

IMPACT Preparing Leaders for the Church in Russia **RUSSIA**

RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES • WINTER 2010



Vladimir, now 26, is studying to become a director of an alcohol and drug rehab program after recovering from a ten-year heroin addiction.

Addiction and Grace

An MTS student's story of recovery and rebirth

"From early on, I learned to lead a double life." These are the words of Vladimir Maiorov. Although he came from a healthy family, the prevalence of street drugs in his hometown of Ulyanovsk in central Russia was too much to escape. He began using heroin at age 14 and by 18, he was selling drugs to keep up with the cost of his habit. Gradually, his addiction began to take a stronger and more binding hold on his life. "I needed heroin simply as a means of existence...like air, food or clothing," he explains.

His family recognized his addiction and enlisted the help of doctors, psychologists,

living in a world of deception, violence and anger, Vladimir was moved by the sincerity of their testimonies. He then saw clearly the depth of his addiction, "It was a horror to look at the years I'd wasted. All the grief and sorrow," he says. After ten years of addiction, Vladimir turned to Christ in a prayer of repentance.

"I no longer want to take drugs," he explains. "I began to live in some kind of new nature which I had never experienced before. I want to love, help and care for people."

At Moscow Theological Seminary, Vladimir is preparing to do just that. In the social rehabilitation program, he's preparing to serve addicts as the director of a Christian rehabilitation center. This ministry is crucial in Russia where drug and alcohol dependence have reached crisis levels. Vladimir has hope for the future, "Previously, my biggest dream was to give up drugs. But today, having freedom from the bonds of addiction, I have new dreams. I am a student at Moscow Theological Seminary—this is another miracle Jesus has done for me."

After living in a world of deception, violence and anger, Vladimir was moved by the sincerity of their testimonies. He then saw clearly the depth of his addiction.

fortune-tellers and shaman healers. Despite their concern, Vladimir was not ready or willing to change. "I had lost all hope of recovery," he remembers. "Heroin had destroyed my life and robbed me of family, freedom, health and hope. I was just waiting to die. I attempted suicide several times."

He then met a man who told him about Jesus and recommended he go to a Christian rehabilitation center. Knowing he had hit rock bottom, he agreed to go. At the center, he was surrounded by genuine, caring people who shared the influence of God in their own lives. After



A group of students in the social rehab program. Each student is also the director of a church-based rehab center in their community.

Translating the Word

An MTS professor consults on the first Russian Bible translation since the 19th century

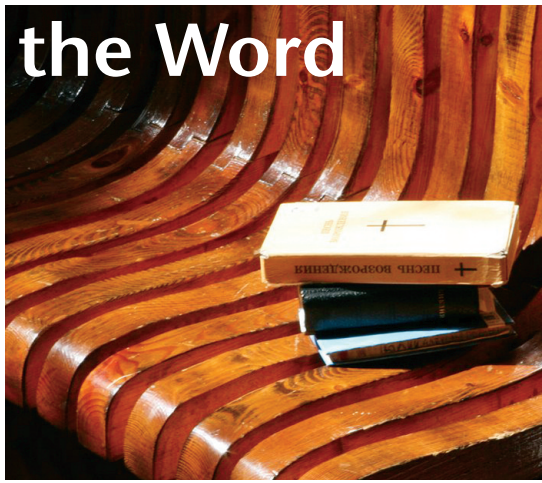
If you visit the average Christian bookstore in the United States, how many Bible translations do you find? Ten? Fifteen? Not to mention the Bibles targeted specifically to women, men, children, teens, students and others. In Russia however, this is not the case. There has not been a new translation of the Russian Bible since 1867. But that's all about to change.

Gennadi Savin, Moscow Theological Seminary professor and dean of masters level programs, was commissioned by the Russian Bible Society to lend his expertise in Greek for a modern translation into Russian. This is a crucial project as the language of

the current version is dated and difficult for most Russians to read and understand.

Gennadi explains, "The old language is very different from modern Russian. In the last 20 years there have been some attempts at a modern translation, but the most of them have not been good. They had many errors and needed changing and corrections."

The new translation will enable Russians to engage more deeply with Scripture in their heart language. Gennadi says, "Our contemporary culture lacks solid Bible knowledge. The new translation will popularize the Bible for Russian speaking



people, including those in surrounding areas."

According to Peter Mitskevich, MTS President, "Most Russians uphold the mystery of God but don't believe he is someone to whom they can relate personally. This Bible is necessary for a new generation of Russians to understand God, to dive into the Bible, love it and believe in it."

The new Bible will be published and distributed in 2011. Join us in praising God for Gennadi's hard work on this project and pray that the new translation will lead the Russian people to grow in their knowledge of the Lord.

"The new translation will enable Russians to engage more deeply with Scripture in their heart language."

Praise God for:

- 77 graduates in 2010.
- The successful start of 3 new programs this year.
- His protection of students studying at North Caucasus Bible Institute in a region experiencing strife and unrest.

Pray for:

- God's wisdom and passion for professors and students. Pray that their love for Jesus will be growing and transparent.
- The physical needs of our seminary students and their families.
- Wisdom to know how to strengthen the Church for ministry in the modern Russian context.



Gennadi Savin

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

Visit www.RUSSIANLEADERSHIP.org and take a look around.

We're excited about our new look and hope that you visit us often to learn about our projects, prayer requests and check out what's going on!



RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES

Preparing Leaders for the Church in Russia

209 East Liberty Drive, Wheaton, IL 60187 | 866.599.1229 | 630.580.5628
FAX 630.580.5629 | ted@russianleadership.org | www.russianleadership.org

 Find us on Facebook