

Brief Review of Church Music Ministry of Konstantin Zhigulin & Lina Zhigulina. 2009

Year 2009 – was very fruitful and blessed time for us. God blessed us with a lot of new possibilities to serve Him which was a great joy for us. We are very glad that our work became useful for believers in Russia, Ukraine, Estonia and USA.

We would like to express appreciation to each of you who has supported our ministry during all this time and hope on your help in the future. We would like to give thanks to all people from the Eastern European Mission, all brothers and sisters from Cole Mill road Church of Christ who help us, and personally to Jeff Matteson and others who help us keep our ministry going. May God bless you!



*Thank you for your interest, and support of our ministry.
Please pray that God's glory will shine everywhere!
Konstantin & Lina Zhigulin.*

1. COMPOSING WORK

I see composing new hymns as a very important part of our work. It is very interesting that in the beginning of our cooperation with Mark Shipp he and other brothers translated my songs into English; but now, I compose songs based on the book of Psalms and sometimes we make two versions of the songs – in English and Russian. For example, “Return O Lord” (Ps. 6), “Let your glory be over the earth,” (Ps 106). During 2009 year, I composed a new hymns for use in congregational singing based on Psalm 1 – “How blessed are all those who do not walk in sin”, song based on Psalm 39 - “Let me know my sinful failings”, and a song based on Psalm 34 - “I bless the Lord both day and night.” Also, I composed a few songs in Russian which we already study in the singingschool time.

2. “PSALOM” – Konstantin Zhigulin`s Spiritual Music Ensemble (www.psalom.org):

This summer Psalom had a chance to come to the US for participation in ACAFEST (festival of Church Acapella music in Lipscomb University, Nashville) and Christian Scholars' Conference at the same place. During this visit we also had a possibility to visit congregations in Alabama and Tennessee for sharing with them our new songs based on Psalms. During the trip we made presentations of acapella singing at Macedonia Church of Christ (Florence), Central Church of Christ (Huntsville), Ninth Avenue Church of Christ (Haleyville), Woodmont Hills Church of Christ, Bellevue Church of Christ, Forest Home Church of Christ, North Boulevard Church of Christ. We were very impressed that people in congregations where we sang were always happy to sing new songs with us and asked about scores and recordings of new songs to learn them. Comments from our listeners you can see on – www.psalom.org/home/comments.html



In the very end of the trip we worked on recording of all new songs so that more people could hear and learn them in the future.

In autumn 2009 “Psalom” had visit US again. During this visit we had a possibility to visit congregations in Tennessee and Texas. We had a joy sing for more than 20 congregations. We also had a possibility to visit Dallas Christian College, Austin Graduate School of Theology and Christian school in Nashville.

3. TEACHING

- **Singing school (www.singingschool.ru):**

Every summer we join our efforts with the wonderful team of teachers as we teach the Annual Singing School for brothers and sisters from Russia and Ukraine. This year 89 students came to study! Our course this year emphasized singing as an important part of worship. It was a great time of cooperation, study and singing songs for God's Glory!

Participants of singing school 2009:



Lina teaches soprano:



Choir of the Singing School:



- **Singing seminar for children and young people in Crimea**



In the end of this summer we were participating in a seminar for orphans.

Every day we prepared worship time with Bible reading and singing and taught a new song.

Also we taught some children's songs.

It was a very blessed time for us.

In the end of the seminar three young people were baptized.

Glory to our God and Savior Christ Jesus!



- **One day seminar “Why do we sing?”**



In January we worked for an arrangement singing seminar, “Why do we sing?” In the program of this seminar, there was a class about singing as an important part of worship. We studied new songs, and songs for Children’s class. This seminar was a great experience of cooperation between brothers and sisters of our congregation. It brought us great joy to know that

some people from other congregations, who are interested in church music, and especially the acapella tradition, visited this seminar.



- **Work in St. Petersburg**

Lina works a lot for the development of the new direction of our ministry – helping other congregations with acapella singing. We see this work as very important because some churches already cannot imagine worship without instruments, which is very sad because the tradition of acapella singing is not useful in this kind of congregation at all. But, some of these congregations still have interest for acapella worship and ask Lina to help with their church choir.

In this moment, Lina is engaged with helping the church “Resurrection” in the small town of Pushkin and with the choir of Saint Petersburg Christian University. It was great joy for us that the congregation in Pushkin decided to sing acapella songs for Christmas.



- **“Let there be joy” project**

In December of 2008, we invited our congregation to make presents for other Christians around us. They helped to design and write cards with inspiring words, which were sent with CDs of Spiritual music (“Let there be joy” – spiritual music based on the book of Isaiah, and “Psalom” based on Psalms) as presents.

In the middle of January we sent more then 200 Cds to the Church of Christ of Tallinn, Ekaterinburg, and some congregations in Saint Petersburg. We received a few letters from these congregations:

“... thank you for your desire to make presents for the brothers and sisters of our congregation. It is beautiful!” Nikilay Vasutin, Tallinn.

«Special thank you for the presents. We were so glad». Aleksey Volchkov, missions "Peter and Paul."

“... it was just a great idea... I did not expect this... wonderful Christmas gift...” Oleg Krasnikov, church “Resurrection,” Pushkin.

For congregations with children we made a present of Children’s Bibles printed by EEM.

4. SECULAR MUSIC

Secular music - work in the field of non church music

The main goal of this work is to reach the lost with the

Message of God's love in songs.

During 2009 year, we gave a few concerts in St. Petersburg and one concert for Russian listeners in Finland. Also in 2009 we record new acoustic album with title "Day". We hope that this music can help us open the hearts of non church people and in some points can help them came to the church.



5. EDIT WORK

We continue our work on the translation and correction of the best church hymns. We made a translation of the song "You raise me up." Also, I cooperate with Eastern European Missions for the editing of the songbook in three languages "Christian songs." This songbook plan includes 41 of my spiritual songs, which is a great joy for me. Also, we work for the preparation all materials for singing school, and for the support and development of the web site of the singing school.

www.singschool.ru

6. MINISTRY FOR HOME CONGREGATION IN ST. PETERSBURG

I continue to lead singing in our congregation "Church of Christ on Neva", S-Petersburg.



The last few years I try help for couples who made a decision to be marriage. We try to help them with preparation of wedding ceremony, but which is more important we work together for make a clear picture of Christian marriage based on Bible and daily experience of church families we have.

We are planning to continue our work for the development of singing and worship by co-leading the Annual Singing School, by working on collection of songs for the churches in Ukraine and Russia, by composing new songs based on Psalms and other books of the Bible, by creation of new study book for singing at churches and maintaining Annual Singing School web site... hope God will provide for all of our needs.