

# The Most Excellent Way

INTERNATIONAL

# **RUSSIA**

"RUSSIA DIARY" 2001-2010

Jesus said: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15-16 NKJV



Jesus said:
"And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations."
Mark 13:10 NKJV

Jesus said:
"... you shall receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come
upon you; and you shall be
witnesses to Me in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth."
Acts 1:8 NKJV

Pastor Valeriy Trenogin of "Light of the Truth" Church in Perm, Russia, began ministering to young addicts in the 90s.

We conducted a "The Most Excellent Way" training workshop in Perm in June, 2001. Since then, he and his team have spread the ministry across Russia, and established residential rehab facilities.

The Light of Truth Church is known as the "addicts church" — more than 50% of the congregation are exaddicts and their family members. Once freed from addictions by faith in Jesus Christ, they are born into the Kingdom of God.

The Russian government officially designated "The Most Excellent Way" as the most effective program for "treating" addictions.

"The Most Excellent Way" appears to have become a doorway to salvation. Why? We preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing the Love, Acceptance and Forgiveness of God.

This "Russia Diary" is a collection of reports from Perm. We hope you will be blessed and inspired to partner with "The Most Excellent Way" INTERNATIONAL in prayer and financial support.

In HIS Service, Pastor Glenn Wright

#### Winter 2003 Newsletter Report

At this very moment, "The Most Excellent Way" Meeting Leaders Jim Graczyk and Paul Graves are on their way to Ekaterinburg and Chelyabinsk to conduct training workshops at the invitation of Pastor Valeriy Trenogin of the West Ural Mission in Perm. This is the third trip by The Most Excellent Way to this part of the world.

You may recall that Pastor Trenogin prints and distributes the Russian translation of our Ministry Manual, and has meetings in Perm. There are also meetings in Ekaterinburg as a result of our second "training" trip.

May the Lord continue to spread TMEW there!
-GW



#### **Spring 2004 Newsletter Report**

In January 2004, Paul Graves and Jim Gracyzk conducted leadership/training seminars in Ekaterinberg and Chelyabinsk, which were attended by government officials and church leaders.

The government made a plea for the churches to help them with the drug problem, as they have found no remedy. After they heard all about TMEW and why it works, and testimonies from mothers and young people, they said they'd like to open the schools to the churches to use TMEW to combat the problem. Absolutely amazing! This certainly could be an open door for the Word of God to go into Russian schools.

The doctors, psychologists and therapists admitted their secular hospitals are not really helping. Our team told them that addiction is not a medical or psychological problem, but a spiritual one, which seemed to open their minds. (We're hoping one "professional" accepted the Lord after she received Jim's one-on-one witness.)

We've been notified that meetings have started at two **Chelyabinsk** church rehab facilities...

**Pastor Valeriy** attended a conference in **Moscow**, and discovered his Russian translation of the ministry manual that he distributed has resulted in

TMEW meetings that he wasn't aware of. That's the Holy Spirit's M.O. Praise God!

The next TMEW training seminar will be held in St. Petersburg or Moscow, the Lord willing.



#### Winter 2004/05 Newsletter Report

Pastor Valeriy Trenogin writes that his church grew 30% in 2004, and a new church started.

Progress has also been dramatic in "The Most Excellent Way." Here's what he had to say:

"The Rehabilitation Center: We suppose our program is one of the best rehabilitation programs in Russia. The number of people who have under gone treatment at the 'Farm' outside the city was fifty-seven, of which twenty-three are free of addiction. A new rehab was started in **Krasnokamsk**, which can take eight persons.

"The Most Excellent Way in the city: We created a website, Ourvoice.ru, where we tell about our work. Already over 1900 persons have visited our site since September. We held TMEW seminars in Chelyabisk, Ekaterinburg, Artomosk, Selenginsk, Buryatiya, two in Moscow, and one in St Petersburg, a total of seven conferences where we distributed more than 1500 TMEW guidelines.

"Thanks to the work of "The Most Excellent Way" program in the city, around one-third of the people [who] go to The Farm [are] already free from drugs and alcohol.

"Russian people believe that one can only receive freedom from D&A by going outside the city for rehabilitation, and that it takes 6 to 12 months for this to happen.

"What we are teaching is very unusual, because of the short time of three months for rehabilitation. But more people are starting to believe us, seeing our successes.

"We would like to have a larger facility [in Perm] where addicts could come daily for three Bible studies and then go home at night. This way they would not have to wait two months to go to 'The Farm.'

