Early in 2000, Samvel Ovsepovich Grigoryan, a young pastor from the city of Yoshkar-Ola in the central region of Russia, came up with the idea to publish a monthly newspaper. The idea came after he ran into a neighbor while getting his mail. His neighbor, who was indignant about the pile of newspapers he retrieved from his mailbox, said: “So many newspapers and absolutely nothing to read!”

The church supported Grigoryan’s idea to publish a monthly newspaper that would inform people about Bible truths in simple language. It would be given free to residents of the city. The first issue of the Sokrytoye Sokrovishche (Hidden Treasure) was released on May 25, 2000. With only three articles on four pages, 1,000 copies were printed.

Church members quickly distributed the newspaper. It received good reviews from readers who, in turn, made monthly donations for its publication.

The next issue had many articles about various topics such as: Jesus Christ’s life on earth and His soon Second Coming, Bible prophecies, the Law of God, family relationships, health principles, stories for children, and Bible study lessons that readers could order for free. The newspaper contained 16 pages. Distributors from other cities learned about the newspaper, and soon its circulation started to grow.

In 10 years, circulation of Hidden Treasure in Russia gradually rose from 1,000 to 1.4 million copies. In 2011, 17.7 million copies of Hidden Treasure were distributed in Russia.

In order to spend less money on transporting the newspapers, many conferences decided to print the newspaper in nearby secular publishing houses. The newspaper is now printed in 25 Russian cities and distributed in almost every village of the country. Hidden Treasure is also printed and distributed among the Russian-speaking population in North America.

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Hidden Treasure, other missionary newspapers started being printed in Ukraine, Moldova, and Germany.

In 2004 there was an urgent need to construct an office building for the editorial staff. Prior to that, the editorial staff worked at home on their own computers. The sorting and packaging of newspapers were carried out in a small decaying building owned by the church. Many readers expressed their support in their letters and, when construction began, started sending in donations. Readers sent money from the most remote regions in Russia. Construction was finished within 12 months, and now 14 employees work there.

Even now, the only source of funding for Hidden Treasure has been donations from church members and readers.

The newspaper unites most of the community members in missionary service. Church members give newspapers to their family and friends and distribute them in the streets, office buildings, shopping centers, and door-to-door. Newspapers are taken to hospitals and sent by mail to remote villages and prisons, as well as delivered to educational institutions and the offices of government officials.

Active missionaries are involved in a project to distribute the newspaper that includes three phases:
1) Church members place the newspapers in mailboxes so residents can become familiar with it. 2) After two to three months, the missionaries go to the same apartments to ask people if they have read the newspapers and want to receive them regularly. Many people show interest. Thus, the paper becomes a key that opens doors and people’s hearts for Christian fellowship.
3) Missionaries visit readers with the next edition of the newspaper to talk to them and sell or give them books, DVDs, and Bible studies. They also invite them to attend church activities and worship services.

The newspaper’s editorial office receives hundreds of letters from readers each month. An organized Bible study course has been implemented in all regions. Now, hundreds of churches have members who first came to know about God through reading Hidden Treasure.

Monthly Distribution of Hidden Treasure
by Paul Liberanskiy | ESD Publishing Director

Hidden Treasure is also published and distributed in the Ukrainian Union.
- Monthly circulation in Ukrainian: 130,000 copies
- Monthly circulation in Russian: 300,000 copies
- Total: 430,000 copies

Hidden Treasure is also published and distributed in Moldova.
- Monthly circulation in Russian: 70,000 copies
- Monthly circulation in Romanian: 70,000 copies
- Total: 140,000 copies

Altogether, 2 million missionary newspapers are distributed monthly in the Euro-Asia Division.

This missionary service is a great blessing in our division.

Girl Is Converted After Translating Book
by Akinori Kaibe | Japan Publishing House, NSD

Not long ago, we decided to translate Mark Finley’s booklet about the Sabbath, When God Said Remember.

A young girl in high school translated it into Japanese. In the process of translating the book, she was convinced that she should be baptized.

Praise the Lord for touching people in miraculous ways!