



# REPORTER

## First Translation of RCR's Prison Magazine into English

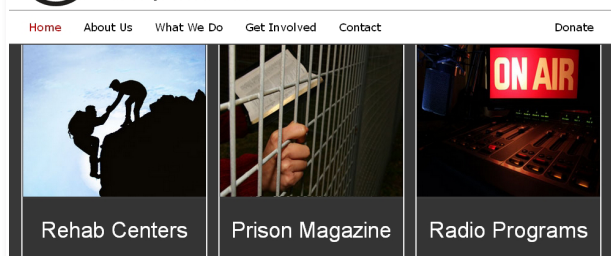
We are excited and pleased to announce that we have printed one complete issue of our prison magazine in *English!*

Many of our donors do not read Russian, but are curious about what our magazine is like. Maybe you are one of them! We thought it would be nice to have one issue to share with our friends who are English-speakers. When we first considered undertaking this project last summer, our Moscow staff thought it was a great idea and suggested that we translate this issue on "Family" (December 2013), since there was such a large response from the prisoners on this topic. One story talks about what it was like for an engaged Christian couple and their 12-year separation during the dark years of the Soviet Union. Another brings up an issue that likely many prisoners face: learning to forgive their parents. It is all very interesting to read! Last fall, Natasha Poysti sent these various articles to

people who knew Russian and English well enough to help with the translation work. Thank you to the many friends who happily agreed to help with this! (Their names are listed on the back cover of this English issue.) We also wish to give thanks and special recognition to the two people who do the research and design for every issue of *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine, Eric and Irina Brugger. They have helped to produce RCR's prison magazines for 20 years now! You can read more about them and their work on the next page. We truly pray that you will be blessed by reading this magazine! (The original Russian version is at: [www.rcr.ru](http://www.rcr.ru).)



... for the equipping of the [ajoints] for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:12)



Printed copies of the English magazine are available for purchase (\$5), or you can look for it on our **new website**:

[www.rcr-us.org](http://www.rcr-us.org) or [www.rcrm.org](http://www.rcrm.org).

(Both take you to the same website.) Check it out! While you are there take a look around at all three of our ministries, find out more about RCR's history, give online, and discover how you can get involved!

Reaching Millions For Christ

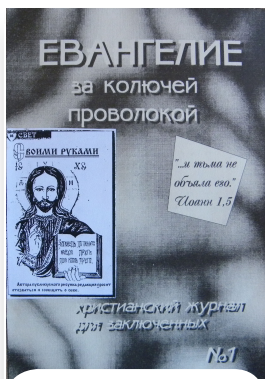


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## Magazine Ministry - Ernest and Irina Brugger

People often think that RCR's prison magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, is prepared with a large editorial staff. But no, this magazine is produced by a very small staff - by two of our coworkers: Ernest and Irina Brugger - and it is supported solely by donations and sent out for free. Sometimes people ask: "Isn't RCR a radio mission? Why a prison magazine?" Here is how it all started:



Very 1st issue – No.1  
Much has changed  
since then!

In the early 1990's, Tatiana Kyrakova, a devoted Christian who had a heart for (and profession tied to) literature and writing, came up with the idea of publishing a magazine and brought it to our mission. In those days our directors and staff weren't sure about the idea of also printing a magazine - they thought, "What for? Why would we need that?" Earl Poysti said, "This is a radio ministry." Sergey Yakimenkov said, "We don't have money for this." But being a sensitive Christian, she realized the spiritual need for this type of ministry. RCR's broadcasts were heard on the radio in many homes, business offices, and even in prisons. People wrote looking for help, and waited for answers. Urgent, often-repeated needs and requests were received in the hundreds of letters from prisons, changing the attitude towards this ministry idea. As the RCR staff prayed about it, Tatiana started the magazine on her own, putting her very soul into every magazine she wrote. The number of readers in need of the Gospel kept growing, which confirmed the decision of RCR to begin this ministry a year later, in 1995. The volume of letters increased and Irina Brugger, Tatiana's daughter-in-law, gladly helped her organize, sort and type them for the magazine, and sometimes even answered them, working almost every night from her kitchen table. Meanwhile Ernest Brugger, Tatiana's son, designed the magazine, carefully combining the articles and photos, so that each issue would be appealing and unique. In 2002, the Lord called Tatiana to heaven, and the ministry completely transferred to Ernest and Irina.



