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# BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

February 2006

Dear Partner,

Thank you for your prayers and support for our mission trip above the Arctic Circle. This was #65 by His grace and in answer to many prayers. God went before and prepared the way. While there, we saw Him answer prayer time and time again.

Our team consisted of Ruth Denzler, Kathy Tidd, Victor Onyschchuk, Yuri Trotts and myself. Three other missionaries from Ukraine met us in Vorkuta, making a total of 8 team members.

We had planned to take the snowmobiles to reach the Ninicy people who live in teepees scattered across many miles of tundra. However, it was too cold to do so. In the end, we had to have an old Soviet Army tank take us because of the extreme cold---35° to 40° below zero.

A Christian brother who works with the “reindeer people” year round told them we had plans to call on them. We visited 2 teepees and took them 16 loaves of bread, a good quantity of sugar, tea, butter, cookies and candy. The women were so happy and grateful to receive this food since their usual diet consists only of bread, reindeer meat and milk. They were very pleased to have something different.

In one teepee, the three missionaries from Ukraine sang gospel songs. Pastor Victor preached while the rest of us earnestly prayed. Four people repented and made professions of faith in the Lord: Alexi, Vera, Vonya (Vera’s husband) and 80-year-old Michael. As they prayed, I saw tears running down their cheeks. There was much rejoicing for their salvation. Afterward, we stayed for fellowship and lunch that consisted of reindeer meat, bread, butter and hot tea.

In another teepee, missionary Igor preached as the team prayed. Another couple and others also came to know the Lord there. At both teepees a 90-year-old lady named Dalyia Denia heard the gospel but did not make a decision. Pray that she will come to know the Lord.

Vera was the only person in the teepees who spoke Russian. She was one of very few who attended a boarding school in Vorkuta for 4 years. She translated into their native tongue for which there is no written language. Pray for Vera and the workers who minister to the reindeer people. Pray also that those new believers will grow in the Lord and become mature, witnessing Christians among their own people, all of whom are practicing pagans.

Each of our team members also ministered in five of the churches we visited in cities and towns. Each service was at least 3 hours long. Everywhere we went people were so glad to see us and have fellowship with us.

All the churches send their greetings and thanks to those who helped send us to them. We were showered with Christian love. In Vorkuta and Inta, it was very cold but the believers came to see us at the train each time we arrived or departed.

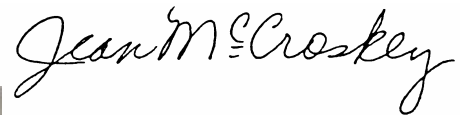
There were other opportunities for ministry at a boarding school where Ninicy children attend, 2 orphanages and a nursing home for the elderly. We shared the love of Jesus, gave them gifts and fruit (things they rarely ever have).

Everywhere we went we experienced a wonderful time of fellowship and encouragement with brothers and sisters in Christ as well as those who don't know Him. As we traveled on the train, we distributed Russian gospel tracts along the way. When I offered one man a tract he said, "You were here 2 years ago." Please pray that he and many others will come to know the Lord as a result of these efforts.

In Moscow we met friends we've known for 12 years. They invited us to their apartment for a meal and time of fellowship. While there we also met other friends we had not seen since 1999. God was so faithful as He directed our path.

May God bless you for helping send me with prayers and financial gifts. You, too, were a member of the team. Thanks!

In Christ,



Jean McCroskey



Team members from America:  
Jean, Kathy and Ruth with  
Yuri, our Ukrainian translator.