



# REPORTER

## RCR's Ministries



### "Liberation" Pirkko Home Rehabilitation Centers

RCR has 13 rehabilitation and adaptation centers that exist to help liberate people from addictions (including two women's centers at Nikulino and Ruchiyok Christian Camp). 38 people dedicate their lives to daily assisting those seeking for help. 11 of these ministers are married and most have children. Three of the ministers serve as pastors (Dima Gusev, Aleksey Dudikin, and Nodari Mangasarov) and 10 Pirkko Home graduates are deacons at their local churches. This ministry touches the lives of hundreds of

people on an annual basis. A testimony from one of those involved in the Pirkko Home ministry is on the last page of this Reporter.

### The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire Magazines for Prisoners

Our magazines are published bimonthly. The first four issues this year consisted of 7,500 copies, and the 5th and 6th issues, of 8,000 copies. This year we printed and mailed 46,000 magazines all across Russia and beyond its borders. Every issue is available for download at RCR's Russian website: rcr.ru. Four people work to create and design the magazine, sometimes with the help of volunteers. This year many new people have subscribed through the Russian Post mail order catalog and with the Lord's blessing, we are expecting more new subscriptions next year. In addition to emails, our office receives about 100 handwritten letters monthly and we respond personally to each one. Three people handle this correspondence ministry in RCR's Moscow office.



### RCR Recording Studio

Four people are involved in RCR's studio ministry and we produce about 10 programs each month. This year we recorded 123 programs. Currently, 1,200 DVDs with our programs are sent out bi-monthly, to accompany every new issue of the magazine. 6,800 disks were mailed this year. Our programs and sermons are also broadcast over two regional FM stations and Internet TV channel "Vera-24tv" ("Faith 24"). Here is one of the responses we've received:

*"I was released in 2009. I am thankful for your letter and for your disks with sermons by Earl Poysti. Indeed, I would like to learn more about your good work, and how to spread the Word of God. But I don't have an opportunity to look for the information online, so I have to be content with the disks." - Valeriy Rodionov, city of Tver, Russia*





## Please Pray that God Would Guide Us in the Development of RCR's Ministries in the Next Year:

- opening a new center for women who suffer from domestic violence – a place for women with their children;
- expanding our partnership with prison ministry in the Novosibirsk, Siberia region;
- producing new video programs for the deaf and dumb, and also for those who work with children;
- more effective use of the RCR office space; we are working with the local church "Kovcheg" ("The Ark") as we consider starting a new project on our premises for reaching out to people who live nearby.



## Prison Ministry and the Emva Rehab Center in the Republic of Komi, Russia

It's now difficult to visit prisons in the Komi region, but despite this, God gives us the opportunity to help prisoners with whom we conduct spiritual correspondence. It's also difficult to send biblical literature into prisons, but praise God that *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine can be ordered through the Russian Post mail order catalog, and many people do that. At first glance, prison ministry has come to a halt here, but this is only at first glance. Twice a month we go to prison colonies with packages to meet with prisoners, one-on-one, if allowed. We also continue to correspond with prisoners, and we organize programs and meetings with them upon their release. Although the personal meetings with prisoners are brief, the Lord gives us the opportunity to say the most important thing - **that Jesus loves them.**

Recently in Emva, one brother was baptized after rehabilitation. This man had a difficult life. Because he no longer saw any meaning to his life, he

was going to drown himself in the river, but the Lord stopped him right near our rehab center in Emva, Komi. There he heard the Good News about the Savior, Jesus Christ. "I was found by those who did not seek me," says the Lord in Isaiah 65:1. Zhenya responded to the call of Christ and after rehabilitation, he was baptized.



