



BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

March 2008

Dear Partner,

Because your prayers and/or financial support made our mission (#75) possible, I thought you'd like to know some of the results we saw.

I was sick with a virus when we arrived in Shumerlya our first Sunday and went to bed instead of church. Just before the service was over, Pastor Volodia sent Lena to ask me to come and bring a greeting. Still sick, I got up from bed and dressed quickly. At the meeting I brought a greeting and felt well enough to stay for fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. They had prayed for me and the Lord answered. Praise God.

Our long-time friend, Volodia, is the pastor in Shumerlya. He and his wife, Tonya, minister to over a thousand orphans each month. They took us to some of the orphanages where we gave gifts and shared with about 500 children. It was such a joy to see them receive the gifts and the smiles on their faces from what we would consider a small and insignificant gift.

After that, we traveled hundreds of miles through the states of Chuvashia, Mari-El and Tartarstan encouraging our brothers and sisters in Christ and ministering in churches we had helped "plant" in the past.

In Zelenodolsk, Pastor Yan, a former Muslim, has a rehabilitation center for homeless people. He lives in a small house that serves as both church and home. His homeless friends sleep on benches in the church or on the floor. Yan shares the gospel with them and many come to know the Lord. He is building a new church. The basement will be for the homeless.

There were many deaf mutes in each of the churches where we ministered. It was amazing to watch them joyfully worship God. Five of them gave testimonies of how they were converted to Jesus Christ.

In Volsk, we attended a youth conference that was held on Women's Day. Approximately 100 Christian youth from the surrounding area attended. The theme

was “Missions.” Each team member told how missions had affected their lives. Twenty-two young people came forward and prayed to serve the Lord and two of them prayed to receive the Lord as Savior.

On the following Sunday we ministered in a church in Kazan where there are more Mosques than Christians. Lena gave the young lady who accepted the Lord at the youth conference a Bible. She was so very thankful.

Next we took the overnight train to Moscow. Zhenya, a long-time friend, met us and took us to Kolomna where we ministered, taking Bibles, tracts and gifts to poor gypsy families. They received us with gladness.

Three Christian lady friends took us to minister to five elderly and sick people. We supplied clothing and Christian literature and each of them received the Lord after our team and the Russian ladies shared the gospel with them. One man, Anatoly, was very weak and could hardly talk but he also prayed to receive Christ. Mike asked a Russian Orthodox lady, “Where will you go when you die?” She said, “I guess hell.” After praying with her and her niece, they each made professions of faith in the Lord. What a blessing when people come to know the Lord so late in life.

Our new Christian friends also took us to an orphanage where each of us shared. Mike explained how they could know Jesus and 24 children prayed to receive Christ. What a blessing to see the joy in their faces when they prayed and received the gifts we gave them (small stuffed animals, hats, etc.). When we were leaving the orphanage, the director said, “The children are so quiet for you. Usually when guests leave they are very noisy.” We believed it was because we had left something other than just things.

We were taken next to meet Pastor Yuri and his wife, Irene. Although Zhenya had told us about them, we had never met them. They invited us to the church to speak where everyone received us with gladness. Pastor Yuri’s family gave up their beds so we could have comfortable places to sleep and went to a friend’s apartment. What a sacrifice. Would I have done that?

Everywhere we went pastors and people asked us to come again. Our just being there, they tell us, is a great encouragement to all the Christians.

I can’t thank you enough for helping to send me as your missionary. What a blessing the mission was, both to us and many of them. You were as much a part of it as we on the team (Lena, Mike, Vladimir and me).

What next? Alfred and I will lead a team June 2-22 taking the Trans-Siberian Railway all the way across Russia. We will stop in 6 cities where we will minister in churches, on the streets and in orphanages. We'll also be distributing salvation tracts on the train and at the many train stops along the way. Would you pray about sending us once again as your missionaries?

Thank you for participating in our most recent mission. God bless you for your faithfulness to Him. Perhaps you can go with us sometime and see for yourself what the Lord is doing. We look forward to that.

In Christ,

Jean McCroskey

Jean McCroskey



The Team: (left to right)
Mike, Lena, Jean, Vladimir



Jean & Olga by the frozen Volga River