



RCR MINISTRY

Nº2, 2026

REPORTER

80 Years of RCR: From Radio Waves to the Digital Age

This issue of the *Reporter* marks a special milestone: the **80th anniversary of the RCR Ministry**. Exactly eight decades ago, in August, 1946, the first radio sermon by Earl Nikolaevich Poysti was broadcast. Since then, the unchanging message of the Gospel has been proclaimed through various modern media formats, reaching Russian speakers around the world.

Looking back, we see God's faithfulness and thank each of you—our friends, prayer partners, and donors. You are part of this history and this work.

80 Years of Ministry in Facts and Figures

It is impossible to calculate exactly how many people have heard the Good News or how much fruit has been borne over these decades, but here are some things we can measure:



- **Over 1,500 radio sermons** were recorded by Earl Poysti for Russian Christian Radio. His voice resonated on the airwaves for over half a century, drawing an audience of millions across the USSR to their radios; his deep, distinctive voice became a familiar and cherished sound for generations of believers. Today, this entire archive, which has been fully digitized and carefully restored, is available online and continues to serve people through a wide range of modern media formats.

- **Over 1,600 radio programs** were produced by RCR in Russia between 1991 and 2016. These spiritual and educational programs aired on federal and regional radio stations, satellite channels, and via online streaming, reaching the hearts of listeners in even the most remote locations.

- **1,440 videos** were released by the new video studio (RCR Studio) during the decade spanning 2016 to 2026. Transitioning to a high-quality video format elevated the ministry to a whole new level.

- **90 million views** around the world of RCR Studio's video content, a combined total of all digital platforms (primarily YouTube).

- **1.1 million copies** of the Christian magazine, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, have been printed and distributed to correctional facilities since 1994. This ministry continues to bring hope and light to places where it is otherwise absent.



Preaching the Gospel in the
Russian Language since 1946



- **16,000 addicted people** have received help, support, and a chance at a new life through the “Pirkko Home” rehabilitation centers, beginning in 1994.

Today, RCR Studio stands as a modern media ministry within the RCR mission, and we are delighted to share further news and milestones with you:

A major milestone: the 500th video episode of the “Choice” program! This year, the Lord has allowed us to reach another important milestone: the release of the 500th video episode of the “Choice” program. Additionally, the RCR archive already holds **490 audio episodes** of the “Choice” program that aired on the radio in past years. Behind these figures lie thousands of hours of work, hundreds of topics addressed, and testimonies of God’s work in many people’s lives.

Watch our videos in English! More joyful news: all RCR Studio videos on YouTube can now be heard in English using the “Auto Dubbing” feature. We hope this will help even more people encounter Jesus Christ and the Bible, expanding the reach of the Gospel far beyond the Russian-speaking audience.

A quick guide on how to enable English audio on YouTube:

1. Go to the RCR Studio YouTube channel: **RCR-Videos**, and open any video.
2. Click the “Settings” icon (the gear) in the bottom right corner of the player (or the top corner on mobile devices).
3. Select “Audio track.”
4. Choose “English” from the list that appears. You’re all set! The video will now play in English.

Please share this opportunity with your English-speaking friends and continue to pray for RCR Studio. Your support enables us to continue sharing the Gospel!



Pirkko Home Reconstruction in the Village of Berezovo (Plavsk district, Tula region)

Renovation work continues on the former administrative building in Berezovo to adapt it for the Pirkko Home ministry. We are preparing an addition to house the boiler room and sanitary facilities, so as not to reduce the usable space within the main building. We are reinforcing the rubble-stone foundation in areas damaged during the years the building sat unused and unheated. We are currently installing the electrical wiring and plastering the interior walls. In these photos, RCR staff Nikita and Ayur are helping to plaster the walls (photo on left), and Executive Director Alexander Zakharov is drilling holes for electrical wiring (photo on right). Construction material prices have risen sharply recently, so we are looking for the most cost-effective construction solutions and turning to all who love the Lord for help. God provides—often through people like you! We need to connect the house to the gas supply before the hard frosts set in; to do this, we must officially reclassify the building as a residential property, which requires completing the main construction work and passing the official inspection. We ask for your prayers for the completion of this project in Berezovo.



Berezovo Pirkko Home

At the Pirkko Home in Rumyantsevo we are blessed, but also have a pressing need. Thanks to a generous loan from a local church, we successfully sold our old work vehicle and purchased two newer ones, fully securing our transportation needs for work. Praise God! We were able to repay half of that debt this past June. Our remaining balance of \$10,000 is due at the end of September. While we are working to cover this amount, we would be deeply grateful for any financial assistance, if you feel led to help us with this. May the Lord richly bless you.

