



## MINUTE FOR MISSION

November 15, 2007

### A man with a big heart (Belarus)



*Igor Romanovski developed a farm-based rehabilitation program for ex-prisoners.*

Igor Romanovski is a man with a big heart—a heart for God, a heart for other people, and a heart for animals. Ten years ago, he felt called to develop a rehabilitation program for ex-prisoners because he had seen their brokenness and their great difficulty in finding a place back in society. He began with prayer.

Over a period of years, he gathered the tools, developed a plan, and finally located a piece of property in the village of Lyubcha. Within this community, he developed relationships with the neighbors, the police, the hospital (as many coming out of prison are ill). Through the Belarusian Round Table, he developed connections with foreign partners. Step by step, they have built



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something extraordinary. Beginning with ten hectares of land, a house, a chicken coop, rabbit hutches, and the support of many friends, the center opened four years ago. Igor and his friends and neighbors have built a church, a steam bath, an administration building, a pig sty, a goat shed, and a dairy barn. They are building another dormitory and have many other plans for the future. Since its opening, some 350 men have gone through the program, and only four have returned to prison.

Dear Lord, we give you thanks for the vision, energy, and enthusiasm of Igor. We give thanks for your healing love. We give thanks that the whole world has come together to create this center, affirming that we are one family through our Lord, Jesus Christ, with one faith, one hope, and one love.

Gary Payton  
PC(USA) Regional facilitator for Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Poland

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*Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: [www.pcusa.org/witness](http://www.pcusa.org/witness). New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.*

*For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or [Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org).*

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