

We greet you in love of our Lord Jesus Christ, our dear friends.

We sincerely thank God for His continual blessing of WTR. The Lord hears our prayers and answers them. Praise the Lord. We had asked Him to move your hearts and He did. You prayed and you gave. We are grateful for that.

Most of us have heard from our childhood the phrase “it is better to give than to receive”. Some consider that to mean that some are more blessed because they can give more, but the less blessed are those who have to receive. Is that so? The apostle Paul quoted Jesus **“It is more blessed to give than to receive”** (Acts 20:35). He did not desire any material gifts for his service. He traveled where the Holy Spirit sent him, where the Gospel had not yet been preached, even if it that meant that he was beaten. Paul lived on his profession as a tent maker, but he also received assistance from his brothers: “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity” (Phil. 4:10).

The Apostle wants us to also remember the words of the Lord: **“Give and it will be given to you”** (Luke 6:38)

First of all, we need to understand that we must have in order to give. Remember the story of the lame beggar at the gates of the temple who looked intensely at Peter and John expecting to receive some alms. Peter said: **“I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give you: “In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene – walk!”** (Acts 3:6) “What I do have” means time that we may have, finances, talents and gifts of the Holy Spirit – all that we received from God. Many believers wait until they get more money, or when they retire. They intend either to give more or to serve more when.... They rob themselves of blessing. Often these good intentions

become empty promises. Dear friends if you feel the urging of the Holy Spirit, do not wait until a better time. God teaches us to be faithful in little, “that which we have”. God rewards giving out of want, not out of abundance for His good works. The formula is not of this world “I give in order to get”. In the work of God, we must be prepared to give unselfishly, out of pure desire, sacrificially. This is our duty to God and to the lost.

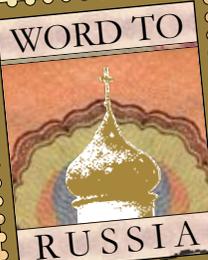
So who is more blessed, those who give or those who receive? We all receive from the One Heavenly Father, and so that no one can boast, the Lord says through Apostle Paul: **“So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.”** (1 Cor. 3:7)

Truthfully, in the work of proclamation of the good news there are no clear recipients or donors. We are both. Believers understand that all that we have is from God and they have to share with each other. Our missionaries and evangelists who receive our support give themselves entirely to God’s service to people. In this way there is an unbroken chain of ministry, a link that binds all participants in the work of salvation. No one is more blessed in the process, but all rejoice because all receive and all give.

That’s why the world rule “I give to get” does not apply in God’s Kingdom. God’s statement “For we are colaborers” reveals the truth that we should not expect to get rewarded by the person to whom we give or do a good deed. But the reward comes from the Lord **“But each will receive a reward according to his labor”** (1Cor.3:8). It is all for the glory of God.

We are grateful to God and to you, that you opened your heart to take part in proclaiming the good news. May God bless you.  
Your brother in Christ, Sergey Lopuga.

Have a blessed  
Thanksgiving!



PASSWORD



## Galina Mekhontseva

Selections from the last interview with Galina M. by Michael Lokteff on "One in the Spirit". She passed from this life 10/9/09.

M.L. – When we come to God, He gives us new thoughts as the Psalmist writes and encourages us to labor. You are an energetic laborer. I remember when you arrived. You energized others with your enthusiasm. I know that is a gift of God. Tell us a little about your work how God moved your heart.

G.M. – Yes, as soon as I came to God my thought was "what can I do? The first thing was to tell my friends of the way of salvation, what that does, the joy and the feeling of burdens rolling away. I was in awe of that and wondered why all people cannot believe. I began to use every opportunity to begin conversations about God, in the subways of Kiev. I remember taking a children's illustrated Bible, the blue covered one that we had received, and every page had a full color picture. I opened it such a way that passengers could see it. You know, the subway were packed with people and they could not help but look at the beautiful pictures and begin to ask. Sometimes I invited the conversation by saying "look at this beautiful children's Bible." I had a ready supply of cards on me, with the address of the church.

About that time I received a copy of Patricia St John's book "Tracks in the Snow" As I read it, I was inspired to translate it into Russian immediately knowing that often Christian's homes were searched and literature from the West was confiscated. Then I got other books. Nadezhda Vins had begun to translate. We began to fellowship and I got to know about Christians in jail for their faith including her husband George Vins. Praise God for leading me.

