

Kiev Media Evangelism Center

By Victor P. Akhterov

I got out of the taxi after a heartbreaking conversation with the driver, who was a war veteran. This young man, hardened by war, broke down when I asked if I could pray for him. “No one has ever offered me this in my 28 years,” he said. “And I need it, I need it,” he kept repeating. It was the night that Ukraine was celebrating the 1029th anniversary of Russia and Ukraine accepting Christianity. I decided to walk down Khreshatyk, the main street of Kiev.

Our goal is to have a series of deep conversations about Jesus with 5 million Ukrainians.

The name of this street comes from the word baptism, and it was in the Dnipro River that the first Christians were baptized. Suddenly, I heard screams and a group of about a hundred young people with bottles and rocks began running towards me; they were chased by police who were shooting into the air.

This firsthand experience is a microcosm of Ukraine: rich history, struggles for a better future, pain, and hunger for a living faith.

Very recently, we opened a new, fifth FM station in Ukraine, and hope to establish a couple more in 2018.

This is only one part of our development strategy. Applying lessons learned from our ministry in Russia where one broadcaster alone had 1.2 million online listeners last month, we are planning to introduce a new strategic initiative, increasing our efforts in online broadcasting.

Our goal is to “touch” half of the population of Ukraine in the next 12 years, and have a full, meaningful, Christ-centered conversation with 5 million Ukrainians.

These are ambitious goals and we are **praying fervently about them**. To successfully reach them, we need the following: a passionate team, a functional technical base, and adequate space.

Our team is focused and excited about changing Ukraine for Christ.



The vast majority of Ukrainian children were never introduced to the Gospel. We must fill the gap.

At this point we have all the equipment needed, thanks to your response to the Kiev Broadcast Center campaign. This includes not only the equipment for the studio in Kiev, but also communication lines that connect all our studios and stations. Thank you! This is a huge accomplishment that prepares us for the next stage.

Over, please...



The statue of Vladimir the Great, who baptized Kievan Rus' in these waters, reminds of a great historical event. Today, the people Ukraine need to discover who Jesus is.

Kiev Media Evangelism Center

Continued from page 1.

However, the space that we are currently renting is limited – we have two little rooms on a second floor of a building that is in a remote area, measuring only 320 sq. ft. From the beginning, this was only a temporary arrangement.

During the past two years we have been monitoring the market, as well as the general economic and political situation in Ukraine, consulting with local Christian leaders and the leaders of FEBC-International, and after much prayer, we decided to seek support to purchase a building for FEBC-Ukraine in Kiev.

We believe that the next few months will be **the best time to buy our own building in Kiev.**

Here are a few reasons.

1. We need more space to achieve our goals in Ukraine. This means that we should have three studios: broadcast, recording, and *online* broadcast studios, as well as working space for broadcasters and tech personnel. Small space is hindering the work as we attempt to use new technologies.

2. We will need a larger space if the situation in Russia becomes more restrictive; we are already monitoring opportunities to broadcast to Russia from Ukraine. **Several ministries serving Russia have already relocated to Ukraine.**

3. We need enough space to become a center for Christian evangelistic activity in Kiev. We are constantly inviting leaders from the evangelical community to empower them to share the Gospel with their countrymen. We also invite government officials and influential people of Ukraine to our office, as we invest in promoting the evangelical church, to be seen as a positive force in Ukraine's society.

4. Economic conditions are perfect for buying. The prices have been coming down approximately 10% a year for the past three years, and it seems like prices are slowly starting to pick up.

5. **Politically, Ukraine is much safer than Russia.** Thousands of properties are purchased in Kiev every year, so it is seen as a safe space in the entire region.



There are millions of people living in Ukrainian cities who have inexpensive high-speed Internet access. We must do all we can to reach them.



The number of suicides among Ukrainian teens grew sharply in the past three years. We need to tell this generation about God's love.

We don't have a big foundation backing us, nor do we have a generous sponsor. We are approaching this carefully, and in total dependence on the Lord to provide the needed resources. We trust that He will provide.

If you'd like to help us build FEBC's Kiev Media Evangelism Center, please support us with your prayers and, if God leads you, please contribute towards this goal.



Dr. Victor Akhterov
is the director of
FEBC Russia & Ukraine

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need to raise **\$65,000** before the end of the year to make the first steps in purchasing the building. Please prayerfully consider participating in this project.

