

## MIRACLES IN MICHURINSK

COMPLAINING NEIGHBORS AND PASSIONATE EVANGELISTS: HOW GOD USED THEM BOTH TO ANSWER PRAYERS

VICTOR AKHTEROV

I first met Mikhail several years ago when he approached FEBC to build a station in his hometown. I'd never met anyone so determined, focused and, yes, pushy. He organized local churches and brought volunteers to build the tower. He inspired people to pitch in and they responded.

One day, as we walked through endless fields filled with broadcast towers, I asked Mikhail how he came to know the Lord. Growing up in a military family, he explained, he had never heard the Gospel and knew nothing about God. But one day his dad brought home an old military radio, and Mikhail—at that point a young teenager—became FEBC's most avid listener.

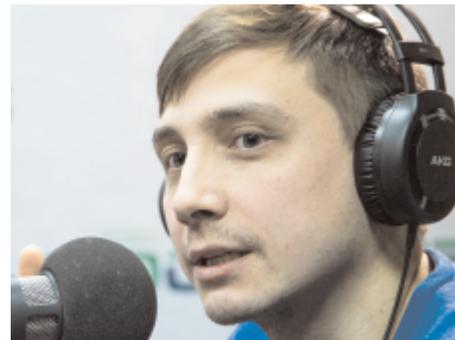
“If you ask me today what ‘the Gospel’ is, I picture this old army radio with the words of life coming from it,” Mikhail said. **“I received Christ because I listened to FEBC. I know how powerful radio can be; it’s a personal, heart-to-heart conversation.”**

Russian bureaucracy is notorious for its opposition to anything new or dif-

ferent. But here we were, building the first local station in the city of Michurinsk, an old city built in 17th Century. After countless inspections, needless court appearances, and tons of paperwork, we were almost ready to start broadcasting. We built a tower in the yard of a local church. We installed all the equipment necessary to receive programs from Moscow and St. Petersburg. We constructed the studio. All that was needed was the last signature from a local official who was impossible to find. Not knowing the real reason for the delay, we began praying fervently.

The answer came through angry neighbors. They complained to government officials that the radio waves from the tower were affecting their health. Everyone complained about headaches. The officials came to the broadcast site, as well as our volunteer, Mikhail.

The government representative explained to complaining neighbors that their health could not have been compromised since the station was not yet operational: he had not yet signed the final papers. This was the “impossible to find” government



People in Michurinsk can now listen to clear, relevant, powerful presentation of the Gospel. Pray that many will respond.

official. Mikhail approached him to ask about the delays and realized at once that this was his childhood comrade: they lived in the same military compound as kids.

Long story short, we received the signature, and are now officially on the air. Praise God!

Please pray that God will continue His miracles in Michurinsk, bringing many into His kingdom.

### OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE:

To make the station effective, we need the following:

Evangelistic opening ceremony: \$1,200

Billboard and other promotions: \$400

Annual electricity and tech support for the transmitter: \$12,000



FEBC antenna was built in the backyard of an evangelical church in Michurinsk. Praise God - we are on the air!!!

# LISTENER RESPONSES: HOPE

## NEW JOYFUL CHRISTIAN

“I began listening to your station not long ago and discovered so many new things! These few months changed my life in so many ways.

I became a Christian, and not in name only. I became His follower. I started to attend a church where the Bible is actually taught.

I had never visited an evangelical church before in my life.

I still cannot believe that all of this happened to me, and it all began by listening to FEBC. I don't know how to express my feelings of joy and gratitude to you, friends. You are like family to me. In fact, we are one family in Christ.”

- Kirill, 29, from Krasnogorsk



Despite the pressure from the government, the church in Russia continues to grow. Many young people come to know Christ through FEBC and then, following our daily advice, join the fellowship of believers in their city or town.

During the next fiscal year we are focusing even more on evangelism, which is our main purpose: helping people respond to God's call to salvation.



