

Chapter 11

Paul Demetrus



Photo: L>R __, Ivan Zakatchenko, Paul Demetrus, Sergei Nazarov, Andrew Rady, Ivan Britchok



Working in conjunction with Alex Shevchuk's radio ministry was Rev. Paul Demetrius.

In 1950 several hundred Russian refugees arrived in San Francisco aboard the General W. G. Haan. This group of Christians who had to flee communism, suffered severe hardship in their long trek to freedom. They were first driven from the Soviet for their religious beliefs, later from Turkestan for the same reasons. Many of them had good farms and cattle that were destroyed when the Chinese communists drove them from their midst.

They traveled by horse, by carts and trucks through bitter cold. In order to save the children they had to put all the clothing on them that they could get. Many of the older people could not survive the ordeal and were buried on the way.

Finally they arrived in Shanghai. Through Christian friends in America it was made possible for them to be transported to the Philippines where they were interned for several years. Sponsors were found for them in South America, Australia and the United States.

Most of those that landed here in 1950 still cling together. They have found a goal and are now devoting their time to a very worthy project.

Paul Demetrus, a former member of the Orthodox church, after his conversion dedicated his life to the task of evangelizing his own Slavic people. Born in Chicago, he studied for the ministry in Moody Bible Institute and after graduating from Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Missouri, he made application for missionary work to Russia. He and his wife Ruth were sent to a Russian language school in New York City to prepare themselves for Foreign missionary service. However, the opportunity to minister personally to the Slavic people in Europe was never realized because of communistic restrictions.

In God's providence Christian radio stations were built and the need for Russian and Ukrainian programs had to be met. At the same time by God's help, these Russian people immigrated to San Francisco and Blythe, California and were able to furnish the songs and choral numbers for the programs.

Paul Demetrus uses the facilities of the FAR EAST BROADCASTING CO. in Manila, P. I. and THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION in Stockholm, Sweden. These programs which are called THE VOICE OF TRUTH are beamed by these stations into the iron and bamboo curtain countries.

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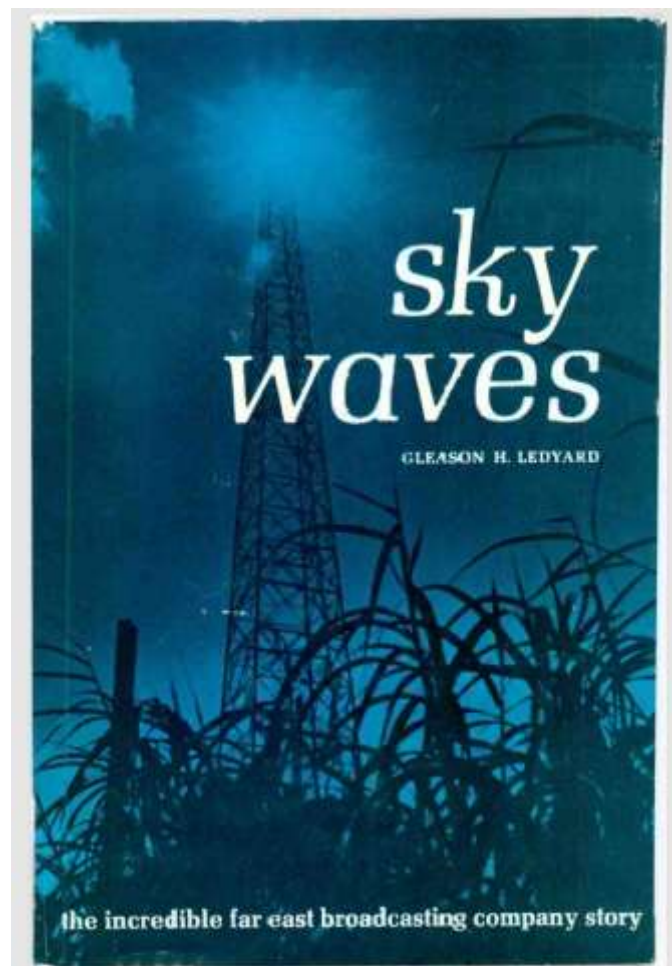
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<https://wigowsky.com/RGT/Demetrus.jpg>

I discovered an interesting story about **Paul Demetrus** and his connection to the Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC).

<https://www.worldradiohistory.com/BOOKSHELF-ARH/History/Sky-Waves-Ledyard-1963.pdf>



Chapter Fifteen

RUSSIAN PRAYER MEETING

FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THIS TIME, a group of Russian refugees came out of Russian Turkestan, then over into Sinkiang, China, and walked across China during the cold winter months, finally arriving in Shanghai. They became wards of the United Nations and were sent to the Philippines before proceeding to America.

Alex Chernov, one of the young men of the group, was brought to Manila, where he had a leg amputated which had been badly frozen while fleeing from the Communists when crossing China. At this time he was invited to Christian Radio City where he gave his testimony over the radio in the Russian language to be beamed back to his homeland.

Five years later, as Bowman and Roberts were in San Francisco at the beginning of Operation Dismantle, they felt the need to spend some time in prayer. Because most prayer meetings are on Wednesday, and this was Thursday, they had small hopes of sharing their burdens with some group of Christians. In looking through a friend's church directory they noticed one Russian church which had its prayer service on Thursday. It was in an unfamiliar part of San Francisco, and they wondered if they should try to locate this church. Not knowing what to expect, but having plenty of time, they set out to look for this small Russian church.

About 8:00 P.M. they arrived in front of a large house which had been converted into a church. The meeting was in progress. Both Bowman and Roberts commented as they

got out of the car that they had never been on Russian Hill before and would be total strangers to this group. As they walked in, the pastor was speaking to his people. Then he looked back and briefly murmured something in Russian to those assembled, then said, "Well! Brother Bowman and Brother Roberts, come right up to the platform."

Bill Roberts thought as he walked up the aisle, "Who in the world is this man? I never saw him before in my life, and yet he seems to know us!"

The pastor said, "Brother Bowman, will you sing for us?" Bob walked over to the piano and sang a familiar church hymn.