Christ to the Kazakh People by Media

Ruslan Zhakupov

I was raised in an atheistic family where any consideration of God was seen as an expression of weakness and lack of education. We were so brainwashed that I only believed in things I could see. In my childhood, I even had dreams of helping people fight evil and propagate Communism. While growing up, I learned that life is more complicated, and the entire idea of Communism is naive and unrealistic.



“My people need Jesus.”
Ruslan in Almaty studio.

During my university studies, I often thought about the meaning of life. I searched in every direction possible. Being a Kazakh, I had to look to Islam as well. I was sure that somewhere I would find some answers to many of my questions.

Finally, I met some followers of Jesus. They possessed a deep level of indescribable joy. Basically, I ended up listening more and more to them and became convinced about the truth in Jesus. I accepted Jesus as my Savior and Lord and felt newly born. I could sense Jesus accepting me and telling me that He is the One I was looking for and the life I needed.

I became quite an active follower of Jesus, sharing the Good News with

**It is our responsibility
to serve Jesus by
helping others.**

others around me. I knew that Jesus was the answer to people’s problems. As followers of Jesus, the challenge is to explain how He is the solution to all problems, not the promises of politicians who have no real answers to life. It is our responsibility to serve Jesus by helping others.

A couple of years ago I met Rudi Wiens and his team here in Almaty. Their vision to impact Kazakh society with the Christ-centered message of salvation and life via radio became very close to my heart.

Besides my present participation in the leadership of FEBC Kazakhstan, I now also do a weekly talk-show called “Almaty in My Heart.” Of course, we talk a lot about the problems in our society, trying to find godly answers to many questions. I

am trying to reach out to listeners who do have some opportunity to influence and impact society.

Recently, I had a businessman as guest on my talk show. We talked about the challenges of being successful at business.

How to make living is a big issue on the minds of most people, thus it ended up to be a very useful broadcast. Of course, our prayer is that within all those talks we can introduce the Good News of true salvation and life in Christ.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need \$500 per month,
\$6,000 per year to produce
and air Ruslan’s weekly talk-
show called
“Almaty in my heart.”



Ruslan and Ainur are celebrating their 20th anniversary this year. They feel blessed by God with their three children: Aizhan, Arslan and Alikhan.

MINISTRY NEWS AND PRAYER NEEDS

LISTENER RESPONSES

We received more than 52,000 responses this summer. People ask for prayer, young people are seeking advice on how to move forward in life and wondering about the meaning of life, and many are asking why they should continue living. Most responses come in the form of text messages. Many people are calling, sharing their pain and seeking council. Please pray for thousands of people in need of finding Jesus.



GRADUAL LOSS OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Dozens of evangelical Christians were fined for sharing the Gospel online and many Christian camps were closed. Numerous Christian organizations were inspected by district attorneys and the police; FEBC was among them, again. We are still continuing to bring the Good News to millions of Russian people. Please pray for freedom, while limited, to continue through the critical 2018 election year.

SIBERIAN OUTREACH

Please pray for thousands of listeners living in Siberia. We are reaching them through several FM stations and special online projects. Pray that many throughout the vast lands of Siberia would be able to find salvation in Jesus.

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 • russia.febc.org

Photos used in FEBC RM Update are not always of actual listeners for purposes of privacy and security.

In Canada: FEBCanada, 3200-8888 Odlin Crescent, Richmond, B.C. V6X 3Z8 - make cheques payable to FEBCanada
In Australia: FEBC, P. O. Box 183, Caringbah NSW 1495
In New Zealand: VoF, P. O. Box 620, Masterton, NZ 5915
In UK: Feba, Ivy Arch Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 8BX
In South Africa: FEBA radio, P. O. Box 26270, Gezina 0031
In Russia: Radio Teos, P. O. Box 110, St. Petersburg 190000

Please make checks payable to:

FEBC Russian Ministries #680

Far East Broadcasting Co. is a non-profit ministry and a member of Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability.



PRAYING FOR NEW STATION IN POKROVSK CITY

The Ukrainian city that was named the City of the Red Army was recently re-named to the City of [God's] Covering. The vast majority of the people who live there do not have a personal relationship with God. There is a possibility that FEBC-Ukraine will receive permission to build an FM station in that city. Please pray that this possibility will become a reality.



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Please pray for the leadership team in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. While we serve different audiences, we pull resources together wherever possible to make sure we are doing all we can to reach the maximum number of people who live in different countries of the former Soviet Union. Please pray for wisdom in decision-making, as well as our families and health.

