



REPORTER

RCR MINISTRIES AT A DIFFICULT TIME

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." (Hebrews 6:19)



We value this ministry because of the transforming effects of the Word of God through *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine, the programs produced by the RCR studio and the personal ministry at the "Pirkko Homes," which reach people, changing their lives. We never cease to be amazed, as we see the evidence of so many transformations.

Perceiving the ongoing work as God's work, into which He has drawn each of us, we also realize that it should not stop until He comes for the Church. And the temporary difficulties created by the prince of this world, even though very tangible, should not stop the main thing - the salvation of human souls.

It is noteworthy that the theme of our most recent magazine is "God of Hope" (left). However, due to the imposed sanctions and lack of funds, we will be forced to temporarily print the next issue of the magazine, with the topic "Faithfulness," in black and white, so as not to interrupt this ministry. But we rejoice that the Word of

God is in demand more than ever and is dispersed throughout the prisons.

In God's providence, the Pirkko Home building in Nikulino was finally sold; we've prayed about that for a long time! But instead of using these funds for starting a new Pirkko Home project, as originally planned, the proceeds will be used to provide needed support for the leaders of the Pirkko Homes, who work with addicted people. Thus, our team of employees can continue to serve. Praise God for His provision.

Once we have a way to transfer funds again, our plan is to replace all these funds with the donations now being held in the U.S.

Rapid changes and restrictions to accessing social media, due to the confrontation between the West and Russia, brought new concerns to our video ministry, which prompted us to place RCR's programs on various new media platforms, not just on one, as it was before. This is a good thing! Times, circumstances and forms change, but God's path remains unchanged.

We do not give up and call on all those who support us prayerfully and financially to continue this important work, because its fruits are real and priceless - these fruits are saved souls, joy in Heaven, light in the darkness! We desperately need your prayers, your donations, and your support to keep God's work going before the time of harvest.



Alexander Zakharov, Executive Director of RCR in Russia

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Helping Ukrainian Refugees in Crimea

"...weep with those who weep." Romans 12:15

Dima Gusev gives this report: In mid-May, I went with our team to a checkpoint in Crimea to help people leaving Ukraine. The refugees we met were mostly people who had lost their homes and/or loved ones, and were scared and confused. Some were going to their relatives or friends, but many did not know at all where they would find refuge. They said, "We're going somewhere." For our part, we directed people where to go and told them where they could live and get the documents they needed. In addition to physical help, we tried to direct each person to the Almighty and Loving God, who in Jesus Christ is able to give strength to overcome the sin and evil of this world.



The main focus of our ministry was feeding people. Crossing the border can take several days, and people need food, water, medicine, and personal hygiene items. We invited them to a free hot lunch or to have a cup of hot tea or coffee.

In one car we met, a man was reading a tattered Bible. His name was Fedor, he was from the Kaluga region. He serves in Melitopol as a pastor of a Molokan church. He goes to Russia for medicines for old women and church members because there is a shortage of medicine in their city. We helped him with medicines. He said that many people are leaving, "but a pastor has no right to leave his flock. I will serve to the last!" Glad to see such dedication.



A young man came up from the long line to get a cup of hot coffee. We treated him to some piroshky and sandwiches as well. A few hours later he brought his wife and two small children to dinner. It turned out that they were traveling from Mariupol, where their housing was completely destroyed. They lived in basements for several weeks, and ate what they could, while hiding from missiles and other projectiles. "Being in fear, we learned to pray to God." To our question: "Do you plan to return to Mariupol?" They replied: "We have nowhere to return." We tried to console them and talked about Jesus Christ, His mercy, and the hope that He gives to everyone who believes in Him, and gave them New Testaments. When parting, they said: "Thank you very much for helping people not to lose hope."



There was no one on the border who did not need comfort and support. There was a lot of grief, pain and tears. We hugged them, and tried to comfort them in every possible way. Some just needed someone to listen as they shared all the horror of what they experienced, and to be reminded of a loving God who helps those who ask.

Summary of RCR's Help for Ukrainian Refugees – During March, April, and May, RCR sent a total of \$50,000 to 3 missionaries and pastors that our Board members know personally, who were on the front lines helping Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, Poland, and even in Ukraine. Those in Moldova and Poland not only helped those crossing the border, but also sent food, medicine, first aid kits, blankets and other needed supplies into Ukraine with vans or large containers. Besides providing humanitarian aid, these partners also shared the Gospel, prayed with people, and even stopped human trafficking at times. (See our Frontline letters posted at www.rcrm.org for details.)

Rumyantsevo Pirkko Home / Liberation Center (Nodari Mangasarov, leader)



At our Center nearest to Moscow, Rumyantsevo, there are 15 people in the program right now, and we thank God for them! This is not an easy time for anyone, but the Lord sends people to us so that we can tell them the Gospel. Of these 15 residents, some are repeating the program and are being restored spiritually and into the Church, but there are also those who are learning for the first time about Christians, Pirkko Homes and, most importantly, about the forgiveness of sins.

