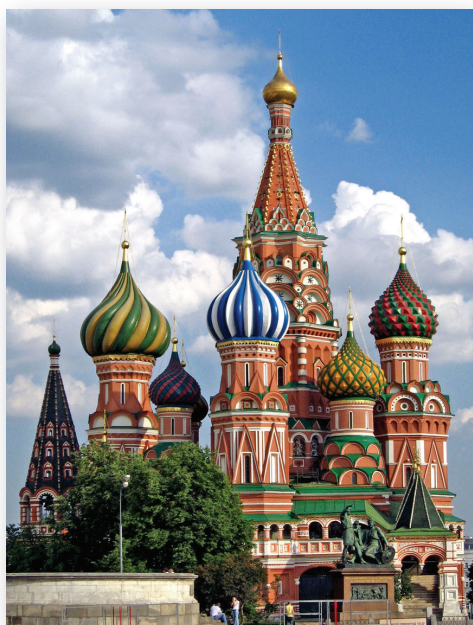




REPORTER

Millions of Russians for Christ



The New Russian Law

With the enactment of a new Russian Law concerning “missionary activity,” known as the “Yarovaya” Law (the name of one of the authors), which took effect on July 20, 2016, it is necessary that not only lawyers and pastors know and understand the features of this legislation, but also ordinary believers, so they can defend their rights.

During the first three months of the new law in Russia, more than 15 cases of administrative offenses were opened, which are now at the appeal stage. Among them are some curious cases. For example, when in the Altai region, representatives of one religious community came to meet with town officials to talk about their work in the local municipality, the town decided that these visitors were doing missionary work in the government offices, and... drew up a report about the attempt to involve the government employees in their religious activities. Another incident occurred in the Republic of Mari-El, where the

pastor publicly congratulated villagers on the holiday. The prosecutor's office and security personnel present at the celebration interpreted the greeting of the minister as “forbidden missionary activity.”

So, to understand what is possible and what is not, we need to remember that the Constitution takes precedence over the legislation. Article 28 of the Constitution states: “Everyone shall be guaranteed freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, including the right to profess, individually or jointly with others, any religion or no religion; to freely choose, possess and express religious and other convictions and act in accordance with them.”

The free expression of religious beliefs by a person must be separated from the missionary activity of a religious organization, as personal beliefs are not regulated by this new law.

It is important to understand that missionary activity occurs when a religious organization, through its representatives, invites or attracts people to their religious group. But if an individual shares his beliefs or talks about his faith, even in a public place, but does not invite others to a particular religious group, it is not considered missionary work, even if he mentions which church he attends and tells about it or distributes religious literature - the new law does not apply in this situation.

Thank the Lord that now we are gaining a better understanding of how to conduct missionary activity on behalf of the missions and churches in Russia, without fear of receiving complaints. But we will also be realistic - our legal literacy does not automatically lead to objectivity of the law enforcement officers. It will still require an effort to prove one's innocence and wisdom to answer questions correctly and accurately to be in compliance with the law's requirements regarding missionary activity. To further help you understand the intricacies of the new Russian law we have prepared materials and posted them on our website www.rcr.ru (in Russian).

(continued)



New Law continued: What does this mean for RCR and its ministries? If the attitude of the authorities changes regarding our religious activities, we will seek further legal advice, but for now, we think the impact is as follows:

- No effect on the prison magazines, since *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* is registered with the Russian Federation Committee for Press and Information and our mission's name and address is clearly marked on each issue, as required. We share the Gospel and about the Christian faith but do not invite anyone to any particular religious group. The fact that our listing for the magazine has also been accepted in the Russian Post mail order catalog further confirms our compliance with government regulations.
- No effect on the radio and video ministries, because similar to the magazine, all programs and discs clearly note that our mission produced the programs, as required.
- So far, no effect on the Pirkko Homes. They are affiliated with local churches, which must be registered with the government. So far there have been no problems.

This law creates challenges and possible problems for the ministry of RCR, but we continue to minister with God's help, seeking and using all the opportunities that God is giving us.

Getting the Prison Magazine into Prisons

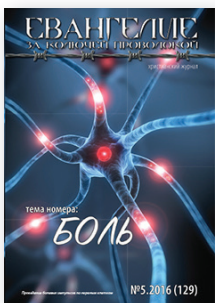
As you may know, access to prisons in Russia has changed over the last year or so. Prison ministers (missionaries) are no longer allowed to hold worship services and Bible studies inside prisons. But we do not lose heart.



Visitation, when allowed, is often restricted. When some prison ministers near Krasnodar visit a prison, the administration allows three prisoners at a time to meet with them (sometimes five), so every time they go in, they talk with different people, which is very helpful. They may take magazines in and hand them out with no problems, and then ask the prisoners if they would like the magazine mailed to them in the future.

