



# REPORTER

RCR Studio Ministry – *Sharing testimonies*  
on our “Choice” Program

Preaching the Gospel in the  
Russian Language since 1946

ОЛЕГ  
АСКАЛЁНОК

где инструкция к жизни?

БЫВШИЙ НАЦИСТ  
СВИДЕТЕЛЬСТВО



ВЫБОР

Oleg Askalenok – Where are instructions for life? “Choice”  
A former Nazi’s testimony

Oleg Askalenok, a former military man, who is now a pastor, was a guest on our “Choice” program recently with host Natalia Chernyakova. He began his journey to God with hatred - he hated Jews, non-Russians, and communists ...he was even kicked out of college for his anti-Semitism. Here is a small excerpt from the testimony of Oleg:

*“I didn’t understand how to live the right way, my mind was muddled and I wanted to figure it out. When I read the Bible, I finally got all the answers!”*

*“Once I bought two cabinets, brought them home and began to assemble them. I thought, ‘Well, I took airplane engines apart; I can assemble a cabinet in three seconds!’ But I got confused with just these four boards! The door didn’t even close. I freaked out! I was so frustrated, then thought, what the heck, just take it apart and start over. I disassembled it, then took out the instructions and began to read them. Then when I re-assembled the cabinet according to the instructions, and sat down and looked at it, I thought: ‘If a cabinet is such a simple thing, but I needed instructions, when I build my life or family, where are my instructions? Is it just based on what I think is right?’ Then when I began to read the Bible, everything made sense and I finally understood how to do it right!”*

*“People make a choice, and then they face the consequences of that choice ... We have problems, difficulties, grief, divorces everywhere, what does this mean? People don’t know how to live! When we are guided only by our desires, they lead us to dead ends...”*

#### Comments on this program:

Our grandmother died, and did not believe that Jesus was a Jew, and thought Jerusalem was in Russia... It was a shock to me that Jesus is not Russian. I myself learned this as an adult!  
- Larisa

Lord, you even forgive such people. It’s very unpleasant that people can be so evil. - Lyubov

Brother Oleg’s testimony is strong and very impressive. Thank you so much for sharing his testimony and I praise our precious Lord for you. Our God is great, patient, strong, and true. I will share this testimony with others. - Elena



## Ministry of *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* Magazine

Greetings, thank God for the opportunity to be participants in the spread of His kingdom! After many long prayers, we were able to begin visiting two more prisons in our Novosibirsk administration area, where we are now conducting Bible studies and distributing *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine. The Lord blesses, helping us with the arrangements.



God answered our prayers for ministry in prison UFIC No.3 in an interesting way. This prison just opened recently, and we did not know how to get permission to be there, so we prayed a lot about it. In one of our next visits to another prison, we decided to talk about this desire with the political officer in charge of our work there. While we were discussing this issue with him, the new head of UFIC No. 3 unexpectedly approached us and the political officer gave us the best recommendations, first-hand so to speak! The head of UFIC No. 3 provided all kinds of assistance to us for the organization of our visit! We thanked the Lord, but continued to pray that someone we knew would be there whom we could make contact with. The Lord answered this prayer. On the night before our first visit, Valera Popov, who had visited our Bible study group at IK-21, called from UFIC No. 3 to request that we visit him there.

Now Oleg visits him on a regular basis. Oleg was responsible for the Bible study group at IK-21 for about 3 years, through which Valera, in fact, came to Christ. Thank God for answers to prayers and new opportunities for distributing *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine in our region.

Now we are in full swing preparing for the Christmas events. This year we plan to conduct 16 evangelical meetings in the prison, presenting Christmas gifts to prisoners and their relatives as well. Please pray for us! We also pray for you! – Alexander Gochweiss, prison minister in Novosibirsk

## Prisoners Are Seeking and Finding the Lord

*I'm from Kazakhstan, and I am serving a life sentence. I am 36 years old, and have already spent about twenty years behind these walls, starting from when I was a just a youngster. I have seen a lot in my life but cannot find answers to many of my questions. Doubts also haunt me about faith in God and religion in general. Even while I was on death row, waiting for my execution to take place, doubts did not give peace to my heart and soul. Now, sitting here in prison for life, seeing many different people with different beliefs, fates and character, I began to think about the meaning of life - why others believe in Christ the Savior, but not me... I am tormented by doubts. I understand that something is wrong with me because I do not believe in God. I see the good deeds of Christians and how they live, and I am drawn to this good, but I cannot change myself. I can not. I don't know what prevents me from taking the first step towards God. Help me understand my problem so that I can understand myself. - Igor S. (prisoner in Zhitikara, Kazakhstan)*



*I would like to thank you for your serious work. Because of you, I became a Christian. In prison I began to read the New Testament, but some of it was not clear to me. Thanks to your work, I find answers to the questions that arise when reading the Gospel. Thanks to your magazine, I found people who want to talk about spiritual topics, to help me without any personal agenda. I receive your magazines and sermons and hold on to faith in the Lord; I try to change my life and I succeed. The Lord has done many miracles since the time that I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into my heart, and life with the Lord is beautiful. I had a long visit with my mother and sister, and can you imagine? - they forgave me for all my deceptions, etc.! And they believe me, that I have really changed. They could not believe their eyes: I quit smoking, got a diploma and am now studying to be a welder. Thank you very much. I have achieved my goals, thanks to the Lord and your work. I am very grateful for your magazine. Thanks to Jesus Christ for introducing me to you. - Artem A. (prisoner in Khabarovsk Territory, Russia)*





## Pirkko Home – “Liberation Ministry”

Our Pirkko Homes are working on developing our ministry to better reach the people who need help and salvation in Jesus Christ. Recently the **Orel Pirkko Home** set some clear goals:

- To share the gospel and our contact info so people can find us, we've hung stands with our business cards in the churches (so far only in Orel), and on the Internet we systematically share our needs, blessings and how to reach us.
- We try to participate more often in churches to remind them about our rehab centers, and churches in the region have begun to invite us to come.
- Purchasing a good printer to print flyers and business cards.



