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Newsletter March 2009

“People kept asking for books”

During the years IBT has been able to deliver thousands of Bible portions in various languages to prisons all over the Russian Federation – both through churches which are reaching out to prisons and through the library system of the Russian Ministry of Justice. Below is the testimony of one prison worker:



“I've had the opportunity to give many concerts in prisons and penal colonies”, said Vladimir, professional musician who ministers to prison inmates. “It's amazing whom you can meet in such places - Uzbeks, Tatars, Chuvash, Turkmen, basically representatives of the entire former Soviet Union. Until recently I focused mainly on music in my ministry and did not distribute Christian literature, except for a few Russian Bibles. But people kept asking for books. I remember one of the first requests - did I have any literature in Georgian or Armenian? So I started thinking, where can I get such books?”

After three years I met the director of a Christian prison ministry and saw all these books, published by IBT, in different languages in his office. They didn't know which of the books should be sent to which prison. At that moment my heart told me, “God really exists.” They didn't know where to send the books, and I didn't know where to get them! At that time I had just come from a prison in Tatarstan and was wondering where to get some literature for the inmates. And here it was! I usually take my saxophone and equipment when I visit prisons. This time I also decided to take as many of your books with me as I could. The prison warden there is a Muslim Tatar himself, and he allowed me to bring the books in. After the concert I announced that whoever wanted to receive a Bible or a Gospel in their own language could come and get one. So just imagine, about 70 percent of the people in the huge auditorium came forward! I didn't know which books were in what language, so I picked five men who knew other languages to sort the books into piles. As the inmates received the books, I could see they were in tears.

Your literature is a sign from God. I beg you, whatever problems you might face, financial or otherwise, never stop your work. It is very much needed; each book means a redeemed soul! There are so many inmates sentenced to time in prison for murder, rape, drugs, robbery. But each page can convert these hearts. Continue doing your work. My concerts are a mere drop in the ocean, but your books are more important than all my music, because they contain the Word of God.”

Thank you for supporting Bible translation in Russia and the CIS!