



REPORTER

30 YEARS of Ministry in the Pirkko Homes

"Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy!" (Ps. 125:5 ESV).

30 years ago, in the summer of 1994 our first "Pirkko Home" opened in the city of Emva, Komi Republic, Russia, in the harsh northern region of prison camps, where the Gospel had come and people were drawn from the darkness of sin to God. Released prisoners were the first inhabitants of this center, and they named it in honor of Pirkko, Earl Poysti's wife and faithful assistant who had recently gone home to the Lord. Creating a center to help addicts and new converts just released from prison was a big step of faith for us. In those years, no one had experience in this ministry.



Emva Pirkko Home in 1994

In addition to counseling, it was necessary to resolve issues regarding the real estate, interact with the authorities, work on restoration of lost documents, register incoming people, and register them with the police. It was difficult, but the Lord led and blessed us. The need for such centers grew, and churches began to contact us with requests to open new centers. Over the past 30 years, the Lord helped us open 17 Pirkko Homes, through which thousands of men and women passed. These houses witnessed the repentance of the majority of these people, their vows to no longer lead a sinful life, the reconciliation of spouses and children with their parents, and the creation of new families. Some who completed the program also grew in spiritual maturity and went on to open and lead new Pirkko Home centers. Several brothers became elders and deacons of churches. Eight of these locations continue today as RCR's Pirkko Homes, a couple changed locations, and most of the others were transferred at various times to other churches.

Our currently functioning "Pirkko Homes" are located in the following small towns and cities:



Rummyantsevo



Udomlya



Dyatkovo



Kokino



Orel



Plavsk



Zheleznogorsk



Solnechnogorsk

Preaching the Gospel in the
Russian Language since 1946





In the village of Kokino, Bryansk region, a center opened in an empty House of Prayer (church), which contributed to the resumption of worship services and community life in this village. In the village of Nikulino, Tver region. and the city of Dyatkovo, Bryansk region, ministry was carried out for several years to assist women and mothers with children. Unfortunately, in 2022, due to harassment by a neighbor, the ministry in Nikulino, after 24 years of service, had to be transferred to the nearby town of Udomlya.

Frequent relapses among former addicts prompted the opening of an adaptation ministry in Zheleznogorsk, Kursk region, as well as in Rumyantsevo (at the Ruchiyok Christian Camp); during COVID this latter adaptation center moved to the city of Solnechnogorsk, Moscow region, where skills of independent living, money management, and serving in church are instilled. This addition to the ministry began to produce good results, and these brothers stand in faith.

Today, a lot is being done to develop the ministry: feeding the homeless – with an invitation to come to the Pirkko Homes for help, distributing business cards at pharmacies, conducting classes in schools about the dangers of drug addiction, visiting orphanages at Christmas, and holding alumni retreats and summer gatherings of rehab centers.



Despite periodic difficulties, the Lord sends His grace in difficult circumstances and helps to cultivate the spiritual fruits of this ministry. Most centers have stood the test of time and continue to provide spiritual and physical help to addicted people. The time of sowing and harvesting for the glory of the Lord continues.

- Alexander Zakharov, Executive Director of the RCR Ministry in Russia

Emva Pirkko Home – Past & Present



30 years! It's difficult to say whether it's a lot or a little, but I tend to think it's significant when spent serving the Lord! In 1994, the RCR mission, under the leadership of Earl Poysti, carried out a plan to provide assistance to believing people released from prison. In the Knyazhpogostsky district in the Komi Republic, a house was purchased for this purpose and named after Earl's wife Pirkko. Over the years, those who minister here have changed, residents have changed, but this work continues to this day. This is the work of Christ into which I also entered.

And today the doors of the house are open to needy and addicted people. The eight brothers who now live here are studying the Bible and learning to live in the grace of Jesus Christ. Ministerial brothers work with them, and brothers and sisters from local churches are frequent visitors. Recently, renovation work began on the interior of the house, the heating was updated, plastic-framed windows were installed, and documents for installing gas are being prepared. But most importantly, whatever we do, we do for the glory of God!



- Vyacheslav Kozlov, Prison Minister in the Komi Republic and Overseer of the Emva Pirkko Home Center

RCR Studio – Comments from the “Choice” Program – We’re Making a Difference!

- The testimonies on your programs are part of the fact that I believed in the Living God! I was born into a Muslim family, then I was baptized in an Orthodox church, and after listening to many strong testimonies that touched my soul, I accepted the Living God, Jesus Christ. Every time I turn to Him, He does not abandon my prayers. Thank you Natalia and your team. This good deed bears fruit without a doubt.
- Praise God! I want to learn to trust God, too, like the guest on the program “Choice.”



The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire, Magazine - Ministry to Prisoners

Many prison ministers use our magazine and the sermons of Earl Poysti for evangelism. Praise God! Here is a recent letter from one of these prison ministers.

With gratitude I receive your magazines with a lot of interesting information for prisoners and about prisoners who accepted the Word of Christ. Each issue of your magazine contains sermons by Earl Poysti. I myself first heard his voice from Monte Carlo on short wave, it was his "Word of Life" program, more than half a century ago. I send your magazines and supplements to prisoners. I also constantly receive requests for new sermons by Earl Poysti that I copy, print and send from your website.

I'm glad that you continue to publish and distribute the magazine, despite financial difficulties. And sooner or later the Lord will open again, as Earl used to say, not one, not two, but all doors, and we will be able to rejoice in victory over sin and hell!



