

NEWS:

- ◆ Russia and Ukraine are among the countries with the highest COVID-related death rates.
- ◆ The ministry in Belarus and Moldova is growing despite severe economic and political challenges.
- ◆ Several key leaders and broadcasters in Russia and Ukraine are dealing with serious health issues; we covet your prayers for healing and protection.
- ◆ FEBC-Eurasia's ministry is growing, and we need more supporters. We appreciate current supporters sharing about the ministry with their friends.
- ◆ Several evangelistic meetings, in partnership with local churches, are planned for the Spring of 2022 in Ukraine.

The Meaning of Christmas

Jesus is born in the hearts of thousands.

The year 2021 was a year of tremendous hardships and incredible blessings for FEBC-Eurasia.

Many of our co-workers and supporters battled with the COVID virus. Among our audiences in Russia and Ukraine, a record number of deaths are occurring. And freedom for the propagation of the Good News in Russia is diminishing.

In spite of all of this, God's flow of grace is increasing in and through our ministry.

We are reaching diverse groups - from young children and teens to young families, women, prisoners, and many others.

And a small army of counselors are helping those who respond.

This year, we were able to open new studios and stations, start new programs, bring in new team members—all of this with one goal: to inspire people to follow Jesus.

And they do: alcoholics and scientists, businessmen and soldiers, government officials and poor workers are coming to know Jesus.

Here are some of the names of our listeners that were introduced to Jesus and a Christ-centered church: Andrey, Anastasia, Ivan, Maxim, Yelena, Sasha, Semyon, Eduard, Natasha, Galina, Sveta, Vasiliy... on behalf of them and thousands of others - thank you, and Merry Christmas!

- Dr. Victor Akhterov



We will talk to hundreds of thousands of children this Christmas!

EVGENY & SVETA: *We Are Grateful!*

Evgeny Sarapulov is one of FEBC-Russia's most popular broadcasters. Over the years, he developed a large following of listeners: **several million people listen to his program every week.** His willingness to always try new approaches, and his passion for reaching his countrymen for Christ has helped our team make this a reality.

For the past several years, his wife Sveta has been an important part of the team, managing the hundreds of comments and questions that come in during each program. Recently, Evgeny and Sveta celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, and we decided to ask them several questions.

Q. What was especially precious as you celebrated 25 years together?

Evgeny: We realized our relationship has deepened. We aren't just husband and wife, we are best friends and partners in the ministry.

Sveta: Sometimes at the end of the day we also feel like fearless warriors (laughing together).

Evgeny: So many of our listeners are asking us what our secret is – very few families in Russia stay together this long. You know what our answer is, and we mean it: Jesus, His love for us and His patience for me.

Q. You've been ministering together for some time now. How is it working?

Evgeny: I don't think anyone else could do what Sveta does—she knows me so well. While I spend hours talking with listeners, she sends me the most relevant listener comments, lets me know how listeners are reacting to the things I'm sharing, and warns me with hand signals if I say something wrong.

Sveta: During the "live" program, I constantly work with listeners' comments. I answer some, but

mostly, I help our volunteers engage with particular listeners. Each program feels like a living organism – **Evgeny speaks, and dozens of conversations break out in the comment sections** of different social networks.

Q. How do you find the volunteers who help you?

Sveta: We have many Christians who are helping us evangelize, sharing Christ with non-believers, and inviting them to church. Zhanna, Olga, Dennis, Linda, and many, many others are co-ministering with us. They live all over the country. They are musicians, businessmen, teachers, interpreters, a surprising number of doctors and nurses... one mountain climber... they are doing this because they love Jesus, and they are learning from us how to talk to non-Christians.

Evgeny: The other group is non-Christian listeners, who have been listening to the program for several months. They help us create the right environment by interacting with other listeners. "I was also a total atheist, but now I am reading the Bible," said Marina recently, talking to a new listener who said he was an atheist. Karina is a cultural Muslim from Dagestan, but she's talking all the time about how she is discovering who Jesus is. We have a couple of dozen loyal participants like that; they are not even aware yet how God is using them.

