



The Spiritual Resource Foundation

Supporting Christian Science activities in the Russian-Speaking Field

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It is clear that we need “u” in the Spiritual Resource Foundation before we can truly SuRF on the waves of interest in Christian Science which are sweeping across the Russian-speaking world and which need support as they take tangible form in church-related activities.

One of the most important support projects involving the Foundation is the radio broadcast of *The Herald of Christian Science* and the Christian Science Bible Lessons. Those of you familiar with our website might recognize the name of Gennady Shcherbanev, a member of the St. Petersburg Christian Science Society who serves as The Spiritual Resource Foundation’s representative in Russia. This conscientious worker is the contact for inquiries coming from people who hear the broadcasts. Gennady devotes long hours to answering letters and emails, and receiving phone calls. Many that he hears from are first-time correspondents asking for information about Christian Science. Others are former contacts, asking for more information, more literature to share with friends, or sharing testimonies of healing from their beginning practice of the truths they are learning through Christian Science. To protect people’s privacy we cannot share these accounts here, but some do end up in *The Russian Herald*.

Most of these inquirers live in Russia and the former Soviet republics, but also include Russian speakers from other parts of the world due to the wide outreach of the radio programs that the Foundation continues to fund. Gennady answers their questions, sends out packets of literature—books, periodicals, information cards, etc. All are introduced to the Foundation’s and Russian Christian Science websites where they can listen to the Bible Lesson being read and link to *The Herald* in Russian, as well as to other Mother Church websites.

Another very important outreach effort is our support of the Christian Science booth at book fairs. Once again Gennady is a key player in organizing and staffing annual book fairs where hundreds of truth-seekers make contact with Christian Science for the first time. These began with the International Book Fair in Moscow over a decade ago and have since included book fairs in Kazakhstan and Belarus. Each book fair has received financial support from The Mother Church and has featured a very successful Christian Science lecture sponsored by the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church. Through generous contributions from Christian Scientists in Europe and the U.S., the Foundation has been able to supply the funding for providing and transporting books and periodicals, and helping with the expenses of staffing the booths. From these book fairs and lectures, new informal groups of readers of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy have sprung up. Most recently, Gennady sent us the following glowing report of the book fair in Minsk, Belarus, which importantly illustrates the recognition of their good work.

“Because of our regular participation in Moscow International Book Fair we have forged a friendly relationship of confident trust with the Book Fairs Directorate in Moscow, they know us very well there and provide us all kinds of support and assistance. It was due to such close cooperation with this Directorate that the Christian Science Society in St. Petersburg was again invited to participate in an international book fair in Minsk, the Republic of Belarus, in February 2012, on privileged conditions as part of the Russian delegation. The interest for Christian Science and for ‘Science and Health’ exceeded all our expectations. On the very first day we distributed over 35 copies of books, one third of all the books we had brought to the book fair. And people did not just purchase the book, but they wanted to dig deep in search of the Truth; many of them wanted to know how a Christian Science healing happens, how ‘Science and Health’ is related to the Bible, etc....During the five days of the Book Fair we gave out or sold every piece of literature that we brought. This included: 100 copies of “*Science and Health*”, 10 copies of Richard Nenneman’s book ‘Persistent Pilgrim’, 1 copy of ‘History of the Movement of *the Followers of Christian Science in Russia*’ by Professor M.Yu. Krapivin, 200 copies of ‘*The Herald of Christian Science*’ in Russian, a large number of Quarterlies containing Bible Lessons for past periods; also some advertising materials of the Christian Science Reading Room in St. Petersburg, as well as those about Marie Helm’s lecture, and some other literature too.”

On the last day, because all other copies were gone, one of the staff even gave away her personal copies of *Science and Health* and *Persistent Pilgrim*. When the Minsk Book Fair Directorate refused permission for Marie Helm’s lecture to be held in their conference hall, the head of the Press Service of the Russian Federation delegation offered a time available in their own conference hall. The hall was full of guests, five of whom had also attended her lecture last year and wanted to hear more.

As you might expect, with this keen interest in Christian Science, there is a rapidly growing demand for copies of *Science and Health*. We are faced with the cost of shipping more copies to Russia and also helping to fund another printing of good quality books in that country. Regular translation services for the online *Herald* are an ongoing expense. The Foundation is working closely with The Mother Church regarding publication of other works by and about Mrs. Eddy.



The above pie chart shows the distribution of the Foundation’s total expenses for fiscal year 2011, of \$53,600. The outreach category, the largest piece of the pie, includes the cost of maintaining an office and part time paid staff in St. Petersburg, the costs associated with three book fairs in Moscow, Minsk, and Astana, providing financial support to offset special needs of a Christian Science Student Association of a teacher in Russia and ancillary costs associated with Christian Science lectures throughout the Russian-speaking field. Radio broadcast, our second largest expense, includes the purchase of air time and costs of translating the Bible lesson sermon each week and preparation of the Russian language scripts to be read over the air.

Herald expenses include the translation for publication on the Spirituality.com webpage for the Russian edition of *The Herald of Christian Science* translations of selected articles from past issues of *The Christian Science Journals* and *The Christian Science Sentinel* and of original testimonies and articles, many written from the growing Russian-speaking field.

In fiscal year 2011 there were no significant publication expenses because there were no books translated into Russian ready for publication. We expect that at least one work will be fully translated and ready for publication in the second or third quarter of 2012. The Foundation has committed to funding the cost of publication.

All time associated with the administration of the Foundation in the US, except accounting, is volunteer time contributed by dedicated local Christian Scientists. This includes the members of the Board, those working on bookkeeping, webpage management, legal and copyright matters and investment management.

As important as your financial support for these endeavors is, you can also contribute your prayers to this growing and eager band of readers who are engaging in, "...the higher mission of the Christ-power to take away the sins of the world," (*Science and Health*, p. 150). Mortal mind's resistance to its own destruction in this part of the world often takes the aggressive form of state opposition to religions, particularly to those that they deem "foreign." Our joyful affirmation of God's all-presence and all-power governing these situations is a daily gift we can give to these brave pioneers and all who are benefitting from their growing spiritual understanding.

You can read past newsletters, make a donation, and learn more about The Spiritual Resource Foundation and the people working in the Russian-speaking field by visiting our bilingual website, www.spiritualresource.org. This website, along with a Russian-only website at <http://www.christian-science.ru/>, provide the weekly Bible Lesson in both audio and written forms, as well as links to *the Russian Herald*. You can help out by directing anyone who is interested to these websites. You can see how much U are needed in this great work!

With deepest gratitude for all the help you have given and continue to give to this cause,

The S R F Directors: Bill, Richard, Catherine, Ralph, Charles, Leslie, Kurt, Lawrence