



BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

September 2006

Dear Partner,

Thank you very much (or “Spaseeba Bolshoi” as our Russian and Ukrainian friends would say) for your prayers and/or financial investment that made possible our recent mission to Ukraine. We would not have gone without your prayers and could not have gone without your financial support.

When we ministered in Kherson, the temperature ranged from 90° to 100° with no air conditioner. At the special processing center where Galina, Natasha and team work, we worked alongside them in ministering to “street children.” We gave them gifts, food and school supplies, played with them and, most importantly, shared Christ’s love.

Also, while in Kherson, we bought food and gave it to 10 of the poorest of the poor families. We spoke of Jesus and prayed with them in their homes. One family of 3 lived in one room with no kitchen or bathroom (they use the bushes).

We also ministered in 3 orphanages, took gifts and told them about the One who sent us (Jesus). One orphanage was in the village of Maychka where there was need for more personal spaces for each child and repairs to the building. Galina and her team go there to minister weekly; teaching Bible lessons and having times of singing, games and fellowship.

At the children’s surgical hospital, where we visited last year, the doctors needed surgical glasses. Dr. Marchman, a friend of ours who went with us last year, sent a pair of the much-needed glasses. At both hospitals we visited, their equipment was at least 50 years old. Some of it worked and some didn’t. They need instrument sterilizers, tweezers, scissors, IV pumps and tubing. Hard to believe but the surgical hospital didn’t even have hot water. Thank God we were able to purchase a hot water heater for them.

Another hospital needed a washing machine with which to wash babies’ clothes and diapers. We bought 2 washers. Thank the Lord and thanks to all who made that possible. The baby orphanage for ages 0 to 3 years also needed a washer. A special contribution was made for that also.

On Sunday, we ministered at a church in Kherson with Pastor Sergei Senei. In the afternoon, we ministered in 2 village churches. Our translator told us it had been a big encouragement to the local Christians for us to minister in their churches. With tears in her eyes Natasha said, "I want to get on my knees and say thank you." She told us, "When you minister at the churches, it changes people's hearts."

When we left Kherson in the south, we traveled by train to Lutsk in western Ukraine. I prayed, "Lord please send a cold front," and He did. After that it was much cooler until the day we left Ukraine. What a relief.

In Lutsk we bought \$200 of groceries such as pasta, tea, butter, oil, etc. for the Christian-based drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. Then we ministered to them. There were men there ages 20 to 70. They have a garden in which to work and produce their own vegetables.

Over 200 pastors and ministers attended the 2 conferences we conducted; one in Kovel and one near Lutsk. One member of our team, Dr. Adrian Jones, was the main speaker and taught on the role of a pastor. Angie and I also gave our testimonies.

Our team also ministered in 4 different churches in the Lutsk region. That region has 180 churches, over 100 of which we have helped sponsor. One of their current needs is gas money for the ministers who have to travel 30 to 50 miles to the churches they pastor. The Bishop with whom we work in Lutsk has a 29-year-old car. Please pray that God will provide him another newer one. Many times he has to travel 150 miles to visit one of the churches he oversees. While in Lutsk we also helped "plant" 6 new churches bringing the total to 909. Praise the Lord for His people who have partnered with us to accomplish that.

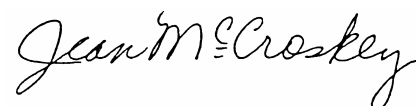
From Lutsk we traveled to Vatutino (in central Ukraine) where we visited Pastor Grigory Shvets and his family. He oversees 6 churches. We shared in 2 of the remote village churches and Dr. Jones preached. They were so grateful for our coming and provided a wonderful lunch and a time of fellowship. Please pray for the pastors of that group of churches. There have been no converts this year and many people are leaving the villages because there are no jobs available.

Pastor Grigory's daughter, Natasha, and her husband, Vasily, said big thank you (spaseeba bolshoi) to those who gave to help remodel their house. They came from Kiev to help care for us during our visit with her elderly parents.

Although there were many inconveniences in the villages, Christian love was present and showered upon us. Every church asked us to say, “Thank you” for sending us and to send “greetings to your church.” They also greatly appreciated your financial aid we were able to deliver to them from you.

What a blessing for us and for you who made this mission possible. You were as much a part of the team as were any of us. Thanks again.

In Christ,



Jean McCroskey

P.S. We return to Russia in November 2006. Will you pray about sending us as your missionaries? If you plan to go on the November trip with us, we must have a deposit of \$300 as soon as possible. It will be a trip you won't forget. Check the website for the 5 missions planned for 2007: www.biblesforrussia.org



Team members with a group of pastors at one of the conferences