



REPORTER

Millions of Russians for Christ

RCR's Ministries

Radio and Video programs

RCR continues its mission of spreading the Gospel, *reaching hopeless and broken Russian-speaking people with the transforming love and power of Jesus Christ.* Recording new programs continues to be an effective tool for accomplishing this mission. Please continue to support this ministry!

Christian prison magazine

As Chaplains and prison ministers are no longer allowed to visit prisons in Russia, the importance of *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine has increased even more; RCR strives to publish it every other month, which requires substantial support for production and mailing.

Rehabilitation from addictions

More than 120 people undergo the program in 14 centers at any given time. 27 Pirkko Home leaders/ministers serve on a daily basis. RCR currently supports 8 full-time ministers and your donation for Pirkko Home staff support is needed for more of them who serve full-time, especially those at: Kokino (Oleg M), Rylsk (Andrey K), and Kimry (Aleksey B). Additional support is also still needed for Dima Gusev (the head of the rehab ministry in Russia), and some of the other leaders.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

"I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care..." (Phil 4:10 NKJV)



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

Give online at www.rcr-us.org

Rebuilding at Nikulino After the Fire

We thank all of you who responded to the need for help with the repairs and reconstruction work at the Nikulino Pirkko Home after the fire. Your support and prayers have been a tremendous help and encouragement. The building that remains, which suffered quite a bit of damage in the fire, is almost completely restored, and both the men's and women's centers have begun functioning again, within two months after the incident. Although this much has been done, a lot more lies ahead of us.



*Making progress on a place
for the men to live*

Plans are still being made for rebuilding a new Pirkko Home on the site where the first one stood. In the meantime, remodeling has begun of another house close by, which was acquired for the minister's family in 2015. This house is being enlarged so it can temporarily be used for the men's rehabilitation center. We are hoping to have this second building enclosed and useable for the men by winter. This is a very important step for us, because men and women should live separately, but until it's ready, they are sharing the same building, the house that was spared by the fire. Usually there are about ten men and ten women in the two Pirkko Homes here. In addition, we continue to get calls about rehabilitation from mothers with children, and we would like to start this program again, as soon as we have the space.

The cold season is coming soon and there is a need in the center for warm clothes, and especially shoes. We also pray every day that construction would be able to continue, and that we would have the necessary funds to carry on.

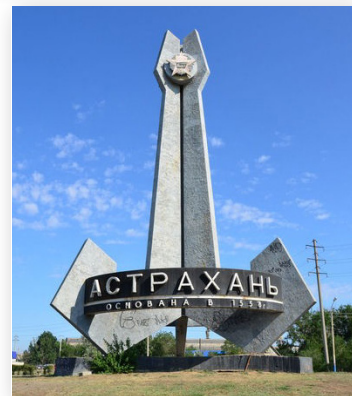
Please pray for the people who are now in the Pirkko Home program, that the Lord would work in a special way in this situation and change the hearts and lives of these people. Pray also for the graduates who have undergone rehabilitation.



New Possibilities for Radio Broadcasting in Astrakhan

In the spring, our Moscow office received a phone call from Sergey Pogorelov of Astrakhan, who for many years has been preaching the gospel on the local TV channel. He is a regular listener of our online broadcasting at www.rcr.ru. The times when people listened to their favorite programs on the radio are a thing of the past. Modern life leaves a man only a few hours on the road - to and from work, in which he can listen to some audio programs with the help of either a smartphone or the FM-receiver.

There is a new radio station – "Astrakhan-FM" 88.7 - that is about to start in Sergey's home town. Brother Sergey was eager for the Word of God to be broadcasted, so he arranged with the management of the radio station to start broadcasting sermons of Earl Poysti. Since August 10th, the sermons are being aired 3 times a week: on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 am and on Saturdays at 10:30 am; however, our brother asks for prayers so that Astrakhan residents can hear the voice of the evangelist more often. We ask you to pray for the revival of the Russian people and for the local community of Astrakhan in particular.



