



# COME OVER & HELP

2023 Issue 4



3

From Salvation  
to Salvation

6

Report from  
Russia

12

Prison Ministry  
Update



## Mission Statement

Come Over & Help partners with churches in Eastern Europe to bring glory to God through gospel proclamation and practical ministry.

## Vision Statement

Our vision is to see thriving, biblically faithful churches serving Eastern Europe.



**Mr. Raymond Roth**

Administrator & Project Director



**Mr. Greg Slingerland**

Communications & Project Director

Come Over & Help is a non-profit organization with charitable status in Canada and the USA.

The foundation of Come Over & Help is the Bible, which is the Word of God. Come Over & Help adheres to the revealed truths and principles in that Word and to the Three Forms of Unity (Heidelberg Catechism, Canons of Dordt, Belgic Confession) and the Westminster Confession.

The board and staff of Come Over & Help are affiliated with Reformed, Bible-believing Churches and ministries.



U.S. Charitable Registration Number  
38-3415486

CDN Charitable Registration Number  
868109091RR0001



**Connect With Us**  
facebook.com/COAHelp

Phone: **888-844-2624**

E-Mail: **info@coah.org**

Website: **coah.org**

AMERICAN ADDRESS:

5355 Northland Drive NE, Suite C #113  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525-9935

CANADIAN ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 275 Stn Main, Brantford ON N3T 5M8

## Board Members

Mr. Bas DeLeeuw, Chairman

Mr. Rob Brouwer, Secretary

Mr. John Brink, Treasurer

Mr. Ross Derkson, Board Member

Mr. Fred DeVries, Board Member

Mr. Tom Moerdyk, Board Member

Dr. Gerald Procee, Board Member

Mr. Scott Vanoostveen, Board Member

Pastor Arnoud Vergunst, Board Member

Dr. Sacha Walicord, Board Member

## Committee of Recommendation

The committee consists of those who endorse the vision and mission of Come Over & Help.

**Dr. Joel R. Beeke**

Pastor & President of Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI

**Dr. Gerald Bilkes**

Professor at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI

**Pastor William Boekestein**

Pastor of Immanuel Fellowship Church (URCNA), Kalamazoo, MI

**Dr. Sinclair Ferguson**

St. Peter's Free Church in Dundee, Scotland

**Dr. W. Robert Godfrey**

President of Westminster Theological Seminary (West), Escondido, California

**Dr. Michael Horton**

Professor at Westminster Seminary California, Host of *White Horse Inn*, and Editor of *Modern Reformation* magazine

**Dr. Steven J. Lawson**

President of OnePassion Ministries.

**Pastor David Lipsy**

Pastor of Heritage Reformed Church, Burgessville, Ontario

**Dr. John MacArthur**

Pastor & President of The Master's College in Newhall, California

**Dr. Albert N. Martin**

Emeritus Pastor Trinity Baptist Church of Montville, New Jersey

**Pastor Conrad Mbewe**

Pastor of the Kabwata Baptist Church in Lusaka, Zambia

**Pastor Iain Murray**

Author and former editor of Banner of Truth Trust

**Dr. Jon Payne**

Senior Pastor of ChristChurch Presbyterian in Charleston, South Carolina

**Pastor Maurice Roberts**

Emeritus Pastor in Inverness, Scotland and former editor of the Banner of Truth (UK)

**Dr. Derek Thomas**

Senior Pastor of The First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina

**Pastor Peter VanderMeyden**

Emeritus Minister of Free Reformed Churches of North America

**Mr. Paul Washer**

General Director of HeartCry Missionary Society, Radford, Virginia

# From Salvation to Salvation

By **Pastor Denis Boris, Kazakhstan**

*"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:6-9*

It is always fascinating to see the genius of Bible authors. Here we see how the apostle Peter addresses the churches in persecution and preaches hope to them. He starts with a call to rejoice in salvation in 1 Peter 1:6, and he finishes by telling the readers that the end goal of their faith is the salvation of their souls in 1 Peter 1:9. So, all that we see in between, in 1 Peter 1:6-9, is a life of a joyful faith in the midst of suffering from salvation to salvation.

