



BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

June 2009

Dear Partner,

At Bibles For Russia, “Job One” for 17 of the past 21 years has been “planting and growing churches.” This was mission #80 for us and, as each of the others, was different in several aspects.

Growing is different from planting and what we were about this time was phase two---growing. Each of the four Russian Christians with whom we worked was a member of a different church. Those congregations have various outreaches including ministry to orphans and street children of which there are millions.

We were in St. Petersburg, Russia where there are 124 different orphanages with a total of 124,000 orphans. This doesn't include children's hospitals, shelters for street children, dormitories and transition homes where orphans live after leaving their orphanages. This is what happens to the fatherless children of Russia and Ukraine:

Out of every 10 children---1 will commit suicide
3 will be drug and/or alcohol addicts
5 will become prostitutes or criminals
1 (only 1 out of 10) will survive

UNLESS.

Christians (not their government) reach them with the life-transforming gospel of Jesus Christ before it is too late. That is the mission of people like Lucia, Marina and Valentina and their churches. That is why some missions (like the May mission to St. Petersburg) are aimed primarily at children.

While there, we visited and ministered in:

- 2 children's hospitals for orphans
- 2 shelters for street children
- 1 dormitory (for orphans)
- 3 transition homes (for orphans)
- 1 church (Christ Church, our very first church, planted in September 1991)
- 1 private village home

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We gave gifts to every child and distributed Bibles, New Testaments, Christian books and gospel tracts. We prayed with and for many children and preached in one church. At every opportunity we simply played games and had fun with many of the children who rarely have such experiences. We were also blessed to work with university students from the Christian Student Union.

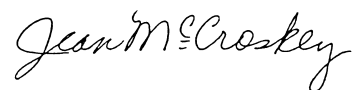
Some prepared meals for us, sang and performed skits, including Russian folk dances. Each and every one appreciated our time together with the children. We gave them our love and were given theirs in return. They pleaded with us to return soon. How can we not? Would you like to join us sometime? Pray about it.

I wonder which of those children may someday be pastors, evangelists, Sunday school teachers, Christian parents raising the next generation of believers and serving God in government, business or education. Some may even become missionaries to some group our generation never reached.

Our son, Mark, stayed on for another week to minister in some of the places we were not able to get to. Then he traveled on to Kherson, Ukraine where for the next 2 months he'll do much of the same kind of work, including camping ventures with orphans and street children. Lord willing, Mark will also have the opportunity to plant one new church in a town where there is currently no church. I hope you will pray for him.

Thank you for partnering with us to make missions like this one a reality. We sowed more than we reaped but others (from the churches) will water and God will give the increase. Mission accomplished.

In Christ,



Jean McCroskey

P.S. Friends in Russia wrote this after our return. "We just wanted to thank you and your team for your recent visit to our Transition Home in St. Petersburg. I know it was a blessed time for Natasha and the girls. Thank you. When you come and spend time with the children who have no one in their lives who care for them. . .and you spend time with them and show them that somebody does care. . .it truly makes a difference. Not only are you sowing eternal seed into their lives, you are helping us to minister to them even more. You may think that your time spent with them is not very valuable, and the gifts you so lovingly gave them may not have much worldly value. . .but we are learning that the small and 'insignificant' things like that are truly very significant in His kingdom. Thank you Alfred, Jean, Mark and your entire team for the seed sown into the lives of the children that we love so dearly. God bless!"