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REPORTER



Gospel Behind Barbed Wire Magazine — 100th Edition

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Mission Goal:
Proclaim the Gospel of
Jesus Christ using mass
media.

"Please do not rob me of the hope found in your magazine"

It is impossible to fully judge the impact that the ministry of the *Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine has had in Russia over the last 17 years. Literally hundreds of thousands of inmates have been confronted with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through its colorful pages. Writing from his prison cell in central Russia, Sergey told us that "nothing touches my heart like your magazine." He pled with us that we would never stop sending him the publication, saying, "please do not rob me of the hope found in your magazine which helps me to live."

Russian Christian Radio is uniquely placed to publish and distribute the *Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine to prisons throughout the former Soviet Union. Many prisoners just like Sergey write to tell us how they depend upon our publication for spiritual encouragement, nourishment and comfort. We are a spiritual lifeline for them. Many have come to faith in Christ through our magazine and have been discipled as followers of Jesus Christ through local prison fellowships which spring up in response to the bi-monthly publication.

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1 Peter 1:3 speaks of “Him who caused us to be born again to a living hope”. We praise the Lord and celebrate the 100th issue of the *Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine because we realize that God has used this simple publication to cause many Russian-speaking prisoners to be born again to a living hope, just as Sergey mentioned.

Today, we are receiving more and more letters which ask us to send even more copies of our periodical because there is such a great hunger for the *Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine. We turn to you, dear friend, and ask that you prayerfully consider how you could help extend this ministry well into the future with your special sacrificial gift to Russian Christian Radio. We do not want to ever rob someone of the hope found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for that reason we ask for you to partner with us so that our magazine will always be available to prisoners who seek the hope that only Christ can give.

Mark Irwin, President, Russian Christian Radio



“I was in prison, and you came to me...” (Matthew 25:36)



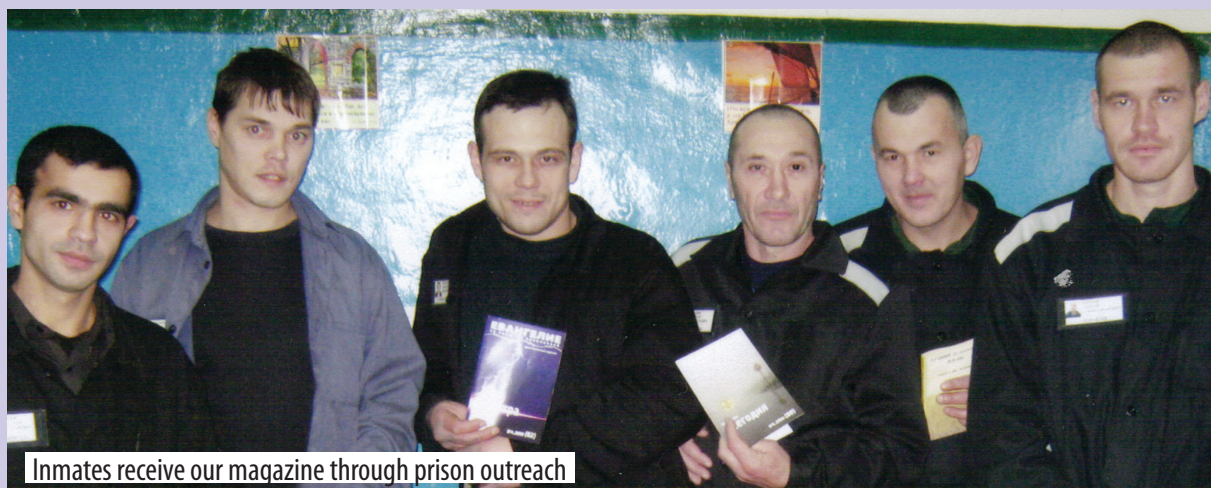
Behind the printing of the 100th Edition of *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine lies a long journey—revealing not the end of the line, but a step further in growth and development. Countless souls have found peace with God during this time; countless knees have knelt on concrete floors and countless tears of repentance have been shed during sleepless nights. Praise the Lord for this blessed ministry! We sense the prayers of those who read our magazine and we pray for them, too.

