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# BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

May 2012

Dear Partner,

Another Bibles For Russia team has just returned to the United States. Although there were physical challenges, God blessed us with a successful mission. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

Natasha, our translator from Ukraine, met us in Moscow. She was sick with bronchitis but continued to faithfully do her part in helping our team minister throughout the mission. By the end of the trip she was almost well.

In Moscow, we boarded a train for our two-day trip to Vorkuta. We attended an “after Easter” church service the night we arrived (April 16). Garry and I both shared during the service. After the service we met with the brothers who would take us to the tundra the next day, and made plans to visit families in 4 teepees to share the gospel with them.

The next morning we bought gifts for the children at the Nenets boarding school, expecting 67 children to be there. However, all but 15 children had already left with their parents, headed north to the Kara Sea in the Yamal Peninsula area. They leave the tundra near Vorkuta in late April or early May and return in November.

We traveled 4 hours by snowmobile (60 miles) over the tundra to reach the reindeer herders to whom we would minister. Their camp was located at the base of the Ural Mountains. We took them food supplies and gifts. They prepared dinner for us—reindeer meat, smoked fish, potatoes, bread, tea, etc. After supper we sang Christian songs and Volodia Geraskin shared the gospel. Because of the distance from our host home in Vorkuta, we spent the night in the teepee with the family. There were 7 adults and 3 children in the teepee. I thought, “Where will we sleep?” There were 6 in our team. To my surprise, there was room for all of us.

The next morning we woke to a snow storm with wind so strong we could hardly stand up. They told us snow storms could last from 24 hours up to 7 days. We prayed (and hoped) the storm would cease but it didn’t. We decided with the weather so cold and windy it too dangerous to travel to the other 3 teepees. Volodia Bondarenco, one of the ministers who went with us, served communion and the Holy Spirit ministered to us

there on the barren, cold tundra. After lunch, we headed across the tundra for the 4 hour trip back to Vorkuta. It was 35 to 40 degrees below zero. We were cold in body but warm in spirit.

The following day I was sick and could not accompany the team. Garry, Natasha and Brother Fyodor ministered to another reindeer herder family on the tundra but much closer to the city than the day before. That night we boarded a train and traveled to Inta. On past missions there, we have stayed in the home of Brother Ivan and his family. However, the government recently took their apartment because they want to force the family to move south where there are no jobs. During our time in Inta, we slept in the church in rooms used for visiting ministers and missionaries. Sister Luba, a missionary from Ukraine who lives at the church, prepared breakfast and dinner for us.

On our first day in Inta, we had lunch with Brother Ivan's family in their one-room apartment. Then our team bought fruit to take to the orphanage. We had a great time with the orphans. Most of the "children" were teens but there were a few younger ones. All of them, no matter what age, loved the gifts. They performed Easter poems and songs, including the Russian national anthem, for us. The director was very happy we came to visit and asked us to please come again.

The next day, which was Sunday, Garry and I shared at Pastor Ivan's church. That afternoon we visited Sister Lena who is bedfast. We had visited her last year and she was very glad to see us.

That night we left Inta by train on our way to Moscow and on to Amsterdam where we spent the night. We returned to Nashville on April 25 praising God for another wonderful mission trip.

If you gave and/or prayed, you were as much a part of this mission as those of us who went.



Garry, Jean and Natasha in Moscow at the end of a hard but successful mission

In Christ,

Jean McCroskey, President  
Bibles For Russia, Inc.