



RCR №3, 2015

# REPORTER

Reaching Millions For Christ



Leaders connecting and interacting to help grow the effectiveness of the Pirkko Home Ministry  
Ray Brumbeloe (RCR's CEO), Nodari Mangasarov (Pirkko Home leader & trainer of new leaders),  
Pastor Doug Baker, and Pastor Dmitriy (Dima) Gusev (Head of the Pirkko Home Ministry in Russia)

(Photos by Mary Flowers)

## ***Building Up Strong Christian Leaders in Pirkko Homes***

What a blessing! This October there was another mission trip from the US to help with the Pirkko Home ministry in Russia. A combined mission team of nine from Georgia, Washington, and Colorado came together to do ministry, including a pastor from a church in Colorado who had never been to Russia before. Pastor Doug Baker was excited about this trip, the ministry happening in Russia, and finding out how his church could participate in it! He had this to share:

*"What a joy and privilege it was to be able to travel to Russia and see first hand how God is using the Pirkko Homes Ministry of RCR. Meeting individual after individual and hearing story after story of changed lives was simply amazing! These men and women went from being stories I read in RCR's newsletters to real flesh and blood people. God is truly using this ministry."*



Doug & Nodari, Rumyantsevo

*"Joining with the mission team from a church in Georgia was the ideal way to get to know the ministry (and to learn some logistics!). Our team had a two pronged effort on this trip. One was to teach leadership and interpersonal skills from the study of the "5 Love Languages" by Gary Chapman. The other was to continue work on the kitchen and lay some tile. Thanks to the work of some wonderful translators, communication and interaction was meaningful and deep."*

*"My purpose in visiting was to connect with one of the Pirkko Homes and explore the possibility of our church in Colorado becoming more involved with that home."*

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Russian Christian Radio, PO Box 1667, Estes Park, CO 80517  
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*"God made it clear to me that, as a church that desires to be involved in a ministry that is changing lives, we had found just such a ministry. Getting to meet and speak with a number of the Pirkko Homes' leaders showed me how God was not only changing lives, but also raising up strong Christian leaders as a result of RCR's ministry. As our church plans our next trip to Russia, I look forward to the work that God will do in Russia as well as in the hearts of our congregation because of the relationship we are developing with a Pirkko Home near Moscow."*

Building up strong Christian leaders is an important part of our ministry. Dima Gusev reported that the Christian teaching during this trip was very good, and dwelt mainly on the topic of relationships between husbands and wives – learning how to be more responsive to one another's needs, and how to sustain a close relationship with God. The sharing of personal experiences, both positive and negative, helped to explain the teaching. Ministering 24/7 can take a toll on marriages, and our Pirkko Home leaders will be trying to implement and further develop this theme.

The presence of guests is always encouraging, and it's a joyful time for the rehab centers. It's often a time when deep feelings are shared, or someone seeks counsel and advice. During these October meetings, two people at the Pirkko Home repented and turned to the Lord, which brought more joy!



## Radio Ministry – New Programs Available Online

The Lord put it on the heart of two of our co-workers in Moscow, Executive Director Alexander Zakharov and Correspondence Director Eduard Zevedeyev, to take on the additional ministry of preparing and recording sermons for our radio ministry. These men are also currently the pastors of local churches. Both of them have worked for RCR since the Moscow office's beginnings in the early 1990's and have worked alongside Earl Poysti.

Alexander records spiritually edifying programs with fresh language and insights dealing with urgent topics of the Christian life and the spiritual truths of Scripture.



Eduard prepares a program called "God Fulfills Prophecy," based on the prophecies of the Old Testament. Our goal is that these sermons would be a testimony to all people that everything that happens in the world is under the full control of God. He always does what he says He will do, so we can trust Him and believe what He says. We also hope these reminders of God's sovereignty would strengthen the faith of Christians, reminding them that God is directing all things and will certainly fulfill His purposes.

Together Alexander and Eduard have produced about 30 new sermons so far (in Russian), which are already available on our Russian website, [www.rcr.ru](http://www.rcr.ru) or on mp3 CD. In the US, contact Natalia Poysti for more details (970-586-8638).

