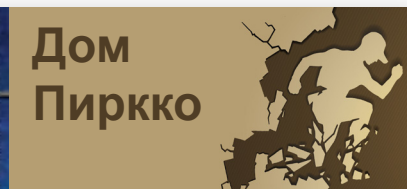




REPORTER

Preaching the Gospel in the
Russian Language since 1946

RCR Ministry: "Rescuing Those Being Led Away to Death"



RCR's ministries include an audio and video recording studio, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine, and the "Liberation" Pirkko Home rehab centers for those struggling with addictions. All three ministries are aimed at changing the thinking and the life of a person with the help of the Word of God, prayer and mentoring. Unfortunately, it's rare for someone who thinks they are leading a "good life" to come to God, and society as a whole is spiritually unhealthy and not seeking God, but people have no future without the gospel of Jesus Christ! We realize that we have but a short time to work in God's field and we need to use it wisely.



RCR Studio programs are broadcast on FM radio in Vladikavkaz and Astrakhan, AM radio in Tartu, Estonia - covering Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and the western part of Russia, and New Life satellite radio. Our programs are also available via the Internet, the video channel "Vera24" and on YouTube, as well as through the distribution of 1200 DVDs bimonthly (with our magazines) that reach thousands of people.

For people with addictions, the testimonies of others are some of the strongest arguments to show them that a change in life is possible and draw them towards God. Russia still leads other countries in the number of deaths from alcohol poisoning, so the testimonies of former addicts and alcoholics are always relevant. For people who are seeking God, or for new Christians, we also have programs that help answer questions that arise in living the Christian life. Today we have several hundred testimonies of unbelieving people who have turned to God - 120 video and over 500 audio "Choice" programs, plus 120 video programs on various topics. Our materials are updated weekly with new releases. We are setting up a new studio for recording our video programs and are planning more "field interviews" as well.

Here are a few recent letter excerpts in response to our outreach:

"Thank you for sending Earl Poysti's sermons, as well as for the disk with talks on spiritual topics with Mikhail Ivanov. I listened very carefully to these spiritual conversations. I wish you great success and God's blessing in this not easy endeavor of how to carry the Good News to those who doubt or disbelieve the Lord our God, Jesus Christ." Valery R. (Tver, Russia)

"I have a request. How is it possible to get your magazine, The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire, Earl Poysti's sermons, and DVDs and CDs of RCR's programs for the spiritual edification of the church and unbelievers who attend our church services?" Yuri L. (Rostov-on-Don, Russia)

"Thank you for the CDs and the book, The Lord's Prayer. Being imprisoned, one realizes how few even in the Christian world there are, who are ready to serve and carry the Word of God to prisons. We will be happy to receive more programs of spiritual and moral content, preferably in DVD format for broadcasting on a local television channel." Andrei I. (prisoner in IK-6, Kurgan Region, Russia)





RCR Ministry (continued)



The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire Magazine is sent to most of Russia's prisons, some released prisoners and their relatives, prison ministers and rehab center workers from various regions, and employees of the federal prison administration. Prisoners do not have access to the Internet, and the print edition is usually the only opportunity to preach the gospel to prisoners. For three years now, the magazine has been in the Russian Post mail order catalog and can be obtained by paying the minimal subscription price listed.

As of August 1, 2018, 590,635 people were being held in 711 Russian prisons; 47,277 of the prisoners were women, and 2,034 people have been sentenced to life imprisonment.

Prisoners are familiar with the magazine in Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, the Baltic States, Kazakhstan, Germany and even the USA. The magazine is also a living connection between people; it serves as spiritual support for both imprisoned believers and those who have been released, by including info allowing them to contact one another. We have many testimonies of prisoners turning to God through the ministry of the magazine.

"Thank you for your great work of publishing The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire. It is in great demand in IK-4, the women's prison where we brothers and sisters do prison ministry. You are providing relevant topics for them, and testimonies that relate to their hearts. About 40 people attend our worship services. This year, eight sisters received water baptism in IK-4. And this is also to your credit. With your magazine you enter the prisons and serve there. Your magazine is constantly being asked for, read, and passed around to others - and in this prison there are about 1000 women. May the Lord bless you and your families with His blessings of good health, prosperity, God's wisdom and love! With Christ's love, Natalia S., and the sisters and brothers from Gomel, Belarus."



The Pirkko Home Ministry receives more than 200 people per year in our rehab centers. Those who minister in the rehab centers also work with relatives of those with addictions, hold events in near-by cities, and cumulatively touch thousands of people. The problem of drugs and alcohol in Russia is huge and the potential for this ministry is great. We provide physical and spiritual assistance to those in our centers, but sometimes they need more than that: medicine, official documents, help finding relatives or reconciling with them, etc. We help those from ages 17 to 70! It is important that both those with addictions and their relatives find hope.

A good indicator of the success of our program is that 30-40% of the people who have completed the whole program remain in the church, and some devote themselves to this ministry and remain to help in the rehab centers. We see people becoming an active part of the church and living "real life." We hear testimonies from relatives and from newly formed families. Our concept of ministry is based on the idea of helping these people become self-supporting and that our centers continue to be a permanent resource for them. We are also praying about how to best help the disabled, repeat offenders, the homeless, gamblers, teenagers leaving orphanages, and those who suffer from domestic violence. We will need help from the outside if we are to develop our ministry and expand in these ways. This program's goal is to *"rescue those being led away to death"* (Prov. 24:11) and is consistent with the common goal and mission of our organization to speak in word and deed about salvation in Jesus Christ.

