



IMPACT Preparing Leaders for the Church in Russia

RUSSIA

RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES • WINTER 2011

Capturing Imagination:

Media as a Tool for Evangelism



Program coordinator Alexey Tsiruliov studied at the Graduate Institute for Cinematographic Arts in Moscow.

"It's fascinating how video captures the imaginations of young people, serving as a channel for ideas. Now there are opportunities to use it as a channel for the gospel, and I believe it would be a mistake not to do so," says Igor Yailyan, a student in the new Digital Media for Evangelism program at North Caucasus Bible Institute (NCBI), one of the nine learning centers of Moscow Theological Seminary.

NCBI is excited about using this new program to respond to the challenge of reaching the multi-ethnic region of the North Caucasus. Students learn to produce high quality, culturally sensitive audio, video and web material. Not only is media increasingly relevant to younger generations, it can be shared discretely without large gatherings that attract attention. *"You can't just go to a Muslim village and talk about Jesus,"* explains NCBI director Andrey Kravtsev, *"but if you bring gospel videos in the local language, people will take them home and watch."*

The seven republics of the North Caucasus in southern Russia are home to more than 50 ethnic groups speaking 48 languages. Distributing Christian materials online and on DVD will make the Good News accessible in every home—an effective means for gospel communication and discipleship.

Students in the program learn to write, produce and translate video and



audio material for distribution on the web and on DVD. In addition to media courses, they study the Bible, intercultural communication and evangelism.

"By virtue of the new department, new opportunities for sharing the gospel in the Caucasus have become a reality," reflects student Inna Zharik, *"Classes require creative thinking and hard work but seeing people come closer to God is worthwhile."*

One of their first projects has been to produce an audio version of the New Testament for distribution among the Balkars, an unreached Muslim people group. *"I pray that our materials will initiate insider movements of Christian discipleship among the Caucasus people,"* says Alexey Tsiruliov, who coordinates the program. Students use the biblical training and practical skills they receive at NCBI to impact their communities for Christ, transforming Russia from the inside out.

"It's been my prayer for a long time to serve God through digital media," says Igor. God is answering prayer through this program and NCBI. Please pray for and support the efforts of these dedicated students.

"The North Caucasus peoples remain some of the least reached on earth and they live in Europe's least evangelized region."

OPERATION WORLD, 2011

Regional Spotlight: Khabarovsk

- Bustling with people and commerce from Japan, South Korea, and China. An estimated one million Chinese travel through Khabarovsk each year.
- Located in Russia's Far Eastern Federal District, the largest but least populated region in Russia.
- Nineteen miles from the Chinese border.

Khabarovsk Learning Center began in 1995 and now has more than 150 alumni serving across the far eastern region of Russia. Facilities include a dormitory, dining hall, computer classroom and library. Beyond classes, students apply their education in regional churches by preparing and preaching sermons, leading services, organizing evangelism opportunities and teaching in Christian children camps. The learning center offers bachelors programs in Theology and Christian Education.



In Memoriam Carl H. Lindner Jr.

One of RLM's longest standing and most faithful partners



went to be with the Lord at the age of 92 on October 17, 2011. Carl was a lifelong Cincinnati resident and a leading businessman and philanthropist in that community. The Boards of Russian Leadership Ministries and Moscow Theological Seminary give thanks for his faithful and generous support.

"I knew Carl Lindner for more than 30 years. I cherish him as a devout Christian whose tender heart cared for the needy, and who was committed to the ministry of the Moscow Theological Seminary. The Seminary would not exist today without his generous support and the support of his brothers, Bob and Richard."

— Ian Chapman
President,
Board of Directors
Russian Leadership
Ministries

RLM Appoints New Board Members



Dr. Deborah Colwill serves as Assistant Professor of Leadership and Director of Institutional Research and Evaluation at Asbury Theological Seminary. She teaches leadership, organization development and philosophy of education. She also serves in leadership and consulting roles for profit and non-profit organizations. *"Throughout the course of my professional career God has instilled two specific passions in me: renewal of theological education and the development of leaders. The confluence of these two passion areas comes to fruition in Russian Leadership Ministries."*



Dale Kemp is Vice President for Finance at Wheaton College. He comes from a broad career in finance, banking and real estate, serving as CFO and Executive Vice President for KB Urban and MBK Real Estate in California. *"After having been involved in many agencies spreading the gospel in Russia, I am pleased to join Russian Leadership Ministries which specifically focuses on training church leaders through quality education to help build the church and improve Russian society by promoting the development of whole and effective Christians."*



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