

“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.



Odessa region, Ukraine

LUCHINSKOE, UKRAINE

Ukraine is a big Eastern European country with a thousand-year history of Christianity. Even so, there are still many towns and villages that do not have a single church or a group of Christians. Such towns and villages are the object of prayers and outreach by missionaries. The village of Luchinskoe, Odessa region, is one such village. Evangelists from other towns came here to share the Good News about Jesus Christ with local residents.



Our Prayer Needs:



Kazan, Tatarstan, Russia

The photo shows the newly built church building in the city of Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan. Believers in Kazan made a great effort and personal sacrifices to complete this building; a number of Christians from other cities helped this local church.

Recently, the regional authorities decided to demolish this church building. The decision is against the law and the church appealed the decision; the process is pending. We urge believers to intercede before the Lord to protect His people in this city of more than one million people.

RUSSIAN EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES, INC.

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Give the Best to Jesus!

“...for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given Thee”.
(1 Chron. 29:14)



Dear friends! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

Greetings to you in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ! This year, like the previous years, was filled with God’s grace and great opportunity for evangelism and church planting.

This year also marked the 25th anniversary as we responded to the Lord’s prompting to establish this ministry.

As the year draws to its end, we bow our hearts and heads before our Lord and thank Him for everything His generous hand provided throughout this year to meet the needs of the ministry. Though we live in the time of great technological breakthroughs, we should never forget that we owe our every breath to our Creator and God! Truly, “in Him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

A man of God, David, expressed this very idea with a brief but succinct phrase: «all things come of Thee.» Every true believer, of course, does not question this Biblical truth and gives glory to God. However, let us take a closer look at the second part of King David’s statement: «and of thine own have we given Thee.» This exemplifies the true position of the man of God!

King David learned two important truths in life: he learned how to appropriate receive from God and how to properly manage what he was given. The first part is simpler, although even in area people fall into temptation of pride believing that their pos-

sessions are the result of their intelligence and outstanding abilities. The second part is more challenging: knowing how to properly manage what one has received is rare, indeed.

When a believer takes what they received from the Lord and uses it to satisfy the desires of the flesh, they bury the talent in the ground (Matt. 25:18), they surrender it to be consumed by rust and moth (Matt. 6:19). In general, such a person is not able to preserve what God has given them, and instead inevitably loses it and approaches eternity emptyhanded, without any spiritual fruits.

However, when a Christian person learns how to apply this important truth, they preserve and even multiply what they have received from the Lord because they entrust it into the hands of the One Who can multiply it hundredfold. “And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life” (Matt. 19:29).

Dear friends, may the Lord give us the grace to experience the steadfastness of the first part of the promise and the sweetness of the second part of the promise, as well. Yes, the sweetness, because “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

We are sharing this newsletter with you, dear friends, in the hope that what you will read and see will encourage you to be even more zealous in supporting the Lord’s work on the mission field and to be partakers of the great work of the Gospel!

Love in Christ,
Rev. Vladimir A. Okhotin
REM’s Founder and President



Baptism of Gypsy believers, Carpathian region, Ukraine

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**"Grace be to you, and peace,
from God our Father, and
from the Lord Jesus Christ"**
(Eph. 1:2)



**Gennady S. Efremov,
Minister of the
Persecuted Church**

I would like to greet Russian Evangelistic Ministries with these beautiful words of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ! I also would like to greet everyone who, through your giving to this ministry, supports the spreading of the Gospel in Russia!

With all my heart, I want to wish you a Happy 25th Anniversary and sincerely thank you for the many years of diligent work in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ for Whose sake we live and minister on this earth!

We are deeply grateful to the Lord that throughout these many years, we have nurtured genuinely cordial and close bonds in Christ. We always understood one another, rejoiced together and prayed with one another for the common cause of sharing the Gospel and helping local churches!

During this time period, the ministry's supporters upheld the blessed work of spreading God's Kingdom on this earth.

Many evangelists from the Persecuted Church are sincerely grateful to the ministry and supporters for supporting them in their challenging task of spreading the Gospel to those who have not yet heard about salvation through Jesus Christ.

The Persecuted Church continues to publish Christian literature, and God blesses this work abundantly! God's people continue to build church buildings in which believers gather to serve the Lord. And all this is being done with the sacrificial support of Russian Evangelistic Ministries.

I wish God's abundant blessings to the ministry and to all who support its efforts. I also wish joy and peace, good health and courage, strength and love in abundant measure from our loving Savior.

May the Lord bless you and provide everything necessary for life and godliness!

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58).

With love and profound gratitude,
your brother in Christ, Rev. Gennady S. Efremov.

Revival among the Gypsies

Kyrgyzstan.

Revival among the Gypsies in Kyrgyzstan. Gypsies are a mysterious people. Scientists have not been able to explain the origins of this nation. Without a homeland or land, without a state or laws, they have wandered throughout their history across countries and continents. Is this the reason that the Lord is showing special grace to this small nation?

At the beginning of the year we reported about the revival among the gypsies in Kyrgyzstan. We are happy to share that the Lord is further expanding His work among these people. This year, ten more Gypsy believers joined the church through water baptism. Life in their community has profoundly changed. They are diligently learning to work with their own hands; fathers are showing special affection and care for the newly born children in their families. On Sunday, Gypsies, one and all, come to worship the Lord in the newly constructed church building.



The southern stretch of the Russian Ural Mountains forms the boundary of the European continent and borders the Kazakh steppes. This part of the world has never been attractive and has traditionally served as the place of exile. Till recently there were no churches in this part of Russia. Historically, the only Christians to have walked this land were the Christian ministers who were exiled by the Czar or the Communists.

Today, however, evangelists come to this place voluntarily to share about Jesus Christ with local residents. There is already a small Baptist church in the city of Orenburg. And the ministry is growing in the nearby towns in this region.



The evangelists, like the servants from Christ's parable, literally walk the roads and byways to invite people to come to Christ to His feast of salvation.



A mobile Christian library in Orenburg. These people will receive Christian literature.



Sharing the Gospel in an Orenburg village

Suffer with the Gospel

After a recent missionary conference in Prokopyevsk, teenagers from Yurga (Kemerovo region), inspired by the conference and moved by the Holy Spirit, went out into their city to share the Gospel. They handed out Christian literature on the streets of their city. After they distributed nearly all the literature, they were arrested and taken into police custody, where they were written up for an administrative violation. The police called the parents and then released them.

