



Russian Christian Radio

REPORTER

№4, 2009



A Word of Hope

(Mark Irwin, President, Russian Christian Radio)

The apostle Paul quoted the prophet Isaiah when he said, "There shall come the root of Jesse, and he who arises to rule over the Gentiles, in Him shall the Gentiles hope" (Romans 15:12, NASB).

As we celebrate the incarnation of God into human flesh, Jesus Christ coming in human form, we are reminded that the "root of Jesse" has indeed branched forth, as was prophesied by Isaiah some 750 years before the birth of Christ (see Isaiah 11). As the prophet declared, "the nations will resort to the root of Jesse who will stand as a signal for the peoples" (Isaiah 11:10, NASB)

Russian Christian Radio is privileged to carry out the challenge of proclaiming this Christ to the nations of the Slavic world and the former Soviet Union. Through our media and care ministries, we are challenged to present "the root of Jesse" as the one who rules over the Gentiles and the only one in whom they will find hope.

At this Christmas season, we rejoice in the one in whom the nations will find hope, Jesus Christ and in him alone. Letters arrive at our offices in Moscow on a daily basis showing just how Christ has given our listeners and readers hope for new life. Testimony after testimony show how mangled lives have been transformed into lives full of hope for today and the future. The "root of Jesse" has indeed branched forth and the nations find their hope in Him.

We praise God for you, dear friend and ministry partner, and we pray that "the God of hope will fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13, NASB). We thank him for his outpouring of grace in your life and for your partnership with us in the Gospel. We pray that your participation in the ministry of proclaiming this hope to the world will cause you to see your role in bringing hope to those without hope.

Thank you for being faithful to God and for sharing so generously with Russian Christian Radio, as together, we present the "the root of Jesse", Jesus Christ, to a lost and dying world that they might find hope and life in him.

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Denis Agafonov

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Mission Goal:

Proclaim the Gospel of
Jesus Christ using mass
media

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Testimony of Denis Agafonov: “My vision is to humbly do my utmost for His glory”



I was born in Siberia, Russia in 1971. During my birth, my mother, who did not know God at that time, started to pray to Him saying: “God, if you exist and you will let my son and me live, we will both serve you”.

Living in a communist country which denied the very existence of God, my mother, naturally, knew nothing about Him. In fact, her only idea about God was based solely on the understanding of a huge cross in the sky.

It was not until eight years later, when she met with a small group of believers, that she was led to the Lord Jesus and accepted Him as her Savior.

Very soon her life was turned upside down. She began to experience persecution when she decided to follow Christ. Her husband (my step-father), who was a communist and an atheist, gave her a clear choice to deny God or he would leave her. As a result of her unwillingness

to give in to his demands, he walked out of our lives. She lost her job, our relatives and friends turned against her, and what probably was most painful for her was that she lost me, too.

Against our wills, I was taken by force and separated from my mother by my father who was a military judge. He came to town with the sole thought of saving me from believing in God. At the time he was serving his country in a remote military area which required a special residency permit to live in -- the Kuril Islands near Japan. My mother, who was a civilian, had no way to reach me there. She never stopped praying nor trusting God that one day I would be in her arms again.

Almost three years later, when my father was transferred to the Russian mainland, my grandmother came to the city where I was living with my father and we secretly ran away. God answered the prayers of my mother who longed to be reunited with her son.

While I loved my mother, I nonetheless, resisted God. I decided in my heart that no matter what, I would not believe in God nor pray to Him. I was so foolish then, running from His love, and yet, I am glad it did not last for a long time. At the age of eleven, I finally accepted Jesus into my heart in an underground church in Siberia.

During my youth I began to listen to radio programs presented by the penetrating voice of Earl Poysti, who preached the living word of God which impacted our lives and those of millions of others in the USSR. Although my family and I experienced hardships and trials in Russia, I am very thankful to God for what He did for my mother and me.

In the summer of 1998, I returned to Russia to meet with my father. I forgave him for what he had done to our family and I loved him still. I told him of God’s love and forgiveness and as we sat in a park, we talked and prayed together and my father invited Jesus into his heart -- yet another prodigal son came back to his Heavenly Father.

Today, along with my wife and four children, I am involved in various ministries. My vision is to humbly do my utmost for His glory and to be part of God’s primary purpose – Salvation of the lost. This is my passion. Nothing motivates me more nor brings me more joy, than to see God move, as He touches people’s lives, saves them, sets them free, changes them and fills them with His love and Holy Spirit.

I wish that this Christmas season of 2009, you will be reminded of God's love for you. He has sent His Son, so that anyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life.

(Editor’s note: Denis Agafonov recently began serving with Russian Christian Radio in the United States as a member of our Board of Directors.)

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 My email: _____
 Please send me a copy of your monthly prayer bulletin “Frontline”
 Yes, I want to put action to my faith by praying for and helping materially in the following area(s):
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Please send your tax-deductible contribution along with this form to:

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Give online at www.rcr.ru/eng



Special Prayer Needs for Russian Christian Radio

1. Postage needs. A small, yet vital need in our ministry is funding for the purchase of stamps. For example, each time we publish and mail our prison magazine, our postage costs alone total nearly \$2,500. Pray that God’s people will answer our urgent need for sufficient postage so that we can mail out more letters and the Gospel Behind Barbed Wire magazine.
2. Speaking of the prison magazine, please pray earnestly that the Lord will provide financially so that we will have enough funds to print and mail our next issue. Costs for each publication and mailing come to \$6,000.
3. Russian Christian Radio is fully dependent on the Lord to meet all of our needs. We strongly request that you intercede on our behalf so that God will supply for financial, personnel and other ministry needs. Be sure to stay up-to-date on what our needs are by requesting our monthly prayer bulletin known as FRONTLINE. You can receive it either by email (info@rcradio.net) or through regular mail. You can also call us at (770) 864-6464 to request your copy.

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Testimonies from Letters

Irina Z. (prisoner in Khabarovsk, Russia area)

Right away, I want to thank you for sending me the publication of Earl Poysti's sermon titled "Bread of Life". I have read it over and over and have shared it with other women who are also interested in spiritual things. Two of them repented of their sins as a result of the booklet and have given themselves to Christ. Praise the Lord! We have also placed them in our little prison prayer room for others to read and the women here ask that you send other such material so we can read them and be encouraged through their content. They are especially helpful because they are written in a very simple language which is easy to understand. We pray that other prisoners will also open their hearts to the Lord like we have.

Nikolai M. (Yamal-Ninetsk Autonomous Republic, Russia [Siberian region])

Thank you for your sermons that you sent us which are contained in the "Gospel Behind Barbed Wire" magazine. There are numerous places found in Scripture that are only made understandable through your sermons. We are eternally grateful for your ministry!

Anastasia P. (Perm region, Russia)

From the very outset, let me say how much I appreciated your letter to me, as it showed that you really do care and took time to write me. Even before your response arrived, I had been thinking more and more about God and how to know him. More than once, he knocked on the door of my heart, but each time I had turned him away. But now, he has filled my life with meaning once I allowed him to enter in. God has shown me his path through your ministry and I am so thankful for your great magazine for prisoners, the Gospel Behind Barbed Wire. So many people have to come to faith in Christ, far more than you could ever imagine.