

“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.

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You are looking at the picture of a church in the city of Arkhangelsk. During the Soviet period, several old women gathered in this city and prayed that the Lord would send a minister to and begin a revival. When the door opened to preach the Gospel, a preacher from St. Petersburg moved here and the movement began. The church multiplied; a new church building was built. However, in recent years, the authorities have turned against the church, and have threatened to demolish the church building.



Pastor Aleksey Stepanov, the minister of the Arkhangelsk church, attends a court hearing that was held to examine the church’s evangelism in the city. Bailiffs confiscate the pastor’s family only car (the family has many small children). Dear people of God, let us pray that God will strengthen and give courage to the persecuted evangelists and replenish this family’s loss.

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(1), 2019



“Ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence...”

Isaiah 62:6

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! This year, the annual Missions Conference took place on January 18 - 19, 2019 in the city of Tula, Russia. Approximately a

thousand believers gathered from all over the former Soviet Union, as well as from other countries. The Lord allowed me and my wife, Nadezhda, to attend this blessed gathering and to address the servants of God with the words of encouragement and blessing. It is not easy to convey the feelings and thoughts that overwhelmed us! As we looked upon the missionaries, God’s words echoed in our hearts: “Ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence...”

Some missionaries who shared their reports from the pulpit were young missionaries; others, were experienced, gray-haired laborers who shared words of encouragement with the young. The first were full of energy and with new ideas for the ministry; the latter had a wealth of experience and wisdom in the missionary work.

The vast geography represented in the missionaries’ reports

is impressive! It includes the republics of Central Asia, Russia’s North; the cities and villages of Russia’s Far East, and Central and Eastern Europe. There were reports of ongoing revival among the Gypsy communities in Western Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, God’s work among the Nenets people in Russia’s Far North, and the special revival among the deaf people in many cities in Russia and across the former Soviet republics. Overall, God granted success in all locations where missionaries proclaim the Gospel: people are turning to Christ and join the church through holy baptism.

During the post-Soviet period, over 450 missionary families have relocated to various parts of the former Soviet Union to preach the Gospel. This is a very extensive undertaking to reach the lost with the Gospel!

Of course, these laborers need our prayers and financial support. As God’s people, we should uphold the hands of those who are on the front lines of God’s work!

“Ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence...” – these are not merely words! They are a call for us to do everything in our power, in giving and prayer, to uphold the hands of the laborers.

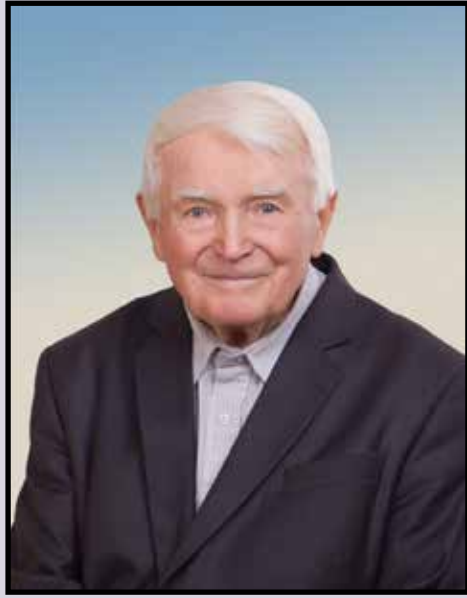
In Christ,
Rev. Vladimir A. Okhotin
REM’s Founder and President



Missions Conference, Tula, Russia. January 2019

«Good and faithful servant!»

Mat. 25:21



Rev. Peter V. Rumachik
(1931 - 2019)

On January 29, 2019, a faithful servant of God, a father of eight children, a deeply-loved church pastor, Rev. Peter V. Rumachik, went to be with the Lord at the age of 87.

For his faithfulness to God during the Soviet times, Rev. Rumachik was convicted six times, and served a total prison term of more than eighteen years. Those were the terrible years, when the enemies of God's work publicly declared: «You will not leave the prison alive.» And they tried to fulfill their threats, constantly sending him to punishment prison cells, depriving him of family visits, not allowing to receive parcels from family, correspondence, adding a new prison term without leaving the prison.

Rev. Rumachik had the sentence of death on himself and did not succumb to the pressure of the

enemy. While imprisoned, he survived the death of his father, mother, eldest daughter, but he did not deny the Lord, remaining a living sacrifice, spreading a pleasant fragrance to God.

It seemed that Rev. Rumachik was continually in prison. However, God preserved him and gave him grace to persevere through everything.

The memorial service and the funeral were filled with so many testimonies about the ministry of this outstanding minister and soldier of Christ that they turned this solemn service into a worship service to the glory of God!

Many believers, along with the long-suffering but blessed Rumachik family, went through the memories of persecution and imprisonment; together with the children who recalled their experiences, the slander of the persecutors and the hatred of the crowd.

Many ordinary believers and church ministers came to pay their respects. Rev. Nikolay S. Antonyuk, Chairman of the Persecuted Church in the former Soviet Union, delivered a deeply moving tribute on behalf of the ministers of the Persecuted Church.



Christmas evangelism



Arkhangelsk, Russia

Christmas is a great opportunity to tell people about Jesus. God's people, in churches small or large, in ways modest or elaborate, used this opportunity to tell visitors about the Savior. Believers, old and young, praising God with musical instruments or simply by singing, reminded people of the miraculous birth of our Savior!



Tiraspol, Transnistria



Shipka village

February 2019. The Polar town of Vorkuta, Russia: the realm of extreme cold and snow. Everything is frozen by fierce cold: the tundra, rivers and lakes, mountains and woods ...

Surprisingly, however, this is the time of the year for a very warm heartfelt fellowship of the tundra church. February is the month of the year when believers from small tepee churches scattered across the tundra meet in Vorkuta with local believers for a large gathering. At the appointed time, dozens of reindeer sleighs and snowmobiles come to the city from the tundra. Young and old hurry for the Christian gathering. Many ministers from afar also come to this important meeting.



This February, more than three hundred people, mostly belonging to the Nenets ethnic group, gathered. The fellowship lasted several days. It was filled with different aspects of church ministry: abundant preaching, the Lord's Supper, dedication of newborns, the call to repentance, announcement of engagements. In the intervals, some used the time for counseling or confession. When, after several days, the majority of believers go home, some Nenets believers stay for the Bible seminar. More than forty students attentively listen to instructor.

This impressive picture is the result of many years of earnest ministry of those who have dedicated themselves to ministering to the Nenets people.

