



# REPORTER

## Pirkko Home Ministry – New Project in Berezovo

**Peter Pitsurenko, Plavsk Pirkko Home (Tula Region):**

The Plavsk Pirkko Home, in the small village of Berezovo, is going through a period of active change. We prayed for a long time about purchasing the neighboring property with an abandoned brick building, the village's former town hall office building. We didn't even know if this could happen; it didn't seem possible, but we felt a calling from the Lord. The only convenient access to our center, the Plavsk Pirkko Home, is through this property.

While praying, we also considered the current path on which God is leading us, as we have been taking in some people with wheelchairs. We've accepted two, but we can't accommodate more than that right now, plus we don't have the financial means necessary. The need for a handicap accessible facility will only increase, especially once the war in Ukraine ends. Therefore, it's better to have a separate facility for such people.

We are also constantly considering ways to generate income to provide for our center's ministry, and we could use this building to bake & sell cookies and to grow tulips.

Last spring, the former owner unexpectedly agreed to sell the building for a reasonable price (500,000 rubles or about \$6,000). The paperwork took a long time to prepare, and in early October, the purchase was completed. Men from the Kovcheg Church in Moscow and brothers from the Kursk region quickly joined us in our work to renovate this house. The first task was replacing the dilapidated roof, then installing 13 windows and 5 doors before the frost sets in, connecting electricity, and providing heat.

In the spring, we'll continue our work by hooking up water, installing gas and a sewer system, strengthening the foundation, repairing the floor, and beginning finish work on the exterior and interior. There's a lot of work to do, but it looks promising. And although the house is large (65 ft. x 26 ft. or 20m x 8m), with God's help and in cooperation with the churches that hold outreaches and summer camps here, we believe we'll be able to complete this project. May this new Berezovo Pirkko Home become a place of worship for the Lord and a witness of Christ to the local residents. Please pray for this new project.





## News from the Two Pirkko Homes in the Bryansk Region

**Dyatkovo Pirkko Home, Bryansk Region, Leader Oleg Glazov:** Last summer was a big challenge for the center due to my stroke. This event and my lengthy recovery brought the brothers living at the center together and mobilized the local church named “Hope”, which cares for us. Viktor Kuzin and other brothers from the church visited our center weekly and held Bible studies, drove the men to work and fellowship, and helped with household needs and food. This is how the Lord cares for the ministry.

Between hospital stays, I lived at the Dyatkovo Pirkko Home, and each time the brothers surrounded me with their warm-heartedness, literally leading me by the hand to services and fellowship, and helping me with everyday life. If such a situation had befallen me in the world, I would not have survived, due to depression and hopelessness. But here, God Himself poured out His grace to me through the brothers.

Now, after medical rehabilitation, I have returned to my duties. My mother, who was with me constantly for five months, has returned to her home. I have gained significant strength and can now climb stairs on my own.

Currently, there are five people in the center’s program. I ask for your prayerful support in our urgent need for an assistant. Alexander, who joined me in serving here, went home in the spring for surgery. That went well for him, but he will not be returning to us. Brother Zhenya, who came to help, stayed with us from the beginning of June until early October, when he lost his nerve after he crashed my car and fled the scene. No one knows where he is now. But we are not disheartened. We believe the Lord will help us overcome this trial as well, and will send someone or raise up a helper from among us. The Lord helped us with repair of our vehicle.



Leader Oleg Glazov, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left, with the Dyatkovo residents.

An interesting thing is happening in our life. I’m currently teaching Sergei to read and write. He’s been staying with us since early summer. Today, for example, he was copying the Bible’s table of contents. He’s not addicted, but he grew up neglected in a dysfunctional family in Udomlya, the town where Igor & Marina Markov serve at another Pirkko Home, and she sent him to visit us. He’s not sure why he’s here, but he’s not leaving! ☺ God leads people to salvation in amazing ways.

**Kokino Pirkko Home, Bryansk Region, Leader Boris Morozov:** There are five people in our center now. We regularly participate in feeding the hungry and in spiritual outreach. We have developed good, friendly relationships with many Bryansk churches



and often visit them and participate in their services. Lately we have been invited to visit 5 of these churches.

In terms of household

news, we’ve started insulating the roof of our house for winter. We’re also trying to keep our old minivan in good running condition.





## RCR Studio, *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* Magazine, and the Media Forum

Dear friends, everything that happens through our media ministry is the fruit of God's grace and your faithful prayers and support! Regular episodes of our programs are now released on YouTube, VKontakte, RuTube, Zen, TikTok, and Instagram. Each video is a seed of hope and truth that falls into the hearts of people around the world.

Instagram is a new venue for us, and so far this year, our reels have garnered over 4 million views!

**Media Forum Award** – This fall, we participated in a Religious Media Forum in Moscow, Russia, with the theme: “The Role of Traditional Religions in Russia in Preserving and Strengthening Spiritual and Moral Values.” We presented the ministries of the RCR Studio and *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine to many people, including public figures



and ministers of other religions. Ayur Vanzhilov, head of the RCR Studio, is speaking in the photo at the right. At the left is a photo of Eduard Zavedeyev, the head of our magazine ministry, at a table with our info and magazines, speaking with an Orthodox priest.



