

September 9, 1949

Miss Jessie R. Ford
Baptist World Alliance
1628 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Ford:

Can you give us any information about Mr. Michael Kerechum, or the Russian Bible Society which he represents? The address is 1400 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington. We have been receiving quite a few inquiries about him and his work. Evidently, he has been making a tour of the South and speaking in churches and solicits funds for the Society.

We certainly will appreciate any information you can give us.

The enclosed correspondence is self-explanatory, I think.

Very cordially yours,

Mary Lib Fuqua
Secretary to Dr. Rankin

Baptist World Alliance

PRESIDENT:
REV. C. OSCAR JOHNSON, D. D.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

GENERAL SECRETARY:
REV. ARNOLD T. OHRN, D. D.

ASSOCIATE SECRETARY:
REV. WALTER O. LEWIS, D. D.

HEADQUARTERS:
1628 SIXTEENTH STREET N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.
COLUMBIA 9007

EUROPEAN OFFICE:
4, SOUTHAMPTON ROW
LONDON, W. C. 1

TREASURERS:
MR. C. T. LEQUESNE, K. C.
LONDON, ENGLAND
THE HON. ALBERT MATTHEWS, LL. D.
TORONTO, ONTARIO
CANADA

September 14, 1949.

Miss Mary Lib Fuqua
The Foreign Mission Board,
2037 Monument Avenue,
Richmond 20, Virginia.

Dear Miss Fuqua:

Your letter of September 9th to Miss Ford was turned over to me for answer. We have had several inquiries recently concerning the "Russian Bible Society" and Mr. Kerechun.

The so-called "Russian Bible Society" gives as its address "Bible House", New Hampshire Avenue, Wsshington D. C.

This building is a rooming house with a large number of roomers. There is no office of any Bible Society in the building. There is no personnel to work at producing, distributing packing or sending any Bibles. All mail for the "Russian Bible Society" is being forwarded to the Rev. Basil Malof (formerly called Wilhelm Fetler), General Delivery, Long Beach, California. We are aware that a number of inquiries sent to this organization have remained unanswered.

It is a fact that the American Bible Society is unable to get Bibles or personnel into Russia. We have no reason to believe that the "Russian Bible Society" is able to do what other societies cannot do at all.

We have received inquiries concerning two agents of the "Russian Bible Society", M. Kereschun and R. Tarzier. We have no information concerning the antecedents or credentials of these men, and are not in position to say whether or not they are what they claim to be.

The Baptist World Alliance cannot, however, endorse or recommend any organization working under the leadership of Fetler-Malof.

Yours sincerely

ATO/

Arnold T. Ohn

September 16, 1949

Dr. Arnold T. Ohrn
Baptist World Alliance
1628 - 16th Street, N.W.
Washington 9, D.C.

Dear Dr. Ohrn:

I appreciate so much your letter of September 14th in reply to the inquiry I made concerning the "Russian Bible Society".

Is it advisable for you to give me permission to send a copy of this letter to our Baptist papers for publication? Appeals are being made in many of our churches for the Russian Bible Society and I think it is important that we send out some statement.

If you think it inadvisable to publish your letter as such, I can formulate a brief statement on the authority of the Foreign Mission Board but such a statement from us would have to be much more general than your statement.

Very sincerely yours,

M. Theron Rankin

MTR:ci

Baptist World Alliance

File

PRESIDENT:
REV. C. OSCAR JOHNSON, D. D.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

GENERAL SECRETARY:
REV. ARNOLD T. OHRN, D. D.

ASSOCIATE SECRETARY:
REV. WALTER O. LEWIS, D. D.

HEADQUARTERS:
1628 SIXTEENTH STREET N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.
COLUMBIA 9007

EUROPEAN OFFICE:
4, SOUTHAMPTON ROW
LONDON, W. C. 1

TREASURERS:
MR. C. T. LEQUESNE, K. C.
LONDON, ENGLAND

THE HON. ALBERT MATTHEWS, LL. D.
TORONTO, ONTARIO
CANADA

September 19, 1949

Dr. M. T. Rankin
2037 Monument Avenue
Richmond 20, Virginia

Dear Dr. Rankin:

In reply to your letter of September 16th, may I say that I see the desirability of issuing some sort of statement concerning the "Russian Bible Society," in view of the activity of Fetler-Malof's emissaries among Southern Baptists.

The letter I wrote you was, however, designed to cover not only your inquiry, but specific inquiries concerning Kerchun and Tarzier, and was formulated accordingly. I do not think it is well suited for publication. I think your idea of issuing a brief general statement on behalf of the Foreign Mission Board, is preferable.

I do not know whether you are acquainted with the statement published in Texas in March 1948, when Malof's agents were practically run out of that State. I am, therefore enclosing a copy of it. Perhaps you might care to contact the representative of the American Bible Society in Texas, Thomas T. Holloway, 1914 Main Street, Dallas 1, Texas. He is a Baptist minister who has been at pains to obtain considerable information concerning the Malof-Bible Society.

I am enclosing a letter for your personal information written by Dr. Lewis to Dr. Perry Crouch in November 1947. The information concerning Fetler might interest you. Also a letter written by Miss Ford to Dr. Criswell of Dallas in January 1948. Please return these letters to the Baptist World Alliance for our files.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Arnold T. Ohn

ATO/JRF
Enc