



The Most Excellent Way

INTERNATIONAL

“To Russia with Love”

June, 2001

The Light of the Truth Church in Perm, Russia, is known as the “drug addicts’ church.” Pastor Valeriy Trenogin’s passion to minister to young drug addicts led him to establish two rehab facilities – “The Farm” in the countryside, and the “transition” apartment in the city. Young people are turning their lives to Jesus – the waiting list for The Farm grows daily. News of Pastor Trenogin’s ministry spread, and parents began attending his church to find help for their sons and daughters.

The drug problem in Russia is growing – the fall of the Soviet Union opened the borders for the devil to import the worse the western world has to offer.

New freedoms for the Russian people since the fall of the Soviet Union have not decreased their hopelessness. Just as all people of the world seek to fill the hole in their souls with the things of the world, the youth of Russia are turning to American pop-music, French fashion and drugs to express their freedom and find meaning for their existence. But there is no joy on their faces.

Their fathers before them tried to find joy in alcohol, as a way to forget their Communist oppression, their poverty, their hopelessness. Vodka became and remains the center of everyday life – the custom and tradition of life and hospitality. Families continue to disintegrate. The divorce rate is high. There are an estimated 30,000 homeless children in Perm, a city of one million.

The differences between Russia and America are outwardly dramatic. yet very much the same. Our problems are common to all men, women and young people – the problem is inward, within the heart of man. No matter the circumstances and problems of life, Jesus is the answer for all people.

When Chris and Elizabeth Knox were sent out from Calvary Chapel Seattle to be missionaries in Perm, they were given the Russian translation of “The Most Excellent Way” Ministry Manual. Chris gave it to Pastor Valeriy.

Превосходнейший путь

Христианские альтернативы химической зависимости: “Стань зависимым от БОГА!”



РУКОВОДСТВО ДЛЯ СЛУЖЕНИЯ
(MINISTRY MANUAL)

“и я покансу вам путь еще превосходнеиши ...”
1-е Коринфянам 12:31

**... любовь, принятие
и прощение**

As Pastor Valeriy’s ministry began to grow and bear fruit, he remembered the manual he had received months before and discovered the resources he was seeking to help disciple the new, clean and sober Christian youth and their parents. He translated the “How to Help Your Addicted Adult Child” brochure and distributed 3,000 in Perm. ♥

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The original Russian translation was not adequate, so Pastor Valeriy requested permission to translate our updated English manual into a more understandable, useable Russian version.

God is good! Pastor Valeriy operates a print shop. The first 300 copies of the new Russian manual came off the press the last week of May, 2001.

When asked why he chose “The Most Excellent Way” for his ministry, Pastor Valeriy said, “It’s so simple, and the name is good!”

Leeda, an English teacher, and her 11 year-old-daughter, **Looba** (Russian for *Love*), translated the manual, working closely with Pastor Valeriy. **Vitaliy**, Leeda’s husband, a journalist for a Perm newspaper, edited the translation to insure compatibility with the Russian way of thinking and speaking. We are so grateful for this major labor of love. ♥

Leadership Conference

Pastor Valeriy invited us to Perm to conduct a “The Most Excellent Way” Leader Conference on **June 5-6, 2001**. We thank all of you for your prayers concerning the trip to Russia — God answered beyond our hopes and expectations. The Holy Spirit must have planned the itinerary — each day brought ministry success, new friends, and glory to our God.

Thirty churches were represented at the conference, and we were blessed by the reception and interest of the 90-100 attendees. They were eager to learn, took copious notes and asked excellent questions. **Hope Baptist Church** offered their new sanctuary for the conference, and the entire two-days were recorded for distribution to interested churches throughout Russia. This was an awesome conference! ♥



Our Guide and Translator

Upon arrival in Moscow, we were greeted with the smiles of **Oleg Matushevskiy**, the young man from Sacramento who secured

our visas from the Russian Consul in San Francisco at Pastor Valeriy’s request. Oleg and his family immigrated from Ukraine in 1991. Oleg dedicated himself to taking care of us for our entire visit, knowing how difficult it would be for us to communicate.

Oleg was surprised he was to be our translator for the conference — he was terrific! His sense of humor delighted everyone. Oleg is truly the Lord’s servant and he will always be precious to us.

His church supports church planting missions in the Ukraine and Russia — Oleg’s missionary work is centered in **Alexandrovsk** (three hours drive from Perm). ♥



Ministry Challenges

After beginning ministry to addicts, Pastor Valeriy faced three major challenges:

- 1. The medical community is unsuccessfully treating drug addiction as disease.** He discovered that “The Most Excellent Way” agrees with the Bible that addiction is *sin*. God’s Word and Jesus are the cure for sin.
- 2. Ex-addicts are social outcasts — even in the churches.** He loves the sinner as Jesus does, and he desires that the Church change its attitude about the outcasts and reach out to them.
- 3. Rehab facilities are expensive to operate and too few addicts are receiving help.** He believes that if churches offer regular, weekly “The Most Excellent Way” meetings more addicts would be reached for Christ’s sake and disciplined in the Word.