HISTORY CORNER - OUR STORY

RCR's 70th Anniversary – Celebrating Our Beginnings: Part 4

For much of the 20th century, Russia, which became known as the Soviet Union, was mandated to be an atheist country. Many brothers and sisters who are still alive can tell stories of “the underground church” and how friends and relatives were sentenced to prison for practicing their faith. Then a miracle happened.

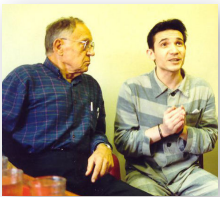
On December 26, 1991, as a result of Declaration No. 142-H of the Soviet of the Republics, the Soviet Union was dissolved. The declaration acknowledged the independence of the former Soviet republics and created what is now known as the Russian Federation. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the eighth and last leader of the Soviet Union, resigned, declared his office extinct, and handed over its powers to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. That evening at 7:32 p.m., the Soviet flag was lowered from the Kremlin for the last time and replaced with the pre-revolutionary Russian flag.



Earl, John & Moscow staff in the early 1990s

Within a very short time broadcasts of the gospel, which were forbidden for more than 70 years, were now welcomed... even encouraged, as the people of Russia longed to recapture the Christian faith that was first practiced in Russia more than 1,000 years before. Brother Earl Poysti soon took advantage of the opportunity, along with the leadership of his son, John, to open a ministry office in Moscow. Many of the brothers and sisters who joined in this early effort are still serving our ministry in Moscow today.

The Lord provided the opportunity for RCR's first in-country radio broadcasts to be aired on Russian state radio, and for the first time in history, Christian radio programs were received on public broadcasting networks in every part of this country that spans 11 time zones! Although we were only able to have access to state radio for a short time, the results of these broadcasts were all that one could pray for and new unexpected doors began to open.



Brother Earl Poysti visited some of the prisons in Russia where the broadcasts were having a dramatic effect on the behavior of the inmates. In the words of one prison warden, “violent men, men with nothing to live for, were now passive, praying, singing hymns and meeting for worship.” This extreme change had an equal effect on the prison staff and some of them too, left their atheistic past and heard the Lord calling their names. So, what was a radio ministry evolved also into a prison ministry, and we began to provide recordings of Brother Earl's sermons to every prison that desired them.

When national radio was no longer available to us, we found new ways to send out the gospel. We began providing Christian programming via local radio stations, satellite and the internet; we were on the cutting edge of cyber-ministry! In 1995 we were asked to take over the publication of a Christian magazine for prisoners called *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*. Today we continue to publish this magazine and distribute it to about 75% of the 977 prisons in Russia with the help of over 600 Christian volunteers, who initially could visit inmates in the prisons but now mail the magazines and witness to them through correspondence. The radio ministry that also became a prison ministry, became a cyber-ministry and a publishing ministry.



Christian magazine for prisoners - pictured are our very 1st issue and a more recent issue, #127



This sign at the 1st “Pirkko Home” notes that this home is “in memory of Pirkko Poysti who with her husband Earl Poysti preached the gospel to the people of Russia”

Brother Earl's deceased first wife, Pirkko, had a real heart to help with the ministry to prisoners, and when she passed away, donations given in her memory were used to create a “halfway house” in Komi to help disciple new believers who had been released from prison. This first outreach effort, and all others since, are called “Pirkko Homes” in her honor. As many of the men and women leaving prison have addiction problems (which often caused their incarceration in the first place), the later Pirkko Homes quickly became Christian drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers. The radio ministry that also became a prison ministry, a cyber-ministry, a publishing ministry and now a growing rehabilitation ministry, has 9 Pirkko Homes for men, 2 for women, and another 3 designed to help men & women prepare to reenter society.

What does the Lord have planned for this ministry in the future? If the events of the past are an indication, then we know full well that the Lord has not finished with the vision first announced by Nikolai Poysti and his son Earl Poysti. “Millions of Russians for Christ” will remain our total focus... in whatever method the Lord chooses to direct our steps.