In both cases 'salvation' refers to a final consummation, a renewal of all the creation including the redemption of our bodies. This salvation is in progress, and it is an unstoppable process. It is the road that is walked only in faith, only with joy, and always through trials. There is no other way to reach the 'salvation' destination.

We have been elected to obey Christ, and our salvation walk is caused, kept, and guarded by God. So, let us rejoice in it, knowing that the One who began the good work in us will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.



Almaty, Kazakhstan



# A Return to Moldova

By Pastor Gerald Procee

We read in Acts 2:11 how the men, gathered in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, heard the disciples speaking of the wonderful works of God. There is really no end in examining and assessing the wonderful works of God. We see these works around us in nature and in our own lives, and have God's Word so readily available to us.

**But these wonderful works of God are also seen in the fact that...**



...the Lord is at work in many nations in our day and age, drawing lost sinners to Himself. Sinners are being led to conversion. Churches are being planted, where several decades ago there were no churches. Among many nations, we see that there are pockets of Christians coming together and worshipping the Lord.



For instance, a city like Almaty in Kazakhstan used to be under Soviet dominance until 1989. At that time there were no Reformed churches, but now, thanks to Presbyterian mission work, under God's blessing, there are at least, in that city alone, 20 Presbyterian churches. The majority of them would adhere to Reformed confessions. These are small congregations, but in a city that is predominantly Muslim, this is a positive development.

We are witnessing a steady growth in churches of Reformed persuasion in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. We are actively supporting at least four seminaries which hold to Reformed theology, being in the Baltic States, Belarus, Tyumen in Western Siberia, and Serbia. Besides that, several other seminaries are starting to develop. One of these would be the work of Imago Dei in the Republic of Moldova.

Moldova is a small country of about 2 million people wedged between Romania and Ukraine. In the past, Come Over & Help had several partners in Moldova. That would be around 25 years ago. For various reasons, these contacts were discontinued, but recently we have entered into fellowship with new Reformed partners in this small Eastern European country. Much has changed in Moldova throughout the last 25 years. The country has been greatly modernized, observed in road conditions which are far better than what they used to be. Stores and shops have also been modernized and appear quite similar to what we see in the West.

But more important is the state of churches in Moldova. In our recent visit to Moldova, we learned of changes that have taken place in worship and confessional persuasion. In the capital city



Chisinau are various churches which adhere to Reformed theology. Most of them would be Reformed Baptists teaching Calvinistic theology. One leading minister is Mihai Chisari, a young man who studied in the U.S. and who has gained a love for a Reformed understanding of the Bible. He planted a church in the capital city Chisinau that now has around 80 people in attendance. Pastor Mihai is currently leading the work at Imago Dei. Among young people in Moldova, there are several who are genuinely adhering to Reformed principles. This is primarily due to access to Reformed preaching through internet websites.

This is a new development, especially in comparison to the state of spiritual life in churches of around 25 years ago. At that stage, we had contact with sincere Christians, but overall, the churches in Moldova were heavily influenced by the Russian Baptist Union, being largely Arminian in its theology. Now, however, changes are taking place, leading to a desire to understand genuine Biblical theology, underscoring man's total depravity and God's sovereignty. Especially important is the confession of the perseverance of the saints which was largely lacking in the older theology.

Overall, we are encouraged by these developments and are actively seeking to support such churches and their pastors. We may be very grateful to witness God's wonderful works in Moldova. Let us continually remember these brothers and sisters in all their challenges and earnestly pray for the extension of Christ's church in Moldova and throughout the world.



