

REACHING THE MOST VULNERABLE

by Victor P. Akhterov

“As the children played outside, we heard artillery fire from both sides of the conflict. Those deadly sounds do not bother them at all,” observed Vladimir, an FEBC missionary in Eastern Ukraine.

Vladimir’s ministry is two-fold: bringing help to the most disadvantaged children in the war zone, and promoting adoption, foster care, and other kinds of care for Ukrainian orphans.



Vladimir & Elena:

“Thank you for helping us minister to children who are alone, forgotten, and hopeless.”

Vladimir organizes camps for disadvantaged children in Ukraine every summer. Some of them are orphans. Many are from families where parents are alcoholics. Often, they arrive hungry.

Andrey, 13, explained: “When Dad starts drinking, my brother and me can handle that. When Mom joins him, life becomes hell for the next few days.” Andrey heard about the love of God in camp for the first time in his life. And he responded, giving his life to Jesus.

Vladimir and his wife Elena are probably the most selfless servants I know. Both of them were called to minister to troubled children from a young age.

“Even when I was praying for a husband, I had one request, that he would love children who don’t have parents and don’t know Christ,” said Elena, sharing her life story with me. **Today, they are the parents of six children, four of them adopted.**

FEBC has a radio station in the city of Shastya, in eastern Ukraine. Vladimir and Elena conducted a camp there, serving more than 250 disadvantaged children. The stories of their lives are heartbreaking, but the results are inspiring.

Sasha, 15, attended because her grandmother, an FEBC listener, begged her to come.



Hundreds of social orphans received help and heard the Good News by FEBC-Ukraine this year. Many were adopted.



Many teens become FEBC listeners after the Bible camp experience.

Sasha was reluctant at first, but she gave her heart to Christ by the end of camp. Since then, she was baptized in water, and talks to all her friends about Jesus, non-stop. Her dream is to become a missionary.

Following camp, we continue to reach out to them. Many have become our listeners. They learn about God’s love throughout the year.

Natasha, one of the camp participants, sent a message to one of our youth programs: “I began listening to you since I went to the Christian camp. I feel the same kind of energy and love in your programs as I felt during my two weeks at camp. Maybe it is true, that God loves me, too?”

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need to raise \$25,000 for the children’s programs online, on the air, and on the ground, for the next 12 months, starting with Christmas programs.

MEDIA EVANGELISM CENTER

We are praying hard

Many of you have contributed to our building project in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. Thank you!

We were hoping to purchase a building by now, but had to postpone to the first part of 2019. For now, we don't have enough resources to secure a building that will be adequate for our needs.

■ The Center must be close to one of the central subway stations, so our guests and volunteers will be able to easily access it. We heavily depend on volunteers for our ministry.

■ We must have enough space for "live" audio programming, as well as recorded videos. Short videos and visual radio are the way of the future; because of this, physical space matters.

We need working space for staff and volunteers, particularly counselors who can work simultaneously with broadcasters, answering people's

questions online.

There are usually 25 to 30 people who come to the studio on an average day.

Maxim Shargaev, FEBC-Kiev program director, says, "We are so grateful to each and every one of you who have already supported our building project. I can promise you that we will use it effectively for one purpose, to fulfill our mission."

Our mission is this:

"We communicate the Good News by media to inspire people to follow Jesus Christ."

And our vision is to touch 50% of the population of Ukraine with the Gospel message by 2030.

We cannot get there without your help, friends, and having a place of our own is a critical step towards that goal.

PROFILES:



More than 15 million Russians viewed Evgeny's videos in 2018.

Evgeny Kalinin

Programmer, Video producer

"My dad was a sailor; maybe that's why my first program at FEBC was called 'Submarine' - we talked with teens about their life and their need for Jesus," said Evgeny.

As a young person, Evgeny began studying law, then marketing, then theology, never completing any of these programs. Then he began telling stories through video, and decided to become a film director.

"FEBC actually helped me to complete my education, because I wanted to use my new skills to tell the stories that bring people to faith," said Evgeny. "Today, I am doing just that, and I am immensely grateful to God for this opportunity."

From the day Evgeny began his ministry to street kids in one of Russia's southern cities till now, when he and his wife Olga are raising their own son, Fyodor, Evgeny wanted to see a deep, real change in people's hearts. And God is granting him this joy.

P.S. And yes, you guessed right, Evgeny loves Fyodor Dostoevsky.



Our Media Evangelism Center is functioning, producing many hours of Christian programming daily. Our prayer is that we can purchase a place of our own **to help millions more.**

Russian Listeners Respond

We receive more than 1,000 responses a day. Here are a few of them:

Obtaining hope in the face of death

Anna from Krasnodar:

“My husband is terminally ill. When we learned about it, I discovered that there are very few people who can provide any kind of help or support. Not that people don’t want to help, but no one knows what to say.

