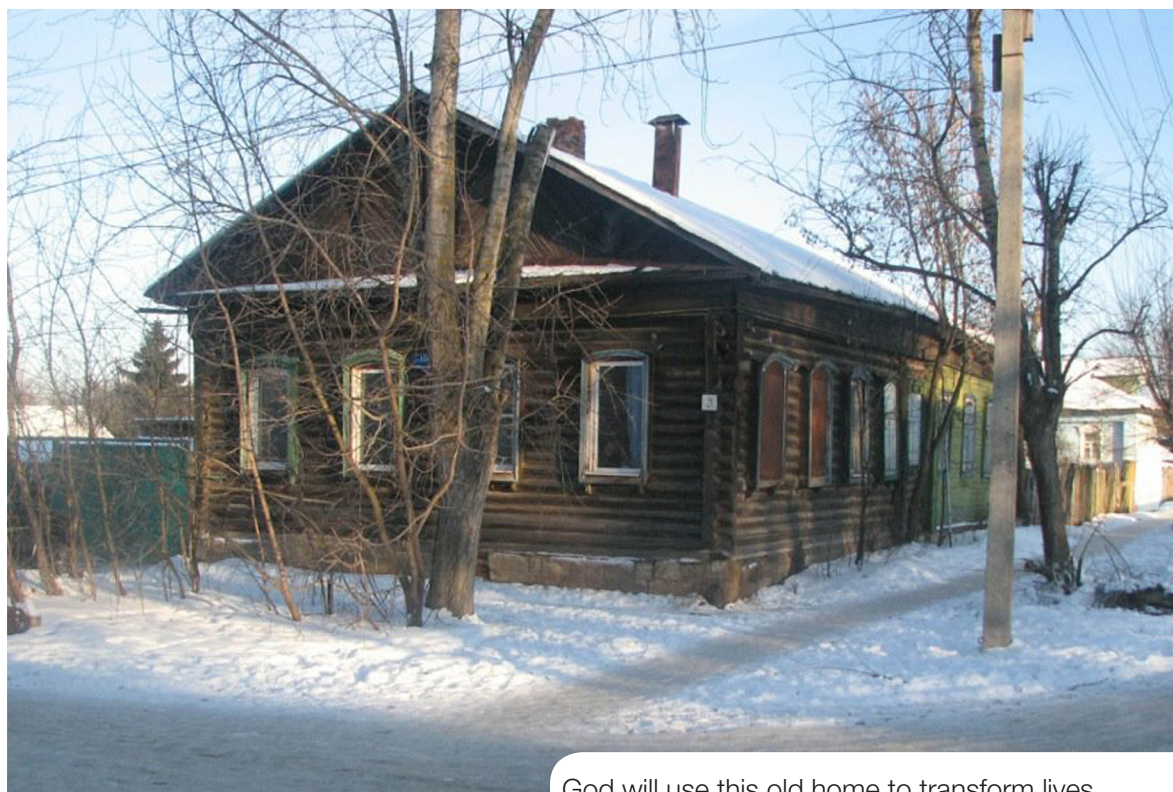




Millions of Russians for Christ

Russian Christian Radio № 2, 2012

# REPORTER



God will use this old home to transform lives

## From Farming To Rehabilitation:

A New Pirkko Home Harvests Souls for Christ

What will God do when we sacrificially offer everything to him? Abraham was ready to obey God and sacrifice his only son and God counted it to him as righteousness. A widow gave her last reserve of flour and oil to feed the hungry prophet Elijah, and the Lord blessed her family a hundred-fold for many years. A little boy offered his lunch, and with it Jesus fed thousands of people. Through a very generous gift of an old house, Russian Christian Radio recently celebrated the opening of another “Pirkko Home”, this time in the city of Kimry, in the Tver region, located north of Moscow. This rehabilitation center is unusual because it shows how the Lord is using the gift of an old village house to give hope of new life and transformation in Jesus.

