

“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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Soroki, Moldova



For the past ten years, there has been a spiritual awakening among a Gypsy diaspora in the city of Soroki, Moldova. These nomadic people traveled in search of work throughout Russia and Ukraine, where they heard the Gospel for the first time in the Russian cities of Petrozavodsk, Velikiy Novgorod, Novosibirsk and Samara. The Gypsies heeded the Gospel and brought it to their community in Moldova. Now, a large church building is being built for the fast-growing Gypsy church.



Our Prayer Needs:



Nizhny Novgorod, Russia.

A tragic car accident took place in May 2020 near the town of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. A young Christian family died: husband, wife and their five-month-old daughter. The family’s three older children (all very young) became orphans. Dear friends, please pray for the fate of these little ones, that they continue to be brought up in the teachings of the Lord by their Christian relatives, and that one day they will be reunited with their parents in heaven.

RUSSIAN EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES
REV VLADIMIR A OKHOTIN
PO BOX 26307
SAN DIEGO CA 92196-0307
Address Service Requested



RUSSIAN EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

REV. VLADIMIR A. OKHOTIN, P. O. BOX 26307, SAN DIEGO, CA 92196-0307
Tel (858) 566-3441 - OkhotinREM@gmail.com - RussianEvangelism.org



(3), 2020

Sound the Trumpet!

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.”
2 Tim. 4:2



Dear friends, brothers and sisters in Christ!

I greet you with the words of our beloved Lord Jesus Christ: «Peace be unto you!» On behalf of Russian Evangelistic Ministries and the missionary

families who are encouraged by your prayers and support, I wish to express to you our profound gratitude for your part in the tremendous cause of the Gospel!

I pray that the verse above encourages you to remain steadfast in your efforts for Christ’s Kingdom! The Apostle Paul gave this instruction to his fellow laborer and spiritual son, Timothy. Years of experience on the mission field compelled the Apostle to challenge the young minister of the Gospel to preach, to raise his voice and not to remain silent, even when it seemed entirely inappropriate. When the circumstances do not appear conducive to the success of God’s cause, and when the attention of the people whom you are called to serve is focused elsewhere, our purpose is to point them to Christ.

Christians often remain silent about Christ and do not tell others about repentance because they believe that the time has not come and because the people around them are not in the right state of mind to hear such truth. Thus, Christians often wait for a more favorable time and remain silent. The Apostle warns Timothy against this temptation: you must proclaim the Word of God whether it seems that the time is right or not.

“He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap” (Ecc. 11:4). In a world ruled by the prince of this world, where people are often influenced by demons, there will rarely be a complete calm or stillness in sinners’ minds: sinners are rebellious by nature, they angrily shout «crucify Him» and violently reject the Savior. Therefore, for the missionary, as a sower of truth, one purpose remains constant: no matter what, proclaim the Gospel and call people to repentance.

And such behavior by a missionary is not a display of bad manners. On the contrary, it reflects the urgency of the mission: this might be their only chance to tell them about Jesus as they head down the path of destruction!

It is encouraging to see that missionaries have taken to heart Paul’s instruction to Timothy as clearly evident in their testimonies. Today’s circumstances, which unexpectedly have impacted the way of life for all the nations around the world, have not become an obstacle for ministry. In many cities and towns in the former Soviet Union, the Gospel is being publicly proclaimed! Some may think this is bad timing, but missionaries hurry to call people to repentance. They invite people to accept salvation in Christ, our Lord. In many cities, converts have joined the church through believer’s baptism!

The sun of God’s grace has not yet set. No matter what the circumstances around us dictate, it is absolutely essential for us to proclaim repentance to sinners. May God bless all of us in this effort!

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



Baptisms during the pandemic. Gomel, Belarus, 2020

Baptism

Baptism of new converts took place in a number of churches, including newly planted churches. Quarantine, social distancing, and closed church buildings are not a reason to stop preaching the Gospel, fulfilling the Great Commission and welcoming new souls to church.



Minsk, Belarus



St. Petersburg, Russia



Nagorny Karabakh



Labinsk, Russia



Velikiy Novgorod, Russia



Roston-on-Don, Russia



Evangelism at a city park. Kiev, Ukraine

Prophet Isaiah's urgent call is as relevant today as ever. In recent days, the unforeseen circumstances caused by the pandemic have become a great obstacle for many planned evangelistic activities and mission trips. However, looking at the "pillar of cloud and fire," evangelists quickly adjusted their plans and redirected their outreach efforts to other areas so that people could still hear the Gospel! They continue to serve the Lord, and they do so even more diligently and more zealously. The missionaries see the pandemic that has spread across the globe not as an excuse to curtail their work, but rather as a sign of the times and a signal to double their efforts.

A missionary from Siberia writes: "The Khants (the indigenous people of the North) have turned from idols to the living God. There are about 60 baptized members of the church. Many Khants have not even heard of coronavirus. We've had good church services during the quarantine."



Small Ethnic Groups

We've observed in recent times how God's grace and spiritual awakening have moved to small ethnic groups who are often forgotten or rejected by the greater "civilized" world. The Lord is sending His messengers to these people and bringing salvation to the Nenets, the Khants, the Chukchi and the Gypsies... "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in" (Luke 14:23). According to Jesus' parable, this is the second and last stage of evangelism, after which the wedding feast begins. First, the important and eminent guests are invited, and then the second and last call goes out to all «nomadic» and outcast people.



The Gomel Church (Belarus) is blessed to be conducting evangelism among the local Gypsy community, which is eagerly accepting the Gospel. The ministry is conducted in a number of ways: among children through Sunday school classes; among adults through evangelistic meetings. In addition, believers visit people in their homes and share the Gospel with them.

