

REPORTER

Millions of Russians for Christ

The Recording Studio and Radio Ministry continue to be the hallmark of RCR



ministry, taking its roots back to 1946. In addition to various programs and more than 700 sermons of Earl Poysti which are available on our Russian website, we add new "Choice" and "Foundations of Faith" programs weekly. These programs are also posted on our partners' websites, and we record them along with Earl's sermons on CDs & DVDs and distribute them with the prison magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, reaching thousands of people with the saving Gospel of Christ.

The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire Prison Magazine Ministry is expanding

its reach despite restrictions regarding prison visitation in Russia. This year 912 new people subscribed to the magazine through the Russian Post Office mail order



catalog, so the increased number of copies, 7500 published every other month, is no longer enough.

We praise God for the opportunity to bring the Gospel to hundreds of new people and pray that He

would provide enough funding to grow this ministry and further its reach. Each copy of the magazine reaches at least 2-3 people, if not more, so we get a rough estimate of 15,000-22,500 people being reached bi-monthly by this ministry alone.



The Pirkko Home Rehab Center Ministry has its blessings and difficulties but also continues to be one of the most effective tools to reach people with the Gospel and bring them to churches, especially for men. RCR's thirteen rehab centers average about ten residents at a time, and during one year they cover two and a half 5-month courses (first stage of the program). Including people who come and go without finishing the course, we estimate that this ministry reaches about 350 people a year, on a very deep and personal level, resulting in many new believers, baptisms, and new Christian families (we know of more than 50!). Many of these new believers dedicate themselves to various ministries.





The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire

ЕВАНГЕЛИЕ за колючей проволокой

христианский журнал

LETTERS:

Peace to you brothers and sisters! I am very glad to have received a letter from you! Earl Poysti's "The Bread of Life" sermons about fear were very useful to me. How often this fear, disguised, tries to enter our lives through various circumstances. Thank God, brothers, that the Lord encourages you to work in His field and provides the means for you to do this ministry. It is so valuable to have encouragement and consolation in these places [prisons]. May the Lord continue to bless your work, which you do for the glory of God. Brethren, I would also be very happy to receive more of your magazines, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*.

- Alexander P., prisoner, Republic of Adygea, Russia

I would like to thank you for supporting me spiritually. Even though previously I did not read and did not accept the Scriptures, thanks to *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine a new world was opened to me. I cannot adequately put it into words, but I decided to write to you and ask. Maybe you can help me and send some spiritual literature. I came to faith recently and need to grow spiritually. I read the Scriptures, but do not yet understand them very well. There are, of course, Christian brothers, and they help me by explaining what they understand. I ask you to please help me.

- Sergey B., prisoner, Altai region, Russia

I send my Christian greetings to all of your staff from Sakhalin Island. Your efforts and ministry are very useful to me personally. With great pleasure, I read your magazines; they are beneficial for my own spiritual growth and for my ministry – evangelism. I listen to your CDs and let other people listen. I will copy the sermon by Earl Poysti and send it to my relatives, friends and neighbors, and I will give them your magazines to read.

- Irina D., Sakhalin Region, Russia

I received your magazine. Many thanks for your concern and for not forgetting me as a sinner. Your magazine helps me to understand many of the questions that always arise when studying the word of God. I always look for answers in the pages of your magazines, and I can find answers to practically any question. I am very grateful to you! Now I walk through life with God and do not fear anything, except for committing sins that grieve the Lord.

- Gennady P., prisoner, Yamalo-Nenets region, Russia

I am an instructor of the correspondence Bible school, "Emmaus," and we have about 40 students. We also have brothers from our church who visit two prisons in our city. By the grace of God, we receive your magazine, about 8-10 copies. I would like to express my gratitude for such a necessary and important work. May the Lord bless you with wisdom. If such an option is possible, we would be grateful to receive at least 20 copies. We are sharing the copies that we have, but your magazine is in great demand and of high interest among our students.

- Yelena O., teacher, Transfiguration Church, Tyumen, Russia

I received your magazines, for which I am very grateful. You know, maybe it's trivial, but what you do is cool, it helps a lot and supports many. Suddenly getting a magazine and learning one is still remembered is like a breath of fresh air. Thank you for that.

- Pavel F., prisoner, Vologda region, Russia

Introducing the Orel Pirkko Home



The Pirkko Home in the city of Kimry, Tver region, is a Christian rehab center founded in January 2012. This is a relatively young center. A member of the local church had the desire to minister to people with addictions and purchased a building to be used for this purpose. It is an ordinary wooden house, which at the moment is the saving refuge for many needy people.