When Vyacheslav Kozlov, left, ran into a problem with taking magazines into prisons above the Arctic Circle, he removed the cover, cut the magazine in half, and mailed it in separate envelopes, so the prisoners could tape it back together. He will be meeting with the administration of the area prisons soon to talk about visits.

At this point, about 95% of the magazines are still distributed the same way as before, by visitation or mail, and there is no problem with mailing them into prisons by RCR or by missionaries. However, some prisons are starting to restrict what comes into the prisons. That is the main reason behind RCR's application to be included in the Russian Post mail order catalog. In 2017's catalog, we are included on the top of page 157. (See photo.)



Информация об издании		Стоимость подписки (руб.)					
Индекс	Название издания	1 мес.	2 мес.	3 мес.	4 мес.	5 мес.	6 мес.
13216	Евангелие за колючей проволокой Журнал для желающих больше узнать о христианской вере. Ориентирован на людей, находящихся в непростой жизненной ситуации: в местах лишения свободы, в социальных и реабилитационных центрах, а также для их родственников. Религиозная организация Миссия евангельских христиан «Евангельский кризис». +7 (495) 719-75-38 Периодичность: 3 в полугодие; Количество выходов: 3; (12+); 80 г; 32 стр; А5 Стандартная подписка от 2 месяцев на дом до почтового ящика до востребования а/я	16,39	32,78	49,17	65,56	81,95	98,34
	Математика и Футурология +7 (812) 714-35-20	14,83	29,66	44,49	59,32	74,15	88,98

Before, some missionaries were not allowed to take *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* into prisons because we were not listed in the Russian Post mail order catalog, but now that we are, it should not be a problem. Even if a prison administration would restrict people from bringing the magazine in, the prisoners could be told about the listing and subscribe to it themselves. Not only will this listing allow *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* into prisons that have been restricting it, but it will also allow prisoners everywhere to subscribe to it at a minimal price, even in prisons that are not currently being reached.

Nikulino Pirkko Home Update



Remodeling of the house for the men is still underway. An early winter has slowed the work, but it is enclosed and insulated. They are preparing rooms where the men will stay. A well has been drilled and a septic tank installed. A boiler for heating the house has been purchased, and we are very grateful to sister Sophia from Minnesota for her help with that. The house will be very cozy and a comfortable place to live. We still ask for your prayers that the rest of the work would go quickly, so the men can move into this house soon, perhaps by the end of the year.



HISTORY CORNER - OUR STORY

RCR's 70th Anniversary – Celebrating our Beginnings: Part 5

“The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.” Proverbs 16:9

The history of RCR is one of patience, persistence, dedication to the spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ... and of miracles. “Miracle” is not a word used lightly. A couple years ago we attempted to share some of the miracles we see every day when we provided before and after photographs of men and women who have had their lives transformed while completing our Pirkko Home rehabilitation program. Most were unrecognizable from the change they experienced through the grace of God. This history continues.

Since the last installment of our look back at RCR's history, our history has grown. The “Choice” radio program, hosted by Natalia Chernyakova, is now moving into video presentations. Our Director of Pirkko Homes, Dmitriy Gusev, has started his own church in Solnechnogorsk. Our magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, is being challenged with new distribution methods, and the new law, as covered elsewhere in this issue, is presenting its own new challenges.

The men and women who serve in this ministry are still inspired by the visions and faithfulness of Nikolai Ivanovich and Earl Nikolayevich Poysti. We are firm in our commitments and courageous in the steps we take, all the while knowing that we serve an awesome God. The history of RCR reflects our faith in the future of RCR. We pray that you will continue to follow us, pray for us, and give encouragement to those who have answered... and will answer in the future... God's call to this ministry.

- Ray Brumbeloe, RCR Chairman Emeritus



2017 Calendar Honoring the Life and Ministry of Earl Poysti

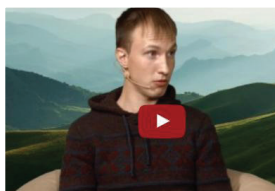
Further enjoy RCR's History with a special calendar:

- Calendar in Russian (a 6 page insert with the translation of the Russian text into English is available upon request)
 - Each month includes a beautiful image, as well as excerpts from Earl's sermons and snapshots of Earl's life & ministry
 - Suggested Bible readings for each day (in Russian)
- Order one for yourself or as a gift for your family and friends.



The price for 1 calendar is \$10. Orders of 10 or more - \$8 per calendar (price includes shipping and handling within the US).

RCR's Recording Studio



The RCR studio continues to create audio and video programs, which we make available to people via radio stations, mail and Internet. This year, we released 53 new “Choice” programs, sharing testimonies of how people came to faith in Jesus Christ. Since May, these programs are in video format. We also recorded 20 new sermons. In 2016, we increased the number of CDs that we mail out with each issue of our prison magazine from 1000 to 6000 CDs of our studio recordings. All of our audio and video recordings are available online.