Q. I don't know anyone in Russia who has more influence online than you. Sometimes, one of your



First generation Christians, Evgeny and Sveta were trying to build a healthy Christian family without having seen a positive example. The examples they found in the Bible, in their local church, and in their FEBC family helped them become a strong team in their personal and ministry lives.



Working as a couple, Evgeny and Sveta are mobilizing dozens of volunteers, as they reach millions for Christ.

broadcasts is listened to by more than one million people online. Do you struggle with pride issues?

Evgeny: Not at this point. We know very well it's not us, it's God.

Sveta: We feel grateful, not prideful. **Even more so after Evgeny's cancer surgery and treatment.**

Q. How did it affect your family life and your ministry?

Evgeny: It was wonderful to receive so much care and support from Sveta and the kids. It was an amazing experience. And I can say the same for my FEBC family as well.

Sveta: And so many listeners became more open, more transparent. Many of them began sharing what they were going through.

Evgeny: Some people were telling us to keep this quiet, not even to say the word cancer. But we decided to be open about our ordeal, and God used it in a mighty way. So many listeners were able to see what it really means to go through the valley of the shadow of death

with Christ, instead of alone. And this is so important for people today, as we are seeing a record high COVID mortality rate. This is going to be a different type of Christmas for everyone.

Q. How can we pray for you in this season, as we celebrate Christ's birth among all these hardships?

Evgeny: Our number one prayer request is for God's grace to be abundantly revealed to all our four children. Leeza, Evgeny Jr., Yulia, and Tanya are all very different, and we understand that the only way for them to grow into mature Christians is to experience this amazing, tender, and overwhelming love of God for themselves.

- The Sarapulovs spoke with Victor Akhterov

You can read the full version of this interview, see more pictures and a short video of the Sarapulovs here: febceurasia.org/evgeny

Or just use this QR code:



Listeners respond to Evgeny's program:

"Because of your programs, your advice, and your prayers for me, I am the happiest person alive! Not only did I receive freedom from depression in Jesus, but God kept my family together."

Tatyana, 33, from Kineshma, Russia



"As we listen to you answering listeners' questions, we all learn valuable lessons about life. I found so many answers to my own questions as I listened to you, and I suspect that's true for thousands of people here in Chechnya, where life is tough in so many respects."

Zumrud, 35, from Grozny, Chechnya



"I feel so great after I listen to your programs! I am from a Muslim family, but secretly believe in Isa. Your programs are my daily spiritual bread, my lifeline."

Armi, 41, from Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Please pray for the listeners who will respond to Evgeny's programs during this Christmas season.

PRAY FOR MORE CONVERSIONS IN 2022!

Sergey

is the pastor of a local church and the host of one of the most popular Bible programs in Ukraine. His engaging approach to a variety of topics, from current events to medieval art, has drawn thousands of listeners to hear his Biblical perspective.

His pastoral character also shines through in his interactions with listeners. He responds with both care and Biblical truth to listeners' questions and problems — whether they are having Bible-related questions, or are just experiencing the disillusionment and hopelessness that many people are feeling in Ukraine today.

His enlightening, challenging, and encouraging programs have led many people to Christ. Please pray that God continues to use and grow his impact during the Christmas season.



Valentina

is a professional actress in St. Petersburg who reads from a children's Bible to young Russian kids. Her animated, expressive, and engaging personality helps children experience and connect with the Bible's powerful stories.

This Christmas, we are featuring three special stories: The Birth of Jesus, The Star of Bethlehem, and The Gifts of Wise Men. Most of the listeners have never heard these stories before.

Pray that the seeds of faith will fall on good soil in these children's hearts.

"My 8-year-old loves your Bible stories," wrote Anna from Siberia. "And I listen along with him, discovering the Bible myself for the first time in my life."

DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR:
FEBCEURASIA.ORG

Share your love for the ministry!

One of the best ways you can help FEBC ministry in Eurasia, is by introducing one of your friends to this work. Talk to them, and give them this *Update*. Thank you!

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e-mail: russia@febc.org • febc Eurasia.org

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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

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