## DYING WITHOUT GOD

“I would never have thought that I could become one of those drug addicts, but I did. It happened the way it happens to everyone – friends, interest, the first try... I am dying now, and I still cannot stop. I will die without God. I hear the stories that former drug addicts share on your station every week. I want to be one of them. I want to leave this life in the past. I want to live. Help me.”

- Vika from Pushkin, northwestern Russia

Several churches were planted in this area of northwestern Russia in the past two years. All of them began as rehab centers for young people.

As they started to heal from their addictions, their family members began attending services, and today those churches are fully functional and growing. Most of these drug rehab centers have satellite antennas, receiving and playing FEBC programs all day long.

# HEALING & JOY

## HEALING THE PAST AND CURRENT PAIN

“I was raped when I was 17 years old. As you know, no one really talks about the problems that people like me have. We are invisible, and it’s impossible to find help.

As I listened to your programs, I realized how much pain I was carrying inside. For the first time in my life, I realized that there was hope for me and that God could help me deal with this pain.

I will continue to listen to your station.”

- Elena, 35, from Moscow



Russian society prefers to cover up problems of rape and abuse. At FEBC we talk about these issues from a Biblical perspective, and people respond. Many people who suffered abuse or were abusers themselves have become believers, some accepting Christ on the air.

Pray that God draws many to Himself out of bondage of sin or pain to a life of hope and love.



## ONLINE AND SMART PHONE INITIATIVE

We are developing our ministry online and via smart phones. The statistics are telling us that during the past three years, the number of people who listen to the radio online, primarily at home or in the office, increased dramatically.

Millions of Russians, Ukrainians and Belorussians go to the Internet to listen to radio. At this point, only about one million people listened to us online. We need to reach many more! Please pray that we will be able to further utilize this technology, as mobile and high-speed Internet becomes available throughout the Slavic countries.

### OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE:

\$3,000 is needed for the next version of smart phone apps that will help listeners respond in real time, and call to our station at no cost to them or to FEBC.

\$6,000 is needed to supply the annual salary of a Ukrainian website coordinator, responsible for making FEBC’s site vibrant with several daily updates.

# NEWS & PRAYER NEEDS

## UKRAINE

The Ukrainian government is going through reorganization, staff changes, and a lot of confusion. Recently, in addition to the war in the eastern parts of the country, a wave of political murders have swept through the country. Fires in the Chernobyl area caused a lot of damage, too. Many feel that Ukraine is on the verge of a deeper crisis, if not complete disintegration.

At the same time, there are a lot of healthy forces attempting to save Ukraine. The church is being mobilized. People are turning to God.

Please pray for Ukraine. We especially need fervent, consistent prayers that the government will grant us frequencies for new stations to be opened throughout this suffering land.

Only God can make these opportunities a reality. In the next twelve months, we will be applying for several frequencies; pray for God's favor.

### OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE:

\$3,000 is needed to apply for several available frequencies.



## TWIN CITIES IN WAR ZONE

The FEBC station in Slavyansk/Kramatorsk has been restored with your help and the Lord has been using it tremendously.

**Eduard Kurilenko**, station manager, reports, "I go to the war zone every week with my chaplain friends, delivering radios, Bibles, and encouragement – thank you for helping us purchase those radios. We also distribute them to poor refugees, along with some food. Several soldiers became Christians, and we visit them regularly, helping them to continue in their faith, and sometimes bringing them to church. The churches are working together in some remarkable ways. On Easter, we had a big concert, declaring that Jesus is alive, and helping people in need. Thank you for being part of this. The wives of our fallen volunteers are now opening their homes to refugee families, helping them find eternal life in Jesus, giving them Bibles and radios. Thank you for making all of this possible and thank you for sharing in God's work as He restores broken lives in our country."

The statue of Lenin In Kramatorsk was recently dismantled. We hope that God will also remove the idols in the hearts of thousands of people and be the Lord of their lives.

### OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE:

\$1,500 is needed to fix the transmitter in Slavyansk, as it was damaged during the war  
\$2,000 is needed to provide radios and food packages to refugees; many are living in horrible conditions  
\$4,000 is needed for Ukrainian program production in Ukraine

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