Board member Rev. Gerald Procee meets with a church leader in Moldova

# Report from Russia

By Greg Slingerland

*It is a difficult time to be a Christian in Russia. The state and the Orthodox church have been long-time opponents to faithful churches, but the war has added a new element of hardship for Christians. Not only is there pressure to be aligned with the Russian government in regards to the war in Ukraine, but there is also the strong possibility of being pressed into military service.*

*Brother Yegor is a pastor and leader in Yakutia, Russia. Come Over & Help has partnered with Yegor and the Association of Christian Evangelical Churches to help plant churches, do evangelism, and help those who struggle to make it through the winter months. Here is his recent report and perspective from Russia:*



(from left to right) Rev. Gerald Procee, Yegor, Raymond Roth, and Tom Moerdyk were able to visit together this fall in Kazakhstan

Glory to God for all His works and blessings in the life of our family and our church!

I am thankful to God that He uses me and my family for His own purposes.

After coming back from Kazakhstan to Yakutsk in November 2022, God kept me safe, and I was not called to the Military Registration and Enlistment office or to the Court. I consider it God's mercy and protection. I do not know what is going to happen, but I trust everything into the hands of the Lord. Please pray for me and my family that God would keep me safe from being called to the Military Registration and Enlistment office or Court, from mobilization to war, so that I can safely continue to

serve the Lord in Yakutia.

I am grateful to God that He gave me the opportunity to share the gospel with non-believers. I want to tell you about one of them, a soldier named Dima.

In December I talked about God with Dima, a young man who serves as a soldier in the army. When he was young, he attended Sunday School classes at our church, but in his teenage years he stopped going to church and started criticizing the Christian faith. When he grew up, he went to serve in the army and has been serving there for four years. In the summer of 2022, he was sent to war in Ukraine. Dima said that he constantly prayed to God and God saved his life, although he had to serve



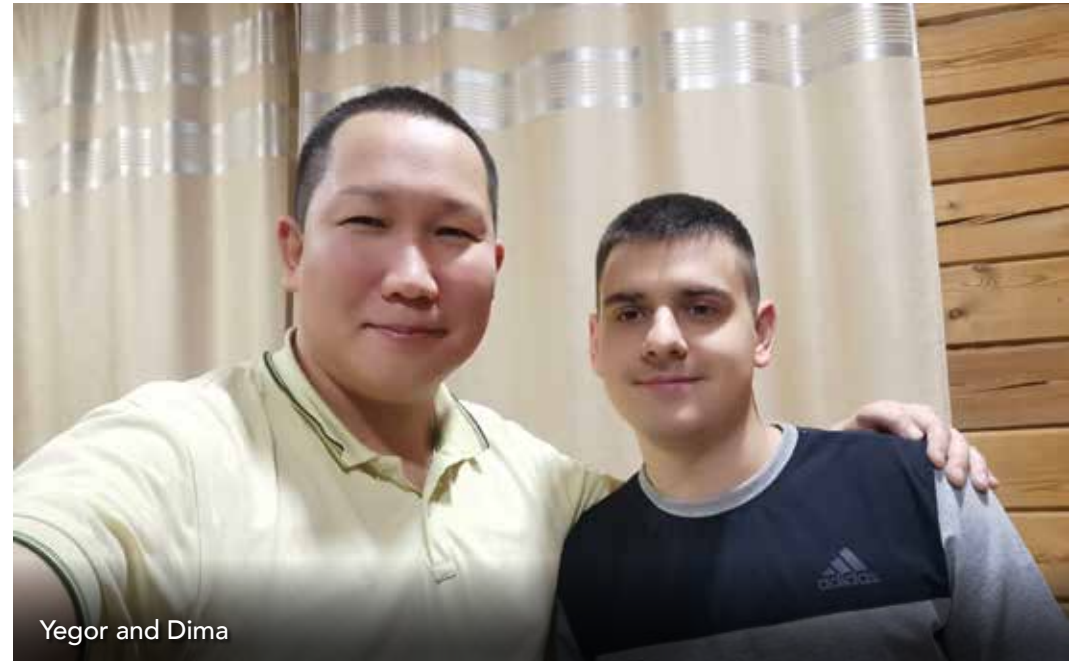
Youth from Yegor's church meet regularly in his home for Bible Study

in very difficult conditions, in the very epicentre of hostility. I reminded him of some of the stories from Sunday School, and told him about Jesus Christ, only now as an adult.