—Nodari Mangasarov, head of the Pirkko Home center in Rumyantsevo



The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire Magazine - Beginnings

Our magazine for prisoners has been in publication for over 30 years now, and our editorial staff members—Ernest and Irina Brugger, who handle this work directly—will tell you how this ministry began.

The backstory: Tatyana Viktorovna Kurakova, Ernest Brugger's mother, had been involved with literature since her youth; she wrote short stories, novellas, and novels, and dreamed of publishing a book. One day, her mother (Ernest's grandmother—who came from a family of lifelong believers; her father was a church pastor) had a dream: an angel was holding a small book and said, "Tanya will become famous because of this." Her mother was disappointed. She had envisioned a substantial volume containing her daughter's novels, given how seriously and prolifically she wrote. Tatyana's mother passed away in 1990, never knowing that the "small book" in the angel's hands was the magazine *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*.

In the late 1980s, a spiritual awakening began in the prisons, and letters from inmates started arriving at the central Evangelical Christian Baptist (ECB) church in Moscow; the envelopes were simply addressed: "Moscow. House of Baptists." Surprisingly, the letters reached the church and ended up in the hands of Tatyana Kurakova, who attended the church and a prayer group, and also helped with the editorial for a Christian nation-wide magazine called *Bratsky Vestnik* (The Brotherly Messenger). The sisters prayed for these people, and began correspondence with many of them.

In the early 1990s, people who had been released from prison—and who had previously written to this church—began attending services there. They spoke about life in captivity, the spiritual hunger in those places, and the spiritual awakening among the convicts. That was when Tatyana Kurakova conceived the idea of a printed publication for these people. Since a newspaper has a lifespan of only one day, she decided to publish a magazine instead. She named it *Light Behind Barbed Wire* and used her own funds to produce three small-run issues. The magazine was distributed to prisons through the missionary network of the Russian ECB Center. It sparked unprecedented interest among readers; letters poured in by the hundreds—there was no end to them. Tatyana sought sponsors, knocking on the doors of many churches and missions, but only Sergey Yakimenkov—the director of the Russian Christian Radio mission in Moscow—responded and agreed to bring the magazine under the mission's care. It was subsequently published under the title *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* as part of the mission's work. The first issue of *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* appeared in 1994.

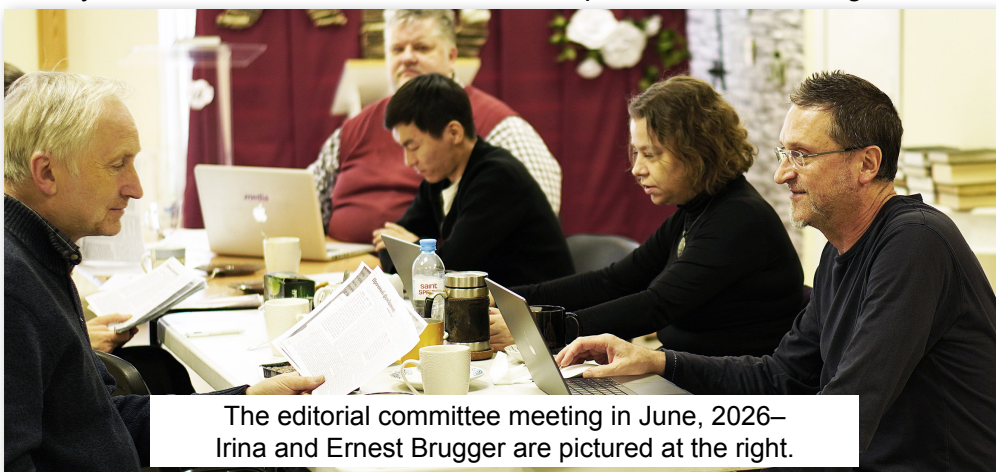


Tatyana Kurakova

In 2002, Tatyana Kurakova passed away, and Sergey Yakimenkov asked Ernest's wife, Irina, to continue the ministry. Irina agreed, though she had no idea how she would handle the work, as she felt that literature was a field far removed from her own interests. Yet God has His own perspective on people and how their talents should be used. Irina has now served as the magazine's editor for 24 years, while Ernest has handled the design since the very first issue—a span of 32 years. To date, 188 issues have been published. For a long time, Mikhail Fadin was the magazine production

manager, followed by Eduard Zavedeyev in 2016.