I also received your package with collections of sermons by Earl Poysti, entitled "The Misconception of Christ." In this magazine supplement, he examines and refutes some common misconceptions about Christ, revealing deeper truths. The uniqueness of Earl Poysti's sermons lies in his clear and understandable manner of conveying complex concepts. He is able to inspire listeners and readers and convey to them deep spiritual truths. His words are filled with love, and he skillfully combines various Bible passages to create a complete picture of Christ and His salvation. All 13 sermons in the supplement are distinguished by their relevance and fresh approach to the topic of salvation, although they were written and delivered many years ago. Earl connects Bible stories and sermons with our real world, making them easily understandable and applicable to our daily lives. Thank you very much again for this priceless gift. - Vladimir Gudzenko, prison minister (Moscow region)



- *Eduard Zavedeyev, Responsible for the publication of The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire magazine*

RCR Studio Ministry – Teaching Others

On April 18-20, our RCR Studio helped organize a conference for media ministers, which was held at the Moscow Calvary Baptist Church. This event brought together 170 people from all over Russia. Our presenter, Denis Gostev, was the main coordinator, and the rest of the RCR Studio team helped in filming the seminars.



Today God is providing new opportunities for evangelism through modern media resources, and the ministry of the Russian Christian Radio Studio already has extensive experience in this. Our YouTube channel has been actively developing and growing over the past 8 years and is one of the largest Russian-language Christian channels (155,000 subscribers; 60 million views). We also have a long history of radio ministry with the founder of the RCR mission, Earl Nikolayevich Poysti. We know that in Earl's ministry, he always used the most modern capabilities and technologies that were available in his time. His example inspires us still today!

At this conference, we showed how you can use YouTube to preach about Jesus Christ, we shared experiences, learned from other ministers, and, of course, filmed new testimonies! For the "Choice" program we recorded 4 episodes with ministers from Novocherkassk, Kaluga, St. Petersburg and Krasnodar. With Denis Gostev, we filmed 6 more programs with very interesting guests from Tambov, Omsk and Altai.



Look again at the bottom of page 2, where there are two short, but very important comments from a couple of our viewers. This is the fruit for which you and I work, pray and financially support this mission. And, although they have not written to us, how many other people, among the millions of viewers on our channel, have changed lives because of what they see here? Let's pray for more such people.

- *Ayur Vanzhilov, Director of the RCR Studio Ministry*

Dmitry Osenkin: “I was tired of running, suffering, and almost dying! I hope the Lord hears me, forgives me, and gives me strength for a new life!”



My name is Dmitry. I was born on August 14, 1986 in the city of Astrakhan in a typical family. My mother was an accountant, my father a driver. Until the 5th grade, I grew up as an exemplary child. After the 5th grade, I met and spent time with unsavory company and began to cause problems for my relatives and friends related to illegal actions.

At the age of 14 I started dabbling in soft drugs and for the first time a criminal case was opened against me.

From the age of 14 to 17, I was brought to the police station more than 20 times. At the age of 17 I was sent to a pre-trial detention center for minors.

I spent 10 months in a pre-trial detention center, became acquainted with the criminal world, and found that I really liked this lifestyle. By the age of 18, my mother worked in the military registration and enlistment office. In order to avoid another

prison sentence, without my agreement, I was sent to the Army. In the army, I was also disobedient and had a rebellious spirit; I often fought and argued with the officers. As a result, my behavior caused me to be sent to a disciplinary battalion. I was given 11 months, after which I continued my military service. I spent 3 years in the army instead of the required 2 years.

Having returned home, I returned to the criminal lifestyle again, because I did not want to earn money by honest work. In my hometown, representatives of law enforcement agencies offered me the choice: either you come to your senses, or another sentence awaits you. I decided to go serve under a military contract. My decision led me to war (Georgian / Ossetian conflict). Even there I managed to use alcohol and drugs. BUT STILL, despite my sinful lifestyle, the Lord saved me from death more than once. During the entire period of my participation, the Lord protected me during military operations.

Upon arrival at home, I still didn't come to my senses and ended up in prison for a term of 4 years. After being released from prison, I again went to prison for a term of three and a half years. Upon my release from prison, I moved to St. Petersburg. There I also led a sinful lifestyle and this led me to prison again. I was facing an 11-year sentence for murder, but by the grace of God, the murder charge was dropped from me, which caused a storm of indignation among my cellmates, they could not believe it. Upon leaving prison I ended up at a rehabilitation center. But having stayed in the center for a month and a half, I still did not accept God, and therefore I refused to go further with the program. But the Lord continued to show His mercy. Once, after using drugs and alcohol, I woke up in the morgue without clothes; I was already prepared for the autopsy and subsequent cremation. I really scared the doctor on duty at the morgue by waking up and asking where I was. After that, the other doctors came running, gave me a sedative injection and transferred me to the hospital ward.

After that, I contacted the brothers and they sent me to another rehab center, the Rumyantsevo Pirkko Home. There I repented and completed the program by the grace of God. I really wanted to stop my sinful lifestyle. I was tired of running, suffering and almost dying! I hope the Lord hears me, forgives me and gives me strength for a new life!!! And for my part, I trust Him with my past, present and future!



Alumni regularly visit and actively participate in the life of the Rumyantsevo Pirkko Home center.

