



# REPORTER

## Preaching the Gospel in the Russian Language since 1946

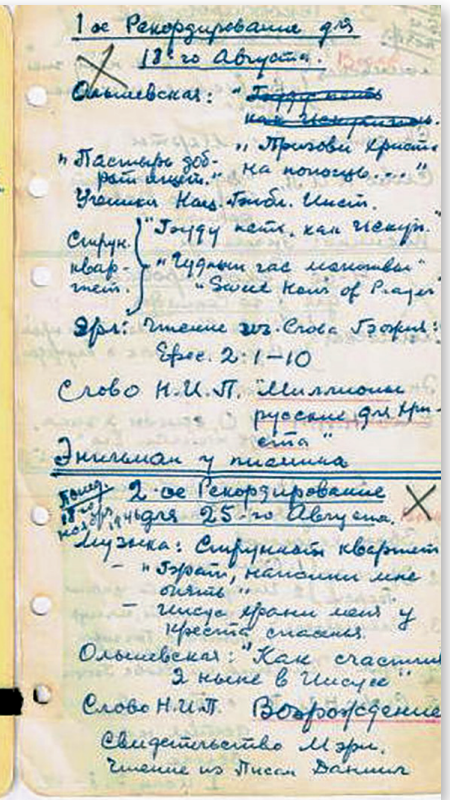
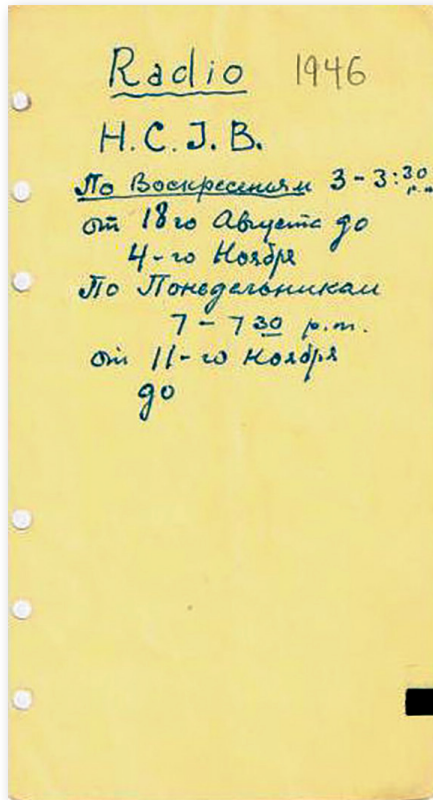
### Celebrating 75 Years of RCR's Ministry from 1946-2021!

*“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation...” (Isaiah 52:7)*

RCR’s very first radio broadcast was August 18, 1946, aired over the HCJB “Voice of the Andes” radio station (Quito, Ecuador). Below are the notes written by Nikolai Poysti about the first two broadcasts of this new radio ministry to Russian-speakers that he and his son Earl Poysti started. For the August 18 program Nikolai preached a sermon on the theme of the vision God had given him: “Millions of Russians for Christ!” and Earl read the Scripture, Ephesians 2:1-10. For the second program on August 25, Nikolai preached about “Revival.” Earl’s sister Mary gave her testimony and his brother Daniel read letters that had come to the Russian-East European Mission (where Nikolai and Earl worked). Soon Earl would be preaching to millions of listeners.



Nikolai and Earl Poysti



Not only was the emergence of Russian Christian Radio in 1946 an amazing feat, it was founded firmly in prayer, “on bended knees,” as Earl recounted. Over all these years, the preaching of the Gospel was heard on many different radio stations and reached many thirsty souls, in spite of all the obstacles. The sermons of Earl Nikolayevich Poysti influenced several generations of believers, and God only knows how many people turned to the Lord through them. The simplicity, clarity and call to repentance in almost every sermon makes them relevant even now and many continue to listen to them to this day. On the next two pages are some people’s memories about the early radio ministry, from letters which we recently received.



## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Letters: Memories of Earl Poysti's Radio Ministry



*Earl Poysti broadcasting from the Trans World Radio studio in Monte Carlo, Monaco in the 1960s.*