I thank God that this time Dima listened to me very carefully. I pray for him and his salvation, and I ask you to pray for him too. Now Dima is back in the army, but so far, he has not been

sent to Ukraine.

In January 2023, God helped me hold a youth conference in Yakutsk. More than 50 young brothers and sisters from Yakutsk and several villages of Yakutia took part in it. I invited Brother Alexander from Belarus to the conference. He serves there as a coordinator of youth and teenage ministries. Alexander and



Yegor and Dima

I tried to encourage our youth and motivate them to lead a Christ-centered life. It was minus 50 degrees Celsius outside at that time, but our hearts were warmed by God's Word. I praise God for the opportunity to hold conferences like that for our young brothers and sisters. After all, they are our future pastors, deacons, and leaders for the various ministries in Yakutia. On the last day of the conference, on Christmas day, a group of our youth ministers held an evangelism outreach. We visited several poor families in Yakutsk. We not only told them about Christ, but also presented food packages and candies for children.

Over the past six months, my wife Anna and I have been holding weekly

Bible small group studies at our home. In November, I began teaching a "Foundations of the Faith" course for new believers in our church and those who want to become members of the church. I am also engaged in the preaching ministry, leading youth meetings, and participating in missionary trips. Recently I went on a trip to the remote village Ust-Maya, where we participated in children's evangelism, and before that, I visited the village of Oktemtsy, where we shared the Good News with unbelieving college students.

Glory to God that He opens doors for the gospel in different corners of Yakutia!

– Brother Yegor



At Christmas, evangelism and WinterHelp go hand in hand

**Here are some prayer requests Yegor passed along: I ask you to pray:**

- For the Lord to stop hostilities and bloodshed in Ukraine, to save people's lives, and to give repentance to both our two nations – Ukrainians and Russians
- So that I can serve God and His Church in Yakutia calmly and without hindrance, as the head of the Association of Churches of Evangelical Christians, so that I would not be mobilized into the army and sent to war, and not sent to prison if I refuse to serve in the army
- For ensuring that our family still has the opportunity to have financial support, despite the sanctions of some western countries against Russia
- For God to give me His wisdom in making decisions and in the ministry
- For comprehensive protection of my family and our churches in Yakutia

# WinterHelp

**By Greg Slingerland**

Come Over & Help is seeking to raise \$136,000 USD for WinterHelp this year. The winter months are always difficult for many families in Eastern Europe, but the war in Ukraine has added extra stress – especially for Ukrainians, Belarusians, and Russians.

WinterHelp funds can be accessed by local churches who can then help families in need. WinterHelp funds are not only used for diaconal purposes but also for evangelistic efforts. Some churches, like Brother Yegor's church in Russia in the previous article, deliver food packages to their communities and use the opportunity to share the gospel.

WinterHelp funds are used to buy fuel, food, warm clothes, and medicines for those in need. In many cases, it is the elderly who are in need of extra care and help.

If you would like to contribute to the WinterHelp campaign, please visit [coah.org/winter-help-program](http://coah.org/winter-help-program) or scan the QR code below.



# Hope in Eastern Ukraine

By Greg Slingerland

The city of Zaporozhye, Ukraine has been at the epicenter in the ongoing war with Russia. The local economy has been impacted which has caused higher numbers of homelessness and residents in need of assistance.

Our partner, Light of the Resurrection (LOR), has been active in their relief efforts in that city. Throughout Zaporozhye, LOR has several locations where they serve hundreds of hot meals and preach the gospel every week.

Along with hearing the gospel and receiving a hot meal, visitors can also receive medical care and haircuts.

