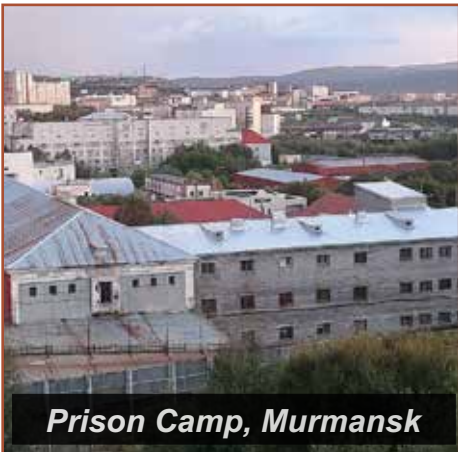


“This I do for the Gospel’s sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.” (1 Corinthians 9:23)

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.

In August 2021, the missionaries from Russia's Northwestern region made a unique missionary trip to the settlements located along the shore of the White Sea. Believers covered more than 90 miles on foot, loaded with the necessary provisions and Christian literature to distribute. People who had never met missionaries before, listened with great attention to the Gospel.



Prison Camp, Murmansk

We have previously reported about the Christian prisoner, Vyacheslav Koldyaev, from the city of Severodvinsk, who was sentenced to 2 years on false charges. On October 30, an appellate hearing was held. Unfortunately, the judges left the sentence unchanged, and Vyacheslav will continue to serve a two-year sentence in prison. Dear children of God, we call you to pray for Vyacheslav and his family. Let us pray that the brother will remain faithful to the Lord and firm in spirit. Let us also pray for his wife and their young children. Currently, Vyacheslav is being held in a prison camp in the Polar city of Murmansk.

RUSSIAN EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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(4), 2021

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

“... a harvest is appointed for you...” (Hosea 6:11)



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

This time of the year, believers in Russia are celebrating a Christian holiday called Harvest. In many ways, Harvest closely resembles Thanksgiving that is celebrated by believers in the United States. Harvest is an important

celebration appointed by the Lord (Ex. 23:16). In terms of semantics and the spiritual content, the feast of the Harvest is perhaps one of the deepest and most multifaceted celebrations. Similarly to the richest and most vibrant autumn color palette, the harvest contains many spiritual meanings and emotions: the sorrow of repentance for carelessly lived days, the joy of contemplating ripened fruit, anxiety for sinners who are dying, and the exhilarating delight in the anticipation of the fast-approaching return of our Christ. The Biblical message of the Harvest encompasses the whole world: «the harvest is the end of the age» (Matt. 13:39), while at the same time, it focuses on each person individually: «a harvest is appointed for you» (Hosea 6:11). People often live their lives in such a way as to distance themselves from others. Whenever they hear a call to repentance, they perceive it to be intended for others in the group. I will use an example from the Bible to illustrate this point. The Samaritan woman who spoke with Christ at the well eagerly discussed religious issues with the Savior. She eagerly brought up the age-old contradicting views between the

Jews and Samaritans, but when the Lord addressed her personally, when Jesus began to use the words «you», «your», it shook her to the core, it resonated with her on a personal level and that was the beginning of her new life. The Harvest celebration also contains this piercing component. Like an arrow, like a well-aimed spear, these words take aim at every person: «a harvest is appointed for you.» The amazing thing is that each person reacts differently to them. If he is sinful and not saved, they sound like ominous thunder. If he is saved by Christ and has lived his life for Him, these words sound like a melody filled with home of the joy to come. Dear friends, in the days of harvest, may our heart be filled with gratitude to the Lord, for He is truly good! He still extends His care and grace to both the evil and the good. Let us sincerely rejoice in those good fruits and blessed results in the work of the Lord, in which we have also taken part in. In this time of the year, let's not forget about the personal responsibility to bear fruit for Christ in our lives. This year, when the Persecuted Church in the former USSR marks the 60th anniversary of the Awakening, I would like to repeat the words of a faithful servant of God, Pastor Gennady K. Kryuchkov: «We go to church together, we sing together, we pray together, but we will be saved one by one. When we enter through the narrow gates, we will enter one by one. When we give an account to God, we will give it one by one.» May God bless each one of us on the day when we meet Him to appear before His throne not empty-handed but bearing much fruit for His glory! May you be abundantly blessed! Happy Thanksgiving! In Christ, Rev. Vladimir A. Okhotin REM's Founder and President



Thanksgiving Celebration, Yar-Sale, Yamal, 2021.

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Troitskoe Village

Despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 measures, the missionaries in Siberia have continued to visit the cities and towns of Eastern Si-

beria with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. An evangelist, Mark Fot, along with a team of musicians, undertook a long expedition in August and September to reach these remote areas with the Gospel.

The team held evangelistic services in open air settings, town halls, and in church buildings of local churches where they visited. Wherever they went, there were many people who wanted to hear about God. The audiences were deeply moved as they listened to the Word of God and a number of people prayed the prayer of repentance. These evangelists completed an arduous missionary trip, risking their health and very lives, as they overcame numerous obstacles and ultimately reached a large number of people with the good news of the Gospel and proclaimed repentance and forgiveness of sins through our Lord Jesus Christ.



Znamenka Village



Minusinsk



Central Russia, Kursk

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Awakening among the Evangelical Baptists in the former Soviet Union. Many special church services were held in different parts of the country to mark this special occasion. Today we are enjoying the wonderful fruits of the Awakening. Our churches are filled with large number of children and young people – this is the result of the awakening.

In our homes and churches, there is an abundance of Christian literature, and above all, the Bible: this is the result of the sacrificial ministry of the “Christian Publishing House” that has provided this supply. An important work is being carried out by the Music Department to maintain proper Christian music and



choir ministry in churches. Pastors Conferences and Bible Schools carry out training and preparation for ministry.

The work of evangelism is being coordinated across vast territories of the former atheist nation. More than three hundred missionary families have left their homes to preach the Gospel. It is impossible to number all those who became saved as a result of the Awakening! The brotherhood of churches grew and solidified during times of persecution, it spread geographically, and became international. Is this not a miracle of God?!

These and many other blessings are the result of the Lord's favor and presence among His people and in the persecuted church in the USSR.



Western Ukraine, Baranye Village



Siberia, Prokopievsk



Yar-Sale Town

Several missionary families relocated to Russia's Far North more than twenty years ago to proclaim Christ to the indigenous peoples of the North. The Lord blessed their ministry abundantly. In many northern towns and cities, as well as directly in the tundra, there are Christian churches today. The Holy Spirit continues His work of saving souls and building up the church.

In a number of Polar villages this year, new believers were baptized. In September, another large gathering of Nenets believers took place in the tundra for Christian fellowship.



Nadym



Meeting of a Tundra Church