



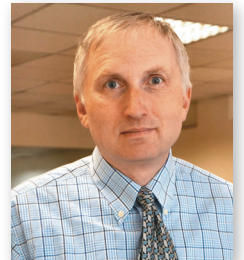
# REPORTER

## God, Who Gives Hope!

The Lord is at work in our ministry, and has done much in the three months since our last Reporter was written. We would like to share some of these things with you. As we carry out our work of ministering to others, we trust not in ourselves, but in the Spirit of the Lord, to Whom all things are subject. We know that God often uses misfortune to turn a person toward Himself and give him hope. People testify to this. This seems especially true in the lives of those who are exhausted by their sins and addictions, one of our primary areas of ministry.

The power of God's Word truly works the miracle of transforming human souls, and seeing this, we are constantly inspired by the greatness of God's plan. We firmly believe that the glory of God will eclipse all the works of darkness, and in His grace many souls who live in darkness will find the light of His salvation!

— Alexander Zakharov, Executive Director of RCR in Russia



## News from the Pirkko Homes

We received some updates recently from the Pirkko Home Liberation Centers, where our staff helps those who want to be free from their sins and addictions. Here is what God is doing there:



Every winter our four southern rehab centers (Orel, Zheleznogorsk, Kokino and Dyatkovo) gather together for a retreat and time of refreshment. This year they met in Orel to enjoy teaching, edification, games and encouragement. It was a very good time of fellowship.

Kokino and Dyatkovo leaders also attended a seminar on "Why Should You Trust the Bible?"

Orel Pirkko Home: Aleksey was drunk, sleeping under a tree, when two men found him; and while talking with him about God, they offered to take him to our rehab center. Previously, while drunk, he had frozen his feet and had to have his toes amputated, but he had continued to drink, hoping for death, because he saw no other way out. He now says: "The Lord has delivered me from all addictions. I am very glad that I no longer live in sin, but with God."

Kokino Pirkko Home: For us, the most important thing when guys come to the center, is that they repent before our Savior. We took in a man named Timur, who recently shared his experience here: "I was warmly welcomed, with love. I began to study the Bible with my brothers, and three months later I asked the Lord for forgiveness in a prayer of repentance." Praise the Lord!

Zheleznogorsk Pirkko Home: God works richly in peoples' lives and touches their hearts. During the month of December, four people at our center repented! Praise God for this!

Dyatkovo Pirkko Home: Vladimir tells us: "Now I am here, where my friend Fedor, who once told me about Christ, was undergoing rehab. I recently repented and now I pray that the Lord will give me wisdom on how to live, so that I can learn to make the right choices in my life."

Preaching the Gospel in the  
Russian Language since 1946





## RCR Studio Ministry

We thank the Lord for His guidance and care in the development of the RCR media ministry. Currently, more than 142,000 people have subscribed to the RCR Studio's YouTube channel: "RCR-Videos."

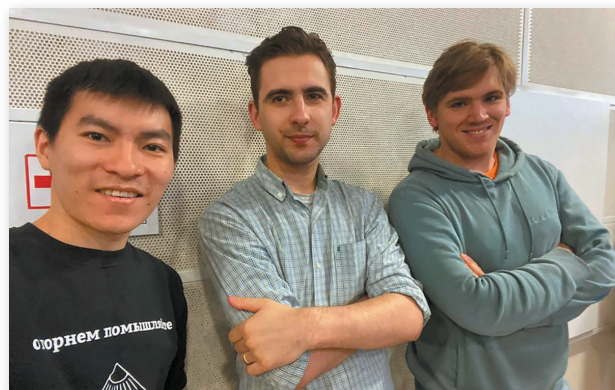
In 2023, our YouTube channel accumulated:

- ✓ 41,000,000 views!
- ✓ 91,000 new subscribers!
- ✓ 172 long and short videos!

In addition:

- ✓ Our website rcr.ru has been updated.
- ✓ We posted Earl Poysti's sermons and other RCR programs on Spotify.
- ✓ We received a lot of feedback from viewers and readers.
- ✓ And most importantly, we thank God for new friends, donors, and those who pray for us – through you God blesses our ministry 🙏

In this issue of the Reporter, we want to talk a little about our employees, who carry out the ministry of the RCR Studio. We need your support and ask for your prayers for each member of our team.



Ayur Vanzhilov (at the left in this photo) is responsible for coordinating the work of all the team members, video editing of the "Choice" program, editing Shorts videos, as well as publishing the RCR Studio programs on social networks, design, communicating with viewers and collecting reviews and comments.