Do many of you today think about the fate of those who are “locked away”? It is fair to assume that those who are in prison are guilty of such a fate. But there is no partiality with God, and “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8) He died for all of us, for all without exception. All are invited to partake of the opportunity of salvation.

The idea of the magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, which the Lord has entrusted me to serve, came from a woman named Tatiana Kyrakova, who went to be with the Lord in 2002. Its goal is stated in Matthew 4:16, “The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, and to those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a light dawned.” We

desire that the light of the truth and the Gospel of salvation in Christ Jesus will penetrate into the deepest recesses of human society so that those who have been rejected by society may find salvation. There is a lot of skepticism about the ability to reform prisoners and the hopelessness of the corrupted and hardened hearts of convicts, but the Lord testifies to the contrary — His light purifies and sanctifies anyone who turns to Him. He gives them a new birth and a new life. “Come to Me”, Jesus calls. This appeal is the primary theme in each edition of *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine.

Irina Brugger, Editor



Inmates receive our magazine through prison outreach

Letters from Prisoners

"The magazine is designed in such a way as to help us fellowship with God, glorify and thank Him. Thanks to this magazine, I came to God!" — **Igor Andreev-Orinko, Zabaykalsky region, Russia**

"The magazine causes many to rethink the purpose of their existence, and most importantly, it plants in their hearts the seeds of desire to change, to be better." — **Vadim Zhyravlev, Yamal-Nenetski region, Russia**

"Thanks to your magazine, I opened the Book of books — the Bible! And now, I never part with it. I read the Word of God while in my cell, and I thank God every day for His Holy Word, which I never knew before." — **Artyom Ustinov, Ivanovsky region, Russia**

"There are a lot of interesting articles in the magazine, and many stories that are similar to my own. I have lost so much by living the wrong way." — **Evgenny Timanov, Primorsky Region, Russia**

"The magazine, like bread, is life to me!" — **Sergey Sedov, Mordovia, Russia**

"Your magazine brings so much good to those of us living in dire straits because it contains real testimonies of prisoners like ourselves. Any spiritual reflection sows spiritual seed in us. The magazine has played a vital role in my own spiritual growth, and I can say that for many, it is edification, comfort and spiritual sustenance." — **Ahmed Yrismambetov, Perm region, Russia**

"Drug addicts, drunkards, thieves, murderers — these are your readers. Those that society has rejected, with whom it fights, forcing them into jail, not knowing that mercy, after all, does a million times more good! May God use the magazine to bring many souls to tears so that they may come to God, for without God we are nothing!" — **Oleg Kryglyhin, Tomsk Region, Russia**

"How can there be joyous days when each step reminds you that you are the nasty dregs of society with whom even Satan fears to associate? Thank you for the magazine. It brings us joy and pleasure and we always eagerly await the next edition. May God give you strength to work and labor!" — **Alexander Alimov, Yamal-Nenetski region, Russia**

"I eagerly wait to receive the new "Barbed Wire" magazine. It's like an injection which brings spiritual enjoyment and healing. And for this I thank God." — **Telman Saifaev, Perm Region, Russia**

"I discovered so many things that are helpful for faith and hope in the magazine. You can find the way out of any situation and find encouragement in the faith. Believe me, the magazine is a real help for those who are behind bars, as well as for those who have already been set free. Don't leave us! We really need your magazine!" — **Alexander Knyzhev, Volgograd Region**

A Lifetime Sentence Lived for Jesus Christ

"I really want to tell you how thankful I am! I enjoy your magazine. It contains interesting material and is designed beautifully—there is nothing like it. Thanks to the magazine, many prisoners have been able to gain invaluable spiritual fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ. It goes without saying, that thanks to the magazine, we have not been left alone where it is so easy to stray from the true path. When I first read the magazine, I was not yet a believer. I liked to read the letters from other prisoners where they talked about their lives, their troubles and their experiences. I empathized with them. They also wrote about how their lives changed when they came as sinners to Christ. They wrote of how they brought their weaknesses to Jesus, and the Lord forgave each one, and filled their life, heart and soul with His love.

