



# REPORTER

Millions of Russians for Christ



Dimitry Gusev's ordination to ministry in March 2011

## Developing A New Generation of Leaders in Russia

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Mission Goal:  
Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ using mass media.

## Ordained to Serve God and Others

In his early twenties, Dimitry Gusev saw that his young life was already "slipping through his fingers like sand" when he was sentenced to prison for narcotics use. So, when he was given an early release from prison, Dimitry sought to turn his life completely around.

Once out of prison, Dimitry headed directly for the "Pirkko Home" Christian rehabilitation center outside of Moscow, as some of his old friends from his days as a drug user were living there. He immediately saw how their lives had begun to change and that they had gained the power to overcome their addictions. In time, Dimitry repented of his sins and surrendered his life to Christ and God liberated him from his dependence on narcotics.



Dimitry Gusev, his wife Natasha and their newborn son

Just as God began His good work in Dimitry, He is bringing it to completion, as He promised (Philippians 1:6). Not only is Dimitry free from his addictions, he also helps others to find freedom in Christ. Dimitry has been serving in RCR's Christian rehabilitation ministry since 2004 and is the coordinator of our "Pirkko Home" ministry, overseeing all of the "Pirkko Home" centers. Earlier this year, he was ordained to Christian ministry in his home church along with two other young men. He also experienced another of God's blessings on his life, as he and his wife welcomed their first child, a son, in May of this year.

We praise God for the life and ministry of Dimitry and others just like him whose lives the Lord has raised up and restored through faith in Christ and who have become key leaders in the church of today's Russia. We praise the Lord that Russian Christian Radio can play a part in the development of a new generation of leaders that will serve in the Church to reach millions of Russians for Christ.

## Developing a New Generation of Leaders in Russia



Sergey Yakimenkov

I read a book recently by Joseph Bondarenko titled "Sentenced Three Times" which tells the story of his life. It reminded me of many people in Russia who served time in prison for their faith in Christ. Nikolai Khrapov was a brother who challenged me to follow Christ. He spent the final years of his life behind barbed wire. A member of our church in Moscow, Anatoliy Vlasov, also recalls all that he suffered while in prison for his faith. And of course, there are many others who paid a similar price in order to follow Christ.

As part of my involvement in ministry with Russian Christian Radio over the last twenty years, I have come to know hundreds of other prisoners who have served time behind bars as punishment for their crimes. These men and women found Christ while in prison, or through our various rehabilitation centers. These and others have come to faith in Jesus as a result of the ministry of Russian Christian Radio, including some who have even become missionaries.

In 2011, we are pleased to celebrate various ministry milestones, one of which is the publication of the 100th edition of our magazine for prisoners, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*. This year we also commemorate fifteen years of ministry through rehabilita-

tion centers for ex-prisoners, alcoholics and drug addicts. Every year, former residents of the "Pirkko Homes" gather together to celebrate God's work in their lives through this ministry. These former drug addicts, alcoholics and thieves tell of how God rescued them from their sins and gave them the opportunity to serve Him by helping others who have the same problems they have overcome. The Lord has blessed this ministry and today it would be hard to find a church in Russia where former prisoners or addicts are not involved in ministry

The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:26, "For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble".

In this edition of the Reporter you will find testimonies from various servants of God. The Lord has worked in their lives through this ministry and they have since become leaders in the church as they help others to come to faith.

We praise God for this miracle and thank you for your faithful prayers and gifts that help us reach even more Russians for Christ!

**Sergey Yakimenkov**  
*Director of RCR Ministries in Russia*



Oleg and Tatiyana Zhilyakov and their children

## Oleg Zhilyakov: "I am living fruit of your work"

Oleg grew up during the final years of the Soviet Union in what is now eastern Ukraine and eventually landed in prison in far-northern Russia where, in 1995, he came to faith in Jesus Christ as God's sacrifice for his own sins. Just three years later, Oleg Zhilyakov was released and was grateful to find a Christian home for former prisoners that helped him rebuild his life.

Oleg lived at RCR's "Pirkko Home" in Yemva, Russia where his faith in Christ was deepened and he was challenged to serve God. Oleg followed Christ's command and was baptized the day after Christmas in 1998, while still at the "Pirkko Home". He left the rehabilitation center to continue his life and ministry, and studied to become a missionary. He has been instrumental in starting a church in a remote area east of Izhevsk, Russia in the town of Kez in the Udmurt Republic.

