



2013-3 RUSSIA - UKRAINE - CENTRAL ASIA

FEBC RUSSIAN MINISTRIES UPDATE

Helping Families, Saving Souls

- How genuine service to families help us lead people to Jesus -

Victor Akhterov

Adam received an incredible gift from his Creator: a family. The first sin was also committed in the context of the family. The relationship between a husband and a wife is always, in part, reflective of their relationship with God.

On the air, we talk about the family every day, because it's a topic close to the hearts of our listeners.

>>> "It takes compassion for people's circumstances and faith in God to heal them as I minister to families... He has never failed me."

- Dr. Evgeny Sarapulov,
programmer

During call-in programs our broadcasters help people resolve their issues, which typically involves a consideration of their spiritual condition.

Olga called our toll-free phone from Siberia, to ask for advice: "My husband is unfaithful to me. I don't want a divorce...we used to love one another. What can I do?" Pastor Sergey, a guest on the program, talked to Olga about her husband, their children, and her faith. In a very sensitive way, he explained how our separation from God can cause sins such as

unfaithfulness, and he talked about the unfailing love of God. After the program, Olga called again to talk to the pastor. During that conversation, she decided to accept Christ as her Lord and Savior. We provided her with church addresses in her city. "I never felt that much life in my heart," said Olga, after accepting Christ.

More than half of Russian families end up in divorce. Unfaithfulness is common. So is pain and lack of hope. As we talk about family relationships, we address that pain and help them to see a solution through the love of Jesus.

More than half of the responses we receive are connected with family issues. And many, like Olga, commit their lives to the Lord.



"Your support for family-oriented programs helps mend hearts and bring people to Jesus."

*Victor Akhterov, Director
FEBC Russian Ministries*

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need an additional \$3,000 every month to prepare and broadcast family programs network-wide.



Please pray for God to touch millions of hurting hearts with His saving grace.



Testimonial Evangelism in Bishkek

- RUDI WIENS

FEBC's station in Bishkek is attracting new listeners. "We don't have enough time and manpower to respond to all our listeners," said station manager Janysh. "That's a great problem to have."



Recently, government officials began publicly addressing the conversion of many Kyrgyz people to evangelical Christianity as a "major problem." In many communities, Christians become outcasts, seen by others as traitors of their Muslim heritage.

At the same time, Kyrgyz people want to see themselves as a modern nation and are frightened



by radical Islam. It is in such an environment that FEBC radio is introducing Christian programming to the people of Bishkek. In addition to the programs of Evgeny Sarapulov and other broadcasts coming from Moscow, local Christians are producing programs in the Kyrgyz language. One such pre-evangelistic program is *Good to Know*, hosted by **Nargiza**, 25.

"I use my interviews as non-threatening introduction to Christian concepts and influential Christians to our listeners," said Nargiza. She invites city officials, civic leaders, actors, journalists, and others to talk about issues that concern the people of Bishkek, always guiding the conversation to deeper issues of morality and spirituality. "Among those invited are local evangelical pastors, who talk about their faith and what their churches are doing to help people," explained Nargiza.

Timur is one of the most active participants in the program. "I call our interviews 'testimonial evangelism,' where I can share my faith openly, stopping short of telling listeners that they should follow my example – we can push the limits only so far before we are closed down. We just ask listeners to call in after the program if they need help," said Timur.

And people are responding. One listener said, "Talking to the pastor and praying with him over the phone changed me inside. I never prayed to God in all my 35 years."



Nargiza: "Please pray for our listeners to open their hearts to the Good News."

It's encouraging to see the responses growing.

We appreciate your support for the people of Kyrgyzstan.

Rev. Rudi Wiens is FEBC's coordinator for Eurasia. He and his wife Anni recently spent two months working in Bishkek.

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

The budget of the *Good to Know* weekly program, including personnel support, studio time, and air time is \$50 per program.

We appreciate your support for helping connect people to local Kyrgyz pastors.





Evgeny Sarapulov's "Great Day":

>>> From Hopelessness to Spreading Hope

Every day, thousands of people throughout Russia wake up to a voice full of energy, joy, tenacity, and faith. It's the voice of **Dr. Evgeny Sarapulov**, an FEBC programmer in Moscow.

