

Iron Curtain Broadcasts 'Paying Off' After 1½ Years

By Stephan Bilak

ROCHESTER, Mich.—I have been asked this question many

times: "Do you think that the USSR (Russia) will ever be opened to missionaries of the Gospel?"

Well, what difference does it make? How many missionaries did we send there when it was open? Today radio is still open to us, but are we using it?

THE VATICAN has been broadcasting behind the Iron Curtain 24 hours a day (in Slavic languages) for 30 years. The denominations have been doing the same.

We have broadcast only one year, 15 minutes a week; adding 15 minutes six months later. We now have available to us an additional 30 minutes per week.

There is another question often asked: "Do you think it pays to broadcast the Gospel behind the Iron Curtain? Do you have any evidence that people are listening?"

DURING THE FIRST YEAR of broadcasting we have received over 20 letters from our listeners.

Here are some of the quotations: "If it is at all possible send us a Bible or a New Testament." "We are listening to your program (Thus Saith The Lord) and we hear it very well. We are listening every Monday morning at 6:15 Polish time on middle bands (205 meg. 1466 kc.) only this 15 Monday comes there are many minutes is too short. When people in my house waiting for your broadcast." And from another letter "We are a family

of 12 listening every Monday to your broadcast."

Here is real evidence that it does pay to broadcast the Gospel behind the Iron Curtain: this is evidence of the importance of keeping the Gospel on the air.

I BELIEVE that in one year perhaps more people have heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the USSR by means of radio than on the day of Pentecost.

Here is the reason I believe what I say. When a man behind the Iron Curtain makes 50 - 60 rubles a month and spends 2 - 3 rubles on sending a letter to tell us he is listening, we know he is interested.

How many of us have heard a good program on the radio and have written a letter for only 4 cents to tell we heard it? It is a good indication that people do hear us gladly.

I HOPE THIS ANSWERS the second question and if not, then let me ask you a question: "Do you think that the Vatican would spend millions of dollars toward broadcasting if it did not pay? Do you think that the denominations would have built over 25 radio stations outside the USA, that is, over 25 radio stations not just programs?" Some of these radio stations are operating 24 hours a day. It must pay.

For further information contact: Church of Christ Radio Broadcast, P.O. Box 384, Pontiac, Michigan.