The Pirkko Home has a certain program, aimed at helping those who fell into dependence on alcohol and/or drugs and want to gain freedom from sin and return to a full life. Here, there is help with spiritual insight, social recovery, and liberation from pernicious addictions. Here, some men take the Bible into their hands for the first time and learn about God the Father, and His mercy and love, and about Jesus Christ, who

gives new life. In the process of rehabilitation, many people repent, and no longer feel like outcasts. In daily spiritual conversations, they learn biblical principles about the family, their life and work. One of the center's goals is to help restore relations with relatives and friends.

Pastor Pavel Stukov, of the local "Resurrection" Church in Kimry, regularly conducts counseling at the center. Guests from other churches also visit us and help as they can.

In the center we observe discipline, a certain daily routine, and written rules. Every morning and evening we set aside time for studying the Word of God. During the day we work at a country farm, which is our main source of income to provide for the center's expenses. Every resident here has certain responsibilities, and, seeing the trust shown to him, begins to appreciate it and live up to it.



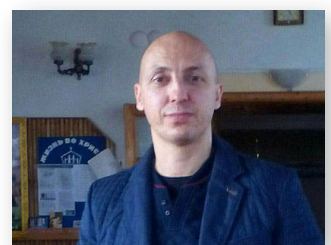
In the daily schedule there is some personal free time for rest, conversation, writing letters, and reading the Bible and Christian literature. On certain days we watch Christian films and sermons. On Sundays everyone attends the church service.

During the first five years of existence, about 150 people came to the center for help. Not everyone goes through the rehabilitation program to the end, but the majority of those who do complete it connect their lives with the church, and remain in ministry.

At the moment two brothers are serving in the center and six people are going through rehabilitation. The maximum we can accommodate is 12 people. Living conditions are acceptable. The house has a gas heater; there is running water, but no hot water, so we have to heat water on the gas stove. There is a washing machine for washing clothes.

Our center has a need for transportation. Sometimes we cannot attend events at other rehab centers or churches in other cities. We would be thankful for any help with both financial needs and food, because there are not always opportunities for us to work. But especially, we need your prayers for the men going through the program: for their repentance, liberation from addictions, and restoration of destroyed lives.

Andrey Bavykin, Kimry Pirkko Home Director



ANDREY BAVYKIN: *The Lord saw me amidst a multitude of perishing people!*

Peace be to you, brothers and sisters! I want to tell you how I came to Christ. My name is Andrey. I'm now 41 years old. I was born and grew up in the provincial town of Kimry in the Tver region. I do not remember my father; I was brought up by a mother who was not a believer, but, like many, she had heard about God. I wore a cross, considered myself a Christian, but did not personally know God.

After serving in the army, I married, and soon a daughter was born to me. It seemed to me that my life was quite prosperous, I earned a pretty good living, and I did not restrict myself in any way - I put my hope only in money and in myself. I liked parties and a "wild and crazy" lifestyle. I began to drink alcohol. Gradually I began to lose control of myself and at some point I crossed an invisible border. Then I realized that alcohol had already seized me, and I was powerless against it. Not listening to anyone's advice, because of my pride, I continued to live the life that suited me and imperceptibly pulled me down to the bottom. I did not notice this, confidently thinking that I could cope with this problem at any time, but I was very mistaken.

After a while, I lost my family, exchanging it for alcohol. I lost my job. Finding another job, I again lost it due to the consequences of drinking, because I could not stop. Gradually, my life turned into merely an existence. It became gray and colorless, devoid of any meaning, where nothing pleased me. Many times I tried to start a new life on my own, but all attempts failed. I felt rejected and unwanted, and was put

into solitary confinement, but then help came from where I did not expect it at all. I was given an offer to undergo a course of rehabilitation in the "Pirkko Home" in Rumyantsevo, Moscow region... and with great reluctance and distrust, I agreed.

The first months of the course were difficult for me, because all the time I wanted to return to my past life. We studied the Bible a lot, knowing its spiritual strength. One verse, John 6:37, especially touched me: "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." I felt needed and began to look at Christ differently. I no longer saw Him as just a myth or a legend any more, but He was clearly revealed to me as my personal Savior. Soon I repented, recognizing myself as a sinner, and I was determined to end the past and start a new life with Christ. My second birth took place, and I clearly realized this. Now, not only externally, but also internally, I began to change, and in this I felt God's help. My understanding of life began to change dramatically - I do not doubt that it was the Lord who worked in me.

After completing the rehabilitation course, I decided to stay in this ministry to help those guys who also consider themselves doomed, and are in the same situation that I once found myself.

I thank the Lord that He saw me amidst a multitude of perishing people, and pulled me out of the sinful whirlpool in which I was drowning. In 2014, I was baptized in faith and joined the church of God, finding in it my new family. Today I am serving in this ministry as the leader of the Kimry Pirkko Home, glorifying and preaching the gospel of God's greatness, mercy and endless love!



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

