

# REPORTER

Millions of Russians for Christ

## ***Fire at Nikulino!*** ***Losses and Blessings***

A horrible fire on March 30, 2016, completely engulfed one of the Pirkko Homes at Nikulino and burned it to the ground. Maybe you have heard about this from one of our Frontline prayer letters. The more we think about what happened, the more we come to the conclusion that it was only by the grace of God that the life and health of those living here were protected. When the fire in the attic started, it was late at night and about 30 people were asleep, including children. One young woman was moved to get up and go to the window - where she saw sparks and then woke everyone else up. God is merciful, and He controls everything.

The staff and management of RCR are grateful to all who took this situation to heart and prayed for the people of Nikulino and for the restoration of the ministry here to help alcoholics and drug addicts. The believers from churches, near and far, have responded by helping with the labor of their hands and by providing necessary things.

Now at full speed we are working to restore the second building, which mostly escaped the fire. Smoke blackened the inside, the outside facade was burned some places, and the water supply and heating systems needed to be replaced - but the roof and walls were good.

Thanks to your donations, the rehab center ministers and residents have been able to work on the restoration, without stopping due to a lack of materials. They were also very grateful for the provision of a new furnace, which will burn for eight hours at a time - unlike the old one, a fireplace that needed to be tended all night long in the winter. The new boiler on this furnace has a large enough capacity to handle both buildings, once we are able to rebuild the burned home, Lord willing.

Although it was good and pleasant for the Nikulino residents to take shelter in the local church, and their relationships with the church have become much closer during this time, the Pirkko Home is their home and they are anxious to return as quickly as possible - hopefully in June. There are also many chores to do at Nikulino, with the large garden and all the animals to care for.

The remaining work to be done is to finish the first floor of the building that escaped the fire, and to restore its heating. After that we can begin to work on the reconstruction of the burned house. This is a big job - please pray, and if you are able to help, please come!

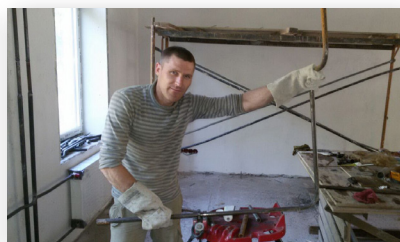
- Alexander Zakharov, Executive Director of RCR in Russia





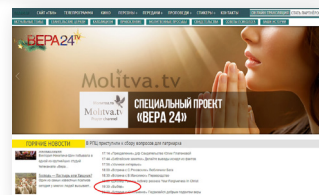
**Rumyantsevo “Pirkko Home” Mission Trip.** “While enduring difficult trials at Nikulino, the Lord has not left us without mercy, having sent our way some Christian brothers from the state of Colorado. Arriving April 16th, they helped in building the ‘banya’ (Russian steam bath) for the rehabilitants at Rumyantsevo, and also spent one day helping with work at the new church in Solnechnogorsk. The three young men from America had a past similar to ours; some, in their past, having lived their lives without God and abusing alcohol and drugs; all three grew up without fathers. We understood each other on an emotional level, even though we didn’t share the same language. Every evening our guests shared their testimonies, Pastor Doug shared a word from the Bible and we all had joyful fellowship. Everyone was delighted despite the hard work. We didn’t want to part, and some of them, strangely, even wanted to stay! We are most grateful for their visit and support. – Dima Gusev

### The work on the new church plant at Solnechnogorsk continues...



### RCR’s New “Choice” Programs Now Available on Video

Beginning in 2016, the RCR Moscow studio has begun creating videos of our “Choice” programs, where people share their stories of repentance. They are available on our Russian website (rcr.ru) and on the “RCR-Videos” channel on YouTube, and most recently, they are also available on the TBN Christian channel, “VERA24.tv” (“FAITH 24”).