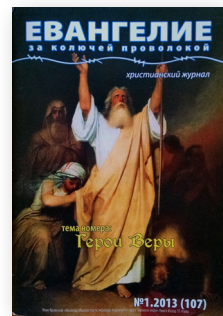
## From the Mail Bag

**Ruslan Klimov** (Rehab center in Krasnoyarsk Region, Russia):

"Back in 2009 I wrote to you for the first time, from a rehabilitation center in Minusinsk, and you published my short poem in a 2010 issue of your magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*. I learned about that only in 2011, when I was already in a different church 700 kilometers from Minusinsk. It was a delightful surprise to me and I wrote to you again! In issue 107 you published my letter and photograph which were titled "My Destiny is God's Glory." Besides that, you published my proposal on behalf of our church - that those who were imprisoned and had nowhere to go after release are invited to come to our rehabilitation center. (We currently have 70 people undergoing rehab!)



"So, I decided to write for the fourth time to bless you, thank you, and witness that God is using you in great ways! For three years now I have been involved in prison letter exchange, and on May 16th our first brother arrived and joined the rehabilitation program. He came from Kirovsk region, having spent 17 years imprisoned there, although he is only 32 years old! His name is Denis and he has now found true joy. The publishing of our article in issue 107 triggered an outbreak of letters from many parts of our vast country. So, after 3 years of my service, "the first apple on the tree is ripening"! Denis repented and is now studying the Scripture. In his second week here he took on the ministry of a chef. He wrote back to the prison he was from, telling the others that everything I wrote about in my letters wasn't just tales and fables but reality, and that God is alive and real!"





## HISTORY CORNER - OUR STORY

## RCR's 70th Anniversary – Celebrating Our Beginnings



Nikolai Ivanovich Poysti

As we enter into 2016, it is noteworthy that “Russian Christian Radio” will be beginning its 70th year in ministry. Over the years many have been blessed by this ministry, yet many who love the ministry have no idea how it came about. We thought an appropriate way to celebrate our anniversary would be to tell our story. The story of one man’s vision for the salvation of the Russian speaking people and how that vision has evolved over the decades. In each successive Reporter, we will bring to light a little more of our story.

Actually the genesis of RCR did not start in 1946, nor did the vision of this ministry begin with our beloved brother in Christ, Jarl Nikolayevich Poysti. The vision, if not the ministry, began decades before - with his father, Nikolai Ivanovich Poysti, the son of Johann Poysti (a Swede) and his Russian wife, Anna.

This is not to say that Earl Poysti, as Jarl came to be known, was not a giant of the faith; he was, and as we continue with this story in the forthcoming issues of our Reporter newsletters, it will be clear that Earl’s portion of this ministry was indeed giant-sized. Without Earl’s patience, persistence and courage, his utilization of the gifts the Lord provided, and his faithfulness to the vision of “Millions of Russians for Christ,” we would have no story to tell.

So, let me begin, not in 1946, but at the beginning.

*“Whereupon... I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.” Acts 26:19.*

This is the verse quoted by Nikolai Ivanovich Poysti, Earl’s father, as he began his own story. Nikolai continued by saying, *“a heavenly vision... is God revealing His plan to our hearts so that we may work for His kingdom under His guidance.”*\* You see, our story began with a vision God placed in the heart of Nikolai Ivanovich prior to the Russian revolution. As a group of his student friends gathered, one prayed for Nikolai saying “Dear Jesus, bless Brother Poysti. Fill him with heavenly fire so that he can melt the icy mountains of Siberia.” Prior to the Russian Revolution, as the “Russification of Finland” (1899–1905 and 1908–1917) raged in Finland, Nikolai’s home country, Nikolai heard the call to Russia even louder. He asked of God, *“Do I have to go to this nation which is forcing its way into my country to destroy it?”* and the response from God was the clear command... *“Go tell them that I love them.”* \*

There was no stopping Poysti from that point. The voice of the Lord was so clear that Nikolai never wavered, never retreated and never lost heart as he entered a war-ravaged Russia in the midst of its revolution. It was not an easy time. Not only was there danger from warring parties, none of whom were sympathetic to Nikolai’s mission, there was also the constant concern of being able to provide his family with food and shelter while many were starving. In the midst of the Bolshevik Revolution, he found himself beside the Volga River with nothing; in Nikolai’s own words... *“The baby was restless from hunger. I suffered when I saw this and walked away towards the desolate inland. There I knelt and prayed. I returned to the God who had fed Elijah and told him it was useless to expect help from man in this predicament. I do not remember how long I prayed, but I do not believe it was for very long. When I arose from my knees I saw in the distance a strange being approaching. If I remember correctly this being resembled a man. Very quickly he neared me. As he reached my side he asked if I were seeking food. I cannot repeat my conversation with him. I only remember that he extended to me a peculiar appearing bundle with the words, ‘Here is food.’”*\* The man disappeared never having given a name or explanation of his presence. This was not the first miracle that blessed our founder’s father, nor did it escape his attention. Nikolai Ivanovich Poysti continued to bring the gospel to Russia as he ventured from St. Petersburg in the west across the vast land of Russia, even as far as the eastern coast. For years to come, Nikolai Poysti was faithful to the vision the Lord had placed into his heart, and that vision was placed with equal fire into the heart of his son, Earl Nikolayevich Poysti. In our next installment we will begin with Nikolai Ivanovich’s own words to his son as he proclaimed his vision of “Millions of Russians for Christ.” - Ray Brumbelee