It is thanks to the magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, that I took the first serious step of my life — I repented of my sin before the Lord Jesus Christ and received Him as Savior of my life. Only after this step, did I understand how the doubts, which had dragged this decision out, had finally disappeared ... With my whole heart, I thank you, dear editors, as well as all those who give financially to the mission so that we can receive this blessed magazine." — **Roman Talman (prisoner, Yamal-Nenetski Region, Russia).**



Distribution Of Christian Literature In Prison

Missionaries Nikolai Bozob, Sahalin Island

"Thank you for the work that you do to produce the magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*. I first came in contact with the magazine when I was still behind bars. I came to faith in prison and there I began to read it. I immediately liked it and now that I have been released, I cannot part with it. The magazine helped me to grow spiritually and through it I began to understand many spiritual truths. The magazine is very interesting and so helpful!

I was released from prison three years ago and I now serve with a prison ministry known as "Deliverance". I visit prisons and preach the Gospel to the inmates. The magazine is invaluable to my ministry. I bring it to the prisons and give it to the brothers there. Your work is greatly rewarded already!"



He was with me even though I could not see Him



"Peace and grace to you from the Lord Jesus Christ! I knew nothing of God as a child and I headed down the wrong path. At 17 years of age, I was introduced to the penal system where I first sat in prison for fighting. With this incident, it all began. Before I realized it, three terms had flown by and only in the fourth term, again in prison, did I think about my existence. I looked at God's Word for the first time. My mother had given me a Bible as a gift. I was far from God, but He was with me even though I could not see Him. He performed His work in my life and protected me. Only now do I understand His care and concern..."

I began to go to the prison church. It was there that I first saw the magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*. These magazines do a good work in the hearts of prisoners! In the scriptures we read, "do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31). For this reason, I praise the Lord and give Him the glory! The Lord Jesus Christ – He is the way, the truth and the life, and all glory and worship should be rendered only to Him.

I was baptized. I now correspond with brothers in prison. I pray for the brothers that God will be merciful to them, so that by His great mercy those in bondage will be changed, just as He brought about change in my sinful life. I am thankful to the Lord that He delivered me from many, many sins; I have made some progress, but I still strive to walk in all His ways. Above all things, this I know and believe -- that He will not leave me! In everything I give thanks to the Lord!"

Andrei Vilisov, Yekaterinburg, Russia

The Lord touched me



"My name is Yuri. The Lord touched me here in prison and I believed in the love of God and His mercy, given to all people, including me. In this same place, I first saw *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine. That was in 2002, and at that time I did not understand what I held in my hand, but it interested me very much. I saw written on its pages, words of joy and thankfulness expressed by the authors of the articles. I did not understand at that time, the reason for their joy while still living here in prison, and why they were thanking God for His mercy when they were suffering punishment. But one thing I did understand – I wanted to be happy and thankful like them. As I read the testimonies of brothers and sisters, I tried to compare my own life with theirs. Sometimes their situation was very similar to my own and I was happy to realize, 'I am not the only one like this! There are others who can understand me and with whom I can relate!'

Time has passed, and now I also am able to thank God for my prison term and for this punishment. I am thankful to God for this magazine and for all that work on it; for all the prisoners that have come to God and for their examples and testimonies. The magazine

is a good counselor and a good critic. I am always amazed at how its articles touch on the very thoughts and problems at hand! Sometimes, during a discussion, there arises a question, and then the magazine comes and deals with the very theme under discussion! The magazine puts everything in place. Praise God for His effective power!"

Yuri Kozelsky (prisoner, Tula province, Russia)

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