Then he turned to Bill Roberts. "Now tell us what you are doing in San Francisco."

As he got up to speak, Bill Roberts thought to himself, "Well, I don't know who you are, but you asked for it." He told of how they wanted to increase their power so as to put a more powerful signal into the iron curtain countries. Then he related to them how God had provided the fifty-thousand-watt and one-hundred-thousand-watt transmitters there in San Francisco, and how they were in the very beginning stages of dismantling the equipment.

After Roberts was finished speaking, the pastor got up and spoke to the people in Russian. Both the guests wondered what was going on, but finally it became evident. Reaching down, the pastor placed an open Bible on the altar and invited the members to place their offering on the Bible. Bowman, watching an elderly couple at the rear, could hardly keep a straight face. The man leaned over and evidently asked his wife for some money. She obliged by handing him a one-dollar bill. He immediately shoved it back in her purse, reached over with his big hand, and grabbed a number of bills out of her billfold, then walked down the aisle with the others to place their offering on the Bible.

The pastor turned the meeting over to an elder and took Bowman and Roberts down to the basement where their eyes lit up when they saw some beautiful recording equipment.

Roberts asked, "Where did you get this elaborate equipment?"

Then the amazing story began to unfold.

Bob finally asked, "Let's see, what did you say your name was?" (They hadn't introduced themselves up to this point.)

The Russian pastor answered, "Demetrius."

"Not Paul Demetrius from Philadelphia?"

"Yes, I'm Paul Demetrius who lived in Philadelphia."

This pastor had been challenged by one of FEBC's missionaries who was on furlough some years before. Since then, Demetrius had been producing tapes in the Russian language for release over the Manila stations! What a coincidence. They knew each other but had never met!

Then Paul told how he had been called as a missionary to Russia but couldn't get in because of Communist activities. When he learned of the possibilities of radio, he devoted much of his time to the preparation of tapes.

It had been difficult to get recording material in Philadelphia from lack of suitable personnel. This same group of Russians, who had trekked across China in the winter, had formed a church in San Francisco upon their arrival and had given Russian Paul Demetrius a call to be their pastor. He finished with, "So, here I am."

Then it was revealed to Bowman and Roberts that some of the people still assembled upstairs were of the group that had come out of Russia via China and the Philippines to establish in America. Alex Chernov, who had lost a leg because of the trip, was a member of another Russian church.

Briefly, the pastor told of some of the bitter experiences these Christians had as they came across China. They

buried their dead along the road. But now they had gained their freedom and could serve the Lord they loved without being molested.

Some of the older people in the church that evening were gravely concerned when Bowman and Roberts walked into the meeting. They, of course, did not know the leaders of FEBC, and took them to be secret agents (as the case would be in Russia) to check up on their producing tapes in the Russian language. Then it was explained to them who the strangers were.

* * * *

A heavy crane was brought in sections and assembled to a length of one hundred forty feet. It was hoped the towers could be lowered intact. But before they could be let down, the antenna curtain had to be dismantled and this called for skilled mechanics.

As a youth, Don Geary had fallen forty feet from a windmill tower. His back was broken: doctors said he would never walk again, but God delivered him from the life of an invalid to use him in His service.

As the antenna work progressed outside under Don's supervision, Norman Blake was busy inside the transmitter building, planning his work in such a way as to utilize all the man-hours possible. Skilled workmen came from every walk of life to give valuable assistance.

The removal of the shorter antenna poles was a comparatively simple operation. A small crane was used to lower the one-hundred-foot poles, but getting rigged for the job was the main task. There were four one-hundred-foot poles holding one of the main antenna curtains. Such poles in the Philippines would cost \$3.00 a foot!

The antenna farm contained forty-five telephone poles which carried the transmission lines from the transmitter building to the different antennas. These were thirty feet long, and would be of great value overseas.

Some of the Russian refugees were the most faithful in helping dismantle the equipment. One of the men had night-shift work. He spent most of the day helping the FEBC men, taking just a few hours for sleep.

One cold foggy night, the others had gone home, but Bowman saw a man out where they had just lowered a tower. He wondered who it could be and decided to walk out to see. As he approached the spot, he saw Alex Chernov working hard removing some heavy turnbuckles. Dressed in a topcoat with the collar pulled up round his ears, Bowman spoke to Chernov. "Alex, it's too cold for you to be out here tonight."

Although the cold wind was blowing in off the bay, Alex never lifted his head nor lessened the speed of the wrench. In low tones he replied, "It is not as cold as China!"

Although the others had purpose in their being there, none had the impetus of the Russians, who realized some day this very equipment would be broadcasting the Gospel of Jesus Christ back to their homeland, Russia. Some of those giving assistance were business executives who would put on overalls and work along joyfully with the rest.

Fortunately, the location of the antenna setup was near the shipping dock, and not all of it had to be handled by truck. Shorter poles were snaked across the dock and bundled ready for shipment to the Philippines. A freighter came alongside the pier and loaded the poles and equipment aboard—a total of seventy-two and a half cubic tons. It consisted of seventy-five poles thirty feet long, four poles one hundred feet long, sixteen thousand board feet of structural lumber, and eight tons, or forty-one cases, of insulators and antenna hardware.

Lowering each of the main one-hundred-eighty-foot towers was a major operation. The idea was to lay them down intact. With a crane extended to the height of one hundred forty feet, the tower would be lifted off its base while a

smaller crane would walk the bottom of the tower away from the base. Together they would lay it down on the ground.

As the engines were screaming, cables straining, the huge tower started to lift off its base—but, something happened! The tower snapped! A long bolt kept it from falling clear and caused the top section to swing like a club against the crane, crumpling it like a matchstick. The tower, cables, and crane fell in a twisted mass of wreckage around the cab. The crane operator—was he killed? As the cloud of dust settled, he crawled out of the cab, brushed off the dust, and exclaimed, "That was the roughest ride I have ever had!"