We recently repaired our vehicles, the Nissan and Lada, for all our trips to church and work. This year God has blessed us with plenty of work for the guys at the center. We are again working at the Ruchiyok Christian Camp, now that it has reopened. Also Christian brothers and sisters, as well as unbelievers, offer us construction and demolition jobs. We gladly agree to work - the season has begun for us when we can work hard, storing food for the winter.

I would like to point out the most important thing. We prayed long and hard for the repentance of the guys in the program, and over the past month we have felt the power of prayer. **Seven men have trusted in the Lord as their Savior**, and two of them want to work in social ministry with us (in Pirkko Homes) after finishing the program.



Another joy for us is that brother Ruslan Zyabbarov, who has been working for Rumyantsevo Pirkko Home as an assistant leader for more than 5 years, received a great gift from the Lord. He will be marrying a sister from the Solnechnogorsk Church and he plans to continue to work in the Church and in a Christian coffee shop. The wedding is scheduled for early July. Praise the Lord!!!

We had a big problem lately with the flow of water into the house - the pipe burst, and because of this, relations with our neighbors worsened, since this pipe passes through all the houses to supply water, and they had none. But the Lord gave us wisdom and we were able to repair the pipe. Throughout the work, we tried to maintain contact with our neighbors, notifying them that we will take care of all expenses and repairs. Thank God, He softened the irritation and anger of the neighbors and made it possible to continue to build relationships with them.





My name is Vladimir Volkov. I am 41. I was born and raised in the Ulyanovsk region, in the village of Terenga. I was brought up in a complete and prosperous family. Dad was an engineer, and Mom was a bakery manager. In our family, only my grandmother believed in God. She was an Orthodox believer. At school, I studied satisfactorily, but due to the fact that I had bad behavior, I was often kicked out of classes. I also got to know high school students who taught me how to smoke cigarettes, and over time I tried alcohol. In the evenings I spent time in a youth gang of sorts. Often we had unpleasant incidents with other youth gangs. My parents saw all this and, of course, understood that my life and behavior would not bring me to a good end. At a family meeting, they decided that after the end of the 9th grade, I needed to enter an educational institution that was far from home, in order to eliminate the bad influence of my former friends. I entered an agricultural college, but there I quickly found like-minded people and everything started all over again.

At the age of 18, I half-heartedly graduated from college. I still led a semi-criminal lifestyle. My father, seeing that I was going nowhere, met with the military officer and I was sent to serve in the army. I served, returned home, and soon married. My wife was a music and art teacher at the school. A daughter was born, and with her arrival, new responsibilities began. I was often tired, as I had to work two jobs. And in order to relax, I began to drink alcohol. My wife put up with it at first, and then because of my frequent use, trouble began. The arrival of my second daughter stopped me from drinking, but not for long. To the use of alcoholic beverages, marital infidelity was added.

One day my wife's patience snapped and she showed me the door. Leaving my family further aggravated my addictions. In December 2021, I found myself in the Rummyantsevo Pirkko Home - a Christian center for social and spiritual development. I re-evaluated my life. I encountered Christ after 3 months of the rehabilitation program. I began to pray, read and study the Bible. The Lord saved me, which became a turning point and the most important moment in my life. Now I try to grow in God and to help others, as they once helped me.

I want to work in Christian rehab ministry, so I will continue to help at the Rummyantsevo Pirkko Home, helping people get rid of sins and deadly habits and telling them about Christ and the Gospel, because only Jesus and His Word lead to freedom, genuine joy and real life. Praise God for everything He has done!

Pirkko Home "Liberation Ministry" – 2022 Camp Retreat

A Camp Retreat was held at the Ruchiyok Christian Camp May 20-23, 2022, planned by the leaders of 3 rehab programs: "Pirkko Homes," "House of the Word" and "Liberation Fund" for those in rehab centers and adaptation centers, graduates and those who minister there. About 150 people came from many regions (Moscow, Kursk, Belgorod, Tula, Leningrad, Kaluga, Orel, Tver, and Bryansk).

The theme of the meeting was: "Produce Fruit in Keeping with Repentance." (Matt. 3:8) On the first day, sermons were heard on the topics of what "repentance" is, and how to come to it, and what to realize and accept. The second day was devoted to "conversion" - what needs to be left behind, what is the source of guilt, and where is Jesus in the whole context. Accordingly, the third day was called "Following Jesus." - what changes as a result of repentance: my heart, my character, and a transformation from an egotist to a servant.

It is worth noting that there was always a line at the "Personal Counseling" ministry, which took place throughout the days of the meeting. The brothers and sisters went without interruption to confession and conversation with the pastors. This fact suggests that many were tired, and wanted freedom, personal contact and a solution to their personal problems. Throughout the Retreat, about **20 people turned to Jesus** in a prayer of repentance. Praise God! One of the main goals of the event was achieved!