M.L. – So you immediately...

G.M. – Entered into the Lord's work.

M.L. – Later your translations began to be published?

G.M. – First I did handwritten translations: nine books by Patricia St Johns, wonderful books for adolescents, then "The Way to God" by Dwight Moody, as well as "Life's Path and How to Find it", and "The Guide for Travelers from Death to Life". I also translated David Wilkerson's "The Cross and the Switerblade". The book had a tremendous impact on me. I was thrilled by the story

of this brother in Christ, who went into New York's center of gangs to preach Christ. The story shook me so that I had to translate it. It was later published in Finland.

M.L. – Praise the Lord! How about your program "Sewing the good seeds" which you have produced for Word to Russia these many years, where did you get the idea?

G.M. – Where? God gave me the idea. As I began to translate other Christian stories, interesting, educational and inspirational I thought of seeds planted. But it's a long story. A brother came to Kiev, a missionary and invited me to work with him after "perestroika" and "glasnost". I went with him as translator to schools, orphanages, hospitals and public squares where we distributed tracts. When my family immigrated to Sacramento, he introduced me to an American Church. The church had Sunday School literature.

Eugene Garin, the artist gave me a typewriter. What a wonderful man. The typewriter had Russian alphabet. I began to type my translations for a number of years. Then someone got me the computer. I learned how to use the computer. Thus I began to translate stories for children and adults, and began to self publish on a copier. Then I came to Word to Russia and you invited me to record the stories. Thank you for your encouragement.



M.L. – What are your wishes for the future? Do you have dreams? What encourages you and gives you joy? Can you share a little about you future?

G.M. – Wishes and dreams? I really don't know how many more days I have left. My desire is.... peace. You know that I am seriously ill and the pain never leaves me. But still when I felt better, I think how blessed is the man who has no pain. Now I am beginning to understand the difference. Sometimes I lay in bed all day, no strength to get up.

***And when Thy face I see, My ransom'd soul shall be, thro' all eternity, some thing for Thee. Amen.***

wordtorussia.org

Wishes? My desire is to finish the projects that I have started, there is so much in that computer and I pray "Lord you see my condition, my weakness. Give me strength and if it is your will, let me live a little longer to finish the works that you started through me – but your will be done". That's how I pray each day. I cannot demand of God to give me what I want.

M.L. – It was good to have this talk with you Galina. And I trust our conversation will be encouraging and edifying to our listeners. Praise God for life, for the work, for the cross each of us must bear.

G.M. – And for the joys that the Lord sends.

M.L. – And for the joys. Until next week, our dear friends.

G.M. – Good bye!

Till we meet again, dear sister in Christ!

Some unfinished work remains. We've looked at it and determined there is enough material for 4 books. We are in the process of obtaining publishing rights. Galina had obtained the permission for the materials she had translated and published in very small numbers. But her desire was to publish what is left in the computer. We would like to honor that desire. The translations are edifying and educational for children and adults. In order to finish the work we are establishing a Memorial Fund. If you would like to participate indicate on your gift: "For Galina Memorial Fund". Thank you.

## Christmas 2009

For a number of years, our collaborators in the former Soviet Union visit children's homes, schools and state orphanages as well as homes for the elderly. They witness about salvation and of God's love. Thank the Lord, that in many regions the doors are still open for the good news. Our coworkers in Donetsk, Vinnitsa and Kazakhstan are planning how to reach more orphans with the gifts of Christmas. They ask for our participation to help them provide gift so that many children and adults would hear and experience the love of God through gift. May God bless them and bless you as you consider your support through a special gift.

We invite you to participate by sending a Christmas gift of our materials to families, Sunday Schools, orphanages and homes in the former Soviet Union.

We have prepared packages of CD's and programs for this purpose. By providing these packages you will have a direct role in the spreading of the Gospel, brining the joy of Christmas.

A gift of \$50.00 will enable us to send a set of 32 children's program and 2 CD's with songs and tracks.

A gift of \$25.00 will enable us to send 16 children's program and 1 CD with songs and tracks.

A gift of \$5.00 or \$10.00 will enable us to prepare the Christmas gift with a toy, candy and fruits.