Our 2018 Supplement to the Magazine

A special 80-page supplemental edition entitled "Repentance That Leads to Life" has been published and will be sent to subscribers of *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine. In this collection, we have placed testimonies of people recorded in our Russian Christian Radio studio. These brothers, after their release from prison, have been working for many years in the field of God. Three of them - Alexander Shafranov, Haydar Dyomkin and Alexander Cherednichenko - have already gone to be with the Lord. Also in this collection are poems, drawings and stories from our readers. We give thanks to the Lord that prisoners are repenting, being reborn into a new life in Christ Jesus, and are turning from sinful criminals into God's children! The Word of God is being fulfilled: *"I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance"* (Mark 2:17).

Over the past few years we received a large number of letters with the creative works of our readers. We couldn't publish all of them in *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, so now we've collected them together for this special edition. We thank all of you who helped us with this big project, which will send encouragement and help strengthen the faith of our readers.



Introducing the Dyatkovo “Liberation” Pirkko Homes, Bryansk Region

Our rehab centers in Dyatkovo can accept up to 12 men and 8 women. Now there are 3 men and 3 women in the rehabilitation program. Many people, to our regret, leave the center without having completed the program. Some of them come back later for help; some are lost forever. But we are comforted in one fact, everyone who has visited our center, even a little while, has heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, there is hope for their salvation. We pray for these people and believe that God hears our prayers.



Today, 4 people serve in our center: I, Ilya Ignatov - director of the center, Yuri H. - assistant minister in the men's center, Tanya Zaripova - leader of the women's center and her assistant Irina L. (photo to the right). It is a blessing and great joy for us that our graduates this year, Yuri and Irina, after rehabilitation and adaptation, decided to return to our center and help us. We thank God for this help and timely response to our prayers.



Physical needs: Replacing the windows in the men's building with new plastic window frames (the old wood has rotted), replacing the fence around the center area with a metal one (the old wood has rotted) and re-roofing the garage and outbuildings with metal roofing (the old slate has been leaking for 3 years).

We praise and give thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ!
May God bless you! - Ilya Ignatov, director of the Dyatkvo Pirkko Homes



For us, the reopening of the women's center has been a great blessing this year. Due to the absence of a leader, the women's center was idle for almost a year. God answered our prayers and sent us our sister Tanya, who took up this difficult task of restoring the women's ministry. It is an asset that Tanya herself is a graduate of the Pirkko Home program. It wasn't easy, but by the grace of God, the women's center is functioning again.



Please pray for our center and support us with these needs:

Spiritual needs: for the arrival of new people in the center, the salvation of their souls, and that they would stay and finish the program; for the spiritual growth of those ministering here, and that our assistants would stick to the local church and desire to grow and develop in this ministry.



TANYA ZARIPOVA: *God taught me not to be alone, to smile, and to love people*



My name is Tanya. I was born in Ukraine in 1979. My father periodically was in prison, and my mother worked and drank a lot. Until I was twelve years old, my grandmother raised me, then "the street" and friends. I have two older brothers and an older sister. Since I was the youngest in the family, things weren't as strict and everything was allowed. As a result, at the age of 15 I tried drugs, and at the age of 17 I already had a serious dependence on them.

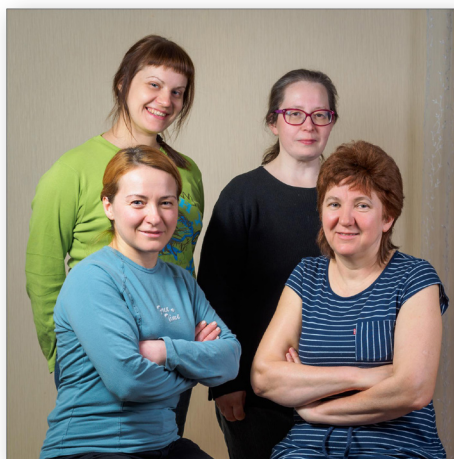
In 2000, I came with friends to live in Moscow. I worked in retail, selling things. There was always a lot of money, but almost all of it was spent on drugs. I was always alone and it suited me. At 22, life had lost all meaning. I realized that I was doomed to die, since my addiction to drugs was incurable. Friends were dying before my eyes, and this was becoming the norm.

In 2011, they wanted to put me in jail. To avoid this, I went to the "Liberation" Pirkko Home – a rehab center in Nikulino, Tver region. I learned about the center from my acquaintances who had previously undergone rehabilitation in a similar center and were healed. While in the center, I heard about God and His love - proven in Jesus Christ – and that He loves me and waits for me. All this hit my mind like an explosion of light and I realized this was my last chance. I knelt before God, repented, and I have not regretted a single day from that moment. I completed eight months of rehabilitation, was baptized, and joined the church in Dedovsk. Then I continued to talk about Jesus Christ to all people, not just drug addicts.

Now I know exactly why I was given difficulties in my life: living basically like an orphan and having envy, emptiness and a lot of pain. All this, in order to "rejoice with those who rejoice and cry with those who mourn" and to tell people about what happened to me and how God healed me, pardoned me and saved me from hell. God taught me not to be alone, to smile, and to love people. Emptiness and loneliness are no longer a part of my life. God filled my heart with His love.



Tanya Zaripova (2nd from left) was doing street evangelism in 2014, and met another Tanya (far left), and brought her to the Nikulino Pirkko Home for help. She has done things like this more than once. She has a heart for God and for helping others!



In 2017, when I heard that there was a need for a women's leader in the Dyatkovo Pirkko Home, a rehab center in the Bryansk region, I could not step aside; I answered the Lord's call. Right now there are five of us in the women's center, all with different life stories, and together we all cry and rejoice. I thank my Lord Jesus Christ for His mercy to me and for giving me the desire to do His will, to live by His Word, and to be where God wants me to be.



Please pray for Tanya's ministry and her health.

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

