



BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

February 2013

Dear Partner,

We have just returned from another successful mission to Kherson, Ukraine. If you prayed or gave financially, you were an important part of this mission.

The workers (Galina, Lena and Natasha) minister weekly to the orphans in the Kherson and were very glad to have us there helping them. Imagine growing up in such poverty that your parents are forced to take you to an orphanage because they cannot take care of you. In some cases, the children are living with alcohol or drug addicted parents who continually beat or abuse them. Some are without parents at all; living in abandoned buildings or in storm sewers, begging or stealing food to survive. There are many children like this in Ukraine and Russia orphanages.

While in Kherson, we visited three orphanages, a sanitarium and a cancer hospital for children. In each place we took each child a personal gift and candy. It was a blessing to see the children's faces light up when we handed them a gift or when they saw the meal or party that was prepared for them. We participated in giving Christmas parties for street children, invalids and the poor. The children were so precious and thankful for the gifts we gave them. Students from one Christian Bible school accompanied us as we ministered. They performed the Christmas story with puppets which the children enjoyed very much.

Our van had mechanical problems preventing us from going to a rural area where we had planned to minister to 300 orphans at 2 separate orphanages. We left our gifts with the Christian workers who will take them to those orphans so they were not left out.

Our team ministered in a nursing home where we gave gifts to each person, sang Christmas carols and prayed with them. We took practical gifts for the home as well: laundry detergent, toilet tissue, etc. Also, we ministered to 22 extremely

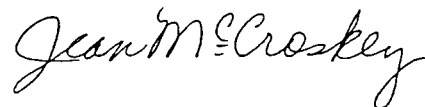
poor families by giving each family a large bag of basic groceries and sometimes money to help pay their utility bill or other pressing bills. Most of the families live in apartments in very poor conditions. Some live in only one room while sharing a kitchen and bathroom with 3 or 4 other families. We gave each family Christian literature, shared the gospel and prayed for them. Relationships were built that will be useful for future contact.

We were not able to go in person, but we sent money for Christmas parties for 5,000 orphans in several cities in Russia and Ukraine. In Russia the money went to orphans in Chita, St. Petersburg, Chuvashia, Mari-El, Tartarstan, Perm and other remote villages. In Ukraine orphans in Lutsk and remote villages were blessed with Christmas provided by Bibles For Russia funds.

Thank you for giving so the Russian and Ukrainian orphans could have Christmas. The children would not have had Christmas if it had not been for your prayers and support. Many heard of Jesus for the first time. Only God knows what great things these children may accomplish for His kingdom.

We pray God's blessings on all of you. May we continue to minister in this new year and accomplish God's plan in the former Soviet Union together.

In Christ,

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

Jean McCroskey, President
Bibles For Russia, Inc.

P.S. I will be leading a team to Siberia April 1-16 (Mark will also go). The all-inclusive cost of the trip is \$3,200. If you are interested in going on this mission, I must hear from you by February 10. Please call (256) 718-3660 or email me at alfredandjeanmccroskey@comcast.net.