Irina is a mathematician, but has dedicated herself to serving the Lord and the people who are the most needy. She has been the editor of the magazine for more than 10 years, writing and researching articles to include. Ernest is a musician and graphic designer, who has worked with the magazine since its beginning in 1995. They have two children, an older son, Verner, who is already married, and a young daughter named Evelyn.

Ernest shared, "In our ministry, the most joyful moments are when sinners come to repentance - and that certainly is our primary goal as we work on this magazine. Sometimes this means working into the night, when we feel ill and tired, with almost no strength to continue. When the editorial board, headed by Mikhail Fadin, reviews each issue and decides to change something, we redo the magazine again, rewriting and redesigning things. But that's our job! We are responsible to meet the due dates, for the quality of the magazine and for its publishing in general. We want to give glory to the Lord for this ministry!"

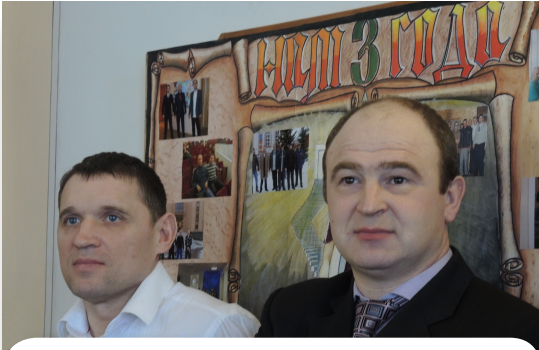
The magazine is professionally done, registered in the Russian Federation Committee of Printing. Each issue is devoted to a specific spiritual topic, which takes into account the interests and needs of our readers. It provides feedback to those who write, and includes some of their letters and testimonies. We still get a considerable number of letters that show how the Lord leads sinners to repentance, comforts them, heals them and supports them. This magazine ministry does require financial support, so we ask for your assistance and prayers.

## Dmitry Gusev - Pray for His Complete Recovery



Perhaps you have not heard that Dima Gusev, the head of our Pirkko Home ministry, was in a major car accident October 1, 2014, causing a broken arm (in two places) and a broken leg. He was in the hospital for over a month. He still feels a lot of pain, but is active again in his ministry (using crutches). The photo to the right shows him preaching at Kimry's recent 3rd Anniversary. He thanks God for saving his life, and thanks those who have prayed - he felt the prayer support. He and his family deeply appreciate the gifts sent and your open hearts for them and this ministry.





Kimry Pirkko Home director, Vitaliy Ryzhkov (left), and farmer Andrei Elnikov at the 3rd Anniversary

## Kimry Pirkko Home's 3rd Anniversary

On January 25, 2015, a festive service took place in the evangelical church in Kimry, to celebrate the third anniversary of the men's "Liberation Pirkko Home" rehab center there. The service was led by the head pastor over the Tver region, Pavel Stukov. Guests from the Dedovsk, Istra and Moscow, as well as many rehab center graduates, came for the celebration. Residents from the rehab centers in Nikulino and Rumyantsevo took part in the service. There were words of congratulation, praise and prayer lifted up to God, and sharing of personal testimonies.

The director of the center, Vitaliy Ryzhkov, told us more about the ministry in Kimry:

*The opening of this rehab center was the desire and decision of the local church in Kimry, who had prayed for it to happen. Our brother in Christ, a farmer named*

*Andrei Elnikov, bought a building in which to start the rehab center. Then 2 leaders and 4 people undergoing rehabilitation came from RCR's Nikulino Pirkko Home. They built the team, around which the present center has developed. New addicts that come feel welcome in these warm Christian surroundings.*

*However, there were some difficulties also. The building purchased for the facility was old and did not meet the needs of this ministry – it used to be three communal apartments joined into one. We took down partition walls, redid the heating system, and made the floors even. We also had to resolve some questions with the authorities and police, and were visited by Federal Security Service and Federal Drug Control Service representatives. We were asked about our ministry's program and what we would be doing. Even now, we ask our new residents if they are wanted for crimes, and submit lists of their names to the authorities, but people don't always tell the truth. We had an unpleasant incident when police came to our rehab center and arrested one of the men. This led to a negative reaction among our neighbors. We've had other difficulties as well, but overcame them all with prayer.*

*The church has been helping the rehab center through these past three years, because it is impossible to carry out rehabilitation work apart from the church, without prayer and financial support from brothers and sisters in Christ. Every Monday evening the pastor conducts discussions and classes with the leaders and rehabilitants, and hears confessions. Every Wednesday, men from church come to the rehab center for fellowship. We share our needs with the church, such as: lack of bedding, clothes or shoes, especially shoes in large sizes. We get a lot of help from the church - within the following week we usually have all our needs met. When we were remodeling the rehab center, and we needed a "chandelier" for our house – everyone brought us a "chandelier"! ☺*

