

REPORTER

MILLIONS OF RUSSIANS FOR CHRIST!



70 Years of Radio Ministry!

RCR's Radio Ministry Continues in Present Day Russia

It's been 70 years since Earl & Nikolai Poysti aired their first radio programs in 1946, sending "Words of Life" over the airwaves into the darkness of the closed empire of the Soviet Union. As the "Iron Curtain" closed off communication between the Soviet Union and the "outside world" following World War II, God still had a plan for reaching His people in that atheistic setting: Radio!

Back in the very beginning, Nikolai and Earl Poysti recorded their programs from their small apartment in New York. Since they lived near the LaGuardia airport, and planes flew over their home every three minutes, they had to record their sermons in these short three minute intervals! Much has changed since then!

Earl has recorded programs in many different studios in the US and Europe since those early years, and his broadcasts were sent from powerful short-wave radio towers outside of the Soviet Union, so that the signal could be received in all areas of that massive nation. Because religious activities were severely curtailed under Communism, these short-wave broadcasts played a vital role in nurturing believers, as well as serving as an effective tool for evangelism. Many became believers in Christ while listening to the preaching of God's Word on their radios.



After the fall of the "Iron Curtain" in 1991, the situation changed completely. Earl's eldest son, John Poysti, established a studio and office for Russian Christian Radio (RCR) in Moscow and hired staff. Many of them still work there today. When he approached those at the government-run radio networks about airing RCR's radio programs, one of the officials commented how strange it was that he used to try to "jam" the signals of our Christian programs, but now he was trying to help us instead. God does amazing things! For a time RCR's programs were broadcast on four major national radio networks in Russia ("Radio 1," "Radio Russia," "Lighthouse" and "Youth"), reaching the entire former Soviet Union.



(continued on page 2)



Russian Christian Radio, PO Box 1667, Estes Park, CO 80517
Email: info@rcr-us.org

Give online at www.rcr-us.org



Currently, RCR's programs are still heard on various local and regional radio stations. Our RCR studio in Moscow remains an important tool for evangelism and aiding the spiritual growth of believers. Our broadcasts help compensate for the lack of spiritual fellowship that people have when they are just too far away from a church, and there are many such places in Russia and neighboring countries. RCR programs provide invaluable assistance to the prison ministers, leaders of rehabilitation centers and other missionaries in their work. RCR streams online radio programs 24 hours a day and maintains an audio archive of its programs on the RCR Russian website (rcr.ru); both of these are actively used.

Recently, our new fellow worker, Oleg Shevkun, began recording two programs, a study of Romans and, "Heroes of Our Time," which tells about Christians who are taking a proactive stance in serving the Lord and people around them. Oleg himself first heard about God on the radio as a child. Once he turned to God, he saw his calling to be a translator, helping many of the missionaries, such as Josh McDowell and Billy Graham. He graduated from seminary and was a pastor for a time. He devoted several years to the creation of Internet radio for the Russian Society of the Blind, as he has poor vision himself.



The radio program "God Fulfills Prophecy" is prepared and presented by Eduard Zavedeyev, as the age-old history of Israel is also God's message for people today. "Sermons by Alexander Zakharov" raise important topics and encourage the study of the scriptures.



"Choice" programs by Natalia Chernyakova tell stories of how people turned from the darkness of sin to their Savior, Jesus Christ - these testimonies prove that there are no hopeless situations. To help further develop this ministry Natalia began studying journalism. Please pray that she will be able to master the course and apply the knowledge to enhance RCR's audio programs and the ministry of *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, RCR's Christian magazine for prisoners.



We recently began to expand the audio ministry using video and there is a great need for more video equipment.



Another new employee, Ayur Vanzhilov, joined our team at the end of 2015. He tells us more about himself: "My name is Ayur, and people often ask me the meaning of my name. It literally means 'age, life.' And I am especially grateful to Jesus Christ, who revealed Himself to me as God, and who Himself is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Today I truly have life in Him. I am 23 years old. I'm from Buryatia, Russia, born in Ulan-Ude. I grew up in a Christian family. It is God's blessing and His mercy that my parents, being hearing impaired, were able to 'hear' the good news. From an early age I was in church and later assisted in our summer camp on Lake Baikal. God was working

in my heart, and by the time I moved to Moscow to study at the university, God made it clear to me personally that I was a sinner and that without Him there is no life - He is my Savior. In Moscow, I started attending Kovcheg ('Ark') church; at that time Sergey Yakimenkov was the pastor there, and now, Alexander Zakharov, the Director of RCR in Russia. In the church I helped with Sunday school, and now I am responsible for the youth. Recently, I began to work for RCR. I am directly engaged in the audio ministry, editing the sermons and other programs, and we are beginning to produce video programs, recorded in our studio. In addition, I help with the layout of the magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*."

Listen to RCR Radio Online (in Russian) at rcr.ru, or use the app: TuneIn Radio: <http://tun.in/sfb7L> on your phone.

HISTORY CORNER - OUR STORY

RCR's 70th Anniversary – Celebrating Our Beginnings: Part 2

In our last issue of the “Reporter” we told the story of how the vision for ministry to the Russian-speaking people began prior to the Revolution in Russia: a vision that God placed on the heart of Nikolai Ivanovich Poysti, father of Brother Earl Poysti. In this issue, we are sharing, in Earl’s own words, about the events leading up to the “official” start of our ministry.

