

“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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Polar North, Russia

The revival continues among the indigenous peoples of the Polar North. In January of this year, ministers responsible for the youth ministry visited the Christian tepees in the Ural tundra. The news about their visit quickly spread around the neighboring nomad camps and at night, in the -20 degree Fahrenheit weather, young Christians gathered together to the designated place of worship. To do this, they had to travel an average of 25 to 40 miles. Rejoicing at such an enthusiastic response and the need for spiritual teaching, the ministers decided to organize a youth conference in the tundra this year.

Young Christians belonging to the Nenets people spent the night in the tepee listening to the preaching and singing Christian hymns.



Our Prayer Needs:



On February 13, a church building in the Siberian city of Turukhansk, Russia, burned down. It also served as a home to the missionary Nikolai Zudov and his missionary son-in-law, Evgeny Shirskiy, and his family of 7 children.

The families quickly evacuated the burning house in -30 degrees Fahrenheit cold. They are currently staying with fellow Christians in the area while their house needs to be rebuilt.



The family of Evgeny and Ekaterina Shirskiy

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(1), 2021



Dear Friends! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

I greet you with the words of our Coming Lord: «Peace be unto you!» On behalf of Russian Evangelistic Ministries and the missionary families whom you support,

thank you for your important part in this great work!

As we reflect on the past year, the year that has brought this world so much anxiety and trouble, we, as Christians, can firmly say: «Praise the Lord!» Not because we were not affected by grief, illness, or other challenges that befell the people around us. Indeed, some of us have suffered the loss of loved ones or friends; some of us have experienced the illness firsthand, experienced the loss of jobs, or experienced deteriorating health.

However, despite all this, we can say from the heart, «Praise the Lord!» because we are absolutely confident - beyond doubt - that if the Lord allows anything, if anything happens in our lives, it is intended for good, for the good of our souls, and for the salvation of the people around us.

This good is not always readily apparent to us, especially when we are grieving. We can only grasp by faith that in the end, we will see this greater good.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jeremiah 29:11

The year 2020 has ended, and we can rejoice at some of the positive results of that difficult year. Surprisingly, 2020 was more blessed than the previous year in terms of the number of people being saved and the number of people joining the church through believer’s baptism. In 2020, the Persecuted church in the former Soviet Union baptized almost 1,000 more believers than in previous years, and we again proclaim: «Praise the Lord!»

Time proved that the missionaries who strengthened their outreach were right. These are the missionaries who did not agree with the popular sentiment, “Now is not the best time to conduct evangelism.” And the Lord rewarded their labor of faith.

Dear friends, may the Lord turn your support of this great work into a growing stream for eternity! May the peace of God and the heavenly conviction that God does all things well reign in your heart.

The annual Missions Conference recently took place in Moscow, Russia. Through the ministry’s Newsletter we will share with you about God’s work on the mission field in the former Soviet Union. May the Lord bless you and your family abundantly in this new year!

In Christ,

Rev. Vladimir A. Okhotin
REM’s Founder and President



Evangelism in the Polar North, Yamal, Russia, 2021



The Bible Museum

Evangelists in St. Petersburg have creasted a new way to evangelize: a method that is not hampered by lockdowns or other restrictions; an approach that also successfully overcomes the barriers recently placed in Russia to limit access to schools, colleges, and universities.

The Museum of the Bible, which has been diligently and painstakingly put together by believers in St. Petersburg, has become a new way to evangelize. In recent years, several people who came up with this idea have been looking for rare examples of the Holy Scriptures in Russia. During this time, they became experts in the field of antique books and have learned interesting information to share with audiences today; there is also something to show them because the museum contains various valuable copies of the Bible. And most importantly, this is an opportunity to tell many listeners the main message of the Bible, i.e., God's plan of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.



Evangelism through the Bible Museum in schools near Moscow (Lubuchany, Podolsk, Voskresensk), January 2021



Book Tables

Christian book tables. When the persecution of the church in the Soviet Union had slowed down and the dawn of freedom to preach the Gospel had barely appeared, Christian book tables (called Christian libraries) began to appear on central streets in many cities. According to our information, the pioneers in this blessed ministry were the believers from the cities of Krasnodar, Odessa, and Tiraspol. This innovative approach to evangelism was quickly adopted by other Christians, and shortly thereafter, every church performed this ministry. Without exaggeration, we can say that thousands of sinners had turned to Christ because of the ministry of these Christian book tables.

This long-standing way of evangelism is still relevant today. Usually on weekends, believers go to a crowded place with Christian literature. People have an opportunity not only to take a copy of the Gospel, but also to personally speak with a Christian about God and about their soul and other concerns they may have.

This newsletter contains several photos from cities in Ukraine where the ministry of Christian book tables is taking place.



Novy Rozdol, Lviv Region, Ukraine



Khmelnitsky, Ukraine



Nikolaev, Lviv Region, Ukraine

