

Summary Points:

- All field members have been approved for their residency permits in Russia. This provides our team with a definitive plan for establishing long-term ministry in the country and fuels recruitment efforts. These are valid for three years, but can be extended.
- Significant life changes and transitions are happening on our team: Slawsons - Move to Oregon; Orners - New baby; Gilbert/Greer - Marriage in August
- I traveled to Russia in May to meet with our ministry partners and team members. From this came a number of plans which we are pursuing:
 - * Continue pursuing a ministry to Central Asian Uzbeks and Tajiks in St. Petersburg via a partnership ministry with a local church in St. Petersburg.
 - * Establish the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk as a base for ministry, headed up by the Orners.
 - * Continue and expand the ministry in Tuva by supporting the local churches. The relocation of Vanessa Greer to this region will bring another set of gifts to the ministry there.
 - * Offer three distinct summer internships in Russia for summer 2013: 1) Central Asian Ministry, St. Petersburg (led by the Slawsons), 2) English Camp Ministry, Krasnoyarsk (led by the Orners), 3) Transformation Business, Tuva (led by the Gilberts). Recruit directly to these regions.
- Ted Mole is currently in Russia at the writing of this report and is moving forward with plans for a rehabilitation ministry in the village of Namtsy.
- There is growing interest from past and current recruitment efforts. With more well-defined areas of ministry and a plan for stable placement I believe this momentum will grow.

“And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.” - Acts 15:31

It is very easy to get discouraged in ministry. There is seemingly no limit to the number of things that can “go wrong”, distract us, cause us to doubt, fear, worry, etc. While writing these reports can sometimes feel like a tedious, deadline-laden chore, I am inevitably encouraged every time I sit down to write them as I reflect back on what God has done in the last few months and anticipate what he will do in the days to come. I pray it is an encouragement to you also.

Field Direction:

We continue to move forward with our ministry strategy in Russia to primarily partner with indigenous churches to affect and facilitate indigenous church planting movements. (See brochure outlining strategy and vision - will be handed out at the board meeting).

One of the most important developments of the last six months is that our team members on the field in Russia have all been approved for their three-year residency permits. The significance of this cannot be fully expressed in words. This has been a long-anticipated development that dates back to the visa law changes in the fall of 2008 that required foreigners to exit the country every 90 days. While the temporary residency permits have always been available, whether or not they would be granted to Americans (especially in regions like Tuva) has been uncertain. The application process is long and tedious to say the least. Three of our missionary units successfully navigated these choppy waters, and now possess the knowledge to guide others through it in the future. These residency permits can be extended fairly easily every three years, or after one year can be converted into permanent residency. With this development we can now form a definitive and proven plan for future missionary placement on the field: 1) Enter the country on student visas at first to learn the language 2) After about a year, begin the application process for temporary residence while finishing language studies.

Interest is growing in the field as we have focused on building contacts at a number of schools over the last few years.

Areas of Ministry and Personnel Updates:

St. Petersburg/Oregon (Thomas & Cristy Slawson)



I continue to work closely with the pastor of a small church in St. Petersburg that ministers to Central Asian migrants. During my trip to St. Petersburg in May of this year we met and extensively discussed moving forward with the ministry. I preached at his church and explored areas as to how we could partner together. We continue to correspond frequently via email and Skype.

I am slated to visit Russia again this fall along with Dale and we plan to spend several days in St. Petersburg and have prioritized meeting with this pastor and visiting his church. Possible plans include working through *Vzaimodestvie* (Cooperation) to fund some small business ventures that would help support the ministry. Other ideas include eventual placement of full-time missionaries from InterAct in the city to work alongside the church and assisting in furthering the work of evangelism, church planting and leadership training. If things continue, we plan to lead a summer team in 2013 to work with this ministry.

On Friday, June 22nd I arrived at the Boring office after five days of driving our possessions across the country from Mississippi. We have since found a residence in Gresham and have settled in for the most part. I am working out of the office and continuing my work as Russia field director while assuming new responsibilities as public ministries director. We plan to return to Russia next summer as a family for about three months.

Krasnoyarsk (Lucas & Jamie Orner)



The Orners recently received notification that their temporary residency documents have been approved pending an updated HIV test. This will provide them a more permanent and stable situation in their ministry.