For more than eight years now, Oleg and his wife Tatiyana have been preaching and teaching the gospel message of Jesus Christ in Kez and by God's grace, they have a strong congregation of believers. They meet in an old log cabin church but are working on building a new facility that will accommodate up to 350 people.

Oleg recently told us how God used RCR in his life.

*"I would like to express my great thanks to the brothers and workers of Russian Christian Radio and all who are involved in the "Dom Pirkko" ministry throughout Russia and to those who sacrificially give to this ministry. I am living fruit of your work. These centers are absolutely necessary for brothers who have come to faith in prison. Upon release, there is a place they can go where they are given the opportunity to establish themselves as children of God and be instructed in the fundamental truths of our Lord so that they do not return to their former sinful way of life. This chance confirms their salvation in the Lord and strengthens their resolve to become His servants."*

Praise the Lord for Oleg Zhilyakov and for the way in which God rescued him from sin, restored him to relationship with his Creator and equipped him to serve God as a church planter and pastor in Russia!



The Kez church where the Zhilyakovs serve

## Andrei Kuzmichev: Serving His Savior

How many times do you need to check yourself in to a hospital for treatment in order to be freed from your drug addiction? For Andrei Kuzmichev, that number was thirty – 30 times – and yet, he still did not obtain the freedom he so desperately sought. Each time, Andrei returned to his incurable longing for heroin.

But in His grace and love for Andrei, God showed His mercy and sent him an old friend, who himself had once been a drug addict, to help Andrei find that liberation for which he yearned. Andrei was amazed to see how his friend had been able to free himself of his addictions when he himself could not do so. His friend explained how Jesus could forgive Andrei of his sins and make him into a new creation that would live for God instead of for his own sinful desires.



Andrei Kuzmichev, "Dom Pirkko" in Ryilsk, Russia

After numerous invitations to go live in Russian Christian Radio's "Pirkko Home" rehabilitation center outside Moscow, Andrei eventually accepted and when he did, he met an entire group of former addicts who had been where he was, but who had come to know the liberating power of faith in Christ. It was not long before Andrei repented of his sins and gave his life to Christ.

Andrei has grown tremendously in his faith in God and after his rehabilitation at the Rumyantsevo facility, he was asked to help lead the "Pirkko Home" in Lgov, Russia. Later, he was challenged to spend his life in service to the One who gave His life to save Andrei from his sins, Jesus Christ. In November 2010, Andrei was given the chance to start a new "Pirkko Home" in the town of Ryilsk, Russia, not far from Lgov. He now serves as the coordinator for the Ryilsk rehabilitation center.

God has amazed Andrei with the way in which He has turned a former drug addict into someone who now works in Christian ministry.

*"As I look back over the past two years of my Christian life and analyze what my life used to be like in the twenty-five years that I lived without God, I see how God has given me incomparably more than I ever had before. He has given me true friends and has restored my relationships with family and others that I had wronged. I have everything I need in life, but more than anything, I am no longer a drug addict. My life is full of meaning and purpose as the Lord has saved my soul. I am so grateful to God for my new life and for all those that spoke to me about Christ and prayed for me."*

God is indeed an awesome God and He continues to develop Andrei's faith and use him as part of a new generation of Christian leaders in Russia.

## Alexei Dudikin: Equipped to Serve Others

Alexei Dudikin tells how he had become addicted to heroin before he was sixteen years old. He started smoking and drinking when he was just thirteen, but he realized he was a full blown drug addict within just three years of using narcotics. As he says, "at sixteen, I realized that I was not in control of the drugs I used, rather, they were in control of me". By the time he was twenty years old, Alexei had also become involved in crime in order to support his drug use, although he wished he could change his life.

A friend suggested that he go to the "Pirkko Home" near Moscow but he did not really want to do that. However, he gave in and went to the rehabilitation center and saw how God had changed others' lives and he eventually repented of his sins and gave his life to Christ. During his time at the "Pirkko Home", Alexei was equipped to serve others just like himself who had fallen into drug addiction.

Alexei eventually left the center only to continue serving God by reaching other addicts in the Lgov "Pirkko Home" in the Kursk region of western Russia. Today, Alexei is one of RCR's most stable and faithful servants and God is using him to disciple former addicts so that they too, will serve God in ministry.



Alexei Dudikin serves as the "Dom Pirkko" coordinator near Lgov, Russia

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