

“This I do for the Gospel’s sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.” (1 Corinthians 9:23)

REM’s newsletter is a quarterly publication of Russian Evangelistic Ministries, Inc., an independent, fundamental Christian ministry established in 1993 to represent and aid the persecuted church of the International Union of Churches of Evangelical Christian Baptists in the former Soviet Union. The ministry supports church-planting efforts in Siberia, the Far East, Central Asia, and the Caucasus through indigenous pastors and evangelists who require a monthly support of \$200. The ministry also helps churches to construct church buildings at the cost of \$3,000 - \$15,000.



Evangelism among the blind

People form different social groups because they share something in common. One such group, which feels often isolated from others, is the people who either have lost or never had eyesight. They keep in touch with one another, and their physical disability is something that brings them together. They have their unique spiritual needs and require a special approach. The evangelists always look for the best ways to reach these people for Christ. Thanks be to God, the Gospel has reached them and some of them have become the children of God!



Those without eyesight are listening to the Gospel



Sharing the Gospel. Kyiv, Ukraine



Some of the blind who became believers. Kyiv, Ukraine

Prayer needs:



The village of Gyda, the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region

The house of our fellow believers in the village of Gyda (the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region) burned down to the ground. This house had served as the regional base where missionary families could live and visiting evangelists could stay. The local believer, who had owned the house, even made a separate entrance for this reason and dedicated his home to the service of Christ.

Days earlier, a group of evangelists who stayed at this house went door-to-door and invited local residents to church. This special church service took place and a number of people – many of them first-time visitors – came to the service. And the morning after, the whole village was shocked by the fire that happened...

Makes you want to ask God for special help: God do not let you name be reproached by the pagans! Help Your people to rebuild this house quickly as a testimony of Your faithfulness!

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The Lord has been with us!

«...My brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved».
(Phil. 4:1)



Dear friends, dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Together with you, we have approached an important milestone: the 25th anniversary of Russian Evangelistic Ministries.

For the staff of the ministry, the missionary families, and everyone who has prayerfully supported the ministry over these years, this is an important milestone!

As we reflect on the journey, we are deeply grateful to the Lord for leading this ministry from its inception. Twenty-five years later, this fact seems even more evident to us!

Our hearts are also filled with profound gratitude to you, our dear friends, who supported this outreach from the beginning or joined us along the way, and have stood with us, shoulder to shoulder, in this important work of the Gospel!

When the ministry began, there were many seemingly insurmountable obstacles, but the Lord showed His grace time and again! Back in 1993, we were still a recent immigrant family that came to the United States as religious refugees from the Soviet Union; many things were new to us. Yet, we felt the fire in our hearts that reminded us of the struggle and the ministry of the

persecuted church in the former Soviet Union and about the dire spiritual needs of the people who were brought up under atheism.

A small beginning, laid 25 years ago, grew into an extensive ministry that today support the work of the Gospel in many regions of the former Soviet Union. During this time, we have witnessed many of God’s miracles. For example, when the ministry prayerfully decided to financially support the missionary families, it was a step of faith: we had no assurances that the ministry will have the necessary funds at the beginning of each month. And the Lord has been faithful month after month: He has met the needs of His saints through your prayers and generosity. When we look back at these 25 years, they serve as a humbling testimony of God’s faithfulness!

I want to personally thank you, our dear friends, for being part of God’s miracle! As we reflect on what the Lord has accomplished over these 25 years, may this milestone inspire and encourage us to be faithful in our calling, especially as we see the glorious day of our Lord’s Second Coming approaching!