We think two meetings a week are not enough for addicts and cannot do more then two right now. We think if there were more meetings, addicts would not have to go to the rehabilitation center at all."

From www.ourvoice.ru: "At the end of 1999 in Perm, the The Most Excellent Way program began its work. This program combined in itself the Russian culture and methods of American TMEW. The program successfully works in more than 1000 cities and small towns in Russia. And, for example, in the Perm area, it has following results (2000 through April, 2004):

"Two hundred people regularly attended support meetings; 130 have gone through whole rehabilitation course; 65 people in remission (they do not drink, smoke OR use drugs) and have a healthy way of living; 64 people who are working; 15 people continued studying;— 20 couples got married; and 10 children were born (all are in good health)."

Praise God for men like Pastor Valeriy and his church in Perm. —GW



## **Spring 2006 — From Pastor Valeriy**

The 2005 year began badly for us. There where five of us in my car going to another city to hold a seminar, when I lost control because of ice on the road and met with a big truck. It's a miracle that we are alive.

Now as I look at the year's results, I'm sure the devil wanted to kill us together so God couldn't do His work through us. After the accident, God began to bless us in wonderful ways. I understand the devil is afraid of us and hates us and our work, but God keeps us. He saved our lives for His glory!

With the help of brothers from USA and Sweden, we bought a building for a rehab center in **Krasnokamsk**, and the church there began to grow quickly.

In the Spring 2005, we began work in Kudymkar. In

the Summer there appeared a church, and in the Autumn we opened a rehabilitation center there.

We opened our fourth church and rehab center in another part of **Perm**. By the end of 2005, 500 people come to our Sunday services — 100 new people. We baptized 77 people. We have helped 359 people in Perm in five years — 195 free from drugs and alcohol. Thirty-two new families were created. Twenty-seven healthy children were born.

At the end of the year, God gave us a wonderful gift — two rooms in the administration building in the center of the city to hold "TMEW" meetings.

The results of TMEW rehab are be-coming more and more famous in Russia. I wrote four articles about our work which were published in the main Pentecostal paper.

We now have four rehabilitation centers and can help 75 people. All centers are filled, with waiting lists. I can't even imagine how it will develop.

Leaders from our church were invited to give seminar about working with alcoholics and drug addicts in **Magnitogorsk** and **Tchelyabinsk** areas — now there are TMEW meetings there.

Missionaries from our church are working in **Sverdlovsk** area, and we sent two missionaries to **Stavropol**. At the new year, we began Sunday services in a newer, bigger hall. Our church is growing quickly, so we need more leaders to new churches. It is most important for us to teach and train new leaders.

During 2006, we want to open new rehabilitation centers in **Perm** and send missionaries to other Russian cities. I plan to have TMEW seminars in **Tumen** and **Ijevsk**.

Thank you for your partnership and the help you provide us. God bless you abundantly. I believe we will see more miracles of God during 2006 in Russia.

We are praying for you! Your brother in Christ, Pastor Valeriy Trenogin



#### **Summer 2006 Newsletter Report**

Pastor Valeriy Trenogin of Light of Truth Church in Perm, writes that TMEW continues to expand into many cities of Russia as his team goes out to train the churches how to conduct the meetings.

His team have gone or is going to **Pervouralsk**, **Sverdlovsk** area, **Ijevsk**, the capitol of **Udmurt Republic**, **Tumen**. They opened two more rehabilitation centers this Spring — there are now five facilities in the Perm area. Rehab facilities in other cities are doing well as a result of the training received from Valeriy's team.

Valeriy says the seed we have sown in Russia is growing successfully.

Valeriy has also received from the city a building in downtown Perm, which was a total disaster. We helped with a contribution for the work needed to get it in shape, so they can hold TMEW meetings for the downtown street people.

They have also started more churches in and around Perm in the Western Urals. Valeriy says that most of Russia has heard about their success using TMEW for addicts. The doctors and therapists can't get over it.

Please keep all of them in your prayers, for through them the Lord is doing a mighty work in Russia.

-GW



#### Fall 2007 Newsletter Report

Pastor Valeriy Trenogin reports, "The seventh annual conference, Destroying the Damnation of Drugs and Alcohol, finished in Perm with 700 people present, the largest conference so far. Three hundred who had been delivered from drugs came outside for a picture as there was not enough room on the stage. It was the most joyful with people from other churches and other Russian cities. TMEW is serving the people in other Russian regions successfully."

