

Best Christmas Present: New FM Stations!

In 2017 it will be the 100-year anniversary of the Russian Revolution. It seems like the country is moving back to those times in some ways: Political and economic uncertainty, lack of freedom. Many declare their Russian Orthodox faith, but very few people actually believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

FEBC is broadcasting on the new network in Siberia. Praise God!

As we announce the miracle of Christmas, we are connecting people to local Christ-centered churches. It is becoming more and more difficult to evangelize in Russia, but we are using every opportunity we can. And God opens new doors for us!

We are beginning broadcasting via an FM network of stations in the Siberian region of Tomsk. This is not our network, but we have a good deal which will result in many new listeners hearing the Good News. We will be on in the following cities: Asino, Seversk, Melnikovo, Strezhevoy, Nizhnevartovsk, and Tomsk, with a combined population of more than 1 million people.

This is a miracle beyond anything we hoped for. This is a clear answer to your prayers and the prayers of Russian believers for new opportunities to broadcast the Good News.

Online listener, Egor from Tomsk, wrote to us: **“I became a believer because I listened to your online broadcasts. I am so glad that your programs will be heard now on several FM stations here in Tomsk.** Praise God! I know that many will follow Christ now!”

Ukraine is wide open for evangelism, but the very future of this war-torn country is uncertain.

However, God is opening new doors for us here as well. We have received permission to build a station in Kramatorsk, in addition to the one in Odessa. FEBC broadcasts on 99.0 FM will be on the air soon!

Kramatorsk is the new center of the Donetsk region, and is right on the border with the rebel territory.

We will be bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to people on both sides of the conflict.



Because of these new stations, millions of families will be able to hear the Good News in Siberia and in war-torn Eastern Ukraine.

FEBC is building a new station in Kramatorsk, Ukraine!

Hundreds of thousands of soldiers, refugees, and people who lost their loved ones to war will be able to hear the healing words of Jesus: “Come to Me... I will give you rest.”

What a great Christmas present!

You can see videos of both Kramatorsk and Odessa on russia.febc.org.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need \$2,400 per month to broadcast in six Siberian cities.

\$9,000 is still needed to launch 99.0 FM in Kramatorsk.

Father-Son Program Changes Lives

by Victor Akhterov

I was privileged to teach a group of students in St. Petersburg. Right before my session they spent a week with a master teacher, Vladimir Sarapulov; students talked about him non-stop.



Vladimir Sarapulov:

“Helping people rebuilt their father-son relationships is a privilege. But helping them build a relationship with the Heavenly Father is pure joy. Than you, friends, for making our ministry possible.”

Vladimir was the twelfth child in his family. They lived deep in Siberia, right after WWII.

“My parents decided they must provide at least one of the children with a decent education, and I was the lucky one.” He became one of the most decorated teachers and university professors in the region. “But my life was a mess,” he shared. “I was not a good husband or a good father. But everything began changing when my younger son, Evgeny, became a Christian.”

As a cadet in the military KGB school, Evgeny was listening to FEBC broadcasts, thinking that it was a nonsensical religion for naive, week people. It was several years later when he said yes to Jesus.

Today, Evgeny Sarapulov is one of

FEBC-Russia’s most popular broadcasters. “**My main goal is to help people like me, people who grew up in a non-Christian environment, to discover who Jesus is.**” That’s 96% of the population of Russia.

Evgeny broadcasts two hours every day, helping his listeners understand what it means to be a Christian today. And listeners respond - different circumstances, different ages. **Vika, 5** wrote: “When we go to sleep, my Mom lays down with me, and we listen to your program for a while. You are so happy that sometimes I want to jump for joy, too, instead of sleep. We did not know about God before, but now I pray to Him all the time. Especially at night when I am scared.”

Another group that Evgeny reaches is young people on Periscope, a new system online. He started doing this only recently, and already has more than 45,000 subscribers, and millions of likes. And dozens of testimonies from teens who were suicidal but found new hope for living in Jesus.

Russia holds the first place in the world for teen suicide.

Svetlana wrote to us saying that her teenage daughter was suicidal since the age of 12. Kids were making fun of her at school.

Dozens of testimonies from suicidal teens who found Jesus.

And then someone told her about Evgeny’s programs on Periscope. She became a fan, started asking questions, invited others to listen. Svetlana wrote to Evgeny, “My husband died several years ago in a terrorist attack, and you became a father figure not only for my daughter, but for her friends as well.” Svetlana and her daughter knew nothing about Christ, but recently they decided to visit a church, together.

Continued on page 4.



Evgeny Sarapulov:

“The vast majority of Russian people grew up in families where faith was never discussed. While people know little about the Gospel, they long for God’s love, for His truth. We help them meet the Lord.”

