



BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

August 2014

Dear Partner,

I have just returned from an awesome mission trip to Ukraine. Thank you to all who gave to make this mission possible.

Many of the Ukrainian people thought I would not come because of the plane crash in Eastern Ukraine the day before I left home. I told them I wanted to be obedient to the Lord, believing He would take care of me and He did.

It was exciting to attend the baptism service at the river at Lutsk, Ukraine. What a blessing it was to be there and see 22 young people baptized. During the baptism service, there were 3 or 4 sermons preached, choirs sang and there were some solos. After the baptism we went to the church where I was able to encourage the young people and other church members. We had communion together.

On Monday we visited two orphanages. One was for children ages 6 to 17. We shared the Gospel with the orphans and gave them gifts and fruit. The other orphanage was for mentally handicapped boys and young men. We were not allowed to give them gifts but took cookies and bananas for them. The young men were so glad for us to visit and show Christ's love to each of them. As we started to leave, they took us to a shelter in a fenced area outside where the more mentally deficient were sitting. We were told if we gave them bananas without peeling them first, they would eat the whole banana, peeling and all. It was very sad.

Tuesday we bought groceries for two rehab centers for drug addicts and alcoholics. These centers are always located out in the rural areas. The centers have large vegetable gardens and animals so the men have chores taking care of everything. I shared my testimony and God's love with the residents. At one of the rehab centers they didn't have a shower for the 15 men who lived there. I gave them the \$277 needed to install a shower. They also need more beds so they can accommodate more men. For just \$50 each they can have 1 bunk bed made. Would you pray about giving for a bed?

We visited 4 poor families who were all Christians. Each family had 8 to 13 children each. We loved on them and gave them groceries. We let them know God had provided it through people like you.

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The Voice Of Hope missionary conference started Wednesday night and continued through Friday. I saw many missionary friends with whom I've visited over the years and made new friends as well.

I spoke during the conference and gave an encouraging word to the missionaries. There were many good sermons and reports from the missionaries from Ukraine and Russia. On Friday the Russian missionaries were on the platform. Bishop Feodor Velichko, whom we visit when we minister to the reindeer people above the Arctic Circle, called me and my translator to the platform. He wanted me to share about going out on the tundra to minister to the reindeer people. That was such an honor.

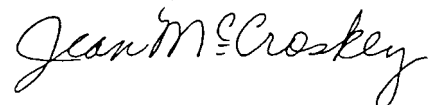
We traveled by train and van to visit Pastor Jacob Shvets and his family (wife and 10 children). I shared with the congregation at Pastor Jacob's church on Sunday morning and was so happy to see Pastor Jacob's parents, Grigory and Dooshia Shvets, in the service. They are precious people who are long-time friends. We were so blessed to be able to fellowship all afternoon together. Dooshia was given only 2 weeks to live in December 2012 because of cancer. God healed her and she has been able to lead a fairly normal life since.

We spent time in Kiev with Natasha and Vasiliy, Grigory and Dooshia's daughter and son-in-law. I have known them for 15 years so it was wonderful to be with them again. They have a house they have owned for over 10 years. On their property they have a large garden and Vasiliy has planted many fruit trees and berries. The government is trying to take the garden and fruit trees away from them. They will allow Natasha and Vasiliy to keep the house but want to give the garden to other people. Please pray about this.

Please pray for the current turmoil in Ukraine. The government is beginning to draft men up to 60 years old for the army. Everywhere I went they asked you to pray for the situation in their country.

Thank you for your prayers and support. You were an important part of this mission.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean McCroskey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Jean McCroskey