

Saving Lives in Ukraine

By Victor P. Akhterov

I am writing this article on the day when Odessa station went on the air. We are overjoyed and extremely grateful to you for helping us start this station.

We had to overcome several major challenges, but we always felt that you are standing with us, in prayer and by backing this effort financially.

We are bringing hope and healing to those who live in fear.

Also today, the war in the eastern part of Ukraine is intensifying. In one day alone, in one city alone, where our broadcast is heard, there were 2,300 bomb explosions. Unknown number of people were killed, and electricity grid was damaged; many are freezing.

Once again we are reminded that God is using FEBC to bring the Good News to the people who are desperate for hope, who are afraid for the lives of their children and spouses, and who are crying for help.

I was talking to Alexey, who lives in the war zone. Alexey is a believer, but his father was not a Christian. "My Dad lived through the communist era, and then through the era of lawlessness and corruption, and now this dreadful war," said Alexey. "It seems like life did everything to exterminate his very ability to believe. Yet as

he began listening to your programs, I could see that he is coming back to life. The day when he gave his life to Christ was one of the best days of my life," said Alexey, shaking my hand – his firm grip of a coal miner expressing even more emotions than his words did.

What a privilege it is, friends, to be in one team with you and the Holy Spirit, as we get to bring life to thousands of listeners, who are being resurrected to life in the midst of dying.

We also receive multiple testimonies from military officers, thanking us for our programs. One colonel told our director in eastern Ukraine: "We need your programs for two reasons – you are not political, and there is something... unexplainable about your broadcasts, your words bring hope to our soldiers." This hardened military commander struggled to find

Military commander struggled to find words to describe the power of the Gospel.

words that would adequately describe the power of the Gospel.

Friends, I have one request: please spend at least few minutes in prayer about our Ukrainian listeners who do not know Christ.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will open their hearts for the Good News. Growing up in godless environment, the vast majority of our listeners were never prayed for by anybody. Thank you!

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

\$7,900 is needed to purchase additional equipment for Kiev and Odessa studios.



Most Ukrainian teens have never experienced the love of Christ, and FEBC is sharing the Good News with thousands of them.

Answering the Call: Rev. Ulanbek Karypov

I grew up in the final years of the former Soviet Union in Kyrgyzstan. I was a teenager when Communist ideology became unpopular.

“An elderly Kyrgyz lady once told me that the only way to true salvation was through Isa.”

Traditionally, Kyrgyz people are Muslims. However, my parents and most of my friends were not interested in religion. But that didn't stop me; I had spiritual questions that demanded answers.

Being Kyrgyz, I thought I needed to study Islam, by reading the Quran, praying, and propagating Islam to my countrymen. I wanted to get in touch with the supernatural and find purpose in life. I became “religious.”

An elderly Kyrgyz lady once told me that the only way to true salvation was through Isa (Jesus Christ). Isa forgives our sins and provides eternal life, she said. Only Isa has power over life and death. He died for us and rose again.

I was convinced and I accepted Jesus as my Savior. Indeed, that was my spiritual birth.

Ever since I was young, God wired me with an audacious personality and it often got me into trouble. As a young follower of Christ, I became very outspoken about my faith. With likeminded friends we preached the Gospel and launched fellowship groups in Bishkek and other parts of Kyrgyzstan.



Sharing Christ with listeners is the most important thing for Ulanbek.

And yet, I always felt ineffective; reaching a few, but not bringing a more significant transformation to my country. There were so many problems with my people: marital discord, alcoholism, drug abuse, abortion, domestic abuse, and much more. I was eager to make a difference. But how?

Then I thought of the power of mass media. **I became a TV talk-show host, and then the head of national television in Kyrgyzstan.** Unfortunately, my political and moral stands differed from those held by government officials. I was forced to leave.



Ulanbek with his wife Asyl and their children. “My family is God’s gift for me,” says Ulanbek. “And they fully support me in ministry.”

In hindsight, I now see that all of this was in preparation for my involvement with FEBC in Kyrgyzstan. The meeting with Rudi Wiens in Bishkek in 2011 was divine intervention.

We started our first FM station in Bishkek in May 2012, then our Issyk-Kul station in 2015, and in 2016, a third station in Toktogul. Our FM network is growing.

Currently, we cover about 1/3 of Kyrgyzstan’s population via FM radio, the entire country via satellite, and all Kyrgyz-speaking people worldwide via Internet. Our programs are family-oriented, thus giving us great opportunities to share the Gospel with the people of Kyrgyzstan.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need \$500 per month, \$6,000 per year to produce and air Ulanbek’s weekly talk-show called “Nazar” (Viewpoint).