One of the team members is a young man named Vasily.

Vasily first felt a desire to change while in prison. After his release, Vasily wandered around the country. He went through rehabilitation a few times unsuccessfully, lived outside, worked in the fields, and found himself hopelessly addicted to alcohol.

He came to Zaporozhye cold,



Our partner, Light of the Resurrection, has been providing relief supplies



Vasily has a heart for evangelism



Seniors have been heavily impacted by the war in Ukraine



Vasily tells the gathered crowd what the Lord has done in his life

hungry, homeless, and addicted to alcohol. Vasily's grief and disappointment were replaced with hope when he came into contact with LOR.

He met other people who were like him but whose lives had been radically changed. He heard that the Lord was able to change them and set them free from the bondage of sin.

Vasily entered a rehabilitation program and became a Christian. He joined a local church in the city and

became involved in LOR's outreach to the homeless and needy in the city. Today Vasily is enrolled in seminary and has a desire to become a pastor.

Through your partnership with Come Over & Help, ministries like Light of the Resurrection are able to reach men and women like Vasily with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are deeply thankful for your desire to see the lost go from ruin to redemption through the atonement of our Saviour.



The gospel is shared with those who have come for help

# Prison Ministry Update Kyiv, Ukraine

By Pastor Mazepa

Glory and gratitude to our Savior Jesus Christ for His love and care about His children during this difficult time of the war. I thank you for your faithfulness to the financial and spiritual support in our prison ministry.

This is a very unusual time in the spiritual life of our country. Now, many churches in Ukraine that have support from the West receive great opportunities to share the gospel. We receive and distribute a lot of humanitarian help. Besides this, we invite all of them to come to the church of God and to hear His Word.

I continue to serve in two Correctional Establishments. Now as never before, many people come to the Bible study. I have noticed that all of them have many questions, and I am glad to see that they read the Bible. But at the same time, churches from other denominations bring their teachings. Almost all of them teach that you can be justified by your good works, and I spend a lot of time explaining that you can be justified only by faith, and that faith is the gift of God. But for people, it is easy to believe that your good works and your good life can justify you. Therefore, we spend a lot of time discussing this topic.

We also face another problem. We all now want to speak and preach in Ukrainian. In the big cities like Kyiv, almost all the people spoke Russian, but in the villages all the people spoke Ukrainian. Therefore, the Russian language is considered to be a language of educated people. Almost all preachers preached in Russian and used Russian Bibles. Now we all preach in Ukrainian, but many Ukrainian Bibles are written in the old-fashioned language and many people do not understand the meaning of some words and often turn to Russian Bible to understand the text. But I hope this problem will be solved soon.

---

**Every time 30-40 people come to the Bible study. They like to sing Christian hymns together. I even bring them guitars to practice and sing with. The prison administrations are very pleased with the results. They see that people are changing. Many prisoners who attend Bible study plan to start a new life with Christ. Now they have a hope. They say now their time goes more quickly.**

