

A Vision for the Russia Field

For the last two years I have marveled at God’s work as He opened doors for ministry in Siberia where I least expected it. First we witnessed God work through English ministries, which uses language clubs and outreach events to introduce new people to genuine believers who live out the gospel. Then doors opened for disability ministries through connections that only the Creator could orchestrate. The question I found myself asking was, “God, how are you going to bring the diversity of these ministries together to reach the unreached communities of Siberia when so many of them are based here in the Russian city of Krasnoyarsk?” I could easily recruit for these ministries, but how does that accomplish our vision of discipling the least-reached?

<p>Krasnoyarsk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of a million.• Some indigenous people groups live in the city as people urbanize for better work and college education.• Vast majority of people in the city are white Russians.• New missionaries coming to the field will start in Krasnoyarsk.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Language Study○ Applying for Residency Permit○ Good step in adapting to culture and life in Russia (as opposed to being immediately dropped in a village)	<p>Evangelical Churches in Krasnoyarsk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Six Baptist churches (only one has a church building)• Strengths of Russian churches: Seminary-trained leadership, focus on prayer, open-mic time during services to give a testimony of what God is doing.• Weaknesses of church: Inward focused with little outreach, many people still hold racist views toward indigenous people groups.• In recent years, young men are returning from the seminary in Novosibirsk and unable to find paid ministry work as church positions are already filled.
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I feel that God is leading our field toward a combined focus of reaching the least- reached of Siberia while also informally easing Russian churches toward an understanding of cross-cultural ministry among the peoples who live within their city and province.

We plan to build two teams: a Krasnoyarsk-based team and a “Town A” team. “Town A” represents a town where the majority of the residents are of an indigenous people group. We don’t know where God will lead us yet, but there

are many choices in the unreached areas of Siberia in the Krasnoyarsk Province and surrounding area.

The Krasnoyarsk team will be made up of the following positions, which we will be actively recruiting for this fall.

- Discipleship Ministry
 - Focused on the indigenous people groups in the city
 - Relational evangelism
- Hospitality/Mercy Ministry
 - Focused on connecting with people who are in the city temporarily from unreached areas for medical reasons, or students studying at the university.
 - Offering hospitality is an extremely effective way of showing and sharing the gospel among the unreached people groups who do not feel at home in Krasnoyarsk.
- Disability Ministry
 - Focused on supporting the current disability ministry in Krasnoyarsk and working toward making it into a reproducible model in other areas, including unreached areas.
- English-Teaching Ministry
 - Focused on showing the love of Christ through offering free English events, which connect unbelievers with believers.
 - Discipling new believers.

ALL of these positions will also include a focus on being involved in a local church in Krasnoyarsk and actively sharing stories with the church about the cross-cultural ministry that is going on in Town A. The members of the Town A team will have already served in Krasnoyarsk and made connections in these churches, which will stir the churches to be actively praying for the Town A ministry. Through these updates and prayer requests, we will be informally educating Russian churches on what ministry looks like in a different cultural context and opening their eyes to the needs of the people.

The Town A team will be focused on discipleship among the unreached people group. That may mean coming alongside a small gathering of believers and helping them disciple church leadership or going into surrounding villages to begin a church-planting movement. While they are doing ministry in Town A, they will also be passing on stories and information to the Krasnoyarsk team so that they can be trickling in information and stories about cross-cultural ministry to the Russian churches.

The two teams will meet every three months for a weekend. This will provide a time of prayer and encouragement and also a time to share what God is doing in both areas and how as a whole they can disciple the least-reached while also trickling training and cross-cultural knowledge into the Russian churches.

There will also be goals such as getting a Krasnoyarsk church to do a short-term trip to Town A to support ministry there. Another goal is to find a young man fresh from the seminary (or a couple) to plug into a 2-year internship with the team in Town A. Even if he does not feel called into full-time ministry

among the unreached at the end of the internship, he will have gained the experience of working in a cross-cultural ministry.

Personnel Updates

Shawna Hess – Shawna will be on Special Assignment in the U.S. until the end of December 2015. She will have the opportunity to be involved in mobilization at Moody Spokane's missions conference.

Lucas and Jamie Orner – We will be on Special Assignment through the end of summer 2015. God has opened doors, given direction, and provided in amazing ways over the past six months. The biggest headline is that we received our 5-year residency permits! This is the golden ticket for ministry in Russia, allowing movement around Russia with more ease, the ability to apply for homestay visa invitations, and most importantly, to be able to live and minister in Russia for 5 more years!

Ted and Kate Mole – This spring Ted traveled to Siberia to take the next steps toward making the rehabilitation center a reality. He had 10 volunteers sign up for training that he will conduct on a future trip. The local believers are currently in the process of researching the requirements for registering the center. They have the support of the local town's (Namtsy) government.

Frankie Emrick – Frankie completed his ViEW training in June and has begun the process of support raising. We are very excited to see God bring this young man to our team. He will begin ministry in Krasnoyarsk under a work visa teaching English because he is already fluent in Russian. We see Frankie fitting into a Discipleship Ministry role on the Town A team in the future and as an integral part in seeking the location for Town A.

Pipeline

Tina Tucker served in the *EnGage* Siberia program last summer. A couple months ago, she emailed us looking into full-time positions! On top of that, she was planning on leading a team of young adults on a missions trip to Australia. When that fell through at the last minute, she rerouted the trip to our *EnGage* program in Canada, where she and two others from her church are currently serving.

Annie and Mahlon Antrim are friends of the Paras' and have a passion for disability ministry. Annie is a pediatrician and served on a short-term trip in Russia a few years ago. They are planning on serving for a week or two in Feb/March 2016 in Krasnoyarsk.

Jenny Allbritain is a Moody-Spokane student with whom we have been in contact with for the last year. She is studying Russian language at Moody and plans to join us in Krasnoyarsk for an internship in the fall of 2016.

Other News

Dr. Marc Canner is the Director of the Institute of Strategic Languages and Cultures and professor of Intercultural Studies at Moody-Spokane. Jerry Crosby connected us with Dr. Canner and we plan to meet with him this summer to tell him about the ministry and internship opportunities. We are praying that this will become a strategic contact for bringing new missionaries to the Russian Field.

Vzaimidestvie (VZ)- VZ Director, Natasha Olenika, has filed paperwork once again to transfer their accounts to a new bank to which we should be able to send support because their current bank is sanctioned. The \$50,000 fine that was levied a few years ago has finally been dropped.

Prayer and Praise

- Pray that God would call more workers to Siberia. With a fresh vision and clear positions to fill, we are praying that this coming recruitment season will be fruitful.
- Praise the Lord for granting us 5-year residency permits in Russia!
- Pray for Frankie Emrick's support raising; that God will quickly provide for his needs.
- Pray for Shawna who is trying to raise an additional \$500/month while she is on Special Assignment.

Joyfully Serving Christ!

Lucas Orner
Russia Field Team Leader