Valeriy and I met with 20-25 doctors who specialize in addiction. We had the opportunity to sympathize with their frustration of not being able to cure addicts, and to tell them about the success of “The Most Excellent Way.” They were polite, but, of course, not convinced. What’s new?

He also believes it’s an excellent opportunity for unsaved parents to find hope for their children and the joy of the Lord for themselves. Pastor Valeriy affirms our mission. ♥

Family & Friends Support Meeting

Moms and dads of addicts meet after Church to learn about what their children are experiencing and ways to help them. We were moved by the testimony of the mom who said she was an atheist until her child got into trouble. Another mom said she believed God was punishing her through her addicted child because she had worked with

children on behalf of the Communist Party for 20 years. These parents are learning God doesn’t have any grandchildren.

We will never forget **Lydmila Korovka** and **Larisa Karpovich** who thanked God for “The Most Excellent Way” for helping them realize their own need for salvation (their children are now drug-free). They eagerly attend the meeting to encourage and comfort desperate parents with the Way, the Truth and the Life. The three hours were filled with tears and joyful laughter — an awesome meeting. ♥

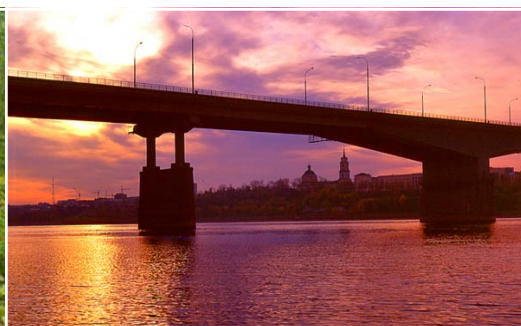
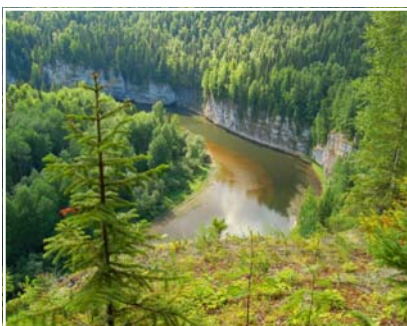
Youth Meeting

Sunday afternoons at 4:00 young ex-addicts meet at Light of the Truth facilities for two to three hours to worship the Lord, to pray for one another, to share what Jesus is doing in their lives, and to welcome and minister to those seeking freedom from the bondage of drugs. Those who want to enter The Farm must attend meetings to show their commitment. There were 38 young, attractive new Christians at the meeting we were privileged to attend. We believe these are the saints God will send out to grow the ministry. ♥

“The Farm”

The Farm is the perfect setting for beginning new life in Christ. The 18 young men and women we met were filled with the Spirit of the Lord, a stark contrast to the young people we saw as we walked along the streets of Perm. Kiosks and booths selling alcohol and cigarettes are on nearly every street in every neighborhood, where young people congregate to pass the time. American pop music blasts through shopping districts and flea markets.

The Farm is a secluded sanctuary — unfortunately there aren’t enough Christian facilities to accommo-



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date those needing Jesus' help. As funds become available, more of The Farm's main building is renovated to increase living space for even more participants. ♥

In Alexandrovsk, we visited another rehab facility supported by Oleg's Sacramento church — an apartment that accommodates eight young men. The precious young men we met were studying the Ministry Manual when we arrived, and are eager to spread the Good News in their small town. They visit the schools to encourage children to stay away from drugs, even though they are not free to talk about Jesus. Sound familiar? They will begin "The Most Excellent Way" meetings in the community soon. ♥

Pastor Valeriy's Goals

The Lord blessed us continually during our visit, and the greatest blessing of all is that He is taking "The Most Excellent Way" throughout Russia.

- Pastor Valeriy is determined to take TMEW into **Siberia**, estimating that 90% of the youth are on heroine. The second week of June, he traveled by train for 48 hours with 300 manuals for a conference in **Krasnoyarsc**, where 70 churches were represented.
- He will ask his friend in **St. Petersburg** to begin TMEW meetings.

- He will attend and distribute ministry manuals at a drug/alcohol conference scheduled for January, 2002, in **Moscow**. (TMEW is sponsoring the printing of the manual.)
- He will set up a Russian "The Most Excellent Way" website.

We believe the Lord is honoring the desire of Pastor Valeriy's heart and his tireless efforts to set the captives free and spread God's Word with "The Most Excellent Way" throughout Russia. ♥

Pastor Valeriy and his wife, Olga, are warm and gracious hosts. We enjoyed special times of fellowship and many delicious meals in their home with them and their dear children, Dima, Jenna, Mark and Angelina.



Please pray for Pastor Valeriy, his family, his ministry team, and all Russian young people and parents who need Jesus to fill the hole in their souls. Pray also for Oleg's ministry.

And please pray for the older generations who have been alcoholics for most of their lives — may they see the work of the Lord in the young people and find salvation and hope for themselves in Jesus Christ.

May the Lord continue to be glorified in the most excellent way!

Pastor Glenn Wright
Founder/Director