Clearing the wreckage, they found the cause of the accident—dry rot! And that was the tower Don Geary had just climbed. It wasn't possible to remove the towers as they had planned. The only thing to do was pull them over and salvage all the useable materials. The cables, insulators and other hardware were all precious and could be used in reconstruction overseas, but what a mess to be cleared away. A Russian refugee father and his son worked side by side, the father depending on the son for interpretation. Hawaiians, Chinese, Japanese worked hand in hand: it was like a United Nations. Missionary work is everybody's job.

Once a part of the skyline of San Francisco, the towers lay broken in splinters. They had been the Voice of Freedom around the world. But the heart of the voice were the transmitters and they were to be transported across the sea where they would live again. In a sense, that is what had happened to the Russian refugees that were helping. Elderly Pastor Bromanco, a leader of the refugees, who had walked across China, wore the marks of suffering in his face. Hundreds who started for freedom never made it. But of those who did, a new generation was born in the Land of the Free. Those who could, came to fight in the army of the Lord.



Figure 4. Radio log

**ASSOCIATE BROADCASTS RELEASED
IN RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN**

Behind the iron curtain each week an estimated 6 million persons hear REVIVALTIME's "Voice of Truth" broadcast services. Paul Demetrus, Assemblies of God missionary to the Slavic people, is producer of these broadcasts in the Russian and Ukrainian languages. He is speaker for the Russian service. "Voice of Truth" is produced in San Francisco, Calif., using an Assemblies of God choir composed of Russian refugees.

Paul Demetrus
"Voice of Truth"

Hilo KIPA 1130 4:00 p.m.

1250

VOICE OF TRUTH RELEASES

A complete listing of stations releasing broadcast services in the Russian and Ukrainian languages is available. Write to REVIVALTIME, Box 70, Springfield, Mo. 65801, and ask for the "Voice of Truth Log."

L464

AN UNUSUAL EVANGELISTIC BROADCAST SERVICE

REVIVALTIME is supported by freewill gifts and offerings.
Send your letters to:

REVIVALTIME

BOX 70 SPRINGFIELD, MO. 65801 U.S.A.

REVIVALTIME, national radio voice of the Assemblies of God, has been heard on the ABC network since December 1953. It has been on the air through the facilities of hundreds of independent stations since 1946. Originating from the campus of Central Bible Institute, Springfield, Missouri, REVIVALTIME is released from 340 stations, 40 of which are outside the United States. An estimated 12,000,000 people listen to the broadcast each week. <https://spiritoldies.com/video/revivaltime-radio-choir-let-everybody-sing-1961/>

REVIVALTIME's foreign language associate broadcast is produced in the Russian and Ukrainian languages. Produced by **Paul Demetrus** and known as REVIVALTIME's "Voice of Truth," the broadcast is heard each week by an estimated 6,000,000 individuals behind the iron curtain.

"Voice of Truth," a radio broadcast produced by Paul Demetrus, Assemblies of God missionary, is an associate broadcast of

¹³Zimmerman, op. cit., p. 32.

¹⁴Interview with C. T. Beem, January 28, 1964.

"Revivaltime." This broadcast is in the Russian and Ukrainian languages and is beamed behind the Iron Curtain. "Voice of Truth" has an estimated audience of six million.¹⁵ The choir is made up of Russian refugees. Twenty half-hour releases are made over the facilities of the Far East Broadcasting Company each week.¹⁶ In addition a daily program is broadcast to Australia and New Zealand. "Though our mail response is understandably small from behind the Iron Curtain, we had quick response from the Russians in Australia."¹⁷ As of January 18, 1964, the "Voice of Truth" was broadcasting 34 half-hour releases weekly.¹⁸

The Radio Department does not give financial assistance to the "Voice of Truth," but it does assist in promoting the broadcast.¹⁹

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¹⁵Radio Department, Assemblies of God, "Revivaltime Tenth Anniversary," 1964, p. 5. (Pamphlet.)

¹⁶Paul Demetrus, "Radio Reaches Russia," The Pentecostal Evangel, April 28, 1963, 2555, p. 8.

THE RADIO DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD bY

Kansas State University

PDF

by ME Craig · 1964 — processed and then sent to Springfield for answering. "Voice of Truth, " a radio broadcast produced by Paul Demetrus,. Assemblies of God missionary, is an ...

<https://krex.kstate.edu/bitstream/handle/2097/36022/KSUL0022LD2668T41964C88.pdf?sequence=1>

The Voice of Truth (PaulDemetrus, USA). For more than 30 years, before many of the Slavic brethren even thought of ministering to their people via radio, Paul Demetrus broadcast in Russian and Ukrainian to Eastern Europe. He utilized short wave stations in Malta, Lisbon, etc.

<https://krex.k-state.edu/bitstreams/f299cb51-d3be-4dea-9bf5-899d88a6222a/download>

The following is a condensation of the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. This condensation is carried in the masthead of the denomination's weekly publication, The Pentecostal Evangel.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God.

WE BELIEVE that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

WE BELIEVE in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years.

¹⁰Official Statistics of the Assemblies of God, "op. cit." (Mimeographed.)

¹¹Public Relations Department, Assemblies of God, "How the Assemblies of God Rank." (Mimeographed.)

WE BELIEVE in the Blessed Hope, which is the Rapture of the Church at Christ's Coming.

WE BELIEVE that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.

WE BELIEVE that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

WE BELIEVE that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer.

WE BELIEVE that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.