“During that time, FEBC radio became our best friend. We used to listen to you occasionally before, but today, as we are facing death, your programs are our lifeline.

“One day I called in to share my story, what we are going through, and how lonely it feels to live in this pain and helplessness day in and day out. The wave of love and understanding that I experienced from the host and from the listeners was just overwhelming. When the host asked listeners to pray for me, I felt that God was near.

“After the call, Vlad, one of your counselors, began writing to me, helping me deal with my pain and loneliness. He also talked to me about the love of God, despite the harsh circumstances we are experiencing. I prayed with him, over the phone, for the first time in my life, and since then I began praying on my own. My husband is yet to make this step.

“Thank you for being there for us, and for millions of others. You are real. We need your ministry.”



People who are in need of help and compassion find real support in FEBC’s ministry.



Pastor **Yuri**: “We bring healing to thousands of people who have deep emotional wounds. Jesus is the only One who can restore us.”

“Can God heal my wounds?”

Recently, we offered a program on parental abuse, receiving hundreds of responses. Here are a few:

“My mom beat me regularly, but that was not as painful as her constant threats to give me away, to the orphanage, because she said I was stupid and ugly. I’ve been trying to recover for years. Now I am listening to you and thinking: Can God heal my wounds?”
- Elena

“When my mom would beat me, she who would often become hysterical, completely losing control. During those beatings, I used to pretend that I was losing my mind - that was the only thing that helped stop the beatings. I have three kids myself now, but still cannot let go of that fear. Please pray for me.” - Katerina

“I am so grateful that you are doing this program! As a man, I cannot even talk to anyone about the abuse I experienced from my parents and other relatives. I’ve been carrying this pain for years. Thank you, Christian radio, for understanding.” - Svyatoslav

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need an additional support of \$400 per month for counselors who are working with those who contact us for help. Our goal is to provide initial assistance and connect these listeners to local churches at the appropriate time.

PROJECTS, NEWS, AND PRAYER NEEDS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING

During the Christmas season, we will offer a series of programs for children, as well as one for adults. We are also producing a series of short videos that will explain the meaning of Christmas in an easily understood way. Pray that these projects will be a success.



PRAY FOR OUR PROGRAMMERS

Please pray for our programmers: Oleg, Natalia, Olga, Alexey, and Igor. They are suffering from illnesses, some very serious, even life-threatening. Pray for God's mercy and healing.

Also, please pray for the children of our broadcasters and leaders. Needs vary - from health and behavioral issues, to choices in educational and spiritual direction. Humbly and sincerely we are asking for prayer covering.

DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR: RUSSIA.FEBC.ORG

FEBC Russian Ministries Update is a quarterly newsletter published by FEBC Russian Ministries, Box 1, La Mirada, CA 90637 • (562) 947-4651
e-mail: russia@febc.org • russia.febc.org

Photos used in FEBC RM Update are not always of actual listeners for purposes of privacy and security.

In Canada: FEBCanada, 3200-8888 Odlin Crescent, Richmond, B.C. V6X 3Z8 - make cheques payable to FEBCanada
In Australia: FEBC, P. O. Box 183, Caringbah NSW 1495
In New Zealand: VoF, P. O. Box 620, Masterton, NZ 5915
In UK: Feba, Ivy Arch Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 8BX
In South Africa: FEBA radio, P. O. Box 26270, Gezina 0031
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Please make checks payable to:

FEBC Russian Ministries #680

Far East Broadcasting Co. is a non-profit ministry and a member of Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability.



ONLINE COUNSELORS

As we are doing more after-program counseling, we see more results, more conversions, and more cases where listeners are connected with Christ-centered churches. At the same time, we are learning to deal with burnout and other issues that counselors face. Please pray that we'll be able to provide adequate support for these ministers.

VISUAL RADIO

Most of the programs we broadcast also have a video version. These video feeds are broadcast over various online platforms. Some programs are simultaneously broadcast on seven different platforms. We need additional video equipment to make these broadcasts more effective. Millions of people watch them every month. The cost for additional equipment is \$3,750.



CONFLICT AREA

Please pray for our listeners in the war zone in Eastern Ukraine. FEBC operates five stations in that region. Please pray for people living on both sides. Most of them are suffering not only economically, but psychologically and spiritually. Uncertain future, lack of hope, high homicide and suicide rate, military casualties, heavy drinking and drugs - that's the environment we are broadcasting into.

