

## PEOPLE LEADING PEOPLE TO CHRIST

*By Victor P. Akhterov*

In the past two years we experienced a huge transformation in Russia – from AM radio to online outreach.

Our listeners became closer to us, and they increased in number. Every month we are now reaching more than a million people online.



In the past 12 months multiple teen suicides were prevented through FEBC-Russia's ministry.

And since it is so easy to respond through smartphones and computers, they do so in great numbers.

Every month we receive more than **30,000 responses**. While many of them are simple “thank yous” or comments, thousands of people need help.

The response has especially increased in the past six months, and we need more people, both FEBC counselors and volunteers to listen and lead them to Christ.

*“I am raising my children by myself, and I was desperate, utterly without hope until I heard your programs...”*

*“I began listening to your programs, and I realized I have no idea what it is to be a believer, a Christian. Can I talk to someone?”*

*“My son is in prison. I've never prayed before but am praying for him now. Please teach me how to pray properly.”*

Friends, it's responses like these that we cannot leave unattended. These people need help, and we've discovered that it's after one-on-one counseling that people give their lives to Christ.

Following just one broadcast that offered after-program counseling for a few months, more than 160 listeners gave their lives to Christ and began attending local evangelical churches.



**Vlad Iurtov:** “Please pray for all the listeners we are getting in touch with. We depend on the Holy Spirit every time we talk to them.”



**Victor Akhterov:**

God surprised us with a huge “problem”: thousands of people began responding to us every month.

So, we are meeting this challenge by investing in the ministry of several experienced counselors/evangelists, who will be working with our listeners online and over the phone, depending on the need and listener's preference. The first fruits of this decision are already coming in – more people are making decisions for Christ.

The second step is to significantly widen our volunteer network. We have begun working with dozens of potential evangelists, which is a challenging process. We want all our volunteers to be able to truly minister to people and draw them to Christ. Please pray for these efforts.

### YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

Please prayerfully consider contributing to the **FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS** as we are leading people to Jesus Christ.

# PROFILES: Oleg from Russia, Dmitry from Ukraine

## Meet the people on our team >>>

### OLEG CHERNY ENGINEER, ADMINISTRATOR

Growing up in a family of an army commissar, an ideology officer, **Oleg** knew next to nothing about Jesus...that is, until his dad became an FEBC listener. “We used to listen to FEBC on the old army radio,” remembers Oleg. “FEBC broadcasters stressed the importance of finding a church, which we did in a town not far from our military compound.” It was a small, but very welcoming evangelical church with a Mennonite background, and Oleg and later his parents accepted Christ there.

[We consider you, our supporters, to be part of the family. Please get to know our key team members.](#)

After completing his studies at a Bible college and a technical university in 1995, Oleg joined FEBC as a broadcaster and technician... and never left. Today, he's FEBC's main engineer for Russia and Ukraine, and carries the load of administrative responsibilities. He lives in Moscow and travels extensively.

Oleg's wife **Natalia** is a doctor who serves in a school and preschool; kids have nicknamed her “*painless vaccine*,” because she is good with needles.

Their daughter **Julia** loves reading, preferably fantasy, and the book must be a paper version with illustrations; if there are no drawings, she illustrates the books herself.

“My dad is the most optimistic, joyful person I know,” says Oleg. “He is full of faith and joy even now, as he goes through his cancer treatments. He's right in the middle of his chemotherapy course now; please pray for him and my mom.”

Oleg is the most experienced engineer in FEBC's post-Soviet countries. He equips new stations, develops new media tools such as smart phone apps, and lends his voice to multiple radio projects.

“Someone recently said to me that it's difficult to preach the Gospel today, and it might be true,” said Oleg. “But it is even more difficult to keep silent as millions are dying without Christ.”



“I am blessed to have a part in a ministry that is drawing thousands to the Lord.”

### DMITRY IGNATENKO VOLUNTEER

Dmitry just received another award: the best judo judge in Ukraine. He loves training children; among his students there are several young Olympians.

“I also love fishing, riding horses, climbing mountains, and parachute jumping,” says Dmitry, “but my most happy moments are the ones spent with my wife **Alyona** and our children, **Daniil** and **Arina**.”

Humorous, dynamic, lively, optimistic – Dmitry feels at home in FEBC studios. He has co-hosted dozens of our programs, and is happy to tell listeners why entrusting his life to Christ ten years ago was the best decision he ever made.

“I am not a preacher, but my passion is to share the Gospel...radio is a perfect fit for me. I laugh with my listeners, motivate them, and share the love of Jesus with them,” says Dmitry. “Most of them are like me ten years ago - knowing next to nothing about Jesus and why He came.”

God has gifted Dmitry in a special way, so he can relate to his fellow Ukrainians and draw them to the saving faith in Jesus Christ.



“By using new technologies, we are amplifying the voices of our broadcasters, so million, not thousands, can hear the Gospel.”