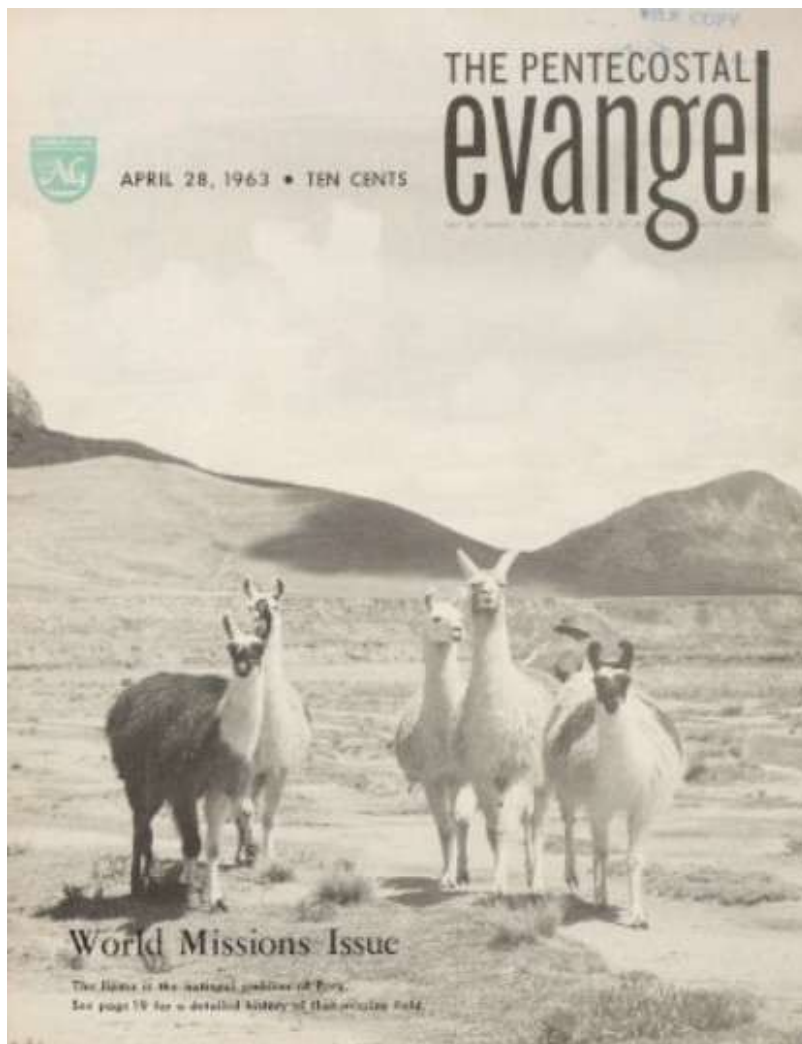
WE BELIEVE in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life.

WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.¹²

This thesis is a descriptive analysis of the establishment and growth of the Radio Department. Consideration is given to communication between the Radio Department and its radio audience and the response received. The various promotional aids employed by the Department are reviewed and indicated responses recorded.

Information contained in this thesis has been obtained through interviews with executive and staff members of the Radio Department, from Departmental records and publications of the Department. Additional information has been gleaned from the minutes and departmental reports of the biennial General Councils of the Assemblies of God, miscellaneous periodicals, brochures and books.

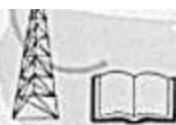
¹²"Statement of Faith," The Pentecostal Evangel, March 22, 1964, 2602:4.



<https://pentecostalarchives.org/?a=d&d=PEV19630428-01.1.1&e=-----en-20--1--img-txIN-----> Pentecostal Evangel, 28 April 1963



Radio Reaches RUSSIA!



**"Those Who Believe in God
and Christ, Help Us!"**

By Paul and Ruth Demetrus

NOT LONG AGO MANY AMERICANS WERE disturbed by the newspaper story of thirty-two Russian Christians who were denied sanctuary in the United States Embassy in Moscow. According to *Time* magazine, they were of the "Pentecostal sect." After traveling by rail 2,400 miles from a Siberian mining town, these peasants arrived at the United States Embassy tired and hungry, some of them ill. Their hopes were high, for they thought freedom was at hand. But due to the technicalities of international law regarding political asylum our Embassy was unable to help them. Tragically disappointed, they were turned over to Russian authorities to be sent back to Siberia. They are probably in prison now. Much of the world was moved by the report of their plaintive cry as they left the Embassy, "Those who believe in God and Christ, help us!"

Although many appeals to the Soviet Government have been made by international agencies, there is little prospect of the liberation of these Russian Christians. They have probably been made an example to others who might make a similar bid for freedom. In the past, imprisonment has been the reward of those who dared sign a petition requesting an exit permit from the Soviet Union.

Unless God performs a miracle there is no chance of freedom for true believers in Russia. Certainly no help for them will be forthcoming from

American diplomatic sources. The United States Government has made it clear in the past that theirs is a hands-off policy in such matters, and there is little prospect for a change in the foreseeable future.

How our hearts go out in sympathy to these dear faithful Russian believers! Yet their spiritual position is actually to be envied. Theirs is a purified faith. Their only hope is the coming of Christ. The saddest thing in our personal ministry in free America has been to see once-ardent Christians slowly become enamored of luxurious living, hence losing their touch with heaven.

God made it clear to us years ago that our work was to be a ministry to the Slavic people. It was as if we had heard a cry similar to that of the Siberian Christians. Inaudible to human ears, yet the message rent our hearts, "Those who believe in God and Christ, help us!" In other words, "You who have received so much—share your blessings with us! You who believe in the power of God to liberate those in bondage—free us from the bondage of sin and destruction!" Those who know what it is to feel God's call to a specific field must know how heavy was our burden. If it had been possible to go physically as missionaries to Russia, there would have been no holding us back. Restrictions still make it impossible, but if a miracle should remove them we are ready to go.

When Satan puts up obstacles to missions, God provides greater-than-ever means to overcome the hin-

drances. This is an extension of the scriptural principle, "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." The very fact that God had given us a commission to reach the enslaved people of Russia with the gospel meant that He would provide a means. With God there is no closed door! Most unexpectedly God's will was made clear to us. Our calling was fulfilled in a way we never dreamed possible. From the Far East Broadcasting Company came the request, "Can you help us by preparing Russian-language broadcasts that we can beam into Russia?"

Our beginnings were small. However, this ministry is now starting to snowball. We are encouraged by the response, though it is necessarily meager due to the restrictions imposed on our listeners.

Our programs are called The Voice of Truth. How we wish you could hear and understand one of them! The Slavic people are so expressive in their speaking. Each broadcast contains a pathos which brings a deep and emotional response. These programs meet the listeners' needs of encouragement, comfort, or forgiveness of sins. They are vibrant with the anointing of the Spirit.

A message from one listener states, "We were forbidden to listen to your broadcasts. We listened even though it could have meant our heads if we were caught. Just the name of Jesus, a song, or a verse of Scripture brought comfort to our hearts."

