

Seeing Death Up Close Makes Me Cherish Life

By Mikhail Sidorenko

My grandfather was one of four people who established our church in Slavyansk, and was imprisoned for it. This was soon after WWII when the evangelical movement spread through Ukraine; in many ways it was the result of the war: often, in the midst of personal and family tragedies, people shared the Gospel with one another.

I never thought that I would see war myself. I am a violin player, and making music is highly preferable to me. So when war came to our town three years ago, I could not believe it. Since a music teacher's salary is low, I was working as a night guard at a factory. At night, I witnessed armed rebels putting mines around the factory. One of them shot at me, trying to scare me off. I felt a sharp pain in my leg; the wound was superficial.

I left my hometown the next day, and went to Kiev, the capital of



Mikhail Sr. and Mikhail Jr.
God is working through generations.



Mikhail and Anastasia are united in their desire to help Ukrainians find Christ.

Ukraine, to find work. For the next year that I lived there, God has been working on my heart. I knew **I didn't want to be a regular Christian.** The example of my grandfather and people who were evangelizing in the midst of the military conflict now inspired me to become involved in the most important thing we can do in our lives – help others meet the Lord.

When I returned to Slavyansk, I fell in love and married Anastasia, who is also a musician. Our married life is amazing – we are learning a lot about each other, and God is helping us build our family. One thing that is uniting us is our desire to serve God, to actually do something for Him and the people who are suffering around us.

And that's the reason I am with FEBC. It is such a joy for me to be able to commit everything I can – technical skills, musical abilities, and my passion for people who are dying without Jesus.

When I meet people whose lives were changed by the power of Christ through radio, I feel grateful to be a part of this innovative, committed, and Christ-centered team. And I am grateful to you for supporting us.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need \$1,300 monthly to support FEBC-Ukraine's team of technicians, accountants and other support staff who make sure that our programs reach listeners.



Mikhail takes care of the equipment on several FEBC stations and produces several programs.

“HAPPINESS”: *War and Peace in One*

It was the beginning of spring: cherry trees were in full bloom all over town. My father had been recently released from Soviet prison, where he spent five years for organizing and co-leading a church.

His dream was no longer to find a job as a scientist; he needed a job at a factory so he could feed his family. He was not allowed to live in a large city where he would more likely find work. I was the fifth child in the family, a newborn, and all of us lived in a tiny house with my grandma in her village.



FEBC volunteer sharing the Gospel on the streets of Shastya

In utter desperation, my father went up to the attic and cried out to God...

In utter desperation, my dad went up to the attic to find some solitude and cried out to God: “Lord, please let me solve this situation; I must provide for my family!” As he came down the stairs, someone knocked at the door. It was a friend from church who suggested a way out – we could live in a small town that was right next to a large city, and my father could travel to the city to work. The name of the town



Many parents in Shastya tell us their children cannot sleep through the night

was Shastya, or “Happiness.”

Now, 50 years later, the town of Happiness is devastated. Hundreds of homes have been destroyed by the war, and hundreds of residents killed. Many people left the town, but most have nowhere to run. Desperation and lack of hope is the daily reality for the people of Happiness, adjacent to the large city of Luhansk, which is controlled by the rebels.

The government established a small radio station for the city of Happiness when someone gave them a good transmitter. While trying to determine what they should broadcast, they talked to a military

commander who said, “We’re all tired of politics here, and another music station will not be helpful, either. We want this new station, FEBC radio, where they talk about real life, the purpose of it, and Jesus.”

That’s how a new station was born in the city of Happiness (104.8 FM), where there are 15,000 potential listeners who are desperate for hope.

As I write this update, our Happiness station has been on the air for a week, and we already have some responses coming in.

Sharing Good News with people who see death every day is an awesome responsibility.

Evgen said, “I am so glad we have a good, thoughtful radio station here. Our people lived through hell and are still suffering greatly. My neighbor’s house has been destroyed – luckily, no one was killed, but they had to escape. We need some hope, we need faith to survive here, and FEBC is



The past three years have been defined by war for the people of Shastya

Ukrainian Town

by Victor P. Akhterov

providing just that.”