Alexander Kalmykov (center) helps maintain the RCR.RU website, the archive of Earl Poysti's sermons and other programs, is responsible for posting our audio programs on the Yandex Music and Spotify services, works as our audio engineer, and he is also an irreplaceable person when it comes to hands-on work, if we need to fix or make something in the Studio.

Our former employee, Nikita Vorotilov (right), completed his mandatory year of military service and returned home. God kept him safe and taught him a lot about trusting Him. Nikita is now volunteering with us.

Our program host Natalia Chernyakova continues her work with the weekly program "Choice". She regularly visits various evangelical churches, meets Christians, and looks for those who are ready to share their testimony. Our latest guests include: prison ministers, an actor, a pastor of a gypsy church, a pastor from Lipetsk, a young brother from Belarus, and many others. Through people's different stories, God touches the hearts of listeners.



Denis Gostev (center) also invites pastors and ministers to the Studio for thematic conversations and short testimonies. He releases 4-6 videos per month. In addition, Denis organizes an annual conference for media ministers, where our mission is presented.

Vladimir Gorlan (right) released 8 episodes of the "Tunnel" program in 2023. Through these videos, we not only talk to passersby about

Jesus Christ, we also inspire viewers to personal evangelism and set an example of street evangelism. Pray for Vladimir and this ministry.

Pray that all our work will glorify Jesus Christ and that His testimony will touch the hearts of every viewer! And also pray for wisdom for each of us; for spiritual growth; for the health and families of employees; for the best use of our energy, time and resources; and for the guests of our programs.





## The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire Prison Magazine Ministry

*“Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” (Heb. 13:3)*

We thank the Lord for your help in publishing and distributing *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazines during these difficult times. The fifth and sixth issues of the magazine for 2023 were also printed in the USA for the first time – a small edition of 70 copies for Russian-speaking subscribers there. In December 2023, we published 7,000 copies of the highly anticipated supplement to the magazine – a collection of sermons by Earl Poysti to help correct erroneous opinions about Jesus, titled “The Misconception of Christ.”

**We would like to inform you about a very important need:** at the beginning of 2024, a large number of packages of our magazines came back from Belarus. It turns out that recently there was a ban on receiving Christian literature in prisons and on visits to prisoners by Christian prison ministers. Please pray for resolution of this situation. The magazine is greatly awaited in the prisons. Here’s what someone recently wrote to us:

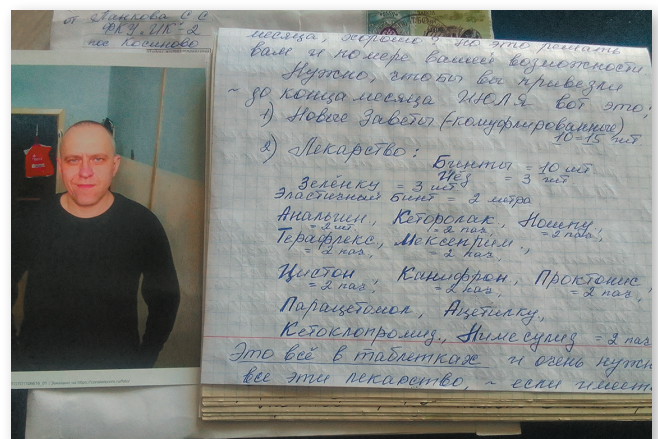
*“We are prohibited from receiving printed publications in our mail. We also do not receive the magazine The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire. Many brothers who are free write that their magazines, newspapers, and books are returned. Very sad. I know that we are called to endure everything patiently and trust in God, because only in Him and with Him can we rejoice in moments of difficult experiences. Also, prison ministers stopped visiting us. The doors have been closed for several months now. We pray and cry out to the Lord. **Please support us in prayer.**” Yuri N. (Minsk, Belarus)*



In addition to the prisoners who personally receive our magazines, we have sent our publication to a large number of prison ministers over the years. Today we would like to introduce you to Andrey Govorov, who has headed a prison ministry in the Kursk region since 2010 and regularly receives magazines from us.

Andrey Govorov: “Prison ministry in the Kursk region began in the late ‘90s, when

we actively visited prisons and carried out evangelism. Since 2017, the concept of ministry has changed due to the ban on visiting prisons. But despite this, the ministry did not stop, but took on new forms and expanded; correspondence with convicts began – we write to more than 40 prisoners and we are sending them your magazine.



