

*May California Americans be strengthened
in Orthodoxy so that they may be able to
leap across the ocean from the East to the
West, and with those Russians who are
being spiritually reborn there, work at the
holy task of the resurrection of Holy Russia,
which of course would be of benefit to
America.*

—ARCHIMANDRITE SPYRIDON EFIMOV
Feast of St. Herman of Alaska, 1982

FROM A READER IN RUSSIA

I accidentally came across your journal *Rusky Palomnik* in 1990. I read it several times for employees and acquaintances. Now that we are free in Russia, we have no spiritual literature. I remember reading an issue of *Rusky Palomnik* somewhere as a child. It actually resembles your journal. I am now 42 years old and I remember that there were wonderful short stories which could not be read without tears. And I never thought that I would be able to read *Rusky Palomnik* again in these terrible times. Apparently the time has come for the *Rusky Palomnik* to finally be returned to the hands of believers! For 73 years we have been wearied with longing for the word of God, and we wish very much that the journal should be printed for us in Russia, and that it would be available for all who want it.

But what can we do; we have no money to subscribe to or print the journal. We have only one copy in a town of 250,000 inhabitants!!!

Vera Iv. Zaikonova
Celinograd, Khazakstan

American Orthodox Mission to Russia
Attn. Kate McCaffery, Executive Secretary
1065 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94109



St. Herman of Alaska (†1836),
Russian Orthodox missionary to America

AMERICAN ORTHODOX MISSION TO RUSSIA

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A SPIRITUAL VACUUM

A spiritual vacuum has been created by the communist "experiment" in the country formerly known as *Holy Russia*.

The present-day moment of freedom is a crucial one. It is vitally important to send literature and missionaries now while the doors are open and hearts are eager for spiritual food. At this moment the spiritual void is being rapidly filled by all kinds of pseudo-spiritualities which are foreign and disturbing to the Russian soul, with its 1,000-year history of mystical experience of Jesus Christ.

RUSSKY PALOMNIK—RUSSIAN PILGRIM RETURNS

One of the most popular journals in pre-revolutionary Russia was *Russky Palomnik* (*Russian Pilgrim*). For over thirty years it fed Russians with solid Christian writings designed to keep faith in Christ alive and active. Publication naturally ceased with the Revolution of 1917.

In 1990, a group of young Americans took upon itself the task of publishing *Russky Palomnik* and distributing it in Russia to the thousands who are thirsting for genuine, unadulterated Christian literature in their own language. The response has been phenom-

enal. Letters are received daily in which we are told how people make photocopies of the journal and pass them from hand to hand. However, due to the high costs of printing and mailing from the United States, we have only been able to produce 10,000 copies of each issue. This, of course, is only a small fraction of the numbers required to fill the need.

AMERICAN ORTHODOX MISSION TO RUSSIA

We are responding to this need to increase circulation by moving the production of *Russky Palomnik* to Russia itself. God willing, a team of missionaries will go to Russia this summer to establish a center from which *Russky Palomnik* can be printed and distributed. We expect this to result in at least a seven-fold increase in circulation for the same cost. With your help we can do even more.



Typesetting *Russky Palomnik*.

THE MISSION TEAM

The mission team will live a brotherhood common life and will pray the daily cycle of services, making them available to the public. A hospitality center (chapel/bookstore/soup kitchen/coffee shop) will be established where seminars will be of-

fered and where all visitors will be made welcome and can experience the life of Christ and the Gospel in action.



Collating, cutting, and mailing *Russky Palomnik*.

MISSIONARIES AND MISSIONARY-MINDED SUPPORTERS NEEDED

Souls who are moved by the desperate need are called to give themselves to the work of giving hope to Russia. Together we can move rapidly to assure that the spiritual face of authentic Orthodox Christianity will not disappear from the Russian land.

Those interested in joining the mission team going to Russia are encouraged to write for more information at the address below.

Contributions should be sent to the same address. Please make your checks payable to the Valaam Society of America, a tax-exempt non-profit religious association, and designate: "For the American Orthodox Mission to Russia."

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