Growing up in the family of a university professor in Siberia, Evgeny learned early on what a loveless family is like. "I saw how my mom suffered from my dad's drinking and unfaithfulness, and I felt like he did not care much about my brother and me, either," shared Evgeny.

Evgeny learned early on what a loveless family is like.

Young Evgeny looked for meaning in his life. He wanted to feel he belonged to something or someone; he earned for God's love without fully realizing it.

Drafted to serve in the army, he decided to make it a career, and was accepted into the KGB contingent of the Soviet Army. "I was determined to make myself a success and prove to my father that I was worthy of love and respect," said Evgeny. "I joined the Communist Party for that reason, too." But the system – and the country – was disintegrating. "I felt empty. I was looking for something that would bring me internal joy, something that would fill my life in a real way."

During this time, Evgeny would periodically listen to FEBC broadcasts. "What naïve and silly people," he used to think...yet, he

tuned in again and again. Years later, he felt at home when someone invited him to a church and he heard the same kind of singing to the Lord.

Before that day, however, he received another university degree, now in psychology. He was trying to find God in New Age teachings, working as a sports psychologist, helping terminally ill patients, and being a part of criminal enterprises.

Today, Evgeny lives in Moscow with his wife Svetlana and their four children. His daily morning radio program, *Great Day*, is broadcast throughout the network: Moscow, St. Petersburg, and many other cities, including Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Listeners respond to his message of hope and faith.

Seeing how their son has changed, his mother and father came to know Christ and are now serving in a church. His brother, a police-men, also became a Christian and a pastor.



"Jesus revolutionized my life, He gave me everything I have of worth," said Evgeny. "My mission on this earth is to spread the Good News, which is news about Him. And I am humbled by and grateful for all those Christians who contribute to amplify my voice. Thank you on behalf of those whose lives were transformed by our Savior."

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need an additional \$400 every month to broadcast *Great Day* programs network-wide.



Please pray for thousands of Evgeny's listeners throughout Russia, Ukraine, and Central Asia. Pray that many will give their lives to Jesus Christ.



RESPONSES TO THE “GREAT DAY” PROGRAM

MUSLIM ATHEIST READING THE BIBLE

Arhyz called from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Despite his cerebral palsy, he was able to earn a university degree and now works for an advertising agency. “I don’t have any real friends, though,” said Arhyz. “People at work treat me okay, but I am a ‘disabled man’ first, not a human being. My family is also supportive, but everyone looks at me as an invalid...”

Arhyz said he did not believe in God, but there was something addictive in Evgeny’s programs, and he kept listening. “I think I felt an acceptance I was looking for,” said Arhyz. **After a while, he began praying**, especially during moments when others did not seem to understand him.

Recently, Arhyz, a cultural Muslim and a once-proclaimed atheist, began reading the Bible.



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FROM TRAGEDY TO NEW HOPE

Tanya, a 30-year-old woman, called the program the day her husband unexpectedly died. She was in shock. “What do I do now? How can I live without him? What do I live for?” she kept asking.

Evgeny talked to her for twenty minutes, helping Tanya to give herself time and not make any decisions right away. “She was not just grieving, she was suicidal, and I knew that my words were just that, words,” said Evgeny. He asked listeners who were believers to pray for Tanya.

She called the next day to say that while she still felt crushing pain, **she now knew that suicide was not the answer**. “I don’t know what miracle occurred last night,” she said. “But my heart is full of hope now.”

Three months later, Tanya called to say that she befriended some of Evgeny’s Christian listeners in her city; they talk about life and God when they meet. “I began praying to God,” said Tanya. “This is the latest miracle in my life: I’m talking to Him.”



NEW WORLD FOR A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

Elena, a young psychologist, called to express her gratitude. “I am learning a lot from you,” she said. “I enjoy listening to your programs so much! As a psychologist, I also try to help people, but you offer something more than psychology. You talk about the spiritual side of things. I never before thought about it and we never really talked about it during my five years of studying.”

Elena started reading Christian literature and is now thinking about God every day.