual counseling program led by Anatoly Korsakov was transformed this year into audio material for the ministers in churches and rehab centers involved in working with people with addictions. In his programs Anatoly raises issues that must be addressed and solved when helping people who are burdened by sin, so they can more easily adapt to Christian communities.

We provide these programs, as well as Earl Poysti's recorded sermons, to Pirkko Homes and other rehabilitation centers, we mail them to prison ministers and missionaries, and we regularly upload them to our Russian website, www.rcr.ru. Our programs were transmitted and aired this year on the satellite radio channel "New Life," on the AM station "Theos" - which is heard in European Russia, on the AM station "Family Radio" in Tartuu, Estonia, on some small local radio stations and in some prisons. Also, Radio MCC, an FM station in Vladikavkaz (southern Russia), continues to broadcast Earl Poysti's sermons three times a day in that troubled area.

Artem Panin – Director of Ruchiyok Adaptation Center



Artem Panin, when he first arrived at the Dyatkovo Pirkko Home, and now, as the director at Ruchiyok.

My name is Artem, I'm 37 years old. I come from the small town of Zubtsov, in the Tver region. My parents were ordinary workers, my father worked as a machinist at a local factory and my mother as a secretary. Our family was quite well-off. In school I was heavily involved in sports. My mom gave me a bigger part of her life, her warmth and motherly love belonged only to me, and I wasn't going to share it with anyone. I grew up as a true egotist, and never accepted the word "no" from my parents. I led a lawless way of life, with endless fights, alcohol and recreational drugs. At that time it seemed to me that I was at the very peak of the iceberg and no better life was to be found.

After military service, I was easily hired to work for the bank's security service, where we transported large amounts of money and earned good wages. I was confident in myself and was living in style. I met some people in the criminal world, and one day one of my friends asked me if I'd heard of heroin. "Yes," I answered, and I didn't need much persuading to try it. After a while it became clear to me that I was hooked. Very soon my employer found out about my addiction and I was promptly "asked" to resign, and my friends did not want to be in touch with me any longer.

My parents fought for my life and even saved me from an overdose. They tried everything, but all in vain. Everything was falling apart: my family, my goals and my health. Dozens of people were dying around me. After another dose, I too fell ill and realized that I was dying. On that September day, for the first time in 33 years, I turned to God and asked Him to save me, to deliver me from the bondage of drugs and to give me a new life. I was surprised when I woke up alive the next morning, but then my mind turned once again to drugs, and that was all I could think about.

Out of nowhere, I got a call from some strangers and they invited me to meet with them. When I arrived, I met cheerful people who told me that they used to have the same problem as me. They told me about Christ, and I learned about the "Pirkko Home" rehab center in Dyatkovo. The very next day I went there, where I seriously was made to think for the first time in many years about common sense. After reading the Gospel and seeing lives changed by God, I prayed a prayer of repentance. In 2011 I was baptized, and in 2012, so was my mother, who also came to believe in our God. For three years now I have served in this ministry, helping the addicted. I am now leading the men's adaptation center ministry at "Ruchiyok" ("The Brook") Christian Camp & Retreat Center. Jesus gave me a priceless treasure that I could not even dream of. Glory to Christ!