### Restrictions on Prison Magazine Distribution Bring New Strategy and Opportunities



Extenuating circumstances and rapidly changing rules for correctional institutions in Russia are dictating changes in our prison magazine ministry. Recently Vyacheslav Kozlov, who distributes *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine to prisoners in the Republic of Komi, was faced with the reluctance of the prison administration to let him pass out magazines during his last prison visit. Evidently now a subscription is required, and inmates are free to subscribe to the publications listed in the Russian Post mail catalog. Prayerfully we took this to God, and now we see it as an opportunity to expand our boundaries... when the magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, is included in the catalog of the Russian Post, a multitude of new people will be able to get acquainted with the gospel through our magazine. Please pray for the process of filing necessary documents and signing contracts to include our magazine in the catalog in 2017.



### New Rehab Center in Bryansk Region

We are happy to share this good news with you. On the 15th of May, the church in Komarichi, Bryansk region, held a service dedicated to the opening of a new rehabilitation center. This event was a great celebration for the local church. There were lots of guests, and all of the people couldn’t even fit in the building for the service.



Peter & Olga Pitsurenko

This is a big deal for our ministry as well, as this new center will be headed by Peter Pitsurenko, one of our own “Pirkko Home” rehab directors. Along with his entire team, he moved from the rehabilitation center in Lgov, Kursk region. Alexei Mordvinov, who for many years served faithfully at the “Pirkko Home” in Nikulino, came to be the new head our “Pirkko Home” rehab in Lgov. Please pray for these new places of ministry for Peter Pitsurenko and for Alexei Mordvinov. A season of new opportunities and great responsibility has begun for these ministers.





## HISTORY CORNER - OUR STORY

## RCR's 70th Anniversary – Celebrating Our Beginnings: Part 3

Words come with difficulty when one begins to tell a story that has such a miraculous touch of God's own hand. The first parts of the story of our ministry to Russian speaking people were like trying to walk against the winds of a hurricane. Years and years passed with little encouragement or knowledge of whether Brother Earl's messages were even being heard. But Earl Poysti was God's own man and his encouragement came from the Scriptures. So, in 1988, 42 years after Earl Poysti first began broadcasting the gospel into the Soviet Union, the long awaited miracles



started happening. About ten days before a very large celebration in Kiev (Ukraine), was to take place, marking 1000 years of Christianity in Russia, Earl Poysti and his wife Pirkko were invited to come, and with such short notice, the first miracle was that the embassy approved their visas and they were allowed to go and participate in this event. Crowds were so large that believers were asked to stay outside the churches during meetings, so that the many unbelievers could go inside to hear the gospel. Over 10,000 people showed up at the nearby Dnieper River for a special baptism service.



The next amazing miracle happened the following year when Earl was allowed to travel within the Soviet Union. Here are excerpts from a November 14, 1989 article featured in *The Denver Post*.

*Earl Poysti has dreamed of the day he could preach the gospel in his native Siberia, in addition to operating Russian Christian Radio from a studio in Estes Park. Last June it finally happened. Poysti was allowed to travel across the Soviet Union for four weeks and preach wherever he wished.*

*"I have seen KGB officers receive the word of God with gladness," the 69-year-old broadcaster said. "Before they were accusing me of working for the CIA, but now they are asking me for copies of the New Testament."*

*For the first time in 70 years, he said, people in the Soviet Union who were denied the right to practice their religion are now free to do so. All of those imprisoned on religious grounds have been released during the last three years, he said. During this time, mail requests he received about his broadcasts jumped from a few to a thousand a month.*



Brother Earl once told me of the crowds that greeted him when he first went to the Soviet city Brest (now in Belarus). People surrounded him wherever he went and he never missed an opportunity to preach... even from a bench in the train station as he was about to leave.

It is true that secular historians will speak of this amazing period as one brought about by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, often called "glasnost" ("open door"). Then, as now, politics... language... geography... have no power over the gospel. "Visions and dreams do come true," Poysti said. "Who would have thought three years ago this would have been possible? People say it's for political reasons, or economic, but I believe God intervened."

