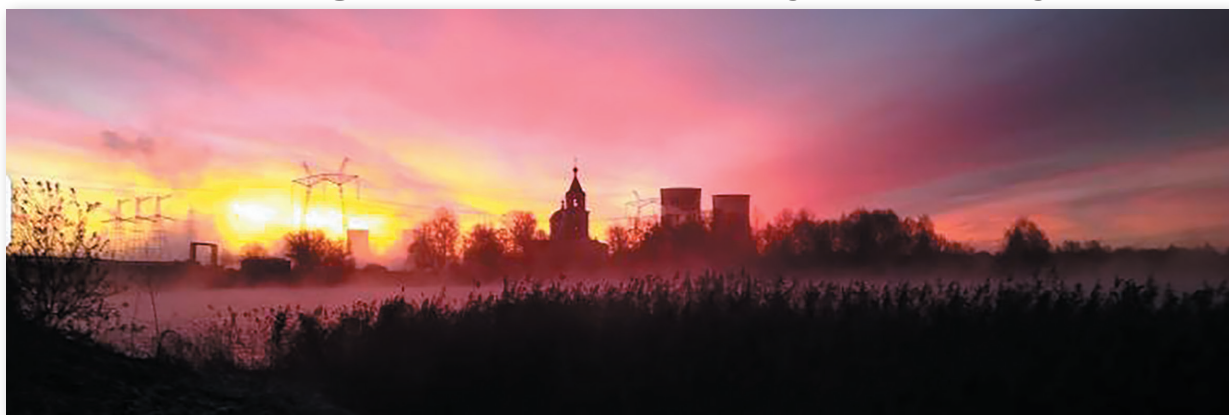




# REPORTER

## Dawning of our New Ministry in Udomlya



### Moving the Pirkko Home from Nikulino to Udomlya

In March 2021, due to difficulties caused by a local resident in the village of Nikulino, we were forced to leave Nikulino and look for a new location to continue our Pirkko Home ministry of helping liberate people from addictions through Christ. After a long discussion, meetings with Christian brothers in the Tver Region, and much prayer, the decision was made to continue this ministry at the Living Word Church in the small city of Udomlya (about an hour northeast of Nikulino), where Igor Kudryashov is the pastor.

In Russia we have a saying: "Moving is worse than fire!" Of course, it is difficult to move out of a special place that we had prayed over often, and enter a new one. But the local church of Udomlya, with its friendliness and love, like a balm, has soothed and consoled us in these difficult last few months. The brothers here, with special hospitality, allocated some space in their church building for the use of the Pirkko Home ministry. The local brothers and sisters enthusiastically joined in the work of instructing the Pirkko Home residents in the Word of God.



*At the Living Word Church, Udomlya*

Being here together with the church is one of the best experiences! Life is always in full swing in this House of God, it's like an anthill, and the Pirkko Home residents from the very beginning were integrated into the life of the church, adopting its principles, culture and love for Christ. It is very gratifying that during the time spent at the Church, none of the guys ever wanted to leave. The response of the men going through the rehab program was not long in coming, and graduates immediately wanted to stay and serve in this city after finishing the program. Also the long-awaited prayer request for more help was heard by God, and a new assistant, Artur Zorikov, from the Tver region, came to help at the center. Our hearts are filled with joy.





Some send their relatives and friends; others just watch. We are working to preach the Gospel here.

We plan to acquire a house for this ministry within the city limits in the near future. It is the prayer of our hearts and we are actively searching for suitable housing for this ministry.

Please continue to pray for the sale of the prior Pirkko Home building in Nikulino.

*Pirkko Home leaders, Igor Markov and Dmitry Gusev*

### Ministry of The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire Magazine

*Sometimes our magazine reaches very dark places and hearts, but God still cares.*

Mikhail K., 33 years old: “I spent my childhood in an orphanage near Minsk, Belarus. At the age of 15, I was first sent to a juvenile prison, from which I came out more aggressive, and acquired a criminal mindset in every sense. At the age of 18, I understood that people like me were needed and highly valued by groups of people like skinheads. Being uncontrollable, a year later I was sentenced to 10 years in prison for robbery and beating people. I did not think to improve, considering my lifestyle to be the best. This is how everything would have continued in my life, if the “inexplicable” had not happened six months before my release.