For the last few months the Orners have been finishing studies at the State University on student visas while focusing on completing their residency applications. They have been active in a number of ministries and have recently become heavily involved in using English teaching as an outreach. We have recently discussed developing a team in Krasnoyarsk geared toward English-teaching ministries. This would not only help expand our field and open new doors for gospel ministry, but also establish a strategic base in this city that could serve as a springboard into other ministries throughout Siberia. In May they welcomed their third child, Daniel.

Lucas is currently looking into hosting a summer team in Krasnoyarsk in 2013 that would work alongside local churches to assist with English camps. While the Orners are excited

about this door that God has opened, their passion for eventually moving to a village has not waned. They are hopeful that in the next three years they will be able to move to a more remote region of the country and work directly with one of the native people groups.

Tuva (Scott Gilbert & Vanessa Greer)



Scott was recently granted his temporary residency permit which secures his living arrangements in Tuva for at least the next three years. Though he has received this document he still plans to complete his degree program at the Tuvan State University. He continues to be active with our partner organization *Vzaimodestvie* in the process of establishing and supporting small business ventures among believers. To date there have been 12 businesses started, each in various stages of development. One of the most significant developments is that no new businesses have been started with Western funding and some funding for other local ventures has even been done through the local cyclical fund. There are no major plans at this time to fund any more businesses in Tuva through InterAct though the possibility remains open.

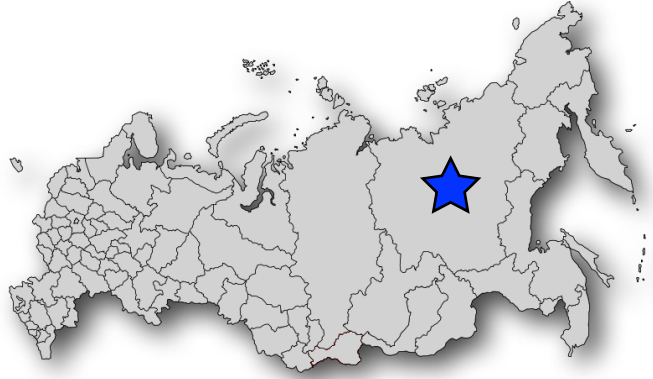
We are currently in the process of gradually reducing direct monthly support to Tuvan pastors. This brings to a close a three-year plan that will hopefully encourage these pastor/entrepreneurs to begin more actively supporting themselves through their businesses.

Scott has begun exploring the possibility of attracting direct outside investment from Christian entrepreneurs both foreign and domestic. This would open the door for Christian businessmen and women to invest more heavily in Tuva, employing Christians and benefitting the Church and community at large.

Vanessa Greer also was granted a temporary residency permit to live in Tuva. She plans to work part-time at the Tuvan State University in the international students department and minister in that context. She is also eager to begin working with local churches in Tuva to minister to women in the villages.

Scott and Vanessa are planning to marry in August in the United States and then return to Tuva where they will reside and minister together.

Yakutia/Soldotna, Alaska (Ted & Kate Mole)



Upon the writing of this report Ted Mole is in Yakutia reconnecting with ministry partners. Their desire is to return to Yakutia either full-time or in an itinerate capacity to establish a rehabilitation center in the village of Namtsy where they previously resided and ministered. Ted was able to meet with the administration of the village and discuss the plans. They were apparently receptive to the work.

Ted has also taken some time to visit other areas of ministry and reconnect during his time in Yakutia. Much is left to be seen as to what form the ministry will take there in the coming months and years.

Plans are still on the table to eventually start up transformational business work in Yakutia through *Vzaimodestvie* in Tuva, but there have been several legal hurdles regarding the by-laws of the organization in Tuva and their ability to work in another Republic. We believe we are close to resolving these issues. A long-time friend of InterAct from Yakutia, Vova Burnashev, who currently is serving with Wycliffe in Russia, has expressed an interest to partner also with InterAct to help move this type of ministry forward in Yakutia. He is currently living in St. Petersburg with his wife but plans to return to Yakutia later next year. Dialogue with him is ongoing.

Conclusion:

I am encouraged when I see what God is doing in Russia. Many of the various pieces that are beginning to come together are things we have prayed about for several years now. Our biggest need at this point is new personnel on the field. I feel we need to focus heavily on recruitment and building partnerships with churches to expand the ministry base in Russia. I plan to work extensively in this area now that our family is located more permanently in the United States.

Pressing on in Christ,
Thomas Slawson