

Obvious Fear Shows Through In Letters to Radio Program

ROCHESTER, Mich. — "We hear broadcast from West very well. My wife and I, we like to listen to radio."

"We listened to your program for long time, but a Ukrainian man lived with us and we



BILAK

couldn't copy address because he became a Russian (Communist). And he doesn't believe . . . Now please send us Bible because we cannot buy one here and we love to read from scriptures of God . . . Slowly trickling through for-

eign mails come such letters, reflecting both fear and joy of response to the message of Christ beamed by radio over the Iron Curtain—the only way missionaries may now penetrate these nations.

Fear is so obvious, Stephan Bilak, who tapes the broadcasts, explains. I think in one letter they used 'Russian' to tell us the man living with them was Communist.

A native of the Ukraine and professor at North Central Christian College, Bilak began preparing the broadcasts for Radio Monte Carlo and Radio Incheon (Korea) last fall at NCCC. First broadcast began Nov. 30, 1959. Preached in

Ukrainian, the sermons reach all Slavic peoples of Western Europe and behind the Iron Curtain.

Bilak recently received a letter from a Greek Orthodox song leader in Yugoslavia asking for Bibles, a prayer book if possible and other materials. This is a family of 12 who listen to the preaching of the word.

We have received six letters from three different nationalities: Polish, Ukrainian and Yugoslavian; some censored but coming through, some referring to the 'broadcast from West' and 'radio' rather than the program—because they are afraid," Bilak says.

"It is a good indication that people are listening, and we thank all individuals and churches who are making it possible that my people can listen to the gospel of Jesus Christ," Bilak says.

The weekly 15-minute broadcasts are prepared on the campus of North Central Christian College. NCCC has provided free a sound studio which was formerly a guest cottage on the Maxon estate, on which the college is located. The missionary broadcasts are supported and overseen by the West Side Church of Christ, Cleburne, Tex., which provides sound equipment, pays for the broadcasts and Bilak's salary as a mission broadcaster.