At that time I was in Prison IK-17 and was the manager of an area of the prison where the ministers of evangelical churches often came to conduct meetings and conversations. I made fun of them publicly, until one of the ministers dared to talk to me. He just turned me inside out. For the first time, I burst into tears of shame for a sinful life. His words cut in deeply: “Perhaps someone will be condemned for your crimes, possibly an orphan just like you.”

I must say that all this time, I had lived with the burden of murder, which no one except me and God knew about. I did not understand what was happening to me. Here I heard: “God loves you just the way you are.” How is this possible, what’s the catch? I asked “What will it cost me if I believe?” I heard a startling answer: “Repent!” Is that all? “If the repentance is sincere, from the bottom of your heart, then you will understand everything yourself”... Instead of being released, I confessed to the murder of two people. They gave me life imprisonment. My confession did not mitigate the sentence. At first it was difficult to accept the verdict, but I did not appeal against it. Sitting here in solitary confinement, for the first time I really prayed, uttering everything in my soul. Why am I writing all this to you? Because I get your magazine!”

*Thanks to devoted brothers who carry or send the magazines into prisons, our evangelical prison magazine is widely distributed in the Kemerovo, Amur, Rostov, Volgograd, Novosibirsk regions, the Komi Republic, Kazakhstan and Belarus. Here’s a letter from one of these ministers:*



Ivan Shmakov, who ministers in the Kemerovo region: “In my life I knew for sure where I was going and for what. All my former life I was obsessed with “thieves’ romance.” Each time I gained my freedom, nothing changed in my life. So I sat in prison until 2015, with short breaks of freedom, a total of 8 convictions, without regret or remorse. I was the prodigal son described in the Gospel of Luke. In 2013, a friend of mine, who had become a pastor by that time, began to pray for me. After being released from prison two years later, I came to visit him and immediately got into God’s hands for rehabilitation. So at age 42, the Lord came into my life! Everything that is beyond the power of man is within the power of God! Coming to the Lord, I said that I would not leave without a blessing, I clung to it with all my heart. This is a very difficult but fruitful process. Now I have everything: God, family and peace of mind! And, of course, serving the people behind the barbed wire, those who are in the chains of sin. I carry *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* with me as I minister.





## RCR Recording Studio Ministry

The RCR-Videos YouTube channel has 31,000 subscribers, but about 80,000 viewers watch it every month, and more than 800,000 watch every year. We receive more than 1,000 messages every month with reviews, comments, questions, and discussions on topics raised in our programs. Given that our ministry is constantly evolving, we will soon reach a million viewers every year! We pray that all who watch would be saved by Jesus Christ.

**Ayur Vanzhilov, head of the studio ministry:** *We would like to introduce you to two new members of our staff. First, I want to introduce Nikita Vorotilov, who joined our team at the RCR studio in April, 2021. He is a young and promising brother who wants to glorify the Lord with his work. Now, as part of his work, he is studying video editing and how to shoot good videos, and writes blogs about the RCR programs on social networks.*



**Nikita:** When I was 15 years old, my grandmother and I went to church for the first time, at the invitation of a classmate's family. My mother died when I was seven; she remained only in my childhood memories, and I never knew my father. My grandmother took care of me and was the closest person to me. We went to meetings together, grew spiritually together, and she encouraged me to work in the music ministry. When my grandmother died from COVID-19 a year ago, I was faced with the problem of splitting up her belongings with unbelieving relatives, and I saw how close the Lord is to me and my problems and how amazingly He answers prayers through believers. At that time, I stood at a crossroads, not at all understanding where to go next in life. With college behind me, I had youthful dreams and advice from outsiders, but there was an inner confidence that God would not leave me. Many things then coincided

– an inner desire to glorify God more, and the pastor's recommendation to devote my life to God's ministry. My church, Kovcheg ("Ark"), supports the ministry of RCR, and Ayur, who is my youth mentor at the church, also works in the RCR Studio. I prayed. And when the Lord directed me to work under Ayur's supervision, and I don't perceive what happened in any other way, then everything went harmoniously and naturally. It was new and interesting to become a participant in the creation of programs, and not be an outside spectator. I made my first exit to the city streets to record an interview, my first business trip to another region, edited my first program. I understand that there is still a lot to master, but the awareness of personal participation, even if it is small now, in making the world around us a better place, is worth a lot.



