



BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

October 2012

Dear Partner,

I have just returned from the most recent mission to Russia. Thank you so much for your contributions and prayers that made this mission possible. God closed some doors and opened others but always He was in control.

We ministered to 500 orphans while on this mission. We purchased watermelons, honeydew melons and candy bars that we gave the orphans as well as the gifts David and I had brought them from the United States. The orphans seldom have fruit or candy so they were very excited and said “big thank you” for the special treats.

In the Chuvashia Region, we visited mission stations where missionaries live. These mission stations are in remote villages, most without running water or indoor toilets. All the missionaries are from Ukraine but live in that area under hardships to minister the Gospel to the unsaved of that area. Each missionary receives \$90 per month for living expenses. They go out on the streets to evangelize, minister and serve the Lord wherever the need arises. We spoke with each missionary—learned of their needs, offered our encouragement and prayed for each of them.

We attended the Sunday church service in Shumerlya. They were having “Thanksgiving Day” on which everyone brought the best fruits or vegetables from their gardens. David Brenner and I shared a message with the congregation along with six pastors. Many people came from other churches for the celebration as well as to have lunch and fellowship together.

God opened the door for us to go to the Mari-El Region. All but two of the pastors and missionaries were sent from Ukraine as missionaries to the area. They left their homes behind to go to this mission field and serve the Lord as He leads them.

We traveled to minister to gypsy children. They had never seen Americans. Christian brothers and sisters led the children in Christian songs. David gave them gifts and I told them about sharing the Gospel with the Nenets people above the Arctic Circle.

We went with Pastor Yan and Pastor Sergey to minister to more gypsy children. Pastor Yan’s mother lead the children in Christian song. Pastor Sergey read the Word of God and some of the men asked many questions. David, Natasha and I all shared a message with those present. Before leaving, we had tea and fellowship with the family.

Prior to Brother Yan coming to know the Lord eight years ago, He was a Muslim. He is

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now a pastor who preaches in three churches on Sunday, runs a rehabilitation center and travels to minister to gypsies two nights a week. The men have many questions about the Bible. It is usually 2:00 a.m. by the time he leaves for home. He has seen a big change in the people since he has been going to minister to them. Please pray for these meetings with the gypsies that many will come to know the Lord. Also, please pray that God will strengthen Pastor Yan that he will be able to continue in this work for the Kingdom.

Pastor Sergey is over the region. He preaches in 3 churches every Sunday. There are many strongholds in the Mari-El Region including people who sacrifice animals in the forests and worship the wind, trees and multiple gods. He gathered children's workers together for a meal so they could tell us how much they appreciate our support for the orphans' Christmas. Pastor Sergey has diabetes but continues to work faithfully for the Kingdom. Please pray for his healing and strength.

One young lady, now a missionary, shared that when she became a Christian her school teacher told all the students not to have anything to do with her. Pastor Sergey told us people don't accept the Lord because they are concerned about what people will think of them.

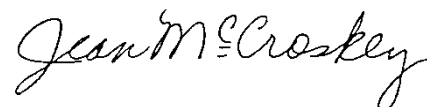
While on this mission, we ministered in two nursing homes. The residents of both homes were so grateful for our visit and that we had not forgotten them. We felt blessed to be used of the Lord in ministering to these precious people.

There are many needs in the Mari-El and Chuvashia areas. Pray God will raise up more missionaries to help spread the Gospel. There are five congregations that have begun building churches in the area but they don't have the money to finish them. Would you pray about giving toward helping those brothers finish the churches? When the churches are finished, people will attend and many will come to know the Lord through their ministry.

The pastors, orphan workers and missionaries asked us to tell you, "Thank you" for giving last Christmas (2011) so they could have Christmas for the orphans. The children were truly blessed through your generous giving.

It was a joy to minister on this mission. Thank you to all who gave and/or prayed to make this mission possible. May God bless you for your obedience to Him.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean McCroskey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Jean McCroskey

P.S Spaces are available for the Dec. 27-Jan. 9 mission to Ukraine. You will be blessed by being a blessing to the orphans. If interested in going, contact me as soon as possible.