We are now reaching the vast Russian empire through twenty half-hour

releases each week over the facilities of the Far East Broadcasting Company. In addition to this we started broadcasting, several months ago, a daily program to Australia and New Zealand. Though our mail response is understandably small from behind the Iron Curtain, we had quick response from the Russians in Australia.

By the time this article is printed we shall be broadcasting daily over a powerful station in Belmont, Calif., another F.E.B.C. installation. This station reaches Cuba and all of Latin America, where there are thousands of Russian people.

We were also delighted when we were asked only last week to provide

in the near future an hour of daily broadcasts for a new beam that will penetrate Siberia.

"You who believe in God and Christ, help us!" Has this cry brought anguished response from your heart? You can share with us in this ministry. We are grateful to F.E.B.C. for the many hours of free radio time we have been given. However, more and more radio time is becoming available, and much of it must be paid for. Though the fee is small, this financial obligation is too much for us to undertake personally. Join us in this ministry, and be able to stand before the Lord some day and say, "We, who believe in God and Christ, helped them!"



Not long ago many Americans . . . (read this article above)



By PAUL DEMETRUS • Radio Missionary to the Russians

RUSSIA TODAY could be likened to the blind man who sat by the wayside in the Biblical story. The disciples could have said to Jesus, "Master, this poor man also needs healing." But they showed no such concern. "Who did sin," they inquired, "this man or his parents?" With a critical spirit they tried to analyze the situation.

With her masses of people, Russia sits helplessly blind to the gospel of Jesus Christ; and the critics still ask, "Who did sin?" instead of seeking to cure the blindness.

Contrast to this the four men who were determined to bring their palsied friend to Jesus. Their attempts to carry the bed through the crowd were futile, for windows and doors were blocked with humanity. However, they refused to allow apparent obstacles to bar them from their mission. Hoisting the bed up to the rooftop, they began to remove the tilings. Perhaps the owner of the house stood in the crowd muttering his threats; That we do not know. We do know that contact was made with Jesus, and the palsied man walked away with his sins forgiven and his body made whole.

For years we were hindered from bringing sin-sick Russia into contact with Christ. We cannot go into Russia and preach the gospel. A human block bars the doors. We might well have said, "We would go if we could, but it is utterly hopeless to try," and chalked it off as another closed mission field; but with God there are no impossibilities. He means what He says: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

We have but one alternative—the rooftop! We would send the message of salvation through the very roof of

Russia! Our voices, carried by radio, would seek out millions of antennas and penetrate into every home that would tune our way.

"We have been listening for years," testified a refugee from Siberia.

"We still are able to tune into that program," wrote a man who was forced to move from Siberia back into the heart of the Soviet.

"Your message is for the ignorant bourgeoisie, not for the intelligent," wrote a youth. We were delighted to know that the intelligentsia was listening.

A few years ago news trickled out that a certain area in the Soviet had

experienced a real spiritual awakening, followed by a fresh outbreak of persecution. This was the section from which most of our mail was coming. We dared believe that our radio ministry contributed to the moving of the Holy Spirit in that area.

Ever since the rise of communism in the Soviet Union, Russians have been leaving their native land. We find colonies scattered all over the world. For the past 10 years the Lord has made it possible for us to air our *Voice of Truth* Russian and Ukrainian programs through the facilities of the Far East Broadcasting Company to reach other countries with a heavy Slavic population, in addition to Russia.

Gratifying reports come from almost every country in South America, for example. We have received a steady flow of mail ever since we started our daily broadcast from radio station KGEI in Belmont, California, over four years ago.

A young convert in South America, who allowed the sound from her radio to minister to her heart, wrote that she was unwanted. Crippled from



West side of the Kremlin in Moscow.

birth, she believed her condition was a punishment from God. She had lost all desire to live and wanted to commit suicide. Then one day she turned on her radio and listened to the Russian gospel program. It was like balm to her heart, and she turned to the Lord. One after another, members of her family were saved.

She could have had a good excuse to sit and do nothing, but she has become a missionary right in her home. In a subsequent letter she sent us a picture of a group of lovely children she invites into her home three times a week for Bible lessons. She ended her letter saying, "I am praying for your radio broadcasts. This is my only church because I am a cripple."

Another letter came from Novosibirsk, U.S.S.R. "Recently I tuned to your program. The program does not interest me, but it does my grandmother. She knows little about radio and does not know how to tune it, so I must be her technician. Her birthday is coming up, and I would like to give her something she would like. Could you send me a Russian

Bible? It is impossible to obtain a copy here in the Soviet Union."

If we could send literature, we would gladly do so; but we cannot. Christian literature of any kind is intercepted before it reaches the addressee. Radio is the only means by which we can send the gospel into Russia.

How effective is radio? Recently a Roman Catholic priest, who had made it his business to interview every refugee leaving Hong Kong, volunteered this information to our personnel at the FEBC studio there: "The underground Church is very strong in China, and the Christians I interviewed attributed this to your Christian radio programs from which they obtained spiritual life and power." What is true in China is without doubt as true in the Soviet Union.

One man could have done very little for the palsied cripple in the Bible narrative. We too could do very little without help, so we thank the Lord for those who have faithfully stood behind this radio missionary outreach. There is available a transmitter donated to FEBC which can be used

exclusively to reach Russia; but we do not have sufficient funds to pay for the electrical power. Pick up a corner of the bed and help us take the message to Russia... through the roof.

Send Foreign Missionary offerings to
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
Foreign Missions Department
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802



RUSSIA

...THROUGH THE ROOF!



A Russian family in Argentina (photo above) receives spiritual help from the "Voice of Truth." They enjoy hearing the children's choir (below) from the Russian Gospel Temple of San Francisco and the adult choir (bottom). Joseph Lektell (third from right in the front row) directs the radio music.



Periodical Search Results

New Search

Sort By:

Found 5 record(s)

<< < 1 > >>

1) Title: Radio reaches Russia.

