



A tranquil atmosphere reigned over the hall while prisoners listened to Good News about Salvation through Jesus Christ...



There are thousands of prisoners needing Good News in Russian prisons. By using interesting and acceptable ways to deliver the Word of God, International Bible Society reaches out to prisoners.

A longtime partner in IBS Prison Ministry, Igor Barachnikov, is a musician who writes songs especially for prisoners, and then gives concerts in many Russian prisons and labor camps. Here is a short account of his activities in prisons:

*Recently we visited Tver, a town located three hours from Moscow, where there are many old, gold domed churches throughout the town. The purpose of our trip was to visit two correctional facilities in the Tverskaia region, meeting prisoners within. Vadim Baturov, National Director of IBS Russia, intended to preach to prisoners in between Igor Barnchikov's performance of songs, and to distribute the special books for prisoners: **4th Man** and **Free on the Inside** [Living New Testament].*

When we reached Tver, we found the Office for Administration of Justice. Officers were waiting for us; we met them and had a short interview with the press representative. Then we drove to the prison with the officers. According to the rules, we had to undergo strict examination of our documents before entering. The security guards carefully checked our minibus with the musical loudspeaker system as well. Finally we were allowed to visit the prisoners.

We started by moving in the equipment to install a sound system and lighting. During the preparation for the concert, the musicians from the Prison Musical Team came to us, eager to talk. We recognized that many prisoners are left completely alone. No one is interested in them, and this has an adverse effect on a prisoner's life.



Many male prisoners of all ages attended the concert. All of them are imprisoned due to serious crimes. They needed to hear that Jesus can forgive all their sins.

Music can influence listeners powerfully. Music can pull a person out of a negative mood. Christians who sing desire to communicate God's presence and power. The music produced a tranquil atmosphere throughout the meeting hall. The prisoners were listening attentively, drinking in every word thirstily, for they live in a spiritual desert.

After the concert finished, we distributed Scriptures and other literature provided by IBS especially for prisoners. We spent time sharing our personal faith in Jesus with interested prisoners, reluctantly leaving in order to visit another prison... ”



Please pray that the prisoners will read the literature, and will respond, trusting the Lord Jesus to forgive and save them from their sins. May there be new Christians growing in faith the next time the team visits Tver prison.