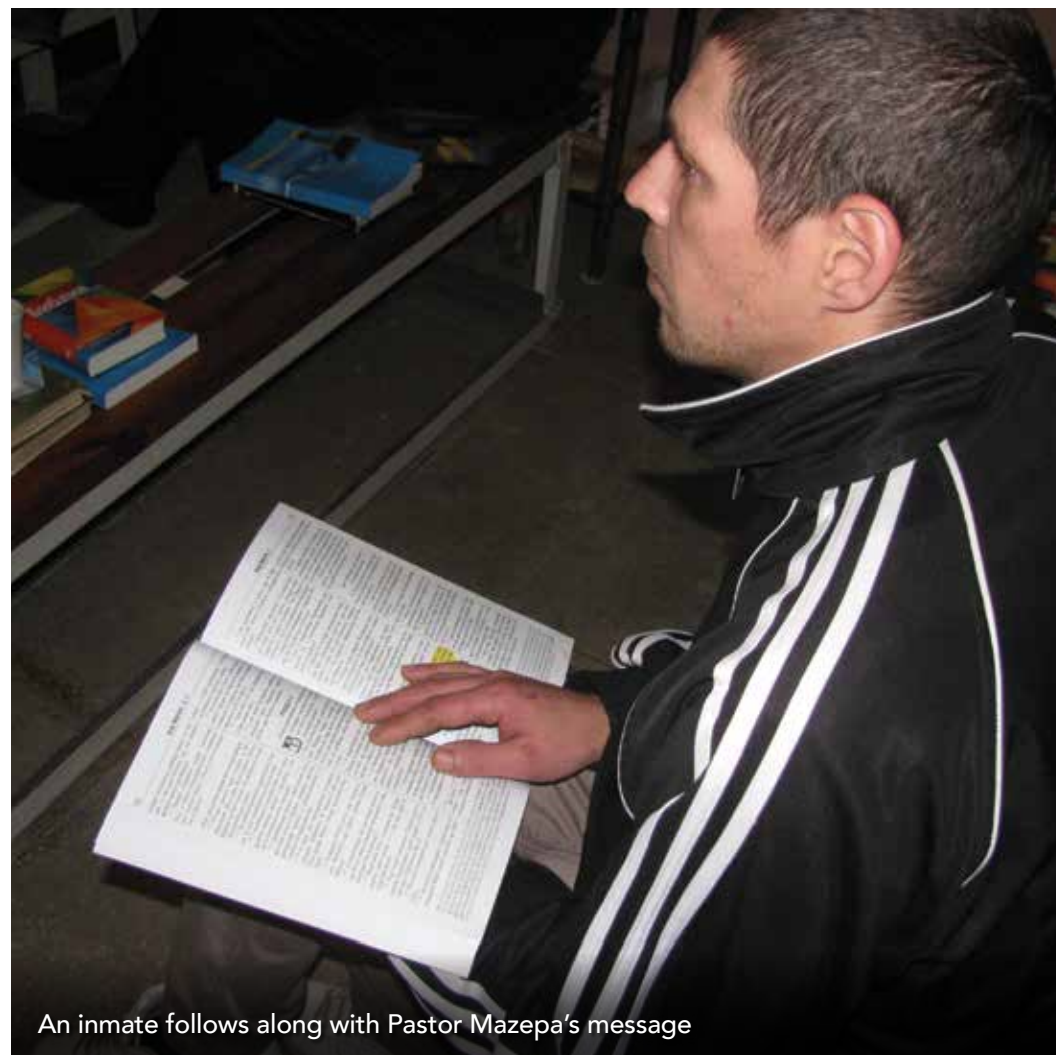
---

They thank you very much for the humanitarian help, especially for the hygienic supplies such as shaving materials, shampoo, gel for the shower, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

May the Lord bless you.



