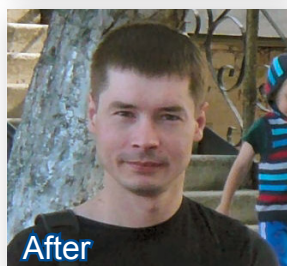
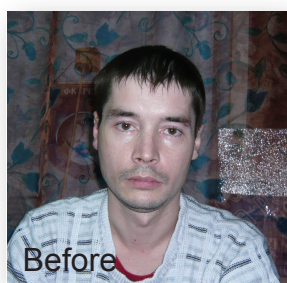




# REPORTER

## “Liberation” Pirkko Homes – Changed Lives *Blessings of a New Life in Christ*



Andrey began using drugs at age 15. His first marriage temporarily relieved his addiction to drugs but did not free him. He relapsed, and for seven years he was stuck going in circles with seemingly only one way out of his addiction - death. But then he met and heard the story of one brother who was freed from addiction, which sparked hope. He talked with the leader at this Pirkko Home, who asked him, “Do you just want to get rid of drugs **or change your life?**” “The second, of course!” Andrey also recounted, “While in the Pirkko Home rehab center, reading the book of Genesis in the middle of the night, I sincerely repented before God and He began to change me.” The Lord not only restored this broken life but also created a wonderful Christian family; He gave Andrey a wife and now a child! Praise God for his mercy and blessings!

A few of the brothers, once addicts, that God has blessed with Christian marriages in 2018:

Sergei & Olesya Mezhidov

Alexander & Yulia Ivanin w/children

Andrey & Yana Kholodov



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## The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire Magazine



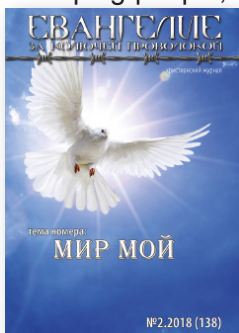
The magazine editorial board met August 8th to finalize our **140th issue** of *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* (No.4, 2018) which has the topic of "Conscience." Please pray that the Lord continues to send wisdom in the selection of articles, poems and testimonies for the magazine on important topics for prisoners.

As usual, we receive a lot of letters from people who are anxious for the next issue



our magazine. They not only write, but also call. The day after the editorial board meeting, a missionary, Alexander M. from Kemerovo, Siberia (near Novosibirsk), called and told us the story of one "skinhead" who had planned to kill his cellmate, but then happened to see our magazine with the topic of "Sin" and the Lord helped him to abandon the terrible thought of murder! Pray for the administration of the prisons, that they would allow ministers to deliver our magazines, as well as the Bible and the New Testaments.

**Prisoners Who Found Christ.** "I want to sincerely thank you for your hard work, for your patience and for your diligence in helping people, those who are in a difficult situation, who are in prisons. I kept asking myself: who needs me so much, and in general there is no one. Even my mother does not want to communicate. I constantly blamed someone else or looked for the guilty. But I never thought about the fact that it was really me. Then the phrase from the Bible came to me: *'Knock and the door will be opened to you,'* and I realized that in everything that happened to me, I was the only one to blame! It was urgently necessary for me to change something, to search, and to get out of this swamp, since I was already completely stuck in this quagmire. Can you imagine? I found a way out, I found it! And your magazine helped me. My letters were printed in the magazine 2 times. I found spiritual fellowship and I have been changed. My communication with you took place over two years. Those words helped me a lot, helped me to go the right way. You gave me the chance to move forward, and continue knocking on the Door to open it! Thank you!" - Alexey I. (Republic of Karelia, Russia)



"I am sincerely grateful to you for not forgetting me and for sending me the magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*. I read it with pleasure and give it to everyone who asks. On weekends we gather together and read aloud your magazine and several chapters from the Gospel. Then we discuss the issues that have arisen from what we read. With respect and best wishes - Evgeny R. (Ryazan, Russia)

**Matching Gift for Prison Magazine Ministry.** If you receive our monthly "Frontline" prayer updates, you may already know that we were given an opportunity to receive a dollar-for-dollar "matching gift" of up to \$5,000 from one of our donors for any donations given to the prison magazine ministry in July and August. We are happy to report that in July 36 donors responded to the challenge, and \$5,020 was given to the prison magazine ministry, which means we have already reached our goal in just one month! Praise the Lord!

We thank God that he has led many of you to contribute to this cause, which allows us to help cover the costs for expanded print runs to reach additional people with the gospel, and to send magazines and other materials to prisoners, prison ministers and correspondence centers. We expect the increased print runs to continue into the foreseeable future, so any future gifts will also be greatly appreciated.



## RCR Recording Studio Ministry

We began renovation of the RCR studio, originally built in 1996. Please pray that we can do this work promptly and efficiently. We don't have a lot of money for this project so all employees, as much as possible, are involved in the remodel of the office and studio. We will not stop recording and processing broadcasts during this period. We have agreements with the local churches and the Moscow seminary to make recordings at their premises.



## Prison Ministry in Komi and Novosibirsk

**Komi.** Greetings, dear workers in the field of God! We thank you for participating in the prison ministry of the Komi Republic, and for your prayers and support!



Our Lord is good and gracious and does not abandon His work in our northern republic. Komi has always been on the edge of an area with many prisons for convicts. Some correctional facilities are now being enlarged, as other prisons are closed, and the number of convicts in each has increased. We try to use every opportunity to bring the Word of God to individuals in their prison cells, because it is very difficult to hold a meeting in prisons in our region. Recently, we went with the sisters from the church to the women's colony of Mikun. We have good relations with the convicts there, and drove three hours to have a short-term visit with them, but for reasons we do not understand, when we arrived it did not work out. At least they accepted the parcel we brought - packages for the prisoners that included magazines - because the magazine is not always allowed into prisons any more. We try to spread magazines and disks with RCR's programs through a "colony settlement" (a house arrest area for prisoners) where there are no obstacles.



