



# BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

September 2008

Dear Partner,

We're back. Team #77 returned to the United States on September 15 after a very successful three-week mission to 3 Ukrainian cities. Composed of 12 short-term and 2 full-time missionaries, the team came from 3 nations and 7 different cities. Partners' prayers and financial investments made all the following possible.

**In Kherson:** Before arriving at the location for the planned medical mission, we experienced a hugely important answer to prayer: \$35,000 worth of medicine got through without our having to pay a large amount of customs charges. Help came from 2 unexpected sources, a friendly K.G.B. officer and a non-functioning x-ray machine. We had asked the Lord for both and He granted our petition.

Doctors, nurses, spiritual counselors and prayer partners ministered to 118 orphans and street children in spirit, soul and body. There were 16 professions of faith in Christ. Some adults also received medical and spiritual assistance. All team members also visited a children's hospital and left behind a good supply of medications.

Forty pastors attended a two-day conference designed just for them and reported having received practical help and much needed encouragement.

Numerous families living in extreme poverty received food, spiritual help and prayer. Some few have begun attending church services.

**In Vatutino:** After the 12 medical team members returned home, our son, Mark, and I remained for another 10 days. Pastor Grigory Shvets is a long-time friend and definitely one of our favorites, a real hero and trophy of God's grace. He is well past retirement age, in poor and failing health, has only one leg, lives in a remote area where most roads are unpaved and poorly maintained but continues to preach and pastor 2 churches as well as overseeing 4 others. This past year Pastor Grigory organized a new church. While there, Mark and I ministered to him, his family, in 2 congregations and one "Thanksgiving" service (i.e., harvest festival).

Our translator's grandmother, who is in her 70s, attended one of the church services---the first one she had attended in her life. She responded positively to my

testimony of faith in the Lord but to my knowledge has not yet made her own profession of faith. Please pray for Natasha's "babushka."

We also ministered to 60 children in an orphanage in Vatutino. Praise the Lord.

**In Lutsk**: The Lord opened a door for us to minister to 83 children at a special school for the blind and others who have seriously impaired vision problems. We were able to also give them fruit, cookies and gifts. The administrator (usually unfriendly toward foreigners) asked us to please come again. Praise God.

An open door also greeted us at a rehabilitation center for female drug and alcohol addicts. What a great place to take the good news about the Kingdom of God and to shine the light of Jesus into darkened hearts and souls.

"Job One" for our mission since the early 90s has been "planting and growing churches." Praise the Lord we did that twice more this time bringing the total to 966. My husband, Alfred, has said many times, "Even if we never return to those places, we have left behind something that will continue to grow and last for eternity."

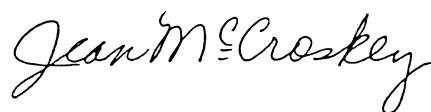
Before leaving for home, Mark and I also ministered in a nursing home. That too was a good experience for the residents and for us as well.

All along the way the Lord blessed us with many opportunities to visit with and encourage the Ukrainian pastors and other Christian leaders who are truly "frontline" missionaries to their own people. Other examples include: Michael (who not only pastors one congregation but also oversees 180 others in his region) Pastor Stephan and Vladimir (dear brothers who have been opening doors for us for the past 19 years).

"And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of . . ."

*(Hebrews 11:32)*

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 typed name.

Jean McCroskey

P.S. You are invited to join us on one of our missions sometime. Pray about it.