With these miracles Russian Christian Radio entered into a new period of ministry; one even bigger than Brother Earl had dreamed. But his courage, determination, patience and persistence have set this ministry on a path that continues to energize Russians to this very day. With God's will ("Воля Божья") we will continue.

In the next issue of Reporter we will feature the next addition to our story. See then how the Lord has directed our steps as we transitioned the ministry from outside Russia... into Moscow.

- Ray Brumbeloe, CEO and Board Chair of RCR in the US



## Marina Markova: *By the power of Christ my new life began!*

My husband and I are very concerned about our rehabilitation center at Nikulino after the recent fire and continue to keep everything in prayer. The fire happened at 2:00 am, and when we saw the sparks from the roof through our windows, we rushed to the street. No one was hurt. It was very cold, and we were barely dressed. After the fire trucks arrived we were taken to the local church in Vyshny Volochek where we were welcomed and given all the items needed for temporary aid. Many brothers and sisters from nearby towns began to arrive on the same day with clothes and food. God has given our hearts peace and a desire to serve with more zeal in these difficult days.



Allow me to share my story. I was born and raised in a small village in the Republic of Karelia. There were three of us girls in the family. My mother drank a lot and died from the alcohol when I was only 13 years old. My father was sick a lot, often hospitalized for months. Already by the time I was 14 years old, I lived alone. Once in a while, my dad visited for the weekend, and then went back to the hospital. I considered myself an adult and spent a lot of time on the streets with friends... and at this early age I got addicted to alcohol.

At age 19 I got married and we had a son, but I could not continue living this "family life" for very long. In this family of intellectuals, I felt fenced in; there was no smoking or drinking and everyone had two advanced degrees. I wanted freedom from such a "righteous life." I began to spend much time in the company of friends - often I did not come home for several days or even for a week. My husband and son stopped waiting for me. I thought that if I was able to grow up without a mother, my son, too, could grow up without me, and I did not see anything wrong in this. Only after some time did I start to feel the longing and loneliness. My husband divorced me, and my son stayed with him. It was at this time that my friends offered to let me try drugs. Everything around me changed and got even worse. I was left all alone. No more family, friends, shelter, or money. But one day someone told my dad that there was a rehabilitation center for drug addicts. He begged me and even knelt down in front of me, asking me to go and try this center. I had nothing to lose, so I agreed, as long as my father was happy.

In April 2012, my father brought me to the Nikulino Pirkko Home in Tver region and I stayed for rehabilitation. Everything I saw here seemed upside down: in the world it's one way, but here everything is different. Everyone here is happy, kind. I felt the love from the people and on the very first evening sat down and began to cry; they all were so compassionate. I realized that I was living my life the wrong way; I was guilty before my little boy, his father, and before God and I repented. But I did not yet know God; I did not know that He could do miracles in people's lives. Drugs deep inside me reminded me of their presence, and I began to question why I was even here. Here we all had to work; blisters appeared on my hands and questions appeared in my mind, like why do I have to work so hard? I wanted to go back to my friends. At the same time I began to read the Bible. I remembered my father and imagined how much it would hurt him if I returned home. In the following days and weeks, I began to understand that without a rehab center and without God, I would never be liberated. During the rehabilitation period, I realized a lot, and in my heart I obtained the most important thing - Christ, and His love. By His power my new life began! I was overwhelmed with happiness and I began to write poems and read them to my brothers and sisters at dinnertime, and later also at the church. The world has become a stranger to me; I saw so much sin and filth there.

After rehabilitation God called me to serve Him here in Nikulino. The Lord also gifted me with a new family. I married the leader of the center, Igor Markov, and in 2014 we had a son, Timothy. This June, we're expecting the birth of our daughter. I wish that more people, who are dependent on alcohol and drugs, would find out about the rehab center and ask God for help. After all, only God is able to change people, the way He changed someone like me. Today my heart is filled with love and a desire to help people who seek help at the rehab center. The Lord has given me a new life full of light, kindness, and love. Glory to our Lord Jesus Christ!