It seems that just recently we wrote about how our sister Irina found a classmate in a life sentence prison through our magazine, and here is a new story. Recently Irina got a call from one prisoner, Ivan, who said that he was given Irina's number by a friend, a prisoner with whom we correspond and recently visited. She had told him that we help people who have fallen, and she had given him a magazine to read. Learning that our church is not far from the house where he used to live, Ivan decided to call us. And guess what? It turns out that once Ivan lived in the same apartment building as Irina. When his parents got drunk and started to swear, Ivan, being a small child, ran off to neighbors who were ... Irina with her husband! This is how God directs people to the right place. The grown-up Ivan again has problems and is again on his way to Irina, and with her, our Savior Jesus Christ! – *Pastor Vyacheslav Kozlov and the prison ministers*



**Novosibirsk.** Greetings! God is with us - in all things we see His benevolent hand! This month we managed to make a trip to **Prison IK-13**, where two of our brothers, Ivan and Alexander are serving time. Getting to this prison has been very inconvenient and expensive. And although it was not possible to get into the prison itself this time, we did have a conversation with the warden. We were satisfied with the result of the conversation - he showed interest and promised to organize regular visits to the prison for us. On this trip, we also preached and distributed

the magazine *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* and disks with programs in the village and among the prisoners of the "colony settlement," which is also there.

Unexpectedly, **Prison IK-14** stopped accepting our literature – and they did not explain anything to us about the reason. I am glad that in the past few months we managed to bring in several hundred magazines which were distributed by brothers among the prisoners. We'll try to send them through the mail instead. Please pray for a solution for this situation.

The ministry of correspondence with prisoners is gaining momentum. This month we sent letters and parcels with magazines to more than 30 prisons. A few prisoners also asked us to send the magazines to their relatives. We thank God for leaders among the prisoners who serve in the prisons. Thanks to their ministry, people in prison cells often hear the Gospel, and they can read the magazine. The brothers tell us that many read it, even Muslims and Tuvans (who practice shamanism and Buddhism) are asking for new issues. We hope and believe that the Lord will abundantly bless and be glorified in his ministry in the Novosibirsk region!

- *Alexander Gochweiss and the Prison Ministry team*



## Nodari Mangasarov - God enriched me with everything I needed!



I was born in Georgia. In 1991, when I was 12 years old, military operations began in Georgia. My stepfather had already left us at that time; he went to visit friends in Ukraine and stayed there to live with another woman. One day Georgian soldiers came to us with rifles and, so to speak, "politely asked us to leave" our apartment and the country. Fleeing from death, we flew to a friend in Russia, leaving our possessions and apartment behind.

The years of wanderings began: From Rostov-on-Don to Donetsk to Yamal, from the south to the north. There was nowhere to live, and my mother finally went to the city administration and begged for us to be given at least something, and they had mercy on us and provided a hostel (dormitory). What a joy it was! It was hard to imagine that we finally had our own place! I was 15. Then I met some guys who went to the gym. I began to hang out with them and saw that they had an "attractive" life and gradually became involved in their revelry. We began to engage in extortion, robbery, and stolen goods. I brought money home and told my mother that I had earned it. One day at a disco, my friends offered me heroin. I tried it, thinking that I would never be a drug addict; I was an athlete, I was strong. Two weeks later I could not live without it. My mother found out about this and almost died before my eyes, but I couldn't do anything about it.

After four years of drug use, I had no friends, no valuables in the house, problems with the police, and my mother became gray. I tried to quit, but could not. I found an Orthodox prayer book and every evening I locked myself in the bathroom and read it out loud on my knees. At the same time, I turned on the water, so those in the house did not hear what I was doing and could not say that I had gone crazy. Ten days passed, and I did not sleep, did not eat, did not talk, only locked myself up every evening and prayed. On the 11th day, my mother came up and asked if maybe I should go to church. She was not a believer then (in our understanding). I agreed, and a woman took me to the evangelical church on Sunday. I could not understand anything in that service, but when the choir sang, I could not sit still - the words made their way into my soul, heart, and mind. I still remember them: "God loves us all so much that he left heaven, and there is no higher price than what He gave for you, so come today to the call of the Lord, respond, because He has waited for you so long." After this service, I never again used foul language and I didn't smoke for three days. I sat at home and thought: "they did not give me anything, did not hypnotize me, did not touch me, did not talk to me - that means God is there, He is close-by, and He wants to help me." I began to go to this church and a month later I repented. I was given a Bible. I came home and read the book of Genesis throughout the night. In the morning I realized that I did not understand anything, but one thing I knew for certain - God is real and He is changing me.



Thus began my Christian life. I began to love people, I told them about Christ. They laughed at me and said things like: "he fell down the stairs ... he became a priest ... he wants to deceive the church." It was difficult, but I went ahead and believed that God would change my life. A year later my mother believed and was baptized. I did not have anything, but God enriched me with everything: the church, a ministry and a family.



I have been a believer for almost 20 years and have never regretted that I became a Christian. God gave me a great gift - a Christian wife. We have two children in our family, whom God gave to us in a wonderful way, after doctors concluded that we could not have children. I am the leader of the "Pirkko Home" rehabilitation center in the village of Rummyantsevo, Moscow region. God gave me the opportunity to participate in the new church plant in Solnechnogorsk as an assistant pastor with the prospect of ordination. Now I'm sharing with people how the Lord changed my life in ways I could not even imagine, and He can help you, too. Trust Him, He loves you and wants to end your suffering!

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