- Pastor Vyacheslav Kozlov

## Letters Written to RCR:



I can't stop giving thanks to God for your spiritual support. For three years now I have been corresponding with you, and through the magazine (that is, through you), the Lord brought me to repentance and gave me faith. I remember how it all began. I wanted so much to write to you (after reading the magazine no one is left indifferent), but didn't know what to write! But in my heart, I knew that I had found and believed in the True Living God! Thank you for listening to me and helping me. I also would like to request more sermons from you. With love, Brother Sergey B. - prisoner in the Altai region, Russia

Thank you so much for all that you do for us, the prisoners, and especially for the most recent magazine that you sent to me, with the theme of "Loneliness." This theme is close to my heart right now, and I am only able to seek encouragement from God, since I cannot look for it anywhere else nor in anyone else. Thank you so much for including my request in the pages of the magazine.

- Yelena M., prisoner in the Republic of Komi, Russia



I received a sermon by Earl Poysti from you, and I thank you very much. After all, we do not have the opportunity to attend a church service and be edified by the Word through preaching. So, these sermons in the brochures you send are very, very useful for our souls, which daily yearn for spiritual balm! Thank you for being there - for your help, support, letters and sermons, and for *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*!!! With love in Christ Jesus, the least brother in Christ, Sasha.

- Alexander V., prisoner in the Udmurt Republic, Russia





## Introducing: Zheleznogorsk Pirkko Home, an Adaptation Center in the Kursk Region

Peace be upon you, dear friends! One of the stages of our full course of rehabilitation is adaptation. Due to the growth of RCR's rehab ministry, the number of Pirkko Home rehab centers in the Bryansk, Kursk and Orel regions has increased. As the number of people finishing the first stage of rehab has grown, there was an acute need for a second adaptation center. Geographically, it was convenient to open it in our region, and the church of Zheleznogorsk gladly agreed to participate in this ministry.

So, five years ago the adaptation center in Zheleznogorsk began to serve the Lord and people. The church building was quite small, so there was no separate room for us, but we were given a room to use in which church meals and Sunday school classes were held. At the same time we were building an extension to the church building to house our ministry. By the way, the church also provided us with the means to do this! Exactly eight months later we moved into our cozy and comfortable home. Praise God! Another delight was that an assistant came to help me with the ministry at this time, as I was doing this work alone for the first eight months.

June 10, 2017 was the 5th Anniversary of our ministry here. At the moment, two brothers are serving together with me: Vladislav and Pavel. We currently have ten people here for adaptation.

We feel great joy and blessings from living in the church. The life of the community is filled with different ministries. Every evening people come to church, and our residents have the opportunity to talk and fellowship with Christians, to observe their lives, and to find prayerful support. To our joy, these examples encourage the Pirkko Home residents to devote their lives to the Lord: and many are baptized and join the church, start new families, and restore their relationships with relatives.

Not all the guys entering the adaptation stage are born again. For some, the moment of repentance happens during their period of adaptation. Every day we study the Bible in the morning, and in the evenings, brothers come from the church and study the Scriptures with us. This helps the men understand the Bible more clearly. Contacts with ministers are established and counseling is also conducted. We try to accustom the men to Christian service and sacrifice. What does this mean? It's simple: participate in church activities and be attentive to the needs of the congregation. We actively help with the maintenance and organization of church events, and whenever possible, we help with the personal needs of brothers and sisters. We also try to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to go out into the streets of the city with the Good News.



*Camp for children of rehab residents*

Every Monday, there is a ministry to relatives and friends of those who are dealing with sinful dependencies - that is, parents, wives, and husbands of drug addicts and alcoholics. Our ministry includes not only work with the needy, but also, if possible, work with those who surround them. When a person undergoes a rehabilitation course and returns home, it is easier for him to fight his vices when he has support among his relatives. We tell them about the Lord, how God can change lives, and how He has changed ours. During these conversations, God touches the hearts of mothers and wives, fathers and friends, and they receive salvation in Him.

The church, and especially the pastors, support us in our ministry. It's great! Pastor Oleg Kirpichev actively ministers with us. He constantly edifies the residents with biblical instruction and personal conversations.

In the last two years we have participated in the remodeling of our local church. In addition, we work as handymen at the construction sites of the city, thereby earning our living.

We have many spiritual and material needs. Pray with us about the salvation of the men who are adapting, and that they would join the church, organize their lives and lead their families in a godly way. We have a need for a van for trips to visit other churches and for work, since our vehicle is small and worn out. Pray too about the expansion of the ministry: we would like to feed homeless people. The problem of adolescent drug addiction is even more acute and we would like to conduct preventive work in this area.