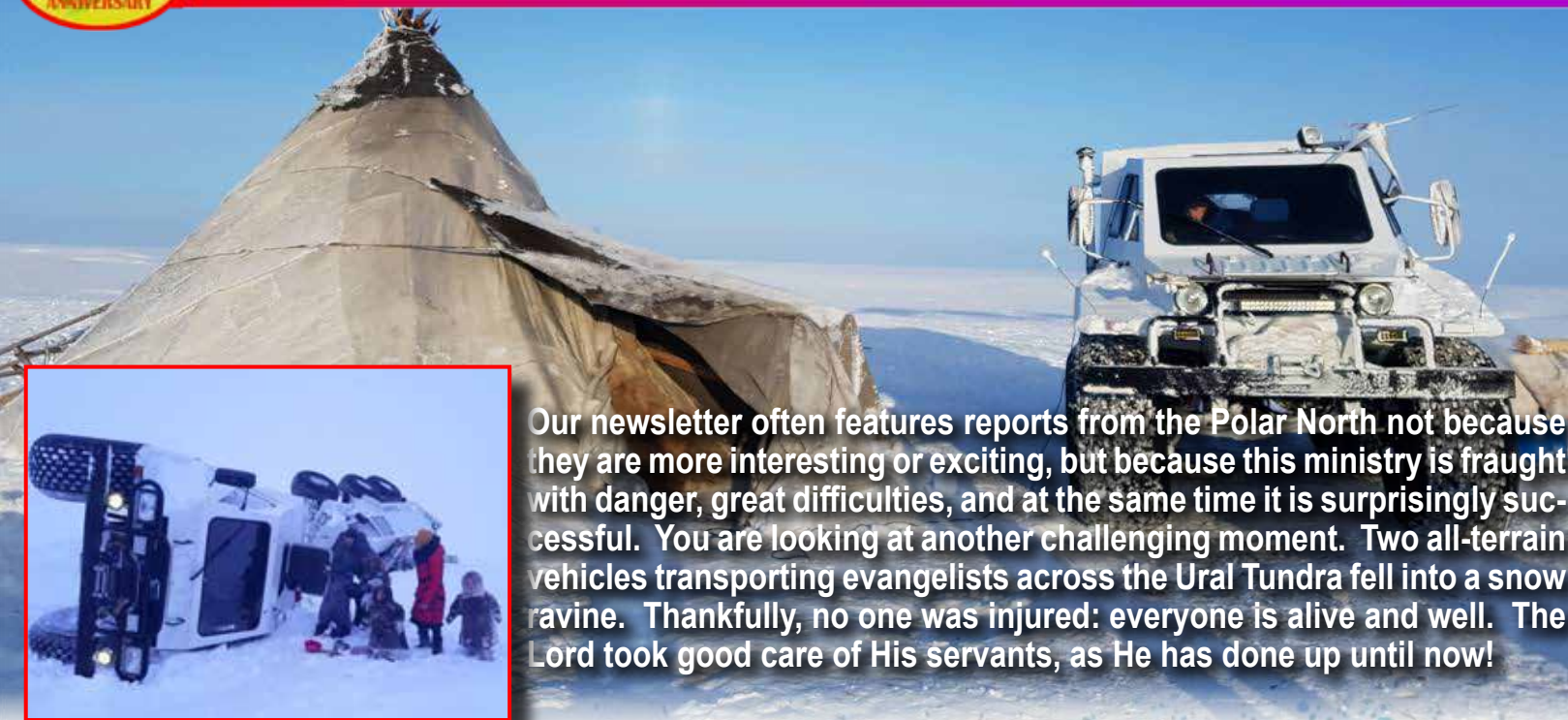
In Him,

Rev. Vladimir A. Okhotin
REM’s Founder and President
San Diego, CA



Baptism in the city of Brest, Belarus

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Our newsletter often features reports from the Polar North not because they are more interesting or exciting, but because this ministry is fraught with danger, great difficulties, and at the same time it is surprisingly successful. You are looking at another challenging moment. Two all-terrain vehicles transporting evangelists across the Ural Tundra fell into a snow ravine. Thankfully, no one was injured: everyone is alive and well. The Lord took good care of His servants, as He has done up until now!



The village of Yar-Sale. Yamal, is located on the northern shore of the Ob Bay. This area remains snow covered during most of the year. It is a harsh environment. However, it is also home to people who need the Gospel like everyone else. One Christian family from Kursk, Russia recently moved here to share about Christ with locals. This testimony comes from believers from the family's home church who visited them: «After a long journey, at last we reached the village and made out way to the church building. The church building serves as a home to the missionary family and as the place where church services are held. This place was built by Christian volunteers from the mainland who came to help build the first church building in this town. Building a church building in the Polar North is a very significant accomplishment!

When we held an evangelistic service, the sanctuary was full: many locals came to church for the first time. The Holy Spirit touched hearts, and some people came forward in repentance».



Baby's dedication



Children participate in a church service



Young people participate



The village of Yar-Sale



Prayer of repentance

Yar-Sale

Ob Bay



Evangelists in Western Ukraine are taking advantage of newfound openness to share the Gospel. A number of colleges and universities have opened their doors to the preaching of the Gospel. In the city of Ternopil, evangelists had a blessed evangelistic service in the local College of Technology and Design (photo above) and in the School of Trade and Culinary Service (photo below).

Young people seemed interested in the Gospel and asked good questions after the service. Many attendees also took Christian literature and copies of the New Testament.



Discipleship



Kherson city



Troitskoe village, Odessa region

«...And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also». (2 Tim. 2:2).

This is what the Apostle to the Gentiles commanded Timothy to do. Mindful of this biblical principle, experienced evangelists seek to transfer their knowledge and experience to the younger generation. Many churches hold training classes to teach biblical disciplines and share practical lessons with young Christians.



Young evangelists