*Andrei Elnikov, the brother who helped to open this rehab center, also provides work for us at his farm, which is about 24 miles away from the town. We take shifts, working 2-3 days at the farm then going back to the center. Some men, who have finished rehabilitation, were given a permanent job at his farm. We also have a part time job in town, where we clean two apartment buildings. We also do repairs, split logs, and, in season, prepare the ground for gardening. There are a lot more jobs in the summer than in the wintertime.*

*The past three years have shown that it's good to have the rehab center right there in town - the church is near, there are more prospects for work and opportunities to evangelize. But there is a negative side to it also - the temptations are many. Because of this, we looked for and found a house with a piece of land near Andrei Elnikov's farm, and again he helped us to get it. Now we are planning to split the course of our rehabilitation program into two stages. During the first stage, while people seek strength to break free from sin's trap, they will be located in the rehab center by the farm. The second stage of rehabilitation will be carried out at the in-town rehab center, after rehabilitants have become spiritually and physically stronger.*

*When spring comes, we will need to start working on this new place. We will build a shed and a fence, remodel the facility and buy cattle and chickens.*

*So far, a total of about 70 rehabilitants have completed the entire course at this rehab center. This fact encouraged me and was a source of confirmation for me and my ministry here. Many men who accepted Jesus as their personal Savior have continued on to the adaptation course. Some of them have been baptized and are now serving Jesus in other churches. Praise God!*



"Liberation Pirkko Home" in Kimry



## Oksana Kharitonova Panina

My name is Oksana, I'm 28 years old, born and raised in Moscow. I have wonderful parents, who gave me everything for a prosperous life: love, attention and money. But it wasn't long before I started desiring an independent life. I met friends older than me, and with them drugs entered into my life. I became a severe drug addict, dropped out of university, and had constant fights at home. They were trying to help me, but I did not want anything or anyone else to deal with. I trusted my own strength, and thought that by marrying and having a child, I would find the meaning of life, but I was deeply mistaken. I got married and we had a baby girl, but no changes took place, since my husband started using drugs with me. Soon he died of an overdose, and it was a great loss for me. Daily feelings of guilt put me into depression. I saw no point in continuing my life and tried to kill my pain with drugs.

Then one day my dad asked me to go to church in Nakhabino, Moscow region, and I agreed. It just so happened that at this church service I saw and met people who, in their past, were drug addicts, just like me. During our conversations they were cheerful and happy and told me that the Lord gave them this joy of salvation. Of course, at first I found that hard to believe, but I did not see any other way out for me. I was given an offer to go to the "Liberation Pirkko Home" in Nikulino, and I agreed to go.

After leaving the center, I began spending less and less time reading the Bible. Then I lit a cigarette and everything went downhill again, but with a vengeance. The Bible tells us about the "7 other spirits more wicked" than the first (Matt. 12:45), and what I experienced was very close to that. Terrible things began to happen to me. Realizing that at some point I would turn into a living corpse, I decided once again to go through rehabilitation. This time I ended up in the "Liberation Pirkko Home" in Dyatkovo.

Once there, I slowly began to read the Bible and tried to understand God with my mind, not my heart. At first it was very hard for me, nothing was clear. It was hard to realize that Jesus Christ died for my sins and that He could change my life. It took some time, but after a while I repented, and the Lord began to work in my heart. I tried to learn to love, to forgive and to help those in need, and in all these things Christ has blessed me. I was "born again," and on July 7th, 2013, I was baptized. He reconciled me with my family and gave me a big Christian family. I thank God for the new life and hope that He has given to me. By the end of this rehabilitation period, the Lord led me to remain in the ministry. I stayed with a grateful heart to serve the Lord by helping other people.



Currently I'm helping as a minister of women's adaptation at the "Ruchiyok" ("The Brook") Christian Camp & Retreat Center in Rumyantsevo, on the outskirts of Moscow.



**Editor's note:** We are pleased to inform you that on January 17, 2015, the wedding ceremony of Artem Panin and Oksana Kharitonova was held at the church in Nakhabino. Artem is the head of the men's adaptation center at the Ruchiyok Camp. Oksana will also continue her ministry there, where the Lord called her to minister to and care for the women who have completed rehab and are going through the adaptation process. Please pray for this new family, as well as Artem's health and their housing needs. We are grateful to the authorities of the Ruchiyok Camp for temporarily providing them with a room for their residence.

