

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you from frozen Siberia! It has been bitterly cold this winter, but life goes on as normal. The attendance in church has not been affected because of the cold weather. It's amazing to see how many people attend in such severe conditions! Ilya is in Moscow this week studying at a Bible college, so I will share with you some highlights from the month of January.

New Year's Eve



We started this year with an amazing gathering of 500 people for a New Year's Eve service. The service started at 10:00 PM with worship followed by a New Year's message that Ilya preached. We met the New Year in prayer, asking the Lord to be glorified in our lives to the fullest. The presence of God was very real at this service as everyone was sincerely seeking God with a great desire to please Him. We gathered all the men and women from the various Source of Life rehabilitation centers, and many of their families came to



join them. Sometimes it brings tears to my eyes to see how sincerely former heroine addicts worship God. They were once dead and now they are alive! Many others also came from the church, mostly people who would have been alone at New Year's Eve. After midnight we had a huge feast. Everyone brought either a Russian salad or dessert. The men from the rehab center cooked all the hot food. To the right is a picture of Ilya and me with all the cooks from the rehab center. They had been working 48 hours without sleep to prepare for this event. The celebration continued until 6:00 AM with skits, worship and prayer. It was an incredible evening!

Youth conference



From January 3-5 our church held a youth conference, with the theme "I will not be ashamed of Christ." The youth loved the preaching from Pastors Eugene McBride and Nick Dekold from Rockwall, TX. The conference ended with an altar call for those who wanted to pray for grace and boldness to share their faith with others. Everyone came forward for prayer. The final evening was an evangelistic service which the youth conducted in a local theatre. Even though it was -40F several hundred people came to this meeting. Testimonies were shared from former drug addicts, and many responded for the first time for prayer. Sasha, bottom left, was greatly touched through this conference and gave his life to the Lord a couple days later.



In Russia, January 7 is the official day for Christmas. After having three services on Sunday, I expected only a handful of people to come back to church Monday morning for a Christmas service. To my amazement, the service was packed with 500 people. At the end of the service, twelve people responded to receive Christ.

Water Baptism



On January 19, our church held its first baptismal service in the sanctuary. This past year we needed \$10,000 to build a water baptismal tank in the sanctuary. At a service, Ilya decided to ask if people could give beyond their tithes for this need. As he was speaking, people began to run to the front of the church to give money for this cause. We were so touched to see this

response to give from the Russian believers. Although most are very poor, they gave sacrificially unto the Lord. What a celebration it was to have 34 people baptized in the church!

Prayer requests:

1) On Feb. 2nd there will be a hockey game with former NHL players in Orangeville, Ontario. At this meeting a couple of the Christian players will invite others to join them for a hockey outreach in Novokuznetsk this fall. Would you please pray that God would touch their hearts and enable them to come? It would be a great outreach in our city.

2) On Feb. 4-6, our church will again perform the play "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames." Many youth, including our three children, are involved in this outreach. Our girls invited their musical school teachers to attend, and Joseph invited his hockey team and coach. Please pray that many souls would come to the Lord through this outreach.



3) There are four municipal properties that the city administration had given to our church for free use for the drug and alcohol rehabilitation center and for a Christian orphanage. In the past it was against the law to purchase government buildings. Last year the law changed and now these properties all have to be sold at an auction. Because of a good relationship between our church and the city administration, they have offered to allow us to



buy these buildings and properties first. Would you please pray with us that they would lower the cost of these properties and that God would provide financially for the purchase of the facilities? Many people have come to the Lord through the ministry in these locations, and we believe many more will come if we could purchase them.

4) Would you please pray for our oldest son, Joshua, who is attending school in Texas. It was good to see him over the holidays, but he needs prayer for God to strengthen him in the Lord as he is going through the difficult teen phase. We would greatly appreciate your prayers for him.



Thank you for all your prayer and financial support that allow us to minister here. We truly thank God for you!

God bless you always!
With much love,
Ilya and Janet