**Ayur Vanzhilov:** *Until recently, we recorded programs in the studio, and occasionally went to record people at conferences. Now, thanks to the arrival of Vladimir Gorlan in our studio, we began to also work in a more active style of interviewing people on the street, making programs with public opinions on interesting, spiritual topics.*

**Vladimir:** I'm from Volgograd. I knew little about God growing up. Then I tried moving to Moscow to find a job, but was unsuccessful and, disappointed, I returned home. There, I visited an evangelical church for the first time, repented, took missionary trips to other cities, and then eventually began working at the satellite radio ministry "New Life Radio," which for a while had its studio in the RCR Office. In order to support my family, I had first tried to work in a secular job, but God constantly urged me to devote my life to serving in media ministry to carry the Good News to many people. While working with "New Life Radio" I got to know all the staff of RCR well. Recently, I suggested that I join forces with RCR in its video ministry. For me, working on camera with passers-by is an opportunity to conduct street evangelism, where, in response to my questions, people begin to think, then we read Bible passages together on the topic, and I find that people react differently, but listen to what I have to say. And at the end I always give them copies of the New Testament. I see great potential in such work.



## Vladislav Fadeyev: I can do Nothing without God



My name is Vladislav. I am 45 years old. I was born in Transbaikalia. My mother and father divorced when I was two years old. There were three of us in my family. My mother had to work and tried to teach us both social graces and morality. But my friends were on the street; and instead we just learned from each other. We could easily leave home for neighboring regions, and just travel. I went to school only through 9 grades, then tried to study in college, but my constant partying and missing classes led to being expelled.

In 1994, I was drafted into the army, and sent to military school, where I received a higher rank. And again the same picture: dismissal for non-performance of official duties. I got married, but destroyed the family with my drunkenness and stubbornness, or, more simply, with my pride. After the death of my mother, I was driven to party and drink without interruption, and sometimes I asked God to let me die.

The first time I heard about the Pirkko Home Center was five years before I came to the program. We were in a remote village, and we came there looking for vodka. And there we met a little man – kind, smiling, benevolent, and open. He started talking about the Centers, inviting us to come to them. But then I said: no. I asked a friend who that was, and he said: “Baptist.” I didn’t even understand what that meant.

Later, in the prison “bullpen” (preliminary detention cell), the other guy in my cell kept trying to tell me the Epistle of the Romans. And he had a little “prayer book for prisoners” with a prayer: “Jesus Christ, have mercy on us sinners.” Apparently, the Lord put it on my soul, and I, not knowing all the subtleties of what that meant, just prayed with it in the morning and when I went to bed.

In 2014, I decided to contact the Lgov Pirkko Home Center (Kursk region) and repented on May 25 at the anniversary celebration we attended at the Dyatkovo Center (Bryansk region). I went through the adaptation program at the Zheleznogorsk Pirkko Home (Kursk region). Even then, the brothers offered to let me stay in the Pirkko Home ministry, but my pride said: “I can do everything myself” and I left. The result was a fall. In 2016, I came back to the program again. I finished the whole course, and prayed about making the commitment to be baptized, because I already understood that I myself cannot do anything without God.

While I was in the adaptation program in Zheleznogorsk, the brothers advised me to stay and help with ministry. Before me was the choice of where to go, they advised me to go to Rumyantsevo (Moscow region). I began to pray. I walked across the street, wondering what to do next, and what decision to make. And inside I heard a voice say: “I removed all your sins from you, what are you still looking for?” I came back to the Center, my heart pounding. I made my decision. I stayed to serve in the adaptation program in Zheleznogorsk. On February 5, 2017, I was baptized, making a covenant with God. A year ago, I was ordained to the deacon’s ministry in the local church, and I am studying online at Moscow Bible Seminary taking the course

“Mission and Evangelism.” Recently I was appointed to be the new leader of the Orel Pirkko Home.



Vlad (far right) is the leader at the Orel Pirkko Home

*Dmitry Gusev: “Vladislav is a wonderful brother and a sincere Christian, a servant of God and a help to people! He is very sympathetic and kind – God gave him such practical qualities that, undoubtedly, allow him to communicate effectively with people. For 4 years now he has been helping with the rehabilitation and adaptation of those dependent on drugs or alcohol; and was ordained as deacon in the “Church of Christian Communion” in Zheleznogorsk. He passionately participates in the life of the church and the needs of believers and actively goes out to the streets of the city with the Gospel! At every opportunity, he tries to turn a person’s gaze to a loving and saving God.”*

