

Young Heart: Igniting Influence

By Hannah Wagner

It's cold. Countless Russians bundled up in coats and scarves walk down a snowy side-street of a Moscow neighborhood: just their eyes stare out into the winter day.

The scene frames a conversation with Polina Molchanova. Her breath can be seen as she talks of her aspirations as a journalist and a singer. When asked about her testimony, she lights up and pulls a warm smile from behind her scarf.

"It's a great FEBC story," she says in her charming Russian accent.

Her blue-grey eyes sparkle as she explains how Jesus came into her life through FEBC.

In May of 2013, a classmate from Moscow State University invited



Polina is a young, vibrant Christian who's helping the young people of Russia to seek hope in Jesus Christ.

"Russia holds the first place in teen suicide, and we are there to provide real hope for them. It can only be found in Jesus," said Polina.

her as a musical guest on her FEBC show. When Polina came to the station to be interviewed, she was overwhelmed with the love the team had for their listeners. As a journalism student, the high quality of the programming impressed her as well. A seed was planted and she began to listen to FEBC programming online.

Just over a year later, she asked her FEBC friend to go to church. At 22 years old, Polina's heart was transformed by the Gospel and she accepted Christ as her savior.

Currently a broadcaster for FEBC Moscow, Polina's millennial identity, in a way, separates her from her coworkers. Still only in her early twenties, she hosts a show that reaches out to younger generations.

In living a life for Jesus, Polina stands as a bright light among a generation of Russians severely lacking in hope. Like so many of her contemporaries, the surface level qualities of the ubiquitous Russian Orthodox church pushed her away from a personal relationship with Jesus.

Now through serving at FEBC, Polina is the perfect voice and friend for millions of Russian millennials.

On her show just this week, Polina interviewed Natalya. The two young women are close in age – same blue eyes and soft brown hair. First, they talk of life and love: Natalya has gotten married. Polina asks if the couple had their



ceremony in a church. Natalya says no. Polina sees an opportunity to bridge life and faith.

As she hears Natalya explain the common lack of interest in God that so many of her friends have, Polina's heart breaks – she understands because she felt that too. But through Polina's genuine love of the Russian people and FEBC radio, Natalya's heart opens to a conversation – and Polina boldly shares the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

So many Russian hearts are cold without the Gospel. Your partnership helps ignite connections between the "Polina's" of FEBC and the "Natalya's" of Russia, supporting the warming hope of Jesus Christ.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

In 2016, we need an additional \$7,000 for this year to produce programs that reach young people and young families in 2016. Please consider supporting programmers like Polina to help us reach millions of Russian and Ukrainian young adults.

Advantage of Reasoning in the Culturally Muslim World

Rev. Rudi Wiens

Opposition to Christianity often starts within families, when one person becomes a follower of Christ. The new Christian can often be very much persecuted by family members first and then by society in general.

Nygmet is a young follower of Christ. He is single and lives at home with his parents. Recently, after he returned home from work, his father began arguing with him about reading the Bible. The father is not religious himself, but he was pressured by friends who feel his son is betraying the Islamic reli-



Besides overseeing FEBC's ministry in Kazakhstan, Pastor Nurlan is our most well-known Kazakh broadcaster.

We are in the process of training additional talk-show hosts, who will come to the studio for their weekly broadcast.

gion by following the "Russian" belief in Jesus. The friends suggested that Nygmet's father burn his son's Bible, which he did. By the way, the Bible in the Kazakh language was only fully translated a few years ago. The arguing and fighting really upset Nygmet. The spiritual warfare for people like is very difficult, especially when they live as non-believers. Actually, this is the struggle almost every Kazakh believer endures one way or another.

On the other hand, such tensions provide followers of Christ with the best opportunity to share Christ. Our talk-radio is one of the greatest opportunities to talk about God in a safe, "unreligious" way. This has become our main approach in sharing the Gospel, by simply talking first and foremost about a godly family, human relationships, and topics like forgiveness and peace by accepting each other in a godly way. Following up on Nygmet's struggle, we did a talk-show on good fatherhood. What would a good father do, when his son adopts a different world-view? It was amazing to hear participants share their options on such matters. Of course, by talking openly and peacefully about real life issues, God's truth often prevails. Whenever we help our listeners to think sincerely and truthfully about life's challenges, I believe we have done a good job. The Holy Spirit is at work and likes to make use of such outreach in our radio ministry.