*- Pastor Aleksey Dudikin, leader of the center at Zheleznogorsk*





## OLEG KIRPICHEV – The Story of My Conversion and Call to Ministry



Today, by the grace of God, I am a pastor; the Lord has fulfilled the desire of my heart. Our church in Zheleznogorsk carries out the ministry of rehabilitation and adaptation of those who were once dependent on drugs or alcohol and I also preach the Gospel in prisons. For all this, I give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ!

My name is Oleg, I'm 51, and I'm from the Belgorod region. My parents brought me up with the desire to be good and kind. But as I got older, I began to see in adults the divergence of words and deeds in virtually all spheres of life. I sought to understand, to find answers to the meaning and purpose of this life. At an early age, cigarettes, alcohol and binge drinking came into my life. God saved me many times, guarded and protected me, but at the time I did not understand that. I wanted to change, but I could not. I tried to get an education in one of the universities, but I committed a crime, and although somehow everything worked out, I was looking for solace in alcohol, and then drugs. I thought that having a family would save me, so I got married. I had a beautiful wife, the birth of a son, a job. But again, things went downhill. For more than five years I was dependent on drugs. I almost went to prison, and I caused pain to my family,

and my parents. I went to see a narcologist, but in his gaze I read my death sentence. I understood this clearly because of the poor state of my health. When my wife went to the doctor, he told her: "He will not live long." At home on her knees, she cried out to God: "All I could do, I've done. Do thou, O God!" And the Lord heard.

In 1997, I met some believers who told me about Jesus Christ and salvation. Of course, I did not want to meet with them. One brother named Oleg came to me and told me about the reasons for my situation. When he said that all my troubles were because Christ was not in my life, I could not stand it and said: "You just do not understand how bad I am. What does He have in common with me?" Oleg answered: "Understand, Jesus loves you!" At that moment, the Lord touched me; tears flowed from my eyes. Then and there I repented, and my wife Natasha, who was standing next to me, also turned to God for mercy and forgiveness. I know for certain – as I stood up from my knees, I was a forgiven child of God. Since then, 20 years have passed.

When the Lord found me, He put in my heart a burning desire to bring the gospel to people. I had the desire to help those who are drug addicts, as I once was. Back in 1997, there were no rehab centers like now. I didn't know how I could help. In my life there were people who cared about me, who helped me and Natasha to grow spiritually and serve God. The Lord abundantly poured into us everything necessary for learning, strengthening, and love.

In 2008, a Christian sister in Lgov (60 miles from us) asked me to come and meet with many people who drank and used drugs. I called my friends in Kursk, and we agreed on a time to visit Lgov. God gave us several meetings with these people. They listened, and we prayed for them, but then they left. There was no way to follow-up - they were gone, and lost. Thus the Lord gave me an understanding about the need to open a rehabilitation center. By now a Pirkko Home rehab center had already opened near Rumyantsevo, outside Moscow. We were familiar with those brothers (Dima Gusev and Nodari Mangasarov) and asked for a meeting with them. We met and prayed about it.

The Lord showed us the house in Lgov where the center would be. A woman from the church owned this house, but it was too big for her. When the time came to acquire it, the Lord took care of everything. There was a firm conviction that it was God's will and design to have a rehab center in this town. The pastor of the local church also prayed about it. By the time we had the house, God had already provided the leaders needed. Praise the Lord, His will was carried out: in October 2008, the "Pirkko Home" was opened in Lgov (see Reporter No. 1, 2017, available online). Today this center is nine years old! Many people have heard the message of salvation through Jesus Christ and have been saved.

Today I serve the men in the Zheleznogorsk adaptation center - together we study the Word and pray. I also do counseling. God gave me the joy of officiating at several weddings for brothers who have gone through adaptation, and I try to mentor them in their marriages. Praise the Lord for changed souls, and that He uses me in this ministry!



*Oleg (right) leading a Bible study at the Zheleznogorsk center*

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