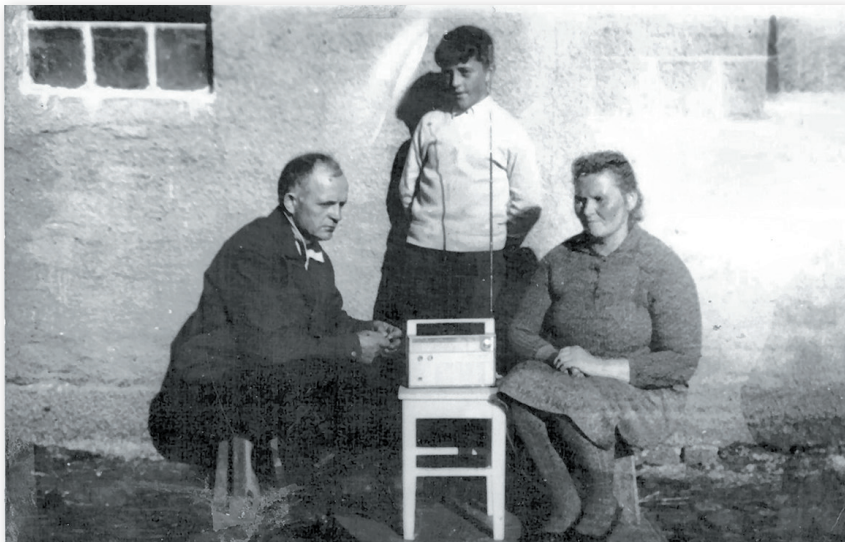
some of his sermons several times, and have definitely listened to all of them at least once. I like that in his sermons he does not touch upon disagreements in doctrine, but always points our attention to Jesus, and if he denounces, then only such things as: traditionalism, half-heartedness, unfaithfulness - but he also addresses these people with one goal: to bring them back to the herd from which they fled.

This week I visited my dad, and he was just listening to Brother Earl's sermon, so I sat down and started listening quietly with him. The sermon reached one place and Dad began to quote with one voice together with Earl. I was very surprised, because sometimes in the evening he does not remember what he ate at lunchtime... but he could remember this quote in the sermon, which he had not listened to for 2-3 years! Dad is 90 years old. - *Paul and Lily Dekan, Germany*



*Earl Poysti & his wife Pirkko in the studio. Pirkko sang "Is There a Place for Jesus?" for the radio programs.*

✧ I would like to say this about Earl Nikolayevich Poysti, and how this "wave" affected my life quite a long time ago. I was born in Kazakhstan. There was a very small radio receiver where we heard "the waves" [programs on the short wave bands,] and there I heard the voice of Earl Poysti. He spoke about the Word of God. And this Word of God got so engraved in my memory, that things about whom and about what, I do not remember, but I only remember what I heard about the Lord. The waves came and went, But the words of Earl Poysti remained in my memory. Then we moved to Germany, but I didn't know a word in German; I'm Russian. There I was, like "behind barbed wire," as there were no relatives here, so I grew up on Earl Poysti's Russian sermons on cassettes. - *Tatiana Walz, Germany*



✧ I was presented with a cassette tape with a sermon by Earl Poysti and it always inspired me and encouraged me during persecutions, persecutions for Christ. - *Andrey Kravchenko, Olympia, WA*



✦ In memory for life: Babushka (grandmother), the radio receiver and the voice of Earl Poysti. - *Amid Ivanov*

✦ Please accept my congratulations on the 75th anniversary of RCR! I remember well when we got a radio in our house, I was 15 then and we had regular visitors - we listened to sermons on short wave radio. The voice of Earl Nikolayevich Poysti was clearly recognizable among all the other voices. Through RCR's ministry, I received *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine, and at the call of my heart, I joined in the prison ministry in 2007 and carry it on to this day. - *Evdokia Oliyevsky, Peoria, AZ*

✦ I was born in 1952, in a large Christian family in Belarus. I remember how my whole family constantly went to the next street to listen to Christian radio programs. After listening, everyone knelt down and prayed fervently. Then our family got a little richer, and my father bought a used radio set. Immediately, the whole family gathered around him and after listening to the program, my father said that even for the sake of this one program alone, it was worth paying money for a radio receiver.



My father wrote a letter to Earl Nikolayevich Poysti, and I rewrote this letter several times in my beautiful childish handwriting until, finally, my father was satisfied with the quality of the handwriting and we sent it. We also asked for two songs. How we rejoiced and were so delighted when, after a while, we heard them! Even now, as I write these lines, tears are flowing from my eyes.



*Earl & Pirkko Poysti and their ten children.*

Later, we also received a letter from Earl Poysti with a family photo. How happy and pleased my father was with this letter and photo! He always carried this photo with him and showed it to everyone! True, Earl seemed to me "a little bespectacled man", but I, from his sermons and his voice, envisioned him as big and huge, like Goliath!