“One day, early in the morning, about 3 a.m., I woke up and could not sleep. This was in 1945. The door to my parents’ room opened and I heard my father, Nikolai Ivanovich, coming out. He quietly passed by the couch on which my brother and I slept, and entered the kitchen. ‘What is he going to do there so early in the morning?’ I thought, before falling asleep again. That morning at breakfast, everything became clear; Father greeted us with a beaming face and said with an excited voice, ‘**Millions of Russians for Christ!**’ ... It turns out that... he, moved by the Lord, had gone to the kitchen to pray, and the Lord revealed this phrase to him, as if in a vision: ‘**Millions of Russians for Christ!**’



As they started their radio ministry, Nikolai (left) and Earl (far right) worked together in the Russian Department of Eastern European Mission, recording programs and editing a magazine for Russians.

Shortly after beginning the radio ministry, Nikolai Ivanovich asked 25-year-old Earl to prepare the next sermon. Then he was asked to prepare more and more programs. A little over a year later, in November, 1947, Nikolai Ivanovich suddenly passed away from a heart attack and the vision of “**Millions of Russians for Christ!**” was rightfully inherited by Earl Nikolayevich Poysti and, even after Earl’s passing, the vision continues to this day.



Nikolai and Earl Poysti at their family's apartment in Queens, NY. (Spring, 1947)



Earl faithfully broadcast the gospel to the Russian people through various radio mission organizations with his weekly programs. There was little feedback at first. Until the “Iron Curtain” fell, very few letters were received from listeners, as much of the mail going out of the Soviet Union was seized. Interestingly, one day a bottle with a note inside washed ashore in Sweden. The bottle was found and it was discovered that the note inside was in Russian and addressed to Earl. Eventually Earl received the bottle and the note, which was from a man in Ukraine, asking for a Bible. Almost certainly, this man must have heard Earl’s broadcasts over short-wave radio, even though listening was prohibited by the Soviet government. Later Earl also heard a report that his programs had resulted in an entire village in Ukraine coming to Christ! Earl’s prayers were answered and the fire in his heart never faded.

In our next issue we will tell the story of Earl reentering Russia, and the reception that greeted him.

Alexander Ivanin: To serve and live only for Christ!



My name is Alexander. I am 35 years old. I was born in Ukraine in a small provincial town called Alexandria. I grew up as an ordinary person; I did well in school and took part in sports. My mother was a kindergarten teacher, and my father served in the military. Because of this, we often had to move. In 1995, I began attending a Baptist church and later repented. My parents thought that this was a sect, and my friends laughed at me. I was accepted to a technical college. All kinds of minor harassments started when they found out that I was a Baptist. I couldn't stand it, and so I left the church. Really, the worst was brought out in me after that. During the first semester, I started to take light drugs and quickly became addicted to them.

In 1996, my parents left for seasonal jobs in Moscow, and I was left alone. I began to satisfy the demands of my flesh, and because of this, I owed many debts to criminals. There was no other choice for me but to go to Moscow to my parents, so I left my studies behind.

Once in Moscow, I thought I would start a new life there. But the devil was very crafty. I started drinking. In 2001, a friend of mine offered me heroin. After taking it for the first time, I realized that once you try it, eventually you will lose everything. I stayed in Moscow up until 2008. Instead of bringing back the money I earned to Ukraine, I brought diseases back with me. In 2011, my mother died. I finally fell into the pit; I lost my moral values and even my apartment. But thank God, my relatives in Bryansk took me in to stay with them.

While in Bryansk, I thought that once again I would start a new life. But instead I found myself still in the pit. My relatives did not know what to do with me, so I decided to go to a rehabilitation center. Thus, I found myself in Rumyantsevo in the Pirkko Home "Liberation" Rehab. There I re-established my relationship with my Lord Jesus Christ, and He began to change my mind and my heart. Having completed a full rehabilitation course, the Holy Spirit has prompted me to remain in the ministry at the rehab center to help those who were once like me. In the future, I wish to serve and live only for Christ!



The "Son" Comes to Sun City

Solnechnogorsk, or "Sun City" in English, is a city of 70,000 people located approximately 40 miles from Moscow. A few years ago there was an attempt to build a new church in Sun City, and in fact, the exterior of the building is basically complete. Due to a lack of committed believers, the inside of the building was not completed and it has remained vacant and unused. The building location is among the tall apartment buildings where many young people live. Sun City has three Orthodox churches, one very large mosque, but only two other Protestant churches. That is about to change.



Pastor Dmitriy Gusev, RCR's assistant director, and head of our Pirkko Home "Liberation" rehab centers, was sent by his church in Dedovsk, near Moscow, to lead a church plant here. One of the goals of this new church is to welcome Pirkko Home graduates and minister together with them for the glory of God. For the next 6-7 months, a team is working to finish the church building, including installation of utilities, a kitchen and restrooms. In late September, a special service and Feast of the Harvest is scheduled to dedicate the building and open the new church, which still has no name. The church is in need of financial assistance for completion.

Yet another door is opening for RCR and we look forward to bringing you more exciting news about this church plant. Please pray for Dima and all the volunteers who will be enthusiastically working to bring this worship center to the people of Sun City.