Author: Demetrus, Paul

Publish Date: 04/28/1963

Periodical: Pentecostal Evangel

Page: 8

2) Title: Russian branch convention

Author: Demetrus, Paul

Publish Date: 07/03/1948

Periodical: Pentecostal Evangel

Page: 11

3) Title: Russian branch convention

Author: Demetrus, Paul

Publish Date: 07/09/1949

Periodical: Pentecostal Evangel

Page: 13

4) Title: Russians hear the gospel

Author: Demetrus, Paul

Publish Date: 04/13/1958

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Page: 20

5) Title: To Russia through the roof

Author: Demetrus, Paul

Publish Date: 12/18/1966

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IN THE SOUTHWEST

One missionary couple in the Southwest had only their trailer into which to take small groups of inquirers who were earnestly seeking the Lord. The great crowds of Indians who came for the services stood out in the yard to hear the preaching. From this small beginning a fine congregation of consecrated, baptized Christians has been raised up to the glory of God.

This summer they are undertaking to build for themselves a simple church. They are willing to work at the building, but have no money to buy materials. We would help them with funds from the Home Missions Department if we could. WILL YOU HELP?

We will send 100% for the help of these two Indian churches all funds sent to us designated "INDIAN CHURCH BUILDING." Send all offerings to the HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT, Fred Vogler, Director, 434 W. Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Missouri.

RUSSIAN BRANCH CONVENTION

The annual council of the Russian Branch convened May 13-15 in Philadelphia, Pa. Ministers from various parts of the country gathered three and four days before the time to discuss plans on how to further the gospel more expediently to the thousands of Russian-Slavic people in America not yet reached.

God was definitely in the midst of His people, leading the conference both in devotional and in the business periods. We were blessed by the ministry of Brother Fred Smolchuk, Superintendent of the Ukrainian Branch, and Brother A. A. Gouroff of San Francisco, who has come to the States recently from Shanghai, China.

The following officers were elected: D. A. Matysuk, Superintendent; Paul Demetrus, Secretary; M. F. Svalya, Treasurer. T. G. Holovanchuk, S. J. Wasilenko, H. R. Shevchuk, and S. Malachuk are Branch Presbyters. S. J. Wasilenko is the Field Evangelist.

All ministers and laymen present felt strongly the increasing need for ministry among the Slavic people, both here and abroad. Among the hundreds of thousands of Russians in this country a great number have no understanding of the English language. Then there is a majority whose knowledge of the language is very limited. Our workers are few in number and we are praying that more young men and women will become burdened for these people.

We are indeed grateful to the Home Missions Department for their financial assistance these past years. Through their help we have been able to place a full-time evangelist on the field and to publish our magazine *Stranik* which is being used of the Lord as it goes to various places throughout the world.—Paul Demetrus, Secretary, Russian Branch of the Assemblies of God in U. S. A.

THE CHILDREN OF CHINA

Of the more than 76,000,000 children between the ages of 6 and 12 in China, only 18,000,000 are in school. Twelve million are either being educated privately or are suspended from school. Of the children in school, only 10% have normal health, and 50% suffer from malnutrition. Are you doing all you can to help meet the need of China's children? They need food; they need teaching; they need Christ. Your missionary offerings will help.

The Russians Hear the Gospel

By PAUL DEMETRUS

Not long ago I came across several interesting questions raised by the editor of one of our publications: "Why is it that in most of our churches we find the front seats empty, the back ones filled first?" "Why do we usually leave out the third verse of our congregational songs?" I wanted to tell of an exception to both these rules, and now is as good a time as any.

We always try to arrive early when we attend the Russian Assembly on Geary Boulevard here in San Francisco. Latecomers are frowned upon. More than that, they just couldn't find a seat. If you come just on time you will have to sit in the rear among all the mothers with babies; and, believe me, there is a bumper crop this year. Mother wouldn't think of staying home unless baby was sick.

The first thing each person does as he enters the meeting hall is to walk all the way up front, seeking a possible vacant seat. And whom do we find in the first seats? All the young people and children. Sometimes, if these seats are overcrowded, children sit on the platform steps.

These are a people who love to sing. As you look about, you can tell that their minds aren't wandering off to a roast in the oven at home, or the ridiculous feather in Sister So-and-so's hat. Neither would the song leader say, "Turn to song number 275. We will sing the first, ninth, and twelfth verses." Oh, no, they sing every verse. To us it might sound a bit monotonous at times, as some of their melodies are simple, but they don't sing because of a catchy melody. They sing the message in reverent sincerity.

We cried to the Lord in our early

ministry, "Lord, send us to a hungry people," for we knew how many of our brethren preach their hearts out to unresponsive congregations. I remember how I prepared that first sermon of mine. I felt all fired up in my soul. What was my dismay when three of the congregation fell asleep during my message. The pastor tried to console me by saying, "Don't feel bad. Those are my regular sleepers."

My mind went back to an incident which took place when I was very young. I had seen a movie taken when missionary endeavor was permitted in Russia. There were no chairs in the room where the people had gathered for worship. They were packed in like sardines, and we were told they would stand that way for hours. In the picture they were singing. I had never before seen such expression of devotion as in their upturned faces. I thought, "Lord, I want to be identified with these people." Little did I realize that my prayer would be answered and I would be working among them.

Perhaps the doors to Russia will never reopen, yet while we wait and hope the Lord has opened for us an avenue of service that we never dreamed possible a few years ago.

Many of us may be under the impression that Russia is a backward country where people are quite primitive. Recently we have had to change our opinion about a few things. It is true that their standard of living doesn't come up to ours. For example, one can go to an exhibition and see the latest in modern farm equipment but discover that this machinery is mostly for display purposes. Russian farmers still have to do it the hard way.

However, we have learned recently that Russia is not behind in scientific achievement. They will go all-out for anything that will help them reach their ultimate goal of world dominion.

Aside from the much-talked-about rockets and baby moons, we find two other highly developed fields; namely, radio and television. It is easy to see why they would specialize in these two fields. This is their medium of spreading their propaganda, uniting their millions which are scattered over so vast an area.

