

# IMPACT Preparing Leaders for the Church in Russia **ruSSIA**

RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES • FALL 2010



**MTS offers a new program for drug and alcohol rehab counselors**

## Hope Amidst a Growing Crisis

***Official estimates are that 40% of men and 7% of women in Russia are alcoholics....***

Seminary graduate Marusev Yevgenyevich began selling drugs on Russia's expansive black market at age 15. By 17, Marusev began using intravenous drugs on a daily basis and continued this habit for the next seven years.

Unfortunately, Marusev's story is not uncommon in Russia, where drug abuse and alcoholism have reached epic proportions. Official estimates are that 40% of men and 7% of women in Russia are alcoholics.

In the 1990's alone the numbers of drug abusers rose from 130,000 to 3 million. As a result, Russia's life expectancy has dropped drastically and the nation has failed to provide treatment that can keep up with the rapid increase of addicts.

In an effort to address this epidemic, Moscow Theological Seminary (MTS) recently introduced a two-year program for directors of addiction rehabilitation centers. According to Sergei Zolotarevskiy, pastor of the historic Central Baptist Church in Moscow, Christian rehab programs provide a powerful tool for evangelism. "It is

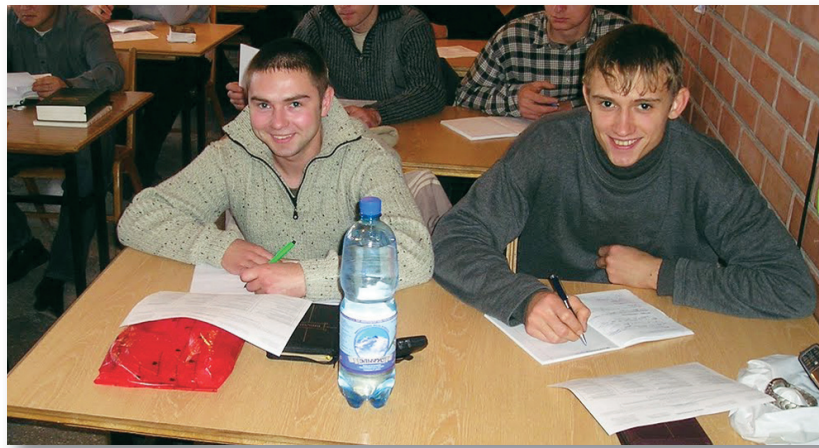
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through these rehab centers that people come to know the Lord," he explains. "Families are changed when former addicts go home and relatives witness their triumph over addiction as a result of their faith." The program fuses scripture study, psychology, rehab methodology and understanding legal requirements for rehab centers in Russia, providing the necessary tools to address this growing problem.

As for Marusev, he sought treatment at a church in Omsk and soon made a commitment to turn his life around. Today, he's married, has two children and a master's degree in pastoral ministry from MTS. He leads the Sunday school program at the church that walked alongside him on his difficult road to recovery. Millions of Russians are currently dealing with the same struggles that Marusev once faced, but the trained, compassionate leaders from MTS will offer hope and light.



**Marusev is now an inspiration to people battling drug addictions.**



## Peter Mitskevich

### A Legacy of Leadership

Russia has changed a lot since Peter Mitskevich's grandfather, Arthur, established correspondent Bible courses in the Soviet era amidst communist persecution and spent more than 10 years in prison for his Christian faith. Peter's father, Valter, was fired from his job as a dentist after committing his life to the Lord and went on to serve as academic dean of this early Bible school.

Yet during this emergence from nearly a century of secularized culture, the need for trained Christian leaders in Russia is greater than ever. After having worked as a medical doctor, teacher, academic dean and ordained pastor, Peter became president of Moscow Theological Seminary (MTS) in 2007. With a master's of theology from Dallas Theological Seminary and a long history of Christian ministry, he's flourished in this role. Peter has brought a calm spirit, godly vision and fierce passion for training Christian leaders to MTS.

Peter leads professors and students in establishing a new legacy of trained church leaders previously unseen in Russia. He says, "It's exciting to serve and equip the next generation of church leaders for the 21<sup>st</sup> century." MTS is truly grateful to have such a competent, passionate leader with a long legacy of impacting Russia with the gospel.

**Want Peter to speak to a men's, women's or missions ministry gathering? Contact Ted Rodgers using the information at the bottom of the page.**

**Possible topics include:**

• *Current challenges and opportunities for ministry in Russia*

• *Media/internet influence on Russian culture and Christian ministry*

• *20 years after Perestroika: Life in Russia today*

## Praise God for:

- The 43 fall graduates in pastoral ministry and biblical counseling programs.
- Safety and health of our faculty and staff families during the recent hot and difficult Moscow summer.
- Students who will begin the new MTS program for alcohol and drug rehab center directors.

## Pray for:

- Upcoming classes this fall at the seminary.
- Faculty, as they begin the fall sessions, especially those traveling to regional learning centers.
- Financial resources to respond to emerging opportunities to launch programs in new locations across Russia.
- The fall meeting of the MTS Board of Trustees.

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