



REPORTER

THE LORD'S FAITHFULNESS IN DIFFICULT TIMES

God's hand is especially evident in difficult circumstances when we call upon Him for help. This year was marked for us by the complication of external conditions in all three areas of RCR's ministry: our video studio, Pirkko Home rehabilitation centers and prison magazine.

The video ministry is doing everything they can do to maintain and increase the audience of viewers against the backdrop of the slowdown in the playback speed of YouTube channels in Russia. Military events in Ukraine and the Kursk region of Russia have led to a reduction in the types of people who usually turned to the Pirkko Homes for help. The same applies to places of imprisonment, where some people go to war under contract to clear their criminal record, so are not receiving our magazines. What is happening worries us and encourages us to pray more. And we see how the Lord shows His blessing and His faithfulness in difficult circumstances. Please continue to pray for our ministries.

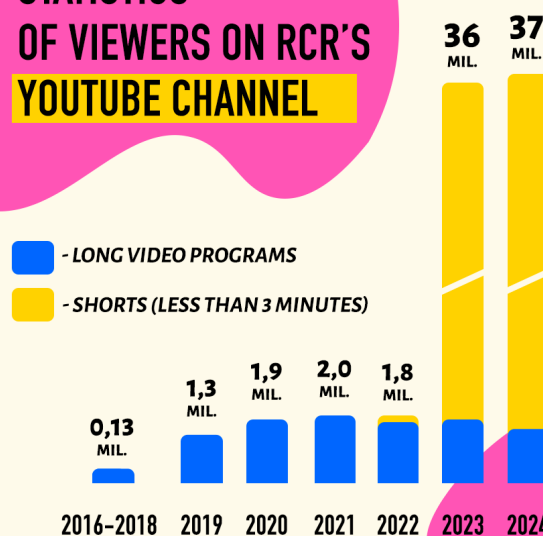
RCR Studio

In addition to YouTube, we have posted all the video programs of the RCR Studio on the video hosting sites Rutube, Yandex Zen and VKontakte (VK), and people began to subscribe to them. The YouTube channel audience has decreased, but not as much as we expected. The number of views of short programs, called "shorts" are surprisingly increasing. It is important to understand that these shorts are watched mainly by unbelievers, people that we always dream of reaching. The full versions of the programs are mainly watched by believers or people seeking God.

We see that all the efforts made by our staff for the glory of God in challenging circumstances are not in vain, no matter how hard the evil one tries to sow doubts.

We believe that the Lord will abundantly bless and multiply the ministry of the studio, as well as Pirkko Home rehab centers and the prison magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*. Here and on the next page we provide some statistics for these ministries.

STATISTICS OF VIEWERS ON RCR'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL



- 185,000 subscribers as of Nov 1, 2024
- 80 million views on YouTube alone since 2016
- 42 million views were over the past 365 days, more than half of all views since we started in 2016
- 90% of views are of short videos, up to 3 minutes
- 20,000 comments received this year
- 14 videos are released per month, about 9-10 long programs and 4-5 shorts



We would like to share one recent comment from a viewer of our video programs:

Victoria: I came across Alik Gelfenbain's testimony in the Choice program, and today I listened to it and cried. I also want to have a personal relationship with God, I want to feel His acceptance and love. Not just to hear about it, but to know for sure, because the people around me (relatives) are almost the same as around Alik.

Everyone has their own viewpoints, but I want to free myself from pain, past grievances, and live with joy in God. It won't work to ignite others for God if you yourself are only smoldering.

I love testimonies, I send them to everyone. I retell them on any occasion, everywhere. But myself... I also want to be like Alik, with a big smile all over my face and walking around happy and joyful, and not living out my life depressed. Lord, help me! Take me into Your love, Father! Amen!

Pirkko Home Rehabilitation/Liberation Centers

We have 8 Pirkko Homes, listed here with the names of their leaders:

Moscow region:

Rumyantsevo (Nodari Mangasarov)

Adaptation Center in Solnechnogorsk (Artem Panin)

Bryansk region:

Dyatko (Ilya & Tanya Ignatov)

Kokino (Oleg Murashev)

Kursk region: Zheleznogorsk (Aleksey Dudikin)

Orel region: Orel (Vladislav Fadeyev)

Tula region: Plavsk (Peter Pitsurenko)

Tver region: Udomlya (Igor Markov)