This year our ministry was recognized — we won an award in the “Best Internet Project” category at the Forum. This is more than just an award — it is a sign that God's Word, conveyed through modern media, resonates. Praise the Lord!

## Prison Ministry – Life Transformation Stories

**Novosibirsk - Prison Minister Alexander Gochweiss shared:** “Alexander knew Christians and attended a Bible study group in the prison colony. But a very serious situation arose with other unbelieving prisoners in the colony, and he was in despair and decided to commit suicide. At that moment, he perceived that what had happened to him was God's wrath, and that there was no way out. He climbed onto a chair in the boiler room to kill himself, but suddenly saw three magazines. One of them was *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire*, with the topic “Choice” (No. 2, 2024). For some reason, Alexander's attention was drawn to this particular magazine. He picked it up and read it all in one sitting, within an hour. It was this article about the prodigal son, a sermon by our founder Earl Poysti, which led him to repentance. He knelt down, turned to the Lord, and his life changed. And how did that literature end up there? It turns out they brought it to the boiler room to burn it on orders from the administration. What a remarkable story! Brother Alexander is now free and attends church. Please pray for him and his future.” This photo shows Alexander, now released from prison, on the left with Prison Minister Alexander Gochweiss, right.



Also pray that *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* magazine will be freely distributed by prison administrations, and that God's Word will reach the hearts of prisoners who read our magazine.



**Primorsky Krai (Far East):** Recently Brother Vitaly K. visited us in the Moscow office to thank us for our prison magazine. (He's in the red shirt, pictured with Eduard Zavedeyev and the Moscow office Executive Director, Alexander Zakharov.) Vitaly was a prisoner in Prison IK-20, and was mentored by **prison minister Vladimir Vyatkin**, who serves there and has been distributing our magazines for 27 years. The Lord saved Vitaly 11 years ago, and he faithfully follows Jesus Christ. He communicates with other former prisoners who came to faith in that prison, and they now gather together in each other's homes and with their dear minister and mentor, Vladimir Vyatkin, in his home.



## Mikhail Alekseyev:

**I am incredibly grateful to Jesus Christ for freeing people from the bondage of sin!**



I'd like to share a short testimony about how I came to Jesus Christ. My name is Mikhail, and I'm 34 years old. I was born in the Moscow region to a well-off family; my mother and sister are Orthodox believers. At a young age, I was baptized in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel, and we attended church twice a month. I graduated from high school with honors. By the age of 14, I was already yearning to be more mature and began hanging out with older kids. So, on my birthday, I tried drugs, cigarettes, and alcohol.

From that time on, I became addicted, although I didn't yet understand or acknowledge it. By 25, I couldn't imagine my life without drugs. This addiction ruined my relationships with my parents and my girlfriend of seven years. I was forced to seek help at medical centers in Moscow, at great expense, just to overcome my addiction, but unfortunately, nothing worked, and I lost all hope.

At 31, I got a job at a garment factory. At that time, I met a Christian who was working there (a Baptist, as I later discovered). At work, he listened to hymns about Jesus Christ and talked about God, but everyone considered him strange. We became friends, despite the large age difference. He brought me a small blue (Gideon's) Gospel, and I happily took it and began reading, but I understood little. He told me that smoking is a sin and that God forgives everyone; you just need to turn to Him, repent, and ask for forgiveness.

I was arrested by law enforcement for drug use, and only by the grace of God was I given a suspended sentence, as I should have served a prison sentence. I no longer knew where or through whom I could find salvation and quit drugs.



My sister suggested I go to a Christian recovery and support center for drug addicts and alcoholics and I agreed. Upon arrival at the Pirkko Home in Zheleznogorsk, Kursk region, I was greeted warmly. The brothers at the center encouraged me to read the Bible and pray more. At the end of our Bible study on the third day of the program, the pastor said, "After all, we are all believers here." A voice inside me began to say, "But I'm not a believer." After the study and final prayer, I ran up to the pastor and said, "Brother, can you pray with me? I want to repent and ask the Lord for forgiveness for my sins." A Pirkko Home leader also joined us and we knelt down, and I began to pray and repent for all my sins. I prayed and cried at the same time; my soul was in great pain. Afterward, the brothers congratulated me on coming to Christ.

The next day, when I woke up, I realized that the Lord was freeing me from sin and addiction. Not only did I stop wanting it, but I also stopped thinking about it, and I stopped using foul language. Another time, I had a severe toothache, and when I asked the Pirkko Home leaders for medicine, they replied, "Let's pray. If it doesn't help, you can take some medicine." At the time, it seemed a little unreasonable to me, that I had to pray first, before getting any medicine. The pain miraculously went away and I fell asleep. Later, I began to practice prayer for healing, and the Lord heals me.

I have been sober with the Lord Jesus Christ for about two years. I completed the "Fundamentals of Faith" classes and was baptized, promising to serve faithfully and truly. I am a member of the church in Zheleznogorsk and am involved in the children's ministry, helping with Sunday school. At the Pirkko Home center, I am an assistant to our Pirkko Home leader Aleksey Dudikin, who is also a pastor at our church. My life has changed for the better, and it is still changing every day. Currently, I have a very good relationship with my parents and sister. Every day I rejoice that Jesus Christ gives me joy and spiritual and physical strength. I am incredibly grateful to Jesus Christ for freeing people from the bondage of sin. Glory to our great God!!!