Returning to Nygmet's story, there are generally three outcomes from such family struggles:



- 1) The struggle is too much and the young follower of Christ abandons his commitment and stops any fellowship with other believers
- 2) The young believer separates from his family and joins the Christian community. This is often very difficult, especially if the young believer is part of a larger family, and
- 3) The young believer has such an impact on the rest of the family that they also choose to follow Christ. Of course, the third option is the most desired and, thank God, often is the case.

Please pray for Nygmet and people like him, that their faith in the Lord will not be shaken, but grow stronger. Please also pray for Rev. Nurlan and other broadcasters, that God would give them wisdom in their talk-shows, as they reasonably present the truth and share Christ.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We are developing a weekly talk-show on fatherhood. We need \$50 per week, \$2,600 per year, in order to cover the cost of the talk-show host and some assistance for special guests in studio.

FEBC Listeners Respond: The Word is Changing Lives



BIBLE BECOMING ALIVE

I found your website by accident. What a gift it was! So many programs, so much information! I began looking for specific programs about the Bible. I first began reading it in the Old Slavonic language, understanding maybe 30% of it. But even that experience was meaningful to me since I was holding the Holy Book in my hands.

Then I bought a Bible written in comprehensible Russian. Even though this translation is more than a century old, it is understandable. However, even though I understood the language, I had a difficult time with the meaning. I expected more from the Bible; I needed to understand what it said, and how it applied to my life.

It was only when I began listening to FEBC that I began noticing that it was affecting my life. I understood that I was not a Christian, but just one of those people looking for God. I know that I need to commit my life to Jesus Christ. Please pray for me.

- Natalia from Saratov

HELPING FRIEND FIND JESUS

I want to thank you for your programs that inform and help people understand the Bible. When I began listening to you several months ago, I thought it would be boring and basic. To my surprise, I began discovering not only new facts, but a new perspective on the entire Bible, which points to Jesus from the very beginning.

I began telling some of my non-believing friends about the program. One of them, Egor, became truly interested, and now we have conversations about God. For me, it's the best thing that could happen – my friends bringing up spiritual issues instead of me doing it.

Egor was especially interested in the biblical account of creation. His world was shaken, in a good way, when he began considering that he truly might be God's creation. Thank you on behalf of my friend, and please pray for my other friends and all who listen to the program.

- Andrey from Tver

“He began considering that he truly might be God's creation.”



Ministry News and Prayer Needs:

>>> Please pray for the **Ukrainian National Council** that issues frequencies for broadcasting. Pray that FEBC will receive opportunities to broadcast in Kiev and other key cities throughout Ukraine, as the country is going through difficult times of crisis and transformation.

>>> Please continue to pray that FEBC will be able to receive final permission to broadcast in the city of **Rasskazovo**, central Russia. Pray for the opposition, both bureaucratic and spiritual to diminish.

>>> Please pray for FEBC-Moscow's new broadcaster, **Oleg Shevkun**. Oleg is an experienced broadcaster, pastor, and preacher. Pray that he'll be able to help many listeners understand who Christ is and how they can follow Him.



>>> Pray for FEBC's newest station in the city of Michurinsk. FEBC is the only local station in that city. Pray that we will be able to build strong ties in this community, and help people attend local churches. Also, please pray for the local churches to be able to be open to newcomers.

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Please make checks payable to:

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>>> Pray for FEBC listeners in the twin cities of Slavyansk and Kramatorsk, as they deal with post-war trauma, a harsh economic situation and a wave of hopelessness, signified by a sharp increase in suicides in the area. FEBC's station is encouraging people to visit local churches to receive spiritual and physical help.

FEBC Missionaries: Rev. Alex Jaruchik

Alex and Isabel Jaruchik are FEBC missionaries, serving in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, as well as in Russian-speaking communities in the US. Alex is a well-known radio preacher, who's been airing messages into Russia for the past four decades.

Today, Alex is FEBC's senior broadcaster who's reaching many through his radio programs, books, and speaking engagements. For the past 4 years the Gospel was preached and reached in the Chicago area where 350,000 Russian-speaking Jewish people live.

If you want to support Alex or get in touch with him, please e-mail him at alex_jaruchik@msn.com. His account number is 68074.