PIRKKO HOMES in 2024

102
people came
to Pirkko
Home
for help

11
restored to church
membership

12
preparing
for baptism

3 weddings
of
graduates

were
baptized **7**

33 finished the
program

The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire Magazine

Our prison magazine is produced in the Moscow office and is sent to people in Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. In addition, 70 copies of each issue are printed in the USA (in Russian), and are sent to subscribers and prison ministers in the USA. Volunteers in Germany also receive our magazine materials and produce a version of it translated into

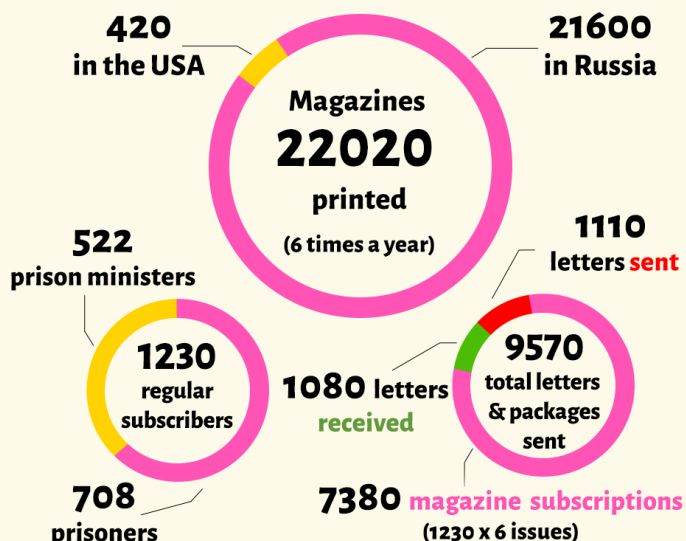
German with some revisions such as letters from German prisoners. 90% of the prisons in Russia receive our magazine.

We respond to each letter received with a handwritten letter answering many of their questions. We often include a magazine, and/or other Christian literature, Bibles, New Testaments or sermons of Earl Poysti to help them with their spiritual growth.

Here is a recent letter from a prisoner:

"Greetings to the entire editorial staff of the magazine! I received a letter from you and a supplement to the magazine – a collection of sermons by Earl Poysti called "Misconceptions About Christ." I thank the Lord for this help. Your magazines help me a lot as I learn the Word of God. However, it is not easy to be alone without spiritual support. I would like to start communicating with brothers and sisters in Christ by correspondence. I also need spiritual literature, not complicated, but extremely simple and understandable, such as the sermons of Earl Poysti."
– Dmitry B. (Prisoner, Republic of Mordovia, Russia).

THE GOSPEL BEHIND BARBED WIRE MAGAZINE in 2024





Pirkko Home Ministry – 2024 Graduate Reunion

This year I really want to write about our annual alumni reunion in October at the Ruchiyok Christian Camp in the Moscow region. For many years, we tried to change the format of this retreat; we invited interesting and popular speakers, organized festive dinners, etc. But paradoxically, fewer graduates began to come to the reunion; they lost interest. This time, as soon as the conversation turned to the reunion for 2024, there were comments like, “Why is this even necessary?” Thinking about this, an incredible “holy” desire rose up in me to resist such an attitude. Passiveness can destroy the ministry, making it “shaky,” unpromising, and certainly not glorifying to God.



So, we took unprecedented actions: we invited each person individually, by calling or sending a message on WhatsApp. We decided that for those who agreed to come from far away, we would assist them with funds for their trip. It turned out that a personal invitation and realizing they weren't forgotten was much more important and received a greater response than offering money. Those who came noted these details, and those who could not, wrote: “Thank you for remembering me” and “It's a shame to refuse when you ask this! way” and “I will definitely come next time!”

About 100 people came to the meeting (unfortunately, not everyone got into the photo). Many who had not been there for five, seven, or even ten years came from Novosibirsk, Tver, Trubchevsk, Udomlya, Moscow and the Moscow region, Orel, Kursk, and Bryansk.

The fellowship was truly blessed. Many had not seen each other for years, and recalled the time spent in the rehabilitation or adaptation program. Many came with their families. Some of the brothers are already doing pastoral and deacon ministry in their churches. Some left their hometowns for missionary service in other cities. Many help in Sunday school or children's and youth camps, lead or help lead home Bible study groups, etc. By the way, they do all this despite their daily workload. Yes, yes, all this is not due to our skills, or some kind of social adaptation, but is all thanks to our Lord, Jesus Christ! If not for Him, none of us would even be alive!