The check should be with a note "Christmas package". Thank you!

## The journey from A to Z



Dear friends. We have prepared some wonderful material. It's a terrific gift for children, that will help them learn the Russian alphabet for further study of the Russian language. The material is creatively prepared for learning for the Russian children as well as all who wish to learn Russian.

Each letter is taught in a 15 minutes audio presentation of poetry, riddles, games, phonetic exercises and stories. Each program also expresses one desired character quality for life: A – accuracy, F – faith, R – responsibility etc. The material introduces the children to the Bible and its heroes.



Besides this we have a lot material for adults and children (Russian and Ukrainian). We have just finished the design of our catalog. If you are interested call or write and we will send you the catalog.

## Our Ministry

*Sending the Gospel to the people of the former Soviet Union since 1972*

Since 1991 we have established a production and distribution center in Vinnitsa, Ukraine and also established in 2005 a new center in Donetsk, Ukraine. We have a viable working relationship with a large Russian speaking population in Israel.

We continue production and distribution of Christian audio materials in West Sacramento focusing on children's programs and music and an informational "missions" program One in the Spirit.

These, as well as our archive materials are broadcast over BBN (Bible Broadcasting Network), Tartu, Estonia AM station, Ukraine: 5 radiostation and also short wave station "Bible Voice".

We have approved a proposal by Novosibirsk Publishing to take over its California affiliate, which was organized out of Peninsula Bible Church, where WTR had its roots.

Recording and distribution of programs and music in our main studio, in West Sacramento. Transfer of archive materials to digital format for wider access to listeners and safe storage.

The Lord is continuing to challenge us with new forms of ministry such as hospices in Samara and Moscow, orphanages in Ukraine and Kazakhstan, summer camps in FSU, refugee work in Israel and a rehabilitation center in Jerusalem.



## One in the Spirit

*Michael Lokteff*

The memorial service of Galina Mekhontseva reminded me of God's call to service and His providence in our lives. In addition, I recently had the privilege of attending my brother Ben and his wife Ardyth's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. They have three daughters and one son as my wife and I do. He went into the ministry after many years of service as an engineer for US Department of Water Resources. He was the pastor of 3 English language churches in California for over 30 years. I was called into the ministry as Word to Russia's Executive Director in 1979. I had been teaching High School English and Art. Both of us were born in China and came to the USA in 1950.

It was inspiring to hear testimonies of people whose lives were touched by Ben's ministry. Some of the guests came from long distances to take part in the celebration. It was a

humble event in a clubhouse of a trailer park where Ben and Ardyth live. The afternoon was filled with testimonies, favorite songs, memories of challenges and victories. The highlight was a video narrated by their son Bob. The story of a boy, living in China in a Russian community of escapees from the USSR. He was stricken with meningitis, but miraculously healed without any damage. Ardyth was redheaded girl born in New Mexico USA. How their lives met in West Sacramento to form a new family of God's children is an amazing story. The paths that God used to lead them together and create a new family fruitful in His Kingdom is itself a miracle.

My path led me to different challenges. I am still humbled and amazed that God would choose to use someone such as I to lead a Russian language radio ministry to the people behind the Iron Curtain. Educated in America, but having no formal Bible training or formal Russian language education. But by the grace of God, persistent parents and the Russian Baptist Church in Bryte (now West Sacramento) and having married a Russian girl born in China to a pastor's family, assisted me in continuing Russian traditions and

language. I stayed in the community. Ben left to minister to Americans. I was called out of teaching High School to speak of God's love by short wave radio to people "behind the Iron Curtain".

Last year, the Russian Baptist Church in Bryte celebrated its 80-th anniversary – not in the little facility on the corner of Solano and Hobson that my father helped to build, but on 1000 Sacramento Ave, which has almost 2000 members, seven choirs, an orchestra, live streaming services on the internet world wide and on local Russian language radio. God shattered the Iron Curtain, allowing thousands to come to America and many chose West Sacramento as their new home.

What amazing things God can do through a few people, humbly obedient to God and supported by prayers of family and of American and Russian friends.

It's quite a story..... His story. And it began with a vision and determination of our father Daniel and my wife's father Peter Amegin, escapees from the atheistic Communist regime who come to America, land of the free. Praise God for America and for new vision and a new song that He gives to children born of His Spirit.



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