Though we are barred from personally entering their territory, who can prevent our sending the gospel by means of radio? For several years now we have been sending the gospel message into Russia through the facilities of the Far East Broadcasting Company. At first the programs were infrequent, because it is very difficult to obtain program material of a caliber acceptable to the Russian people. Now we have much more material available. One source is from the Assembly in San Francisco mentioned above. These dear folk, whom many *Evangel* readers helped eight or nine years ago when they had to flee China, are now in turn helping to send the gospel to their brethren who are still in Red territory.

And how do we know the Russians are being reached by our broadcasts? We have had proof enough to encourage our hearts and inspire us to put forth a still greater effort in this ministry. One indication is Russian jamming. We have been told that Russia sometimes has as many as eight different stations trying to interfere with our broadcasts. To us this is not discouraging. It merely proves how effective the programs really are.

If, then, there is so much interference, is it still worth while trying to put the program across? We cannot gauge the success or popularity of our program by a flood of letters from a devoted audience. We must bear in mind that no one would be foolish enough to take the risk of writing. A listener doing so would immediately be apprehended.

Nevertheless, word does get around. Contact was made with a group of Russian Christians passing through the Philippines from China en route to Australia. They told how they had been listening to the broadcasts. They had worked over their pretuned radio so that they might get other stations. Furthermore, they had friends in the Soviet Union whom they knew were

listening to the broadcasts. One of the group said, "The broadcast is badly jammed, but we are happy if only to hear the name of Jesus. Your program has been our only contact with the gospel."

We may never know in this life how far-reaching or effective this ministry really is. We can only pray that the Holy Spirit will carry the Word to hungry souls who are unwilling slaves to a Satanic system. Will you join us in prayer, for though this door of

ministry at present is wide open, the adversary is relentlessly at work both at home and abroad in his attempts to hinder the gospel from going forth. Often our hands are tied for financial reasons. Professional equipment is needed to produce a program of high quality. Often our own personal struggle to make ends meet is so great that we do not have the time to devote to the work as we desire.

Russia is uppermost in the concern of the free world today. What a chal-

lenge lies before us as we realize that there is something we can do. Though in the eyes of the world our efforts might seem feeble, yet the God of David who guided one small stone to its target is the same today.

Help is definitely needed with this project. You can be a means of great blessing by sending contributions marked "Paul Demetrus (Radio Work)" to the Foreign Missions Department, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield, Missouri. ◀ ◀

Journey Of Faith Sacramento: Promised Land

Many evangelical Russians settled on the American West Coast because of short-wave radio shows from California.

The big star was an Assembly of God pastor from Sacramento named Paul Demetrus.

His Russian-language show "The Voice of Truth" was taped and mailed to radio stations in Korea, Alaska and the Philippines for rebroadcast.

The faint transmissions were picked up in the Soviet Union, taped and passed on to other believers.

Author Susan Wiley Hardwick says many Russians dreamed of this magic land: Sacramento.

About 16,000 Russian-speaking refugees settled there in the last six years and some of those found their way to cities like Spokane.

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<https://archive.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/slayings-put-the-spotlight-on-sacramento39s-ukrain-9517.html>

Published Aug. 22, 2001 at 12:00 pm

SACRAMENTO, California, Aug. 21 – During the Cold War, thousands of Ukrainians were introduced to America by a voice that came across the Pacific Ocean and into their shortwave radios.

The voice was that of **Paul Demetrus, a radio preacher in Sacramento who delivered Christianity to a community clinging to its faith in the officially atheist Soviet Union.**

When Soviet emigration restrictions were eased in the 1980s, many of Demetrus' listeners joined a flight toward religious freedom and headed toward a place they knew: Sacramento.

There are now 75,000 Ukrainians and Russians living in Sacramento.

It is a regional influx: Approximately 150,000 Russian and Ukrainian immigrants have settled in Sacramento, Portland, Oregon, and Seattle since the late 1980s.

Asked about his influence, **Demetrus, now 85, said: «I did it for 40 years, but when communism fell, I felt it was no longer necessary.»**

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1991-12-16-mn-500-story.html>

Pentecostals Find Refuge : Sacramento Area Is Home to Burgeoning Soviet Christian Population in U.S.

By RUSSELL CHANDLER

Dec. 16, 1991 12 AM PT

- Gaining an average of 10 new families a week, the Russian Pentecostal Church is said to be the largest Russian evangelical church outside the Soviet Union and the fastest growing of any congregation in the Sacramento area.
- About 1,200 Soviet Baptists pack another two churches here every Sunday morning and evening.

- At the Russian Baptist Church in West Sacramento--a small, wooden A-frame built to hold 300--nearly 500 worshipers crowd the aisles and spill into the hall. The married women observe the Russian Baptist custom of wearing gauze head scarves during the service, a sign of subjection to their husbands. Round-faced children--the girls with huge, ruffled bows in their hair--squirm in the front pews.
- Why have so many Soviet Christians settled in Sacramento?
- Just as news of the gold strike at Sutter's Mill 140 years earlier brought the rush of '49ers here, word of a promised land had spread to Soviet homes--via powerful shortwave radio.
- Thousands of believers who secretly practiced their faith had long been listening to preacher Demetrus' gospel program, "The Voice of Truth." The inspirational messages, begun 36 years ago, are taped in Sacramento and broadcast in Russian and Ukrainian across the Soviet Union from transmitters outside the country.
- Other believers had tuned in the shortwave broadcasts of Michael Lokteff of West Sacramento, a Soviet emigre who has sent the message of his Russian Baptist faith back to his homeland since 1972.
- "Now it's relatives, relatives, relatives," Demetrus said recently, as he guided a reporter through a North Sacramento housing development where every other apartment seemed to be occupied by a Soviet family related to another one several doors away.
- A popular prophecy also has drawn the evangelicals to the area. According to the story, 50 years ago a Soviet religious leader said he had had a vision that there would be a short time of freedom when persecuted believers could flee to a land of valleys, rivers and trees. The prophecy warned that a repression worse than that of past regimes would follow.

TIMES RELIGION WRITER

SACRAMENTO — It all began three years ago in a makeshift church in the back yard of Vladimir and Nadezhda Kuzmenko, who had just moved to this Central Valley city with their eight young children.

