

“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 with the aid of the Christian newspaper, Do You Believe?

The Christian newspaper titled Do You Believe? (published by the Persecuted Church) is intended for those who do not yet know God and serves as an effective tool for outreach. Believers of all ages actively use this Christian newspaper in evangelistic services. As a rule, people willingly take the newspaper and read it. The advantage of this method of spreading the Gospel is that this publication is periodic. Every time a new issue comes out, it gives a reason to visit readers again and offer them a fresh copy. This service is taking place in the Voronezh region.



Our Prayer Needs:



Severodvinsk, Russia. In the previous newsletter, we reported on the arrest of a believer, Vyacheslav Koldyaev, that was related to the prayer vigil in defense of the Archangelsk church whose building was being demolished. Back then, there was still hope for a favorable outcome of his case. However, at the last court hearing on May 13, 2021, Vyacheslav was sentenced to 2 years in prison on false charges of resisting arrest. Now there is one more Christian prisoner in the Persecuted Church in Russia. Let us support our dear brother-prisoner and his family in prayer.

RUSSIAN EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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REM

(3), 2021



“And the three brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: but David would not drink of it, but poured it out to the LORD.”
1 Chron. 11:18

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the great awakening of the persecuted Baptist churches in the former Soviet Union!

In 1961, a spiritual awakening began and quickly spread through the Evangelical Baptist churches who were, at that time, besieged by brutal persecution being carried out by the hands of the Communist Soviet authorities. Those were very trying times for the church. At that time, not only was the open preaching of Christ suppressed, but any mention of God was publicly condemned. Militant atheism embodied in the Soviet state had set the goal of completely eliminating any and all viable and independent churches. At a certain point in Russia’s history, the Soviet state was close to achieving that goal.

However, the power of the Holy Spirit was much stronger than all the persecution that befell the awakened brotherhood of churches and sustained believers during that time of testing. Among the people of God there were remarkable heroes of faith who stood in the gap, gave their lives, and sacrificed their health, freedom and well-being for the sake of Christ. The spirit of faithfulness and sacrifice was embraced by the church. Ministers of the church and fellow believers, including the young and elderly, fearlessly defended the foundational principles of the church and, without hesitation, many went to prison for years and some even gave up their lives. There were more than thirty martyrs for Christ during that time. These glorious heroes of faith achieved a great victory and helped lead the awakened church to prosperous times of religious freedom and public preaching of the Gospel that came about following the fall of Communism

in the Soviet Union.

Since then, believers in Russia have enjoyed relative freedom to openly preach the Gospel. And today, as we mark this milestone, a question stands before us: are we taking full advantage of this God-given opportunity that cost so dearly to those who came before us? The heroes of faith gave their lives and personal freedom, sacrificed all that was dear and precious to them so that we may have this opportunity to preach the Gospel freely. Have we been good stewards of this gift?

The verse above describes a heroic event. While risking their own lives and demonstrating remarkable courage, three strong warriors broke through the enemy camp, drew water from the well and brought it to David. King David’s response to being offered water from the well is an important lesson for us all. Although he was weary and thirsty, he did not drink the water but poured it out as an offering to God.

It is encouraging to see that many Christians who entered the prosperous times did the same thing as King David. They did not use the opportunities and freedoms for themselves, to enjoy what life had to offer, but rather chose to honor God by adopting the same spirit of sacrifice which their predecessors had embraced and devoted themselves to the ministry of evangelism and church planting. This approach is right in the sight of God and honors the memory of Christian martyrs who had gone before us.

Today, thanks in part to the convictions that we see demonstrated by David’s actions and similarly of the believers who have gone before us, the preaching of the Gospel continues to be heard across the countries of the former Soviet Union. A great number of people have responded to the call for repentance and have received salvation in Christ! I thank you, dear friends, that you too are following the example of King David and are making sacrifices to support the great work of the Gospel while foregoing your own personal needs. A great reward awaits all who have lived for Christ and have dedicated their lives to Him!

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



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Baptism, Rostov-on-Don, Russia, June 2021

Russia's Far East, Amur Region



Evangelist Mark Fot



Amur River



Raichikhinsk



Blagoveschensk



Progress



Zaozerno

Norilsk, Russia



Evangelist
Oleg Lubich

Oleg Lubich is an evangelist who has been preaching the Gospel in Russia's Far North region for more than 20 years. As a result of prayers and dedicated labor, new churches had been planted in many Polar towns and villages. Several church buildings were constructed and services are being held regularly. Some of these church buildings also serve as homes for missionary families that relocated to serve there. As we shared with you previously, this is the same area where the life of evangelist Alexander Bem tragically ended during a missionary trip in April 2001.

Every year, Oleg Lubich, who lives in the city of Norilsk, travels with fellow missionaries through these vast and harsh regions, visiting cities and towns of the Polar North to share the Gospel and provide pastoral care for the new believers.

These photos illustrate the most recent trip.

Laptevih sea



Katyrk



Yuryung-Khaya



Volochanka



The fruit of the outreach: people who repented and turned to the Lord as a result of this great evangelistic expedition and those who were strengthened in faith through abundant Biblical teaching in the churches in these towns.



Tiksi



Kheta



Child dedication,
town of Tiksi



Missionary family



Syndassko