

# Russia Field Report

## June 2016

The first half of 2016 presented our team with a handful of surprising changes. Shawna's energy levels unexpectedly improved an encouraging amount with new meds. We (the Orner family) found out that we were expecting a fourth child (surprise!). And recently we found out that a missionary couple with lots of experience was interested in partnering with InterAct in the future.

### **Perspective**

When we found out that Jamie was pregnant and then, due to a complication, would have to limit her activity, we knew that we would have to trim down some of our plans for the spring and summer. While we were hoping to travel to some more remote and unreached areas, we ended up spending our time in the city. Even with those limitations, I feel we were able to make progress on preparing the Russia field for recruitment toward our vision. The extra time in the city allowed for new contacts and relationships to be built with English centers that may serve to invite new people who are interested in teaching English for a year or two, but may not have a vision for long-term ministry in Siberia (yet!).

Jerry Crosby has mentioned a growing interest from students in taking a year or two and teaching English overseas. By facilitating this kind of trip, we hope to open the gates a little wider to allow people who currently may not see ministry in their future to experience the spiritual needs of Siberia while they work as an English teacher. Our purpose and prayer for these trips is that God works in their hearts and calls them to return full-time in the future, or that they would be used to spread the word in the U.S. of the needs on the Russian field.

Our extra time spent in the city has also opened opportunities to build relationships and begin discipleship with believers and begin praying that God would work in their lives to develop a passion for the lost, specifically the unreached in their region of Siberia.

## **People**

Shawna Hess – Health has and likely will always be an issue affecting Shawna’s ministry, but the Lord has continuously used her willingness to serve. Recently she has found a new medication that has improved her energy level and allowed her to make a visit to a village where she used her experience as a midwife to present useful information to believers and unbelievers. Her relationships with young Buryat women continue to grow.

Lucas and Jamie Orner – As you read this report, Lord willing, Jamie will have given birth to our fourth child, a baby boy. As I sit here writing this report, I eagerly await his arrival! As mentioned above, the first half of 2016 did not play out as we expected. The pregnancy seriously limited Jamie’s ability to get around and meant that I needed to be accessible on a daily basis. God brought us a variety of guests in our home, including most of the church from the remote Tuvan village of Ak-Dovurak. We also hosted a young Russian woman from Kyzyl who is on fire about the importance of discipleship and has a passion for using English as a way to build relationships with unbelievers. She was greatly encouraged to hear that we are actively recruiting toward that end!

Ted and Kate Mole – This summer Ted and Kate made a trip to Namtsy, Russia, where they continue to encourage and train local believers in the development of a rehabilitation center. Kate has been trained in the Genesis Process and is now passing that training on to the local believers who will be volunteering at the center.

Frankie Emrick – Frankie Emrick has placed his support raising on hold for 2016 to seek the Lord’s will in regards to pursuing a relationship with a young woman.

Tucker and Grace Grose (NAIM)- For the past several years, the Groses have been focusing on engaging Canada First Nation believers in missions by bringing them on short term trips to Siberia. Recently Tucker and Grace have sensed the Lord leading them to focus in on discipleship specifically among Siberian native people groups. With this change of vision, NAIM

signed a MOU with InterAct in order for Tucker and Grace to be able to minister in Siberia during the summer of 2016. They will be living in Yakutia from June-September. They are currently praying about being seconded to InterAct long-term or joining InterAct altogether.

EnGage!: Macy and Mindee- We were joined by two young ladies in the *EnGage!* Russia program this summer. They both have a heart for missions and have been praying that God will use the trip to direct their future. Because of Jamie's due date, we were not able to travel with them as much as we had hoped, but the opportunity to build relationships with believing and unbelieving Russians in Krasnoyarsk has been a valuable experience for them.

### **Partnerships**

Private English Centers- As we try to develop opportunities for 1-2 year positions for teaching English in Krasnoyarsk, we need to build partnerships with local English schools/centers. The goal is to find a director who is willing to offer a position with a flexible schedule that would allow time for ministry.

Zhatva Church- We have been attending and serving alongside this 2-year-old church in Krasnoyarsk. They are hoping to have their church building complete this Fall. The thing that excites us about this young church is their intentionality of being a light in the community through different outreach ministries. They also have a desire to use their church building for a missionary training center in the future, which we are praying that our team will be able to have a role in.

### **Prayer and Praise**

- Pray that God would call more people to ministry in Siberia. We praise Him for the addition of Grace and Tucker to our team this summer and also the pair of young women who served in *EnGage!* Russia.
- Praise the Lord for answer to prayer that Shawna has seen health improvements. Pray for wisdom as she deals with young people who are straying from the Lord.
- Pray for wisdom for Tucker and Grace Grose as they seek the Lord's will in the logistics of serving in Siberia in the future.

- Pray for the Orners as they make plans to be in the U.S. from November 2016-February 2017 with a strong focus on recruitment.
- Pray for wisdom for the Namtsy believers who are involved in the development of the rehab center and that the Moles would be used by God to facilitate the process.

Joyfully Serving Christ!  
Lucas Orner  
Russia Field Team Leader