\* Excerpts from *With Christ in Russia and Siberia* by N.J. Poysti, © 1936, Russian & Eastern European Mission, Chicago, IL, printed in USA by Word & Witness Publishing Co., Milwaukee, WI

Nikolai & Martha Poysti in  
Nikolsk-Ussurisk, 1919

## Seeking to know “What is true love?” - I have found the Great and Living God!

Hi! My name is Zhanna; I'm from Bryansk. I was born and raised in an average middle class family. After I graduated from high school, I went on to receive a degree from college. Then I got married, just because it was time. My husband and I did not love one another and for that reason, like many of my peers, we got divorced one year later. This prompted me to think, what is true love? I found in myself a desire to truly love someone. I began to dream of creating a perfect family - a family in which trust, support, understanding and all the other wonderful qualities were resting on the foundation of love. But it is not easy to find a man who would meet all my standards. I tended to trust people and treated them with love and kindness but in the end I was always left alone with a broken heart.



My dad was the one who always helped me to live through my various disappointments; he was my closest and best friend. He never rebuked me. He would patiently listen to my outbursts of emotions and feelings. Then he would teach and instruct me on how I should live. My dad was also hoping that one day I would find my soul mate and build a perfect family, and I cherished the hope that one day my dad would be happy because I found my happiness. My dad had a broken marriage too, and I was his only and favorite daughter. When my dad died it was a terrible tragedy. I was left completely alone and no longer had someone whom I could fully trust. The whole world seemed to be strange and cold and mean. I began to drink.

As a result of drinking I lost everything: my job, friends and connections, my apartment, and of course I lost my self - my identity. I lived on the street, alone. I could not bring myself to associate with other homeless people, I was repulsed by them. Eight months of living on the streets drained me of my physical strength. I could no longer support myself. I realized that my life was drawing to an end. It was the end of my shameful, pathetic and meaningless existence. I decided to leave this world; in my mind I had already said goodbye to everyone.

At that moment the Lord God reached toward me. I met some Christian Baptists. At first I did not trust them. The word 'Christian' had no meaning to me, but I heard many negative and scary things about 'Baptists.' These Baptists invited me to go to a rehab center. I thought my life was not worth anything at this point, so at least before I died I would find out who they really were. There were rumors that Baptists, under the cover of rehab, were actually practicing organ harvesting. I thought to myself, no one would want my organs, but even if someone would want them, at least I would be of some benefit to someone before I died. With such thoughts, I arrived at the Pirkko Home rehab center in Nikulino, which to me now is a second home. At first I was very doubtful and suspicious. However the more I read the Bible and participated in the fellowship and went to church each Sunday, the more I got to know about God and the more I wanted to know Him personally.

When my heart was able to grasp fully what pain, suffering and agony Christ had endured on the cross, and that He did it for me - that's when I knew what true love was! My heart was opened to receive Jesus Christ my Savior and He became the Lord of my life! I am so grateful to Him. I love Him so much! I so desire that all people would be as blessed! How wonderful it is to sense God's presence, to be filled with His Spirit, to look at the world through His eyes, to be able to love and to forgive without asking anything in return!

Dear friends, if you are still without Christ, please pause and reevaluate your life. Listen to your tired and weary soul - what is it searching for? To be reconciled with God means to break free from all the things that chain us and hold us captive. On our own we are helpless to break that bondage.

Christ is living in my heart. He gave me a new family and new friends. My life is so wonderful! I have strong faith that God will never abandon me. All of my life, future and present, is in His hands. Whom shall I fear if God is with me?

Glory everlasting to my Savior and Lord - He is the Lord of all my life. He blessed my soul with perfect joy and my heart is filled with the peace of God! May His blood-filled wounds on the cross always be a reminder of a price He paid for me. He saved me from eternal torment!

“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

On July 5, 2015 Zhanna was baptized in Evangelical Baptist Church in Bryansk.