A little note of interest: At Orel we have a very talented accordion player; he has frostbitten and broken fingers on one hand and a missing finger, but he glorifies God by singing and playing the button accordion. – *Sergey Bogatyr, Orel*



At the **Zheleznogorsk Adaptation Center**, we decided to take a more thorough approach to the spiritual growth of those who have gone through our rehab program and want to become members of the church. Earlier this year, we introduced the Foundations of Faith course, which takes four months to study Biblical doctrines. Next January, four brothers will complete the course and be baptized, and one will be restored to membership in his home church. One of these brothers wants to stay as an assistant and is already actively engaged in both the center and the church.

For a year and a half, we have been feeding homeless people on the street. Some people from our church started participating in this by visiting with the people who come for help. This ministry has been noticed by ordinary people passing by... who are also beginning to help us by bringing other foods. The feeding place is located near one of the hostels in the city, where several needy families live. One day, a father brought his children to us with a request to feed them. This was shocking, but a joy. Now these children are coming to us to get a hot lunch for themselves and their parents. This is also a good opportunity for evangelism. – *Aleksey Dudikin, Zheleznogorsk*

Please pray for all our Pirkko Home centers:

- for new people needing freedom from drugs and alcohol addictions to come and go through our program;
- for the salvation of those whom we visit with and those undergoing our rehab and adaptation program;
- for constant and stable work to help support our Pirkko Homes and meet their needs.



## Solnechnogorsk Post-Adaptation Center

We praise God, and are very pleased with the purchase of the vehicle which many of you helped us with. Thank you. It's a great encouragement. Originally we had planned on finding a mini-van, but this economical car has a hatchback and lots of room which meets our needs even better than a van, and gets much better gas mileage besides!

One use of the car is to take part in feeding the homeless on an ongoing basis, both in Solnechnogorsk and at a large tent near the Perovo metro station in Moscow. This work bears fruit in the form of a good testimony to the public and finding new people needing rehabilitation.

We now have three people here for post-adaptation. Two have found jobs and gradually are merging into church life and ministry. Unfortunately, one rehab graduate fell back into his addiction, and we sent him to the rehab program in Plavsk, where the brothers there are helping him as he tries to recover. – *Sergey Matveyev, Solnechnogorsk*

Please pray:

- for progress in our work with graduates of the rehab centers as they merge back into “normal life,” and the involvement of additional churches in this work;

- for the expansion of advertising and information on social media;
- for development of stronger mentoring and discipleship in this ministry.





## Igor Markov – “I Know God is Faithful”



My name is Igor, I am 47 years old. For nearly 20 years, I was addicted to drugs that slowly took my friends, destroyed relationships with family and friends, undermined my health, and destroyed my dreams and plans for the future. Then came imprisonment. My wife filed for divorce and I was no longer allowed to interact with my daughter, who was only 2 years old. My whole life rolled downhill, farther and farther. I was very tired and wanted to break out of this captivity and repeatedly tried to do it on my own. I went to live in other cities, underwent treatment in drug treatment clinics, and sought support and help from people. But everything was in vain. I had already come to terms with the thought that I would die soon; that there was no way out.

Once I met a man who used to do drugs with me, but he underwent rehabilitation in the rehab center, and there were real changes in his life. I saw that he was a totally different person, not like he was before. After some time, I went for rehabilitation in the Moscow region, to the Rummyantsevo Pirkko Home. I was 36 years old at that time. I am grateful to God for my first mentors and for those who still support me today. God worked a miracle in me. He changed my life. After completing rehabilitation, there was an urge to remain in the ministry. In 2012, the brothers blessed me to go work in the Pirkko Home in the village of Nikulino, Tver region. I am still here to this day.



I remember when they told me that I needed to go serve in the Tver region, in a small village, in a place where there is no civilization, no road and nothing connected with the real world of the 21st century... for me it was a trial (to put it mildly) and a test of my faith and trust in the Lord. But I did it. I went to this village, to this rehab center.

Now I understand why the Lord led me here - in order to further build my life, in stages. Here my future wife, Marina, was undergoing rehabilitation at the women's center. Here we later married and started a family. Here we bought our own small but very cozy house. Here I found peace for my soul. Now I

can't imagine how I could live anywhere else! We are grateful to God for all that he has done for our family. My wife and I are engaged in rehabilitation ministry together; we have a great desire to help people who are like we once were.

During the 8 years of serving God at this place, the Lord blessed me with a family. God gave us two wonderful children, our son Timothy and our daughter Christina. We prayed a lot for our first-born, Timothy, before he was born, because the pregnancy was difficult, and now there are consequences of these complications. He has a number of diagnoses, the main one is a delay in mental development. He is not an ordinary child and everyone can see it when they talk with him. Our local church prays for him, for his development and that he would be able to speak clearly (he has a severe speech impairment). Please remember us in your prayers. God is merciful, and we believe that He will answer our prayers. Our daughter, thank God, is healthy.



Women's center

Thanks to everyone who knows us, has helped us and prays for us and our ministry at the rehabilitation center here in the small but very beautiful village of Nikulino. I cannot know what will happen to us tomorrow or in a year, but I know for sure that God is faithful to His Word and that He, as a loving Father, will lead us through this life.



Men's center

*Igor Markov, leader of the Nikulino Pirkko Homes*