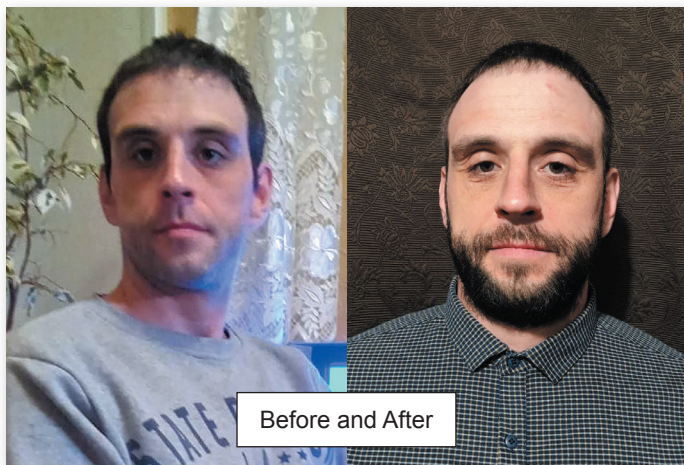
This led to close cooperation with the editors of *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine. We now help the magazine financially; send letters, stories and drawings from prisoners to the editors; and acquire new addresses for correspondence from the editors.

Our goal is to preach the Gospel in all hard-to-reach places (like prisons) and provide assistance, whenever possible and necessary, to prisoners and their families.”





## Vitaly Platov: "There is hope! And this is not just hope, this is the action of God!"



My name is Vitaly Platov, I am 37 years old. I was born in the Moscow region. My life, like that of most boys, was carefree and fun. I was the only child in the family, so I got everything I wanted. A large group of peers gathered in our yard; no one thought about the future or set big goals for themselves. At the age of 12 I tried drugs for the first time. Oddly enough, it was not my friends who offered them to me, but my neighbors. I agreed. Of course, back then I didn't think about what consequences would follow, what I would have to endure and reap in life. Without knowing the Word of God or the Lord himself, what does a person focus on? On emotions, difficulties, ambitions, personal desires, a sense of belonging with your friends, respect in society, and on one's masculine prowess and importance.

Dad died when I was 16 years old. Shortly after that, life went downhill. By the age of 18, I had become a drug addict, and by the age of 20, I had already acquired chronic diseases and I felt trapped. Mom always fought for me, helped and accepted me, no matter what. With her encouragement, I tried all the usual methods: coding, drug treatment, home treatment, any means. But everything was in vain. Until I was 37, I was in terrible captivity to my addictions.

One day I met an old friend, also a drug addict, who told me that there were centers for people like us. He had already gone there once, but after staying for a short time, he left and went back to using drugs. He invited me to go together with him, and I agreed. Before these events, my son was born, but that didn't stop me from going. And yes, I worked, and it wasn't a bad job, I had the position of foreman, but what's the point?! A chance at being freed from my addictions was more important to me! So I went.

We arrived together at the Pirkko Home rehab center in Rumyantsevo. Of course, at first I didn't understand at all where we were, who these people were, and whether they were pretending or not! I was very skeptical about those who were called "ministers" [the Pirkko Home leaders]. They made sure I ate, spent time with me, went for walks with me when I felt bad, offered to let me go and rest, despite the fact that everyone else was leaving for work or doing household chores at that time. In general, they treated me very unusually; this attitude toward a drug addict was surprising to me, given the attitudes that I had experienced before I arrived at the Pirkko Home. What was happening forced me to see Christianity from a different angle; I had previously criticized it and, frankly, ridiculed and sometimes hated it. The guys there melted my stony heart with their attitude, splitting it like a jackhammer. They supported what they said with God's Word: God loves you, He is calling you, we are with Him and we want you, Vitaly, to be free. God's Word gradually began to work within me. Jesus won me with His love and these warm human relationships with me at the center.

The friend with whom I arrived decided to leave two weeks later, and I decided not to accompany him. I wanted a different life. And God responded to my preliminary overtures. I repented when I realized that without God I would never be able to quit drugs.



*Vitaly with Nodari Mangasarov,  
leader of Rumyantsevo Pirkko Home*

While in the program at the center, I thought that my liver had already collapsed and I had little time left to live, but after being examined by a doctor, I was given the report that my liver was healthy. I am so grateful to God that He heals not only my spirit, but also my body, in order to serve Him on earth, try to do good, and turn my life around with His help.

Gradually I began to communicate with my son. The brothers at the center allowed me to see him while I was in the recovery program. Mom couldn't be happier, and I myself, to put it mildly, am shocked by everything that's happening. There is hope! And this is not just hope, this is the action of God! For today I wish to make a covenant with the Lord in baptism and live with Jesus Christ!