Helping Orphans in Russia & Ukraine

For many years now, FEBC has been active in helping Russian and Ukrainian families adopt orphans. Most of them are “social orphans,” children of unfit parents.

“I’m the happiest person alive because I made a commitment to follow Jesus.”

Every such tragedy is complex, and often the system treats these children more harshly than their abusive families. We work to help godly families take children in by becoming adoptive, or long-term foster care parents. When possible, we help keep families together. Maria, a Christian from Moscow, was helping a single mother with a drinking problem raise her four kids. Our experts helped her



Even the best government facilities cannot provide a healthy family experience for abandoned children. Each of the children pictured have a history of abuse.

Some were abandoned because they are the “wrong race.” One was severely beaten by a drunken father. One girl said, “I have never been hugged before.”

We mobilize the church to be there for these kids.



We often help orphaned children meet potential adoptive parents during weekend outings.

become a foster guardian without revoking her parental rights.

Tatyana Vaganova, who hosts the *Excellent Family* program in Moscow says, “We do all we can to help millions of families who are on the verge of being disintegrated, to keep their marriages together.” We also provide a lot of practical, down-to-earth support to those who want to adopt. However, this is a life-changing decision not only for the orphans, but for the families. Recently, we helped a couple become a foster family because their teenage daughter was not yet ready for an adopted sibling. Our hosts and experts are careful, experienced, and passionate.

In Ukraine, our missionary **Vladimir Savenkov** zealously promotes adoption on the radio. He and his wife **Elena** became foster and adoptive parents to six children. Vladimir also serves children who still live in orphanages. His biggest reward is when those orphans come to know Christ.

Last week, he received the news from Maxim, who was taken from his family when he was seven. His alcoholic father was also deeply involved with occult teachings.

“I just learned that Maxim, now 17, was just baptized in water, and is the most active teen in his youth group,” said Vladimir.

Recently his adopted daughter received an e-mail from her classmate. Yuri used to be the most disruptive kid in our orphanage Bible study group. He wrote, “I’m the happiest person alive because I just made a commitment to follow Jesus. Please thank your father for believing that God’s Word will get to us one day.”

Our goal is to help people become followers of Christ. While pursuing this goal, we help save families. And we help abandoned, abused, and unloved children find new, loving homes.



Vladimir Savenkov:

“Helping orphans accept the love of the Father is what I live for. Thank you for helping us bring this message to millions.”

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need \$1,400 per month to produce and broadcast the *Excellent Family* program in Russia and Ukraine.

Father-Son Program Saves Lives

Continued from Page 3

The most popular program that Evgeny does is when he invites his father, Vladimir, to be with him on the program. These father-son dialogues help thousands of Russian people understand how to communicate, how fathers and sons can talk to each other, and, most importantly, how important it is to seek God, for He can be found, in Jesus.

Vladimir Sarapulov, who wrote several books, says, “The fact that I was a far from perfect father helps listeners identify with us. Like most Russians, I drank a lot as my children were growing up. But people see Jesus’ healing power in our relationship, as we talk on the air. It is still not perfect, of course, but listeners comment that they feel love and understanding, and acceptance and wisdom, as we talk. I am grateful to God that He lets me do this with my son.”

Friends, there is nothing better in life than being used by God, and both Vladimir and Evgeny expressed this feeling to me. But we cannot minister without you. Those teens who are being pulled out of the devil’s grasp of death are alive today because you support the ministry of FEBC. Thank you for doing your part, giving power to the voice of the Church in Russia.



- Victor Akhterov
Director of FEBC Russian Ministries

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YOUTH: HONEST DIALOG

Every Tuesday in a small studio in Moscow, Oleg Shevkun, FEBC-Russia’s senior broadcaster, sits down with several non-Christian students to read the Bible and talk about their reactions on air.

All of the students had very little exposure to Christianity, so they started at the beginning in the Old Testament, then the New Testament and just recently went through the Sermon on the Mount passages in the Gospels.

Speaking on the audience and style of the program, Oleg says, **“They just want someone to talk to them and talk with them. That’s where we married the Internet with talk radio.”**

On a recent program in which the woman at the well was being discussed, one of our students said, “Man, this Jesus, He always surprises me. The things He’s doing are totally unexpected; it’s not what I would think to do.”

Oleg chuckled and said, “We share a few things in common here—He surprises me just as much, in fact, He’s been surprising me for the last 30 years of my Christian life. And that’s a great place to start.”

With the loss of some of our FM broadcast licenses due to the newest government restrictions, it could be seen as step back, but broadcasters like Oleg are looking towards the growing Internet audience. These are the types of new programs that are on the horizon for FEBC Russia.

Programs like these prepare atheists, seekers and non-believers in general for conversations with Christians, and in the long-term: salvation.