Because the government recognized theirs as the best D&A program in Russia and awarded them nearly \$10,000, they have the credibility to be

permitted to televise videos they've produced about what is happening through Valeriy's church and TMEW. And the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) has asked Valeriy to produce videos for their broadcasts in Russia and around the world. —GW



#### January 2008 from Pastor Valeriy

Dear Brother Glenn,

I have a request for you. Nearly 5 years ago you helped us to buy a video camera. This camera helped us in our ministry very much and it still works in our church.

Last year we took a man to work only for video ministry. Thanks to his work we could make different films about our ministry, make reports and send to the Russian TBN and many people in different countries could learn more about TMEW ministry.

It's a pity but we can't provide high quality with our equipment that is needed for television. That's why we are looking for the opportunity to buy a professional video camera.

Will you be so kind to help us with it? The minimum sum we need is 4600\$. If you can help us in buying the video equipment we can tell about our work in 60 countries of the world by TV all the more we've got a man who can professionally work with such equipment.

#### Last news about work in Perm:

Our new building of the training center began to work in winter! We make winter camp for the teenagers (four days) for the first time.



We worried about the conditions for our children if the house is warm enough, but now I can say that we hold all trials. We made three rooms on the second floor and also made the first floor warmer. We took the beds from the neighboring children camp and placed 20 teenagers with teachers in these three rooms on the second floor.





It's a pity but we couldn't take everyone who wanted. The days we were holding the camp the temperature was 38 degrees with a minus and in the house it was hot. When there was 30 degrees with a minus children preferred not to stay in the house, but to play football outside! If we can buy the beds and make two new rooms in the first floor we can make night prayer meetings in this house.

This is all for the moment. God bless you. Your brother in Christ. —VT



### March 2008 — Praise Report From Pastor Valeriy Trenogin



Central church "Light of Truth" celebrated 12 years of work in Perm city. Three churches "Light if Truth" met together to celebrate this holiday.

The hall for 700 was rented and fulfilled with people. We



must say that we didn't invite any outside people to this holiday — there were only parish of our churches. It was great holiday!

Eighty percent of the people who came to the celebration had problems with drugs or alcohol in the past, and now they are success people that live, work and make families. Praise God!





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# Spring 2008 Newsletter Pastor Valeriy Trenogen reports:

"The church Light of Truth celebrated three years anniversary from the beginning of it's work in **Krasnokamsk** (Perm region). The church grew to 150 people in these three years. The wonderful rehabilitation center is working there and also the new building for the rehabilitation center is constructing. It was a great holiday. ..."





"The ministry "The Most Excellent Way" continues the building of new rehab centers in Perm region. Thank for the help of the administration and the businessmen of Krasnokamsk city the foundation and threestory house for 30

people was built. We also bought the lumber for the roof thanks for our Holland friends. Now we need 2000 Euro more to buy the material to close the roof and to begin the inside finishing. Today the requirements for rehabilitation of drug addicts in Perm region is almost satisfied with the work of the program 'The Most Excellent Way.'"

"We had second anniversary of the church in **Kudymkar** city. There were near 60 people. It was joyful and merry holiday, everybody was glad the church in Kudymkar city has been helping people there for two years. Today this church is developing successfully because of the rehabilitation center that

was found there three years ago. More and more people are coming to the Sunday service and ask for help in the rehab cen-



ter. We thank God for His grace for the work in Kudymkar city."

"Also December 9, there was an ordination of brother Vitaly Proskuryakov as pastor. We began the church in Bereznyky city in the April this year, and now not less than 60 people come to the Sunday service of this church. The church has got its own office in good place where they hold the meetings for addicts and their parents according to the program 'The Most Excellent Way.' All this began from the opening of the rehab center in September, 2006. We thank God for His amazing deeds in Bereznyky city. It seems that we see the Acts book that performs before us.



"December 13, 12 people were baptized. A total of 48 people were baptized this year, and it's only in central church.

Thank you for your help and prayers."

"The Most Excellent Way" ministry summed up the results of it's work in 2007: 812 people went through the rehabilitation program, 409 people now are in long remission, 148 people got marriage, 63 healthy children were born. The top capacity of the Christian Charity centers is 160 people. It's possible for 640 people to pass through the rehabilitation program each year, if base time of rehabilitation is three months." —VT



#### June 2008 Update

Pastor Valeriy Trenogin

Missionaries from Perm went to open new Charity Centers to Glasov City (Udmurt Republic) and Kazan after local pastors' request. Today such Charity Centers, using "The Most Excellent Way" program works in 12 Russian cities. Also there is a desire of the churches willing to begin "The Most Excellent Way" program in their cities.