Anna shared her thoughts with one of our volunteers: “I am a teacher, and I need to give my fifth-graders some encouragement. As I began listening to FEBC, I discovered dozens of encouraging, deep, and life-giving conversations. Thank you.”

As we broadcast into the territories of eastern Ukraine, we deal with listeners whose lives have been forever altered by the military conflict. Yet they don’t want us to simply grieve with them. They want to be uplifted; they want new hope and new life. And many are beginning to realize that Jesus is that new life that they are searching for.

God is the God of miracles. As He touched the lives of my parents fifty years ago, He’s touching the lives of people suffering in eastern Ukraine today. Thank you for being part of the miracle of seeing lives changed through FEBC by God’s grace.



Victor P. Akhterov
Director
FEBC Russia & Ukraine

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need \$250 monthly to continue broadcasting in Shastya. We also need \$7,000 to develop broadcasting in other Ukrainian cities before this Fall.

Listeners Respond

To Evgeny Sarapulov’s Programs

Every morning, **Dr. Evgeny Sarapulov** creates a two-hour experience for FEBC listeners, helping them to wake up, think, and cope with life. This is a pre-evangelistic program that touches on many aspects of life, but all of it is Christ-centered. Here are a few responses to Eugene’s programs.



Aigul, 26. “My mother and I have been listening to your program for the past two years. You saved her life, literally. She was in deep depression, did not want to live, but your program pulled her back to life. She even started praying to your Christian God. We are Muslims, but I don’t care who she prays to; I am just glad that she is alive once again.”

Svetlana, 33. “I always thought I was a strong woman, able to solve my own problems. Then the war came to our Ukrainian city. And a different kind of war came into my family. I discovered that my strength is not enough. Far from it; I felt broken and hopeless. At that time I discovered your programs online. At first, I thought you are this crazy positive host who just says some good things. But after a couple of weeks of listening, I can see that you use the power of God. I was never religious, but as I listen to your programs, I know God is real.”



Lola, 28. “I am a single mom, and am overweight. Guys are not interested in me. One day I noticed that my apathy about life had become a full-blown depression. I found your programs online by pure accident, but as I listened to the answers you offer listeners, I began changing my life. I also noticed that you are not simply smart, you actually care about people. I don’t know what it is; maybe it is your childlike (forgive me, I can’t find a better word) faith in God that gives you this incredible energy.”

Multiple teen suicides were averted because of Evgeny’s programs.

Anna, 48. “Listening to you today, I received answers to some issues that have been troubling me for years. I sometimes feel alone, because my son lives far away, in Moscow, and my daughter even farther, in Germany. My husband died at a young age, while saving my son. Well, that’s life: I am not complaining. I am writing to tell you that I began praying and seeking God because I listen to you. Thank you.”

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need additional \$5,000 to help prepare and distribute Evgeny’s 2-hr daily program through different radio and Internet platforms.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE REQUESTS:

IN THE LINE OF FIRE

Please pray for the people who live close to the military action and can now listen to FEBC programs. There are more than a million potential listeners in that region, most of whom have never heard a coherent presentation of the Good News. Specifically, please pray for those listeners who lost their loved ones in this conflict.



NEW STRATEGIES

In Russia, FEBC is adapting a new strategy, now using multiple channels to offer online and on-air broadcasting. These include renting time on radio networks, operating several different websites, and broadcasting on several online networks that attract tens of thousands of listeners. Pray that we will be able to reach millions of Russians despite new government restrictions. Currently, freedom of religion in Russia is facing more and more constraints.

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Please make checks payable to:

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SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Please pray for Rev. Alexey Vlasikhin, FEBC-Russia's program director. A son of a KGB officer who was converted in his youth and is now a talented Bible teacher, Alexey is working with a team of programmers to make sure we achieve our two-fold goal: Gain a large audience and lead many to Christ. Working from St. Petersburg and Moscow, he also frequently travels to Ukraine to support our team there.



NEW SIBERIAN LISTENERS

Please pray for FEBC's ministry in Siberia, where we broadcast several hours per day on multiple FM stations. Pray that the freedom for us to do so will continue. Specifically, pray for new listeners who are tuning in. Many people in Siberia are suspicious of the evangelical faith, often viewing it the same way the government does, as a sect.