In the next issue of our Reporter we will conclude our look at the past 70 years and focus on where we believe the Lord is directing our footsteps. – Ray Brumbeloe, CEO & Board Chair (RCR-US)



This first Pirkko Home, way up north in Emva, Komi, still ministers to ex-prisoners

Mikhail Roshchin – a Single Thought Came to Mind: “Pray, Pray.”



I was born in the Lipetsk region, graduated from high school and college, and got a job as a loader. I began drinking. Then smoking and cursing abruptly burst into my life and did not give me any satisfaction, but nevertheless became worse with each passing day.

One day a friend invited me to church, telling me that God gives him relief from all his problems and provides encouragement when he's feeling down. Without thinking twice, I decided to take this step. I started attending worship services, reading the Word of God, and believing in God... or rather, thinking that I had become a believer, but there was no relationship with Him; I just repented and sinned again.

Time passed, but my heart was restless. I did not understand why God was not helping me, I felt alone and abandoned. My faith was not working, and sometimes I even thought I didn't need God. About that time, I was doing some work for a person who abused me in many ways (name-calling, mocking, beating me). It was difficult, and lasted three years - increasingly I thought I was in hell. Finally he shouted that he was tired of me and kicked me out. Now I am sure it was the hand of the Lord, pulling me out of that situation when I was afraid to leave. Not knowing where to go, where to turn for help, I ended up on the streets. Spending nights in the cold building stairways had consequences for me - I got frostbite on my leg. While wandering the streets, not knowing what to do, I thought of God and went to the House of Prayer.

At church, I sat for a long time not knowing what to do. A single thought, which drowned all others, came to mind and would not leave me alone: “Pray, Pray.” My soul cried out and I could not control it, tears burst through my tightly clenched eyelids. I poured out my heart like a broken pitcher. After my repentance, I felt such a relief, such freedom - thinking that if I took a step, I'd fly like a balloon. Immediately, the brothers suggested I go to a rehab center, where I could receive help to rise on the right path. This I could not refuse!

In the Orel Pirkko Home, I witnessed the Lord's goodness and again prayed a prayer of repentance as a testimony that Jesus was the Lord and master of my life. I read the Bible constantly, was in communion with the brothers daily, and attended seminars. Even the daily labor brought joy, because it was all for the glory of my Father and Savior and the Holy Spirit. My faith became stronger and stronger with each passing day. Jesus came into my heart and gave me a new life.

While finishing 'adaptation' at the Zheleznogorsk Pirkko Home in the Kursk region, I began to think about how I could stay to strengthen my faith. Having forgotten about the old sinful life, I really wanted to keep growing in my new life, rejoicing in God who liberated me. Then suddenly, the police came to take me away for my past sins and lock me up for three years, giving me to understand that I have no right to freedom. Even though I did not cease to pray, I still felt fear in my heart that the Lord would take away His mercy. In prison, there would be great temptations - cigarettes, cursing, lies and much more. I thought “God has surely left me.” But I was greatly mistaken. Christ was always there and never turned away from me. He continually gave me victory over temptations, He witnessed to others, through me, about the pure love of which everyone dreams. By the grace of God, my imprisonment lasted only one year. I was offered the opportunity to submit a petition for parole, but hesitated, thinking that it would never work, but again, I was wrong. The Lord showed me that my well-being is of significance to Him by compelling the hearts of my cellmates who wrote the petition for me. To my surprise, I was released!

I returned to the rehabilitation center to help those, who like me, had lived a sinful life. I was baptized and decided to live among the saved, and to serve Jesus Christ in clear conscience. I thank the Lord for finding me, saving me and declaring me innocent. Now, I live near the church, work for the glory of God, pray for those who are as I once was, rejoice in the salvation that Jesus has given me and I love what I'm doing! Glory to our Lord and Savior!



You can listen to Russian Christian Radio Online (in Russian) at rcr.ru or use the tuneIn Radio app on your mobile device.