We put a symbolical "cornerstone" in our Training Center building that church "Light of Truth" is going to build to teach the Christians



who want to begin work with drug addicts in their churches.

Our church can't satisfy the requirements about missionaries from different Russian regions. That's why we want to



build a Center where we can teach everybody who wants to start such work but doesn't know how. Church ministers and brother Winston Mattson-Bose, first sponsor, donated money for the Training Center building attended at this event. We bought a little brickwork for this money.

We want to earn money on this production and with their help begin the Training Center building. The building process can take several years because the approximate cost of this project is 250000\$. We also invest money in this project because we are interested in this production that we can use in different direction of our work. pastor. — VT



#### October 2008 — Praise Report Pastor Valeriy Trenogin

The 9th Annual Conference "The Most Excellent Way" ministry finished in Perm. This conference differed from other by the quantity of people came from different regions of our country.





There were special master-classes in working with co-addict people [family and friends], visits to the Charity Centers and to the addict meetings. The leader/teachers in the conference were: **Vasiliy I. Botsyan** (Bishop of Evangelical churches in Ural region) and **Bishop Winston Lynch** — both work in eight Africa countries.



More than 100 people came to the evening evangelization and 60 people accepted Christ! Seven people went to the Charity Centers directly from the evangelization. We have got a waiting list today from people who want to come to the rehabilitation.

The dedication of new house of the Christian Charity Center took place in Krasnokamsk city. Brothers Per-Arne Evensen and Winston Lynch prayed for God to bless the Center





The total amount of spaces in five Christian Charity Centers' "The Most Excellent Way" in Perm region is 152, and every year more than 300 people are going through the rehabilitation program here. —VT



### January 2009 Update

Pastor Valeriy Trenogin

There were times of sadness for the church in 2008. Two young people in the church died — one family lost the father, the other lost their mother. It was very big loss for the church. In summer there was terrible car accident, where four people died. The end of 2008, when we declared that we are not going to open one more church — one of the church leaders left the church with great scandal.

But besides bad things, there were many good things in 2008:

- We baptized 113 people in six churches in this year!
- We began seven new home groups in the central church. One-third of the leader team in the central church was changed because of new home groups and new ministries.
- After opening of the new church in 2007 we had to create the ministry team again in the central church.
- We closed two rehabilitation centers because we increased the quantity of places in other centers.
   Now we have 165 places in five rehabilitation centers. It is more than enough to provide the places for people who come to us.
- We began three new ministries in 2008 video, youth and teenage. We made two web-sites – "The Most Excellent Way" ministry and the church "Light of Truth".

#### **Conclusions:**

- 1. Thank to wise and imperative advises of our friends, especially Brother Per-Arne, we understood that the speed of our development is too high and even dangerous for us. We saw that speed of growing of the central church is near 25 -30 people a year. That's why the main thing is that we decided to concentrate on the central church development in 2009 year, to prepare good, educated ministers, to make a material foundation (the place that we can use for the church work and education of the new ministers).
- 2. We hope to keep the success we have in the

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work with drug addict people, but together with it we want to develop new ministries — such work with alcoholics and to begin the work of confidence phone for the people that have difficulties in life.

3. We want to develop the ministries connected with new technologies, like video ministry and websites more actively.

We thank everybody for the help and support. We hope that Lord will help us achieve all we aim for this new year. God bless you. -VT



#### **August 2009 Report**

Pastor Valeriy Trenogin

We had many events this summer. We went through many different government inspections. Six different instances checked our work! Thank God we went through all these checks and none of serious breaches were found.

As a result of these checks we had to pay several fines and spend much money to change the conditions of people habitation. Government bureaucratic machine worked with us very seriously. We feel that the pressure from the government becomes stronger.

Also we begin to feel the pressure of the Orthodox Church. Different unfavorable articles appeared in papers. They don't affect our work now, but we feel that government tries to make us problems in work with addicts. We don't know when this pressure will end, but it seems that somebody is checking our weak points to strike a blow later. We are open, and try to concentrate on the positive side of joint work with government. These checks also help us to see and change problems in our work.

Our attention and time have been put on the different checks we could make — especially for our central rehabilitation center.

