



BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

December 2006

Dear Partner,

Thanks for your prayers and contributions that made our most recent mission possible. After a lot of problems getting started, it ended up being one of the best ever. Mike and Debbie Bolick's flight was delayed leaving Atlanta causing them to miss their flight in Amsterdam. They finally caught up with us but the delay caused us to miss our train and reschedule a day late. God knew when we needed to leave and on that train Debbie led two conductresses to the Lord.

When we arrived in Chusovoy, our friend, Sergei and Pastor Oleg took us to a drug and alcohol rehab center and a ministry to street children in the town of Lysva. There were 14 heroin addicts there and we had opportunity to minister to them. Pastor Oleg asked Ken, our 87-year-old team member, to bless him and the addicts. Julie, a young lady at the center prayed to receive the Lord.

Later we ministered and gave gifts to 17 street children. A television crew and newspaper reporter came to interview the Americans as we gave out gifts. That night we met with a home group and started a new church. It snowed most of the next day but we didn't let it stop us from ministering to the poorest of poor families. One of the ladies couldn't walk and had nothing but a bucket on which to sit and move around on. We bought her a wheelchair. Some of the families had 4 to 6 children. We blessed each with gifts, which they received with sincere gratitude.

A lady in Gornozavodsk mails Bible study materials to women in prison. Her computer didn't have a printer so we bought one to use for printing copies of the Bible studies.

Next we took a train to Novosibirsk. We were met there by Nellie, our former interpreter I had not seen for 14 years, and a group of Christians. They made arrangements for our lodging, food and transportation with such servants' hearts. Although they had never met us, we were accepted immediately as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Pastor Bak drove from Kemorovo to meet us. He had started 4 home groups in 4 different areas of the city. We sponsored each so they can become new churches in their area. Pastor Bak will oversee them. The money we gave will allow them to rent buildings and invite others who would not attend home meetings. While there, we learned that the Russian government is trying to pass a law against evangelism. It will even forbid believers to talk about Christianity to another person. If that becomes law, Christians could be fined or arrested for sharing the faith. Pray this bill will not be passed and please pass this information on to friends asking them to pray.

We were not allowed to visit 3 orphanages simply because we were Americans. Most Russian people want us to come. The Russian Orthodox Church doesn't and they have a lot of influence in the government.

Khabarovsk was cold, snowy and windy. Sveta, a young lady from Ukraine, has a wonderful ministry to many orphanages. While we were there, she had a birthday party for 40 orphans. We took gifts and attended the party. That was a special time for them and for us. Sveta invited us to her apartment for dinner where she brings some of the orphans for visits and Bible studies.

Pastor Sergei Kulman and his congregation put up a tent beside their church where they minister to all the needs of 45 homeless people. The temperature was 10° when we were there. Later the temperature is expected to dip to -35°. The men are erecting a permanent building as God provides funds and/or building material and hope to move into the building by January.

Another ministry we visited was a rehab center for former prisoners. Their leader, Dmitry, was also a prisoner before he came to know the Lord. Ken was asked to pray for and bless them. We shared testimonies and praised the Lord with our new brothers and sisters in Christ.

Another day we drove 4 hours to minister in a village church we helped start a few years ago. Some members couldn't attend because it was a work day, but others asked off to come. We all shared and Mike preached. Lives were touched. One problem all across the former Soviet Union is there are more sisters than brothers. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will draw men to come to the Lord and become involved in church. Pastor Gleb said our being there turned a page in his life. Pray for him and the church.

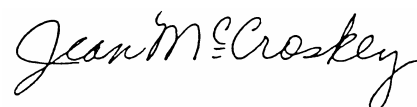
Government registration in Khabarovsk took 4 hours causing us to miss one church service. We met with a group of believers after church and learned that Pastor Sasha was very discouraged. People come to know the Lord but then move to the city; a common problem across that nation.

Team members were a real blessing. Men asked Ken to bless them and their ministry and Iola was asked to pray for ladies (proving we are never too old to serve the Lord). We were all used by the Lord.

This mission was different. God both opened and closed doors. We encouraged many people and learned how best to pray. If you prayed or made a contribution, you too were a part of this mission. Pray for them that many more will come to know Christ.

In March we plan to go above the Arctic Circle for ministry to the "reindeer people." Please pray about sending us as your missionaries to these unreached people. There are many among them who have never heard the gospel.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean McCroskey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned centrally below the "In Christ," text.

Jean McCroskey