The congregation of 35 quickly outgrew the Kuzmenkos' covered patio, then relocated to a rented building that held 180. Soon, the faithful--all Pentecostal Christians from the Soviet Union--were praying for an even larger space.

“People were spilling over to the stairs and sidewalk,” said **the Rev. Paul Demetrus**, 75, the unofficial patriarch of the burgeoning Soviet community.

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article2606753.html>

Sacramento's Slavic community celebrates 25th anniversary of arrival in United States

By Stephen Magagnini - smagagnini@sacbee.com

August 14, 2014 7:06 PM

Sacramento's Slavic community, the nation's largest, is celebrating its 25th anniversary in the United States this weekend with three days of prayer, song, documentaries and testimonials. The Slavic International Pastors' Association, a coalition of Baptist and Pentecostal churches headquartered in the Sacramento region, is sponsoring the three-day event at Bethany Slavic Missionary Church at 9880 Jackson Rd., the largest Slavic Pentecostal congregation in the United States.

A quarter century ago, several thousand Slavic refugees left the former Soviet Union – many with Jewish visas – and settled in a refugee camp in Rome, where some met Pope John Paul II. Most weren't Jewish; they were evangelicals who had suffered decades of persecution under the atheist communist regime, which tore down places of worship and banned organized religion. They were granted religious refugee status during the Reagan administration and with the help of Capital Christian Center began arriving in Sacramento in 1989.

Many had heard of Sacramento for years from **Paul Demetrus, a Slavic pastor** in Jackson broadcasting on Radio Free Europe, which aired as many as 50 of **Demetrus'** programs a year to the former Soviet Union.

The 25th Anniversary Celebration entitled "America Is Our New Home, Our Final Destination" reflects on the sometimes-difficult assimilation process of refugees from Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Belarus and other Soviet republics. "This is the time to honor every Slavic immigrant who fled persecution under communism to become American citizens who can vote in elections and enjoy a justice system where all are equal under the law," said Florin Ciuriuc, director of the Slavic Community Center. "These individuals took a big risk and were not afraid to face the unknown. They traveled with big families to a land of opportunities, a land of freedom, a land where the American people showed their generosity and welcomed more than 3.4 million people that left the former Soviet Union." They now number more than 60,000, according to U.S. census data. Slavic leaders put the number far higher – around 100,000 – because members have such large families.

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 1407/2165

Mission Service At Church In Glen Carbon

April 29, 1966

THE EDWARDSVILLE INTELLIGENCER

(Illinois)

Paul Demetrus, missionary affiliated with the Foreign Missions Department of the Assemblies of God, will be featured on the missionary program of the First Assembly of God Church at Glen Carbon, Sunday. The service will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Until 17 years of age Mr. Demetrus was a member of the Russian Orthodox Church. After graduating from Central Bible Institute at Springfield, Miss., he has been in the ministry since 1943 serving Russian churches throughout the United States and Canada.

From his Voice of Truth studio in San Francisco, Calif., Mr. Demetrus has been for the past 10 years sending the Christian message into Iron Curtain countries through radio facilities of the Far East Broadcasting Company in Manila, P.I. and Belmont, Calif.

The service Sunday night will include a film entitled "Life Behind the Iron Curtain," showing authentic pictures of brutal treatment of freedom — loving people under Communism.

»



SEPULVEDA - Bowman will speak Valley Presbyterian 9000 Haskell Ave., 1 Sunday evening, at 7:30 p.m. Bowman is one of the founders and president of East Broadcasting organization operating radio stations in Philippines, Korea, China, Taiwan, and elsewhere. There are about 120 men and 36 major languages on the staff and four of 10

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Rev. Paul Demetrus speaks about his radio ministry in Illinois. Paul produces his Voice of Truth broadcasts in Russian and Ukrainian for release by KGEI in San Francisco, and FEBC Philippines. Venue: Glen Carbon (Illinois). Newspaper: The Edwardsville Intelligencer, April 29, 1966.



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Rev Paul Demetrus

BIRTH 18 Nov 1915
USA

DEATH 28 Feb 2008 (aged 92)
Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, USA

BURIAL Greenlawn Memorial Gardens
Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, USA [Add to Map](#)

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Paul Demetrus graduated from Central Bible College in 1942, and pastored in Wisc. and N.H. He attended Russian Language School in New York at the request of Foreign Missions Department of the Assemblies of God in 1945. He pastored Russian churches in Pontiac, Mich., and then in Philadelphia, Pa., where he sponsored over 200 refugees to come over after World War II. He served as Secretary of the Russian Branch of the Assemblies of God in 1947, and became a General Presbyter for the branch. In 1951, he began Russian radio programs which were aired throughout the Philadelphia area. In 1955, he moved to San Francisco, Calif., to pastor the Russian Full Gospel Church and to provide radio programs for the Far East Broadcasting Company in Manila. In 1956, he went into full time radio ministry, adding many other stations that broadcast into Russia. He continued in this ministry, developing several different types of programs, (most popular were the children's programs), averaging 200 half hour programs per month. He was retired in 1980, but continued the programs until 1995. In 1989, he volunteered to help build churches in the Ukraine and to assist the thousands of immigrants that arrived in the Sacramento area, many of whom had been listening to his broadcasts in the Soviet Union. In 1991, he helped to create the Russian Ukrainian Bible Institute (RUBI), which continues to flourish with students in the former Soviet Union. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth. He is survived by his sister, Gladys Loeffler; three daughters, Karin Rothenbusch, Judy Tate and Margaret Grant; three sons, David, Paul and Peter; fourteen grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 8, in Maranatha Village Chapel, 233 E. Horton Rd., Springfield, Mo., at 11 a.m. Visitation will be in the chapel

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Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 8, in Maranatha Village Chapel, 233 E. Norton Rd., Springfield, Mo., at 11 a.m. Visitation will be in the chapel prior to the funeral from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Assembly of God DFM, 1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, MO 65802. Please memo for RUBI, Acct. # 250716 (42).

(SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER, March 5, 2008)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25073806/paul-demetrus/photo>