The Kimry “Pirkko Home” started when a local Christian farmer, Andrei Yelkinov, bought a house a few years ago. He wanted to start a ministry for addicts, but there was no one to help. A group of Christians from a local church in Kimry heard about our work among addicts and alcoholics and approached RCR’s “Pirkko Home” staff with a desire

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"Farmer Andrey" (back row, center right) has a vision to use what he has for Christ

"In January of 2012, the center accepted its first four individuals—men who needed deliverance from chemical dependency and who agreed to live by the Gospel. The farmer who donated the home provides the residents with work on his farm as well as food for the needs of the center. A nearby church looks after the Pirkko Home and brothers from the center are invited to take part in church services, Bible study, and the choir ministry. There are many projects and plans yet to be realized at the Pirkko Home in Kimry. The current building must be remodeled in order to meet the growing needs of the rehabilitation center ministry and they must also manage the farm effectively. The brothers there depend fully on the Lord for their support, so please pray for this new ministry in the city of Kimry."

We praise the Lord that He is using this home, sacrificially given by a farmer, so that drug addicts and alcoholics might have a chance to gain new life through faith in Jesus Christ. Just imagine what God can do as you, too, sacrifice your all for Him? Russian Christian Radio thanks you for your bountiful partnership with us as we proclaim the transformational message of Jesus Christ across Russia.

to use the same program we have in our other centers. We prayed and waited many months for the right team to lead the new center.

The Lord marvelously prepared two men to take on the leadership of the new Pirkko Home in Kimry. Vitaly Rizhkov, who had been the assistant director of the Nikulino Center agreed to direct this new work. Vitaly and his assistant, Ilya Gavryushev are both graduates of Pirkko Homes, and have experienced first-hand the freedom that comes from deliverance from sin, alcohol and drug addiction. You can read Ilya's story of how he came to faith on the last page of this newsletter.

RCR's director for Russia, Aleksander Zaharov, was able to visit the Kimry rehabilitation center and reflected on what he saw there:



RCR-Russia director, Alexander Zaharov (far right) brings Christian radio to Kimry via satellite



## Updates from Pirkko Homes Across Russia

Leaders in the **Lgov Center**, located in the Kursk region west of Moscow, have been praying for many months to open an adaptation / re-entry center, which is the next stage after rehabilitation. Recently, the decision was made to open a re-entry center in the city of Zheleznogorsk, in the Kursk region. There are plans for a new church to be built and the Pirkko Home residents will participate in its construction. The current director of the Lgov Center, Alexei Dudikin, and two new assistants from the center will be responsible for the re-entry program.



Alexei Dudikin leads a team that will help Pirkko Home residents have a victorious life in Christ



Pirkko Home general director, Dima Gusev and the "For You" choir

In the **Dyatkov Center**, in the Bryansk region, members commemorated the two-year anniversary of the opening of the center. A special church service celebration was held in May but before the special service was held, an anti-drugs rally and concert was given in the local House of Culture, and nearly 300 people turned out for the event. Afterwards, seven individuals with addictions traveled to the center for rehabilitation.

There is big news out of the **Pirkko Home center in the city of Rylysk**, in the Kursk region. The director of the center, Andrei Kuzmichev, was recently married. Congratulations, Andrei! He and his new wife have decided to continue the work there. We thank God and pray for them and for the ministry taking place in Rylysk. At the same time, the center has a real need for a closer relationship with the local church. Please pray that a local fellowship will indeed partner with them in ministry.

We thank God that in the **Nikulino Center**, located in the Tver region, yet another graduate is staying to help others. Alexei Mordvinov and his wife Tatiana join current staff members, Sergei Golubov and Igor Markov. A major difficulty still persists in finding outside work for the residents. Please pray about this need. The center is grateful for the brothers who came in June from the US, Poland and Russia to work on rebuilding the dorm building, as well as a group from Germany in July. Their help has been invaluable!

In the **Kimry Pirkko Home**, also in the Tver region, pray that the Lord will bring in new people in need of deliverance and repentance. The construction team from the US and Poland helped remodel some of the Kimry home in June. Praise the Lord for the help which was given to update the home.