In 1971, I was sentenced by the Military Tribunal to five years in prison for my faith in Christ, and was not released for an additional three years, for eight years total. One time, while a contractor was repairing technical equipment, I asked him if we could listen to a Christian radio program, and, at his risk, he agreed. And from his equipment the powerful voice of Earl Poysti sounded: "Word of Life Fellowship presents the following program with words of life for the Russian youth!" Then through the sounds of the Soviets trying to jam the signal, the words of the anthem sounded: "Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life...." At that moment I was not in confinement, I was not in prison, I was in FREEDOM, I was "on cloud 9." Listening to the program, I sang along with it, I prayed along with it, I absorbed the words of the sermon, and tears of emotion,

happiness and inexpressible delight flowed from my eyes. After this transmission, I "walked" without touching the ground with my feet, I just soared spiritually! One time in eight years I heard the voice of Earl Poysti, who visited me in bonds.

Later, here in the USA, Earl Nikolayevich Poysti preached in our church, and I personally saw and heard him. Praise God for the ministry of Earl Nikolayevich Poysti, his father and his children! - *Viktor Montik, Coon Rapids, MN*

**You are invited to our 75th Anniversary celebration on Sunday August 15, 2021 at 6 pm, dedicated to the ministry of Earl Poysti. John Poysti will be speaking. Word of Grace Bible Church, 1317 NW 12th Ave, Battle Ground WA 98604**

**Vladimir Pekar: Deprived of family, freedom and health - but found everything thanks to Christ!**



Artem Panin with Vladimir Pekar

Hello to you all, dear brothers and sisters! My name is Vladimir Pekar, I come from the city of Belaya Kalitva, Rostov region. Early in my life, I lost my parents, becoming an orphan. I spent 9 years in an orphanage, from first grade to ninth grade. The teachers didn't have much control there and by the end of the ninth grade I had become addicted to alcohol and soft drugs.

In the fifth grade, a woman appeared in my life path who wanted to adopt me. All we orphans really wanted to find a family. Nina Konstantinovna agreed with the director to pick me up for the weekend, to get to know my character and my behavior better, in order to adopt me later. When she picked me up, I know she took me to church, but not in an Orthodox church. It was an ordinary wooden nondescript house. Today I understand that it was a church and God, even then, wanted me to know Him.

Afterwards, reflecting on what I heard, I wondered why God allowed some people to have parents, and why I was left without them. It depressed me very much. And when Nina Konstantinovna came for me again, I just hid from her. But even then she still found a way to show concern - she left a sweet parcel with the teachers to pass on to me. I must say that many tried to adopt me, but I remember her most of all because of her kindness and the care that she showed to me.

After I left the orphanage I began to live as I saw fit, using everything that I thought could satisfy me, but instead everything got worse. Bitterness gripped my soul and I had thoughts of suicide. In moments of despair I remembered my parents. At the age of 19, I spent 2 years in prison for theft. This marathon of being in and out of prison lasted until I was 33. During this time, I tried to quit addiction in different ways: I tried coding therapy, went to shift work, changed my place of residence, but nothing helped. Drugs and jail were ruining my health.

I truly got to know God while I was in the program at the Pirkko Home in Kokino (Bryansk region). I got there by accident. I was drinking with a friend and we went to a church in Bryansk to ask someone to call a friend for us, and there we were met by a woman named Zhanna. During the conversation, we learned that she had attended a recovery program many years ago at the women's Pirkko Home in Nikulino (Tver region), and today she was living a sober life, serving in the church. We agreed to an offer from her for help.

She called the brothers and they drove up and took both of us to Kokino. We both underwent the recovery / rehab program, both underwent adaptation in Solnechnogorsk (Moscow region), then repented together and together decided to devote ourselves to serving the Lord in the center there, and we both declared our desire to be baptized, but recently my friend Roman could not cope with the temptation and suddenly left and fell back into a sinful life. I pray for the salvation of his soul.

During this time while I was still going through the program, after thinking about what I had heard from the Word of God at one of the Sunday services, I repented before Christ and was saved. It became easier for me to forgive, a humbleness appeared that had not been in me before, and gradually there was a craving and love for God's Word.

After completing the program, I decided to stay with the Pirkko Home ministry to serve God and people. This call from God was deep in my heart, and I am trying to fulfill it. At the moment, I am helping Artem Panin in the adaptation center. I really enjoy participating with the brothers in the various ministries of the center, and visiting churches, Christian gatherings and conferences. I am conducting Bible studies and doing physical work with the guys - by the way, we have taken on a contract to cover / seal a large roof: 43,055 ft<sup>2</sup>!

I also see God's hand in my process of obtaining housing. As an orphan, I am entitled to housing from the state. I did not receive that, but God gives me another chance to have my own apartment. Please. pray for this.



The Lord miraculously changes me and my corrupted thinking, answers my inner questions. He transforms my heart and makes everything new. I pray that I will not leave the Lord but will remain faithful to Him. I pray that God will give me a family.

My favorite Bible verse is: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