To this day, the magazine remains in demand, and is engaging and eagerly awaited by readers. Many people have come to God through it, and it has helped—and continues to help—many others grow spiritually and come to know the Lord. We are grateful to God for the opportunity to serve Him and others through this ministry; we find joy in the work and see God's blessing upon our lives because of it.



The editorial committee meeting in June, 2026—
Irina and Ernest Brugger are pictured at the right.

Maksim Noskov - "God has conquered me; I joyfully surrender to Him."



Nodari and Maksim

I was born in 1977 in Ukraine. My mother is a kind woman with two university degrees and my father was an officer in the Northern Fleet's submarine service; both had a Master of Sports in volleyball. I spent my entire childhood traveling with my parents to various volleyball tournaments. By the age of 16, I was a two-time champion in Ukraine.

Good academic performance allowed me to enroll at Moscow State University (MSU), and—armed with ambition and financial support from my parents—I arrived in Moscow in the 1990s. I studied hard during my freshman year, but I started smoking; it helped me socialize and meet people. I began using drugs with friends who were involved in robbery and extortion, and

I was drawn into their activities. Yet, I was still desperately trying to keep up with my studies. My life was spiraling out of control; I had dark circles under my eyes, arms and legs riddled with needle marks, overdoses, constant lies to my parents, and friends who eventually lost their lives. By 2001, I had already been admitted to numerous addiction treatment centers across the Moscow region. Eventually, my luck ran out: a blood test revealed I had HIV and Hepatitis C. There were tears, fear, and—believe it or not—a craving to shoot up just to calm my nerves.

Personally, I was fine with the situation, but my drug use was taking a toll on my family. My parents were looking for a way out. In the summer of 2001, I entered my first Christian rehabilitation center; I stayed there for a couple of months before running away. I didn't want to change my life; I just wanted to get back on my feet. For a while, things improved. I got married, my son was born, and I started working—but eventually, I relapsed. Thank God, neither my son nor my wife contracted the infection even though we lived together for 12 years; how that was possible, I don't know.

As for my faith, from an early age I had heard about Jesus Christ and the devil from my Baptist grandmother. The devil frightened me more than God inspired me. My parents sought solace in Orthodoxy. As I studied Orthodox Christian doctrine, I became an opponent of anything Evangelical; I considered them heretics and championed the "Russian World" ideology.

Time passed, and I tried various rehabilitation programs. In 2015, during another deep crisis, I entered rehab again. It was an Orthodox rehabilitation program based at a monastery, featuring a Cossack community, an army-like atmosphere, and plenty of sports. But my motivation was different this time; I didn't just want to wait out the time; I wanted to change consciously. I had no family—I was divorced—and nothing was holding me back. I completed the program fully, and a few years later, I became the director of the rehabilitation center. I had a long period of sobriety during which I felt God's influence. But I lacked inner strength. As soon as I left the ministry, deciding to try living in the secular world, I immediately relapsed—and that fall lasted for several years.

Now I am at the Pirkko Home Center in Rumyantsevo. It was here that the most important event of my life took place: a personal encounter with the Savior, Jesus Christ. I know that God has conquered me, and I joyfully surrender to Him. I rejoice that my former, worthless life is over and that Christ has given me the chance to start a new journey with Him. Completing the program wasn't difficult for me, but this time everything was different—perhaps I had a greater sense of responsibility. I truly hope this is my last rehabilitation. A lot of time has passed; I have matured, my mother has aged, my father has passed away, and my son has grown into a man. I believe the Lord will bless me in this new life and guide me.

After fully completing the program, I decided to stay and help minister to those struggling with addiction, because the Lord touched my heart and changed my life, my thoughts, and my attitude toward sin. I want to share Christ with others who need Him. The Lord has built a close-knit community at this Pirkko Home where mentors use examples from their own lives to explain the path of salvation. It was a profound revelation for me to understand that the Church of Christ is not merely as a building filled with congregants, but is a gathering of faithful Christians walking with God every day. In July, I began preparation for baptism. There are many truths to grasp, but God helps and blesses my perseverance. Please pray for me.

"It is a joy to report that Maxim has completed the program and decided to stay and serve at our "Pirkko Home." He is actively engaged with the other men in the program. Personally, he is a tremendous help to me, and to our Lord he is another son eager to serve in His Kingdom. Please pray for Maxim."

—Your brother Nodari Mangasarov, head of the Pirkko Home center in Rumyantsevo, Moscow Region