The team from Atlanta, USA helped rebuild the Pirkko Homes in Nikulino in June 2012





Ilya Gavryushev now serves others in the "Pirkko Home" in Kimry, Russia

## Testimony of Ilya Gavryushev,

the Assistant Director of the Kimry Pirkko Home in Tver Region

I minister to the alcoholics and drug addicts who come to the center here in Kimry. The example and experience of the staff help the residents believe that salvation in Jesus Christ is possible. I went through rehabilitation myself from start to finish, and afterward, God put the desire in my heart to stay and serve those who face the same problems as I did.

I was born near St. Petersburg to an ordinary family. As a child, I was left to myself, and I spent much of my time on the streets. I tried to act like the older guys, thinking it was cool to smoke, drink, and roam the streets at night. I was punished at home for this, but my stubbornness and pride won out. I started stealing money from my parents for cigarettes. Soon afterwards, my life became

a complete ruin as I was involved in neighborhood fights, basement parties, and alcohol abuse. In the army, I served at a hospital where I first got ahold of medicines with strong narcotics. We had patients wounded in Chechnya, so these drugs were available. I returned from the army as an independent person and my parents no longer had any influence over me. I did what I wanted to do.

I got into the music world and I became involved in a dance group that traveled around offering performances. Later, I learned how to DJ and worked at different clubs, experiencing some success. There, I was engulfed in "club-exclusive" drugs. After that, I moved on to heroin, and I gradually started injecting it a few times a day. I had money and I didn't think of myself as a drug addict, but I started using drugs more and more. My friends, seeing what was happening to me, offered help, but I swore at them in response, just short of breaking out into fights with them. First, I was very proud. Then, I thought that they didn't understand anything, that drugs were awesome. However, I eventually started running out of money. I then used my position at work to steal money and I was eventually caught. That is when I first admitted my addiction. However, the first thing I did after being released from jail was not to go home, but to get a dose of heroin.

My girlfriend and my parents talked me into going to receive treatment. But nothing worked. Even the birth of my son didn't change me. I held this little one in my hands, feeling that I would do anything for him, but afterward, I turned again to the needle. Heroin completely controlled me. All my money was spent on it. If it wasn't for my parent's help, I'm not sure how we would have survived. Gradually, everything and everyone began to leave me – my family, my car, and my parent's support. I fell lower than I had ever been before. Finally, in the winter, after living on the streets and constantly hiding from the police, I turned once again to my mother. She extended her hand with a telephone number torn from an advertisement with the words, "This is your last chance." I held onto her as if onto my last hope. I really wanted to live.

That's how I ended up at the Pirkko Home in Nikulino. Arriving there, my only goal was to get off of drugs. I didn't want to change the rest of my life, thinking that swearing, smoking, and fooling around were normal behaviors. I went to the mandatory Bible study as if to a torture chamber. It wasn't as if I hadn't heard about God, but I didn't know God personally. After three months, I was thrown out of the center for my behavior. I turned to alcohol first and the second day, I injected, perfectly aware that I was keeling over into the abyss. My mother set a condition that I either return to the Pirkko Home, or she would turn me out on the street.

I returned to the Pirkko Home knowing what I had to do – seek God, or I would never get off of drugs. My inner "me" rebelled. My "self" had to be broken. After a month, I repented, and finally, changes started to happen in my life. The Lord forgave me and gave me enormous joy to live for him and serve him.

*(Editor's note: Ilya is one of many former drug addicts and alcoholics who have been transformed by the powerful work of our loving God. We at Russian Christian Radio encourage you to continue supporting this ministry so that people like Ilya can help others just like himself to find new life in Jesus and to experience "release for the captives" just as Jesus promised to give. Thank you for your gifts and prayers for Ilya and others who have been and are being rescued from their sins through the ministry of RCR.)*



Ilya Gavryushev and Vitali Rizhkov have dedicated their lives to help others find new life in Christ