People can listen to and download about 2000 different Christian programs that are available on our mission's Russian website, www.rcr.ru, including the full archive of Earl Poysti's sermons. Our website also has 24-hour online broadcasting, which can also be accessed with the TuneIn radio app. On average, there are about 30 people on our site at any given time, and it comes up to one hundred thousand visits per year!

Are you signed up for our Reporter Newsletter and Frontline Prayer Letters?

If you would like to receive our quarterly newsletters or monthly prayer letters by mail (or email) you can call us at 770-864-6464, sign up at <http://rcrm.org/contact/subscribe> or use the QR code to the right.



“God Gave Me One Last Chance”

When the Lord opens closed doors, it really is a miracle of God! I used to have problems with the police, but now they have become my friends. I'm studying through an online seminary and I'm learning to make paving tiles - this is the main job of the rehab center where I minister. But it was not always so.



Pavel – before & after



My name is Pavel and I'm 34. When I was 10, my parents died in a car accident, and my grandmother raised me. She loved me and denied herself so I could have everything I needed. By the time I was 16, I had tried alcohol, started hanging out with bad company, began skipping school, and sometimes crawled home at night... and my grandmother was there waiting for me and prayed. In my sleep I heard her whisper a prayer for me, but back then I did not care. To try to keep me at home, my grandmother bought me a computer (at the time, it was my dream), but it did not deter me from the streets.

Crime, fighting, drinking – it became my way of life. The result was a detention center, where I was sent for a crime done in a drunken state. This situation really shook me up, and I remembered my grandmother and her love of prayer. I remembered God, and for the first time in my life, I prayed. God answered my prayers and I was given a suspended sentence. How happy my grandmother was! I realized that God had helped me.

I began attending the Orthodox Church every Sunday, went to college and met a girl. We began to build a life together, but then I returned to my old life. First drinking, then old pals, I stopped going to church... and eventually the girl left me. Then my grandmother became very ill and soon died. I was left alone in the apartment with a bottle of vodka on the table. I drank, cursed my failed life, and blamed God. I did not want to live.

While in this state, I was found by bandits (“black realtors”). They offered to exchange my two-room apartment for a studio. At first I agreed, but then felt there was a catch, and refused. In a rage, they threatened me and literally held me at gunpoint. Fearing for my life, I signed their papers. However, in their company was one man who offered to help me and I went with him. He brought me to the Bryansk region and suggested I inform the police, who allowed me to bring this issue to the court.

In the middle of this chaos, I remembered God, began going to church and praying, and got a job. I met another girl, and we decided to start a family. The Lord again answered my prayers. The court awarded me money, so I bought a house, and our son was born. I thanked God for helping me. But again, I fell and began do what I did before. Booze, friends and problems with the police. My wife left me. Again I was left alone in the house with a bottle of vodka on the table. Coming out of the house looking for more alcohol, I noticed a bag of groceries hanging on the gate, and it kept happening day after day. Later I learned that this grandmotherly neighbor secretly was feeding me. I drank and cried. I had to drink to relax and not think about anything. I had suicidal thoughts, and often went to the high bridge near my house, thinking about jumping off.

Wandering the streets in search of alcohol, I passed by the church, the House of Prayer, and coming from the windows I heard a song mentioning the name of Jesus Christ. I was drawn to go inside, sit down and listen. I was approached by a girl, who began to talk to me. At first I answered rudely, but her words began to reach me. We talked about the rehabilitation centers, where it's possible to start a new life. I felt that she and her friends cared about me and I realized that through them God Himself spoke to me. My whole life flashed before my eyes, I thought about my grandmother, about my betrayal of the Lord. That day I repented in tears, asking God for forgiveness for all I had done. I trusted these people and decided to go to a rehabilitation center. I realized that God gave me one last chance. I went through rehabilitation in the Lgov Pirkko Home. God helped me and I learned to really love people. My heart was cleansed of sin. I began to delve into the Word of God and understand that we have to live by it. I learned to work, gone were laziness and pride. The realization that God saved me for something started growing with each passing day. After finishing rehabilitation, I was given an offer to stay and help with the rehab ministry. Initially I had doubts on this score, but I decided to thank God for my new life and to serve Him. And thank God! - I am pleased

to see people coming to salvation in Christ!



For six months I was assistant minister in the adaptation center at the Ruchiyok Christian Camp near Moscow. In October 2014, I was baptized in the “Salvation” Church in Dedovsk. Now I work in the Pirkko Home in Dyatkovsk. I preach to the churches of the Bryansk region. I am thankful for my salvation and the new life he has given me. In the summer of 2015, the Lord restored my family! God provided a house for us, and my wife became a Christian, too. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ!

His full testimony was recorded for the “Choice” program at <http://www.rcr.ru/downloads/programs/choice/v434.mp3>.

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



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



Tel: (770) 864-6464 (English) (970) 586-8638 (Russian)

Website: www.rcr-us.org