Numbers Matter Because People Matter

In Russia, the evangelical movement is going through a difficult time. The consequences of the anti-missionary law are staggering, from court-mandated confiscation of Bibles to criminal persecution of Christian rehab center leaders. Missionaries are cast out of the country. Anti-evangelical propaganda on state TV has never been harsher.

The church, however, is not giving up. Evangelistic efforts continue, and Christians are doing everything they can to protect their rights to share their faith.

We reached four million people by social networks.

FEBC is doubling their efforts in sharing the Good News with the people of Russia. Our goal is not to simply broadcast, but pay attention to the numbers, and engage as many non-Christian listeners as we can.

In the past 12 months, we reached more than 4 million people through our social network initiative.

More than 600,000 people responded to our programs.

Almost 300,000 people downloaded our programs. 1.5 million people listened to us on the new platforms, online.

Overall, more than 3 million people listened to our programs.

The most important statistic for me, however, is responses. Not simply “likes” – there are millions of those, but phone calls and messages where people shared their pain, told us about their newfound faith and opened up about their fears. Here are some of those responses.

“Here in our Siberian cities there are very few evangelical Christians. That’s why I tell all my non-Christian friends to listen to FEBC broadcasts. There are more than a dozen people to whom I talked about your programs.”
– *Elena, 33*



“When my daughter was born, I began thinking about the meaning of life. It was then that I discovered your programs and began thinking about God. You taught me how to pray to Him, showed me to trust Him, even though I am just making baby steps in my faith journey.”
– *Alexandr, 31*



“I never knew anything about Jesus until I began listening to your programs. I got hooked. As far as I know, no one in my school knows anything about God, let alone experience God the way I have listening to your programs online.”
– *Semyon, 16*

1.5 million people listened to us online, using new platforms.

“Yesterday I was baptized in our church. As we were celebrating our commitment to Christ, having dinner with friends, I was thinking how wonderful the plan of God was for my life. He stirred someone’s heart to create a Christian radio station, he inspired people to finance it, and eventually I became a listener, one of many thousands. I only hope that I can become a part of His plan to save someone else.”
– *Zhanna, 41*

Friends, in the past 12 months, we received more than 600,000 such responses. There are real individuals behind these numbers.

We praise God for every person who was moved to call or write us. Please pray that God will save many of them.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need additional \$5,000 to take full advantage of new broadcast platforms in Russia and Ukraine.

LISTENERS RESPOND TO FAMILY PROGRAMS:

IRINA



“I am 22 years old. We were married two years ago, and today there is no love between us. I am not blaming my husband for everything, I also made a lot of mistakes. I think the problem is that we are completely non-compatible. As a result, I feel like I am imprisoned in this family.

I am frightened by the thought of divorce, but I don't love my husband. Everyone says that I am still young and I can build a new family with someone else. My problem is that I don't know how to build a family. I began listening to FEBC just recently, and you seem to be the only source of thoughtful information about family life.

As I listen to you, I realize that I need to change a lot in my life to move forward, and one of the things I need to change is to start at least thinking about God. Before I began listening to you, I never prayed to God. Maybe this is the root of my problem?”

The lack of meaningful or Bible-based help materials for family life is a serious problem in Russia. FEBC is helping thousands of families by providing Christ-centered practical information to listeners, most of whom are not familiar with the Bible.

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ANTON

“When you talked about long-term caretakers, about burnout, about the way we can share the load with others and with God, I was sitting by the radio, and crying. For years we've been taking care of our daughter, and it feels that no one understands. Thank you, thank you, thank you, dear friends!”

We have the only weekly program in the country that helps parents deal with their special needs children. The host of the program, Igor, is a Bible teacher and a father of a child with special needs.



OLGA

“My husband has been abusing me for a long time, but he never hit me hard. Last month, he lost control and beat me as though I was his enemy. The worst thing was that our children saw how he hit me. Lying on the floor, in tears and in blood, I met my daughters eyes—I never felt more humiliated and powerless.

We moved out for couple weeks, and now my husband says that we should move back together and things will be different. I am terrified of him. And I am afraid to divorce him as well. Most of all, I don't know how to be with my daughter, how do I explain to her what happened?

In one of your recent programs you talked about abuse, and how to deal with it. Please, help me make the right decision.”

While true statistics are difficult to find, by most conservative estimates, Russian women are killed four times more often at home, than women in North America. Millions suffer from daily physical abuse. While this is a problem that has many aspects, we at FEBC focus on leading men and women to Christ.