



BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

April 2009

Dear Partners,

Praise the Lord we have returned safely from another exciting and successful mission to Russia. Thank you for your financial contributions and prayers that made it possible.

Natasha, our translator, and Anatoly, our driver, met us at the Moscow airport and from there to the train depot. Garry Malone, Vice President of Bibles For Russia, took three laptop computers we planned to give to two orphanages and a pastor. As Anatoly and Garry were loading our luggage on the train, I realized my carry-on bag had been stolen. All of my toiletries, some of my clothes and one of the computers were gone. At first I was sad and upset but then realized I could live without things and that our mission was about Jesus Christ and His gospel. We desired to encourage believers and see others come to know the Lord.

We engaged in evangelism whenever the train stopped on our two-day journey above the Arctic Circle to Vorkuta. With just a few exceptions, most people received us and the gospel tracts well. A lot of good seed was sown.

In Vorkuta, we were met by the brothers in Christ. It was very cold and the snow was up to five feet deep. We stayed with Pastor Fyodor and his family while there. It was a wonderful time of fellowship. We had the joy of ministering to Nentsy children who were living at a boarding school in Vorkuta. We gave them apples and candy as well as gifts from friends and churches in the United States (Alabama, Indiana and Kentucky). The children were very happy to see us and receive the goodies we brought. It was like Christmas for a child in America and they invited us to return, of course.

On Sunday we spoke at one church in the morning and another one that afternoon. It was a blessing to once again see familiar faces at each service. Both churches are looking forward to Alfred coming next time and insist that he conduct a conference. Please pray that God will heal and strengthen him so he can continue to minister in Russia and Ukraine as in the past. Many Christians and pastors have told me things Alfred said or preached years ago.

We visited reindeer herders, their families and friends who live in teepees on the tundra. To reach them it was necessary to take the train and a 45-minute ride on reindeer-drawn sleighs through a beautiful world of glistening but very cold snow. One sister in the Lord I had visited before, lived in one of the teepees. There was another family and two other reindeer herdsman present at her home. They prepared breakfast for us that included reindeer meat, bread, cookies and tea. Two brothers who went with us preached. Garry and I gave greetings and our testimonies. After a time of prayer, we had to leave them. The men were not Christians.

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Anatoly, one of the herdsmen, said he is “almost” a Christian. Please pray for the four men to become believers in the Lord.

There were plans for us to visit another community of teepees but a snowstorm prevented our going. Instead we visited a teepee about 20 minutes from Vorkuta in spite of the bitter cold, snow and wind. None of the Nentsy people there were Christians. They were very poor and worshiped the stars, moon and idols. Pastor Fyodor and Evangelist Volodya Geraskin went with us. We traveled by snowmobile and sled. The men ministered to them and we prayed with and for them. They did not respond positively to the Lord. Please pray that the family (Vasily, Marie, Sveta, Simeon and Vasha) and others who live in spiritual darkness will come to know the Savior.

When we left Vorkuta, we traveled by train 5 hours south to Inta. We stayed in Pastor Ivan’s home. Again it was a joyful time of fellowship with his family. We gave Pastor one of the computers. He was excited, as were his three daughters. Garry Malone had installed on the computer the Bible and Christian songs in the Russian language.

We spoke at Pastor Ivan’s church and visited an orphanage where we had ministered on two previous missions. The staff prepared tea and cookies for us and had a time of fellowship with us. The orphans gave a musical performance. We gave gifts to all the children including scarves, gloves and knitted caps. After leaving the orphanage, we went shopping for socks and towels to take to a nursing home. Many of the patients are invalids. Brother Zhenia ministers there every Saturday. We shared the gospel with them and gave them gospel tracts.

We traveled back to Moscow after leaving Inta, engaging in evangelism along the way. Please pray that some of the people who received our literature will come to know the Lord. We returned to Moscow thanking the Lord for all we had seen and done as well as everything of which the Lord had allowed us to be a part. We had encouraged pastors and their families, churches, reindeer herders and their families, orphans, elderly, invalids, strangers and those who worked at the institutions we visited. We shared the gospel with all others.

Please pray about joining us on a mission soon. There are 3 more trips planned this year: May 11-20 (St. Petersburg, Russia), September 21-30 (Lutsk, Ukraine) and September 29-October 8 (Kherson, Ukraine ministering to orphans and street children).

Thanks for sending me as your missionary. If you prayed or made a financial investment in this mission, you are very much a part of the results. May God bless each of you.



In Christ,

Jean McCroskey

Jean McCroskey, President
Bibles For Russia, Inc.