



BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

March 2007

Dear Partner,

Thank God we have just completed another successful mission in spite of the fact that all our team were sick in one way or another before we left. I had asthmatic bronchitis that left me weak but, by the time we left for Russia, we were each ready and able to go. I took a breathing machine with me but a part broke in travel and I was never able to use it. Praise God He healed me and there was no need for the machine.

In Moscow, we were involved in a huge traffic jam caused by an accident. After being stuck for over an hour, we finally decided to take the Moscow Metro underground train which meant carrying all our luggage by hand. We got on the train only 1 minute before it left. Praise the Lord for His care of us.

During the 2 days on the train traveling to our destination, we engaged in evangelism when the train stopped as well as with fellow travelers along the way.

In Inta we worked with Lyuba who ministers to orphans. We took fruit for the children, something they very seldom get. We also ministered to them and gave gifts. Each team member gave a testimony and Mike Bolick preached in the Inta church on two different occasions. During this time, our translator, Yuri, caught a cold but continued to travel and work with us.

On another occasion we crossed a frozen lake by snowmobiles and sleds to a remote village and visited a school where 7 children attended. There, too, we shared the gospel and gave gifts. They were so happy since they were from poor families (poor in Russia means very poor). We had planned to visit a Komi boarding school for children but because of elections that day the city fathers would not let us visit.

We had planned to arrive in Vorkuta on a Sunday but were advised against getting there until Monday because they were having elections and were afraid we might influence someone's vote. After arriving in Vorkuta, we slept about 3 hours that night and left at 2:00 a.m. Tuesday for the tundra where we visited 3 Ninicy families. The all terrain vehicles travel better when it is dark since there are no roads. The drivers simply went in the general direction where they thought the teepees might be. After traveling for 4 hours we arrived near the beautiful snow covered Ural Mountains. We were served a breakfast of rabbit, venison, bread, cookies and hot tea. We had also taken food to the 3 families; food to which they rarely have access.

After breakfast they gathered with us for a meeting. Some were Christians, some were not. Volodia Gereskin preached a gospel message after a time of singing. Then we had lunch and each team member gave their testimony. Mike Bolick preached. We went to another teepee for supper where we had another delicious meal of rabbit and reindeer meat. To my knowledge no one was converted but seeds were sown and the Christians were encouraged.

We left for Vorkuta at dusk. When one of our vehicles got stuck in a snow bank, the other would pull it out. We returned to our apartment tired but rejoicing. It had been a 21-hour day. Praise the Lord.

Back in Vorkuta we visited in the home of Volodia Geraskin and his family. Volodia is a full time evangelist to the Ninicy and Komi people. We also visited and fellowshiped over a meal with Pastors Alexander and Fedor and their families. We were invited to return next March.

The team also ministered in churches while in that area, sharing and encouraging our brothers and sisters who are so isolated from the rest of the world.

Another day we took a 2-hour train trip to a different area. Snowmobiles met us pulling reindeer sleighs. After riding for an hour into the tundra, we fellowshiped with Boris and the men who work for him. Boris is a Komi man who owns 700 reindeer and cares for another 1,800. He too had prepared for us a meal of reindeer meat, bread, tea, etc. It was joy to be able to encourage Boris. On the return trip on the train, we distributed gospel tracts to fellow passengers.

A special joy for us was our visit to a boarding school for Ninicy children and taking them fruit and gifts. They seemed to be so happy to have us visit with them. We had the opportunity to sow more seeds. On Sunday we ministered in a church and Pastor Fedor pleaded with us to return.

On the trip to Moscow, Ken, Ruth and I were once again sick but God is faithful. We were well by the time we returned home. Thanks so much for each one who made this mission possible, whether by prayer or financial support or both. May God continue to bless you as you have blessed us and those to whom we ministered.



In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean McCroskey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jean McCroskey

P.S. In addition to all the above we can also report 2 more church plants in remote areas that didn't have a church.