Pastor Mazepa sings with the prisoners

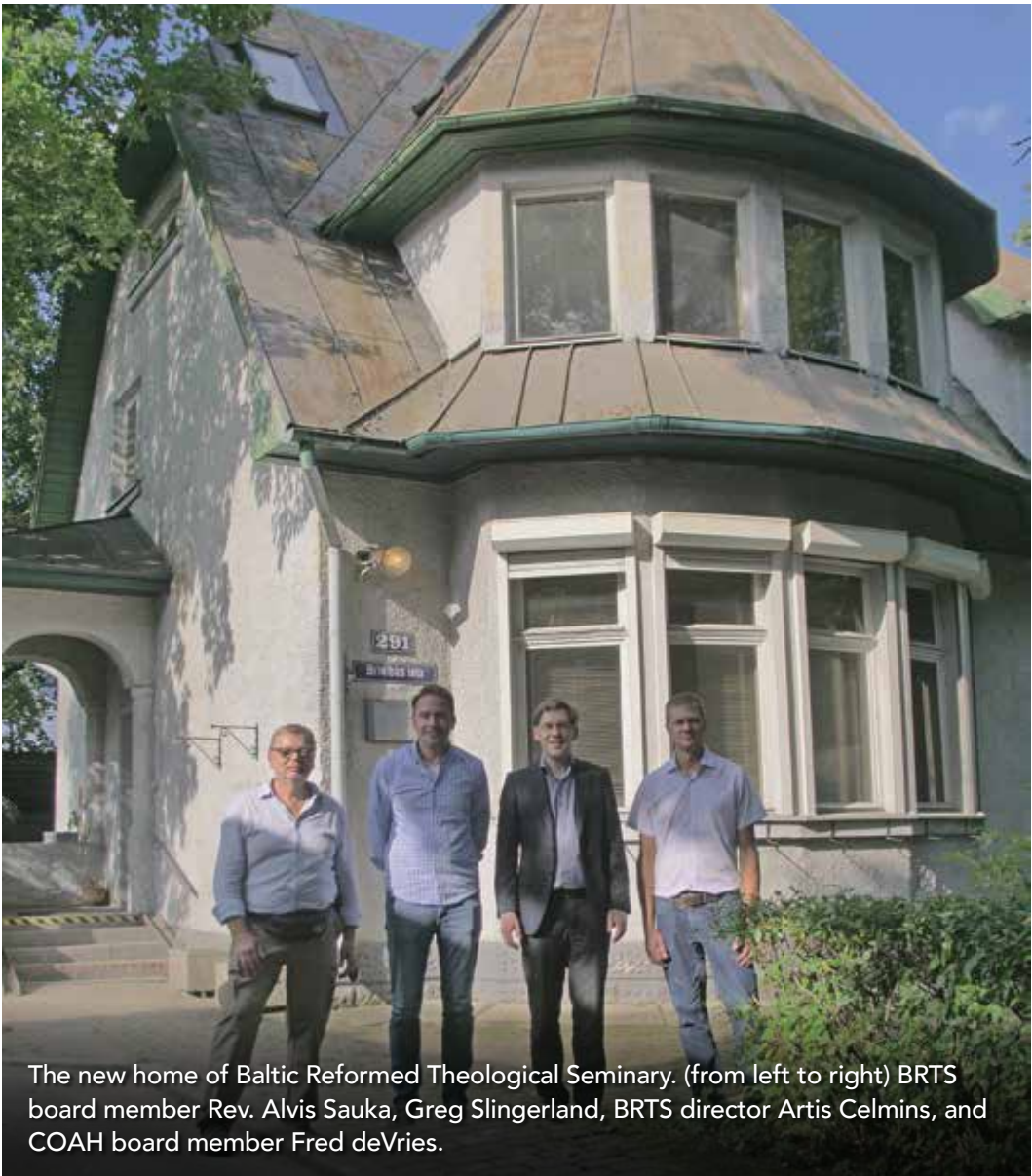


An inmate follows along with Pastor Mazepa's message

# A New Home for Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary

By Greg Slingerland

Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary (BRTS) in Riga, Latvia recently celebrated their 25th anniversary. Not only does BRTS serve the Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia) but also the wider Russian-speaking world. Along with training pastors, they have started a counselling program which is growing in leaps and bounds and has been a blessing to the local churches in the Baltics. For the past 25 years, BRTS has been renting a small second-floor space. Due to growing programs and their theological library, BRTS, in cooperation with Come Over & Help, has purchased a building. Please pray for BRTS as they continue to grow and develop in their mission to train men for gospel ministry in the Baltics and beyond.



The new home of Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary. (from left to right) BRTS board member Rev. Alvis Sauka, Greg Slingerland, BRTS director Artis Celmins, and COAH board member Fred deVries.

