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# BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

April 2011

Dear Friend in Christ,

**I BRING YOU VERY ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM NORTHERN RUSSIA!**

A Bibles For Russia team went and returned last month from a very special mission. In fact, we believe it was a historic event. Why?

The Nenets people are “reindeer people” and live in a very remote part of the Earth. It is so remote there that most people (even Russians) know nothing of their existence. God knows and led us to take the Gospel to them. On this mission, we had something to give we’ve never had before: a portion of Scripture, The Gospel of Mark, in their language---both written and audio form.

Please pray that the Lord will send someone to teach them to read so that many will be saved and, in God’s timing, there will be a Nenets church. A few attend Russian services when in town to trade or purchase supplies, but that’s not the same as having a Nenets church with Nenets leadership.

As always, we visited the Nenets boarding school in Vorkuta. Garry, Joyce and I took gifts and bought apples, oranges and candy for them. They were so excited about our visit. It was like Christmas for them. As we started to leave, a small boy stood in front of the door and stretched out his arms to stop us from leaving.

We also visited an orphanage and took gifts, fruit and candy. The children recited poems and sang songs for us. They were so excited about our visit. One child said, “I wish the Americans would come every day.” Teachers and leaders at the boarding school and orphanage asked us to please come again. We also gave a Christian testimony.

One day we left Vorkuta to minister to the reindeer people living in teepees out on the tundra. We traveled by reindeer-drawn sleigh and a snowmobile. On the way, I had an accident on the sleigh and injured my leg. Only after I returned home to the United States did I learn that I had broken bones in my leg and ankle. The mission continued as planned. The reindeer herders had prepared breakfast and we had a good time of fellowship with them. All of us shared testimonies of what God is doing in our lives. Two reindeer herders heard the Gospel for the first time.

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We had planned to visit another teepee but they were 6 hours away by snowmobile (one way). We took comfort in knowing the Lord was in control. That afternoon Nada, a Nenets sister in Christ, came to visit and I gave her 20 Gospels of Mark (in print and audio CDs). She traveled eight hours by train to Siberia to take the Scriptures to people who have none. Pray that many people will come to know the Lord and pray for Nada as she witnesses to them. We distributed the remaining 31 Gospels to the Nenets at church on Sunday and leaders who will in turn give them to those they believe are the most interested in Jesus and Christianity.

While there, the team ministered in four churches and one youth meeting. At each service the people said, "Send greetings from us to your church." They received each of us warmly. At the youth service I met Sasha, a young man I had met years ago at an orphanage when he was eight to ten years old. He had not forgotten me and was happy to tell me he is now a Christian.

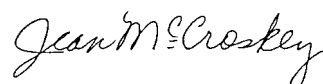
We were blessed to minister to the Nenets people once again. It was also good to see our missionary friend, Volodia Geraskin, who still works with the Nenets.

We had planned to visit a nursing home in Inta but the director wouldn't let us visit because we weren't Russian Orthodox. However, we were able to visit three homebound sisters, which was a great encouragement for them and for us.

Two years ago I shared about visiting a family who lived in a teepee and worshiped the stars and the moon. I asked friends to pray for them and the Lord answered our prayers. They have come to know the Lord and are now in church. Praise the Lord!

Special thanks to each of you who gave and prayed for this mission. You made it possible for us to visit the reindeer people and minister to others as God directed. May God richly bless you.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean McCroskey".

Jean McCroskey

P.S. Please pray for a speedy and complete healing of my leg and ankle. Thanks.

P.P.S. What's next? In May Mark goes to Ukraine to work with orphans. In June he will help take street kids camping. In July Alfred and I will conduct pastors conferences.