# Our Listeners Respond >>>

## AUTISM AND GOD'S LOVE

**Rev. Igor Popov** is the father of an autistic child and the host of a program for parents with children struggling with health and mental challenges. He received this letter after one of the programs, from Sergey:



“Once I asked my wife: ‘What can I do to make sure that you are happy?’ She answered with tears in her eyes: ‘**Make our boy whole.**’ Our son has autism. He doesn’t speak. I heard you talking about autism and wanted to switch off the program, because this is our pain. However, as I listened to your guest, who was sharing

his story of working with his special needs child, I found myself whispering ‘thank you.’ No one gives us hope, any kind of hope.”

Pastor Igor wrote to Sergey and shared his own story of struggles, failures, and victories while raising their autistic daughter, who only recently began speaking in simple sentences. Five weeks later Pastor Igor received another letter from the same listener. Sergey wrote:

“Thank you for sharing your life with me. I became your regular listener, and I can’t tell you how much support you are giving me and my wife. We feel that someone finally understands us, that someone cares. Before we became your listeners, we felt forgotten by everyone and utterly alone. **As I read your letter with my wife, we cried together. And that day we prayed together for the first time in our lives.** Something changed in us. Now we start every day by praying together. We still know very little about God, but we feel that He is giving us power to love our son. Thank you for that.”



## ADOPTION: NEW HAPPY MOTHER

Our *Excellent Family* project is designed for people who want to – or have – adopted children.



This February the country was shocked again by a story from Siberia, where children from an orphanage were continuously abused sexually. We do all we can to encourage godly people to take children into their families. **Olga** responded to one of our programs and we visited her to record the interview. This is her story:

“My husband and I could not have children, and I poured myself into my work. I became successful at my business. We travelled the world, and everything was great, but I still wanted to be a mom. By accident I heard one of your programs online and decided to listen to all of them. **What an education it was, and what an inspiration!**”

“We decided to adopt. From your programs, we knew that one of the least adoptable children in Russia are the children of migrants from Central Asia, and we decided to adopt such a child.”



As we were visiting with Olga, her adopted baby, **Alina**, woke up. They didn’t look like mother and child at all – a blond blue-eyed mom and darker skinned baby with amazing big black eyes. As soon as Olga picked Alina up, it was obvious that they are bonded by love that can only be expressed by a child hugging her mom.

“I hope we can show Alina-at least in part-what it means to be loved by our Heavenly Father,” said Olga.

We hope the same happens for thousands of adopted Russian, Ukrainian, and Central Asian children.

# MINISTRY NEWS AND PRAYER NEEDS

## REACHING TEENS

Russia is leading the world in teen suicide. We are preparing a series of programs for Russian teenagers, produced by a Christian journalist who has years of experience working with troubled youth and those who've been imprisoned as teens. Please pray that many teens will find new life in Jesus Christ.



## KIEV EVANGELISM CENTER

Please continue to pray for FEBC's efforts to raise funds needed for the Evangelism Center in Kiev, Ukraine, as we need the space to produce programs, videos, and "live" broadcasts from Kiev, for Ukraine and Russia. We hope to be relocated to the new facilities by September, but we need more funds to be able to afford space needed for effective ministry.



**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](mailto:russia@febc.org) • [russia.febc.org](http://russia.febc.org)

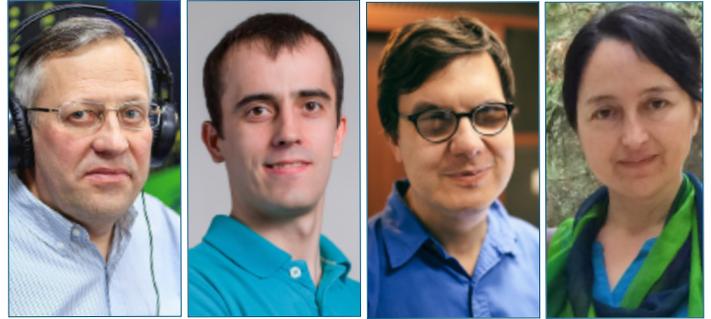
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In Australia: FEBC, P. O. Box 183, Caringbah NSW 1495  
In New Zealand: VoF, P. O. Box 620, Masterton, NZ 5915  
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## PRAY FOR OUR COUNSELORS

As we are engaging with a new follow-up initiative, we are beginning to work with several committed and experienced counselors.

**Svetlana Sarapulova** is working with her husband Eugene Sarapulov; his daily program receives the largest number of responses. Svetlana lives in Moscow; she and Eugene have four children.

**Alex Pastushak** has several years of experience evangelizing people online. He led many to Jesus by corresponding with them and connecting them to a local fellowship of believers throughout Russia and Ukraine. Alex graduated from a university and a seminary in Kiev. He lives in Chernivtsy, Ukraine.

**Natalia Bradarskaya** has been counseling FEBC listeners for more than three years now. Natalia is the widow of Victor, who became a martyr for Christ in Eastern Ukraine three years ago.

**Vald Iurtov** is one of our broadcasters in St. Petersburg; he's an effective follow-up evangelist who has led many to Christ.

**Rev. Sergey Hohlovsky** has a vast experience counseling people on and off the air. Recently he had some health challenges. Please pray for his full recovery.

Please pray for all of these and many new evangelists and counselors who are working with our listeners who need help.



DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR:  
**RUSSIA.FEBC.ORG**