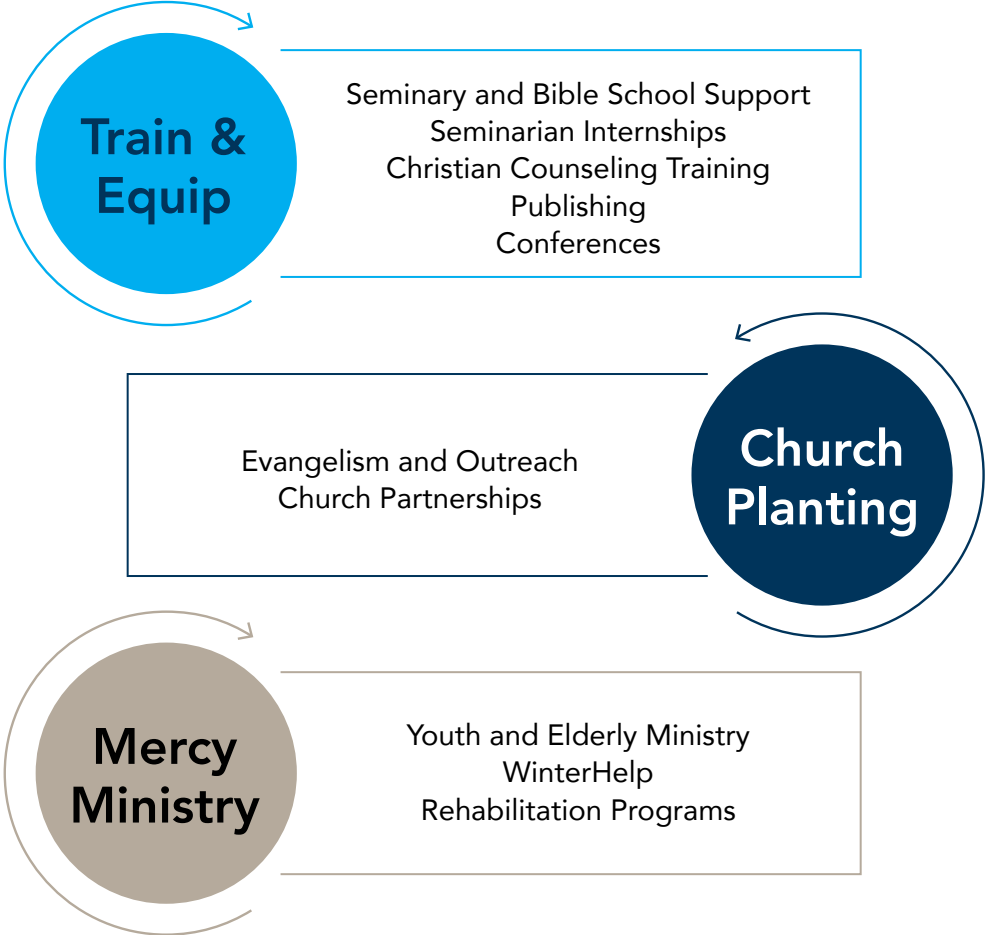
# Can You Help?

Fifty years ago, Come Over & Help came into existence when a group of Dutch individuals began smuggling Bibles and other Christian literature behind the Iron Curtain into the Soviet bloc countries. A lot has changed politically over the past five decades, but one constant remains: a tremendous need for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Today, we work in over 20 countries to make Christ known through the witness and ministry of local churches.

**Our vision is to see thriving, biblically faithful churches serving Eastern Europe**

By God's grace, we are being instrumental in helping the Reformed church stabilize, develop and mature, and are encouraged by what God is doing in the Central and Eastern European churches.

## OUR THREE SPHERES OF PROJECTS



**Please consider helping us to end the year strong with a financial gift, so that we can not only continue to support local churches, but also increase our impact in the coming year. Use the provided envelope or visit [coah.org](http://coah.org) to give online.**



**COME  
OVER &  
HELP**

AID ORGANIZATION INC.

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS MI  
PERMIT #1

# WINTERHELP





**COME  
OVER &  
HELP**

AID ORGANIZATION INC.



# WINTERHELP