Of course, there were guests who gave a seminar on the topic of our meeting: “Renewal.” Renewal in ministry, in spiritual life, in personal motives and in repentance. On Saturday, we ate delicious pilaf cooked over a fire for dinner. There was warm fellowship, short speeches by brothers, and competitions. We thank the Lord for His mercy! And we thank you for your support, help and prayers!

– *Dmitry Gusev, Coordinator of the Pirkko Home Ministry and pastor at Solnechnogorsk Church*

Helping Refugees in the Kursk region of Russia

God has allowed military actions to take place in our region related to the war in Ukraine. Thousands of people from the border area were forced to leave their homes, work and schools, and move deeper into the country. Of course, most of these people do not have even the bare necessities for normal life in a new place. Together with other believers in our region, we decided to help the refugees in any way we can. “...I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink” (Matthew 25:35).

Currently, a group of believers from our church travels to the city of Kursk every week, where they prepare and distribute hot meals and other essential supplies daily for about 200-300 refugees. In addition to physical care for people, our brothers and sisters minister spiritually at the feeding stations. Anyone who wants to can take Christian literature and the Gospel to read. We talk with and listen to people who have lost everything; their hearts are broken, and they do not know how to continue living. Such circumstances are a chance for many to learn about Jesus Christ, who loves, heals, saves and restores broken lives.

– *Alexey Dudykin, pastor of the church and leader of the Pirkko Home in Zheleznogorsk, Kursk region.*



Andrey Ivanchenko: “God showed me how wonderful the Christian life is.”



I was born and raised in the Bryansk region in a simple working-class family. My mother and grandmother took me to churches when I was young, and my grandmother considered it necessary to take me on pilgrimage trips to different cities, so I was familiar with the Christian culture of the Orthodox Church since childhood. My grandmother taught me to pray; I still remember these prayers.

It seemed that my life had everything for happiness, but over time I became more interested in the guys from dysfunctional families; they committed petty crimes, behaved boldly and brazenly, and their peers were afraid of them. When I was a little over twenty years old, a criminal case was brought against me, and I was given eleven years in a maximum security prison. Such a harsh term was given unfairly and three years later I was

acquitted. Then for the first time I saw the Lord's answer to prayers. I understood that God was near and loved me, but at the same time I always wanted easy money.

Soon I was sent back to prison for five years. There I learned the profession of a welder, and later learned the craft of a blacksmith. There I began to attend the prayer room and did not miss a single one of our meetings. After my release, I quickly got married and we had a daughter, Lisa. I knew that God gave me this unique gift of blacksmithing. I made a forge and even built my own house with my father's help. But sin continued to guide me, and I began to actively take drugs.

The years passed. I would climb out, then fall back into the pit of insurmountable sin. My beloved daughter was growing up and, in fact, she had no father. I degraded greatly and became physically weak - weighing only 88 lbs., I could no longer move without help. My wife took our daughter and left. And in this state, I began to pray again and ask the Lord to have mercy on me.

After some time, strangers with bright and kind faces came to my house. They turned out to be brothers from the local Baptist Church. We talked, and they offered to take me to the Kokino Pirkko Home rehabilitation center in the Bryansk region, and I went, although I looked like a “vegetable.” It seemed to me that I was betraying what I had known since childhood: icons, saints, and the Orthodox Church. My Christianity was built on these attributes, but when I began to read the Gospel, the fog in my head began to dissipate, I began to understand who I was, and what true faith is. Nine days later, I asked God for forgiveness for my godless and worthless life. All these five months in the center seemed like only one day to me, because I found true peace of mind in Christ.



Later, I was transferred to the next stage, adaptation, in Solnechnogorsk, where God strengthened me and showed me how wonderful the Christian life is. At the first opportunity, I began to communicate with my daughter, and later we were able to see each other and talk like adults. She is now 14 years old, and I am 40. Unfortunately, my wife could not forgive me and left me for another, but I have a wonderful relationship with my daughter. I asked my loved ones for forgiveness, and we all could not hold back our tears. My brother Pavel hugged me for real, like family. I gave all my relatives a New Testament, and they promised with a smile to read it, and if the opportunity arises, to visit a church.

I really want to receive water baptism and find, first of all, a spiritual family, where I can be useful to Christ. For now, I have decided to stay at the Solnechnogorsk Bible Church, where the pastor and mentor is Dmitry Gusev, and to work with believers. I realize that without the Lord I can do nothing, so I will try to be closer to the church and to the brothers. Praise God!