We continued the building of the Training Center and made a children summer camp in new building. Twenty children and 10 teachers could spend the time in this building for 10 days! After this we could hold a seminar for 90 Ministers from different cities of Perm and Sverdlovsk regions. Ministers from German, United States, Ukraine and Sverdlovsk region hold this seminar. We were really pleased for the quality and results of this seminar. Especially, we were glad that we could accept such many people for three days and nights. Now we want to hold such seminar regularly for the visitors of our church. It is wonderful that we've got a place for it.



Certainly, this house needs big investments — there is no heating system for the winter, but we can use it now, in summer.

Thanks to our friends from Holland we could buy the new car for our needs and to begin the building of the hothouse where we can plant vegetables all



year long. We are going to finish it and begin work in September.

We are impressed for all these we could make for this season, and I'm really grateful for our entire friends who support us in pray and with finance.

Now we are going to have the main event of the year – our autumn conference. It will be 10–year anniversary. It's a pity, because of economic crisis, this conference will be modest in compare with previous. But we believe that God will do His work and save people through this conference.

Because of the growing pressure from our government, we think that it is important to develop information ministry in our church for people to hear the voice of the church in spite of all efforts of the government promotion. We are really grateful that we've got our printing office. With it we have wonderful possibilities to spread the information about our work.

Thank God for the technical progress! Now it became actual to develop the electronic ways to spread the information thank to the Internet. That's why we see especial importance of developing of the information ministry. We want to buy the professional camera to help and to spread information about events in our city on the TV and on the Internet. We've got a professional man, and we see that his work was successful this year. We want to develop his ministry further, but we haven't got resources for it.

The home video camera can't stay in such intensive work and give needed quality of the recording, and it was repaired two times this year. We understood that the time has come to go to other level of work — higher quality. That's why we ask for help in developing of the information ministry of our church.

That's all news about our work for today. I want to thank everyone for your help in our work. God bless you! -VT



#### February 2010 Update

Peace to You, Dear Friends,

I want to tell you last news about work in Perm. We began to hold regular meetings for unbeliever young people – discussion club "Coffee House" in our basement place.

Every Friday from 20 to 40 young people come to these meetings. We hope that young people can get acquainted Jesus Christ, with Christian values and morality, thorough these meetings and come into church. Nearly 90 children come to our Sunday services. That is why work with young people becomes one of the priority direction for our church. God bless you all!

-Valeriy Trenogin



#### May 2010

#### Dear Brother Glenn,

I'm very pleased with a fact that ministry that God began through you develops so successful. Soon it will be 25th anniversary of your amazing ministry and I'm glad that I can present it in Russia. I also think that next year you will have great holiday, 25th anniversary of ministry. If you want a guest from Russia, maybe I can come.

This year we want to open one more church in Russia, Vladimir city, near Moscow. We hope that after beginning the work in such close to Moscow place we can also begin it in Moscow, city with 12 million population. We want to begin our work with TMEW program and then make a church. Please, pray about it.

#### Last news from Perm.

Last two weeks I visited different cities — Chelyabinsk, Yekaterinburg, Saint-Petersburg and Moscow.

In Chelyabinsk and Yekaterinburg we hold seminars about work with co-addicts [family and friends] in churches.

In Saint-Petersburg I took park in Russian TBN board and also I prayed in live broadcast for different people first time in my life as it was a prayer week on TBN. It was amazing; people

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from different countries called in TV company and asked to pray for different needs. I had a feeling that I stood at the top of the world and saw much pain and sufferings, every 30 seconds it was a new message with ask about pray for the health, family problems etc. We prayed for all these needs and it was amazing.

Church work develops well. This year we began teenage ministry. We want to begin ministry for men this summer.

The main need in our church – is Bible education to the church leaders and family ministry. As I understand best of all is regular education, onetime seminars are very good, but it is not enough. That's why I confer with Yekaterinburg Theological Institute about holding the Bible school for our church leaders. But also I think that seminars are still very important.

Also we need a place to develop these ministries. Now we stopped investing in our basement place and invest all money in house in the rehabilitation center. We make first floor there because there will be summer camp for children. We need rooms for 20 children, beds and other furniture.

That's all for today.

God bless you! Pastor Valeriy Trenogin



Please join us in prayer for "The Most Excellent Way" ministries in Russia — for Pastor Valeriy, his family and team, Light of Truth Church ...

Let us pray also for those in bondage to their addictions that they may be called of God into His Kingdom by faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please contact us if you wish to support our Lord's mission in Russia with a financial gift.



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