

Russia Field Report  
July 2018

## **Perspective**

My favorite part of disciple making is the “aha” moment. The moment when a believer realizes what changes need to be made to become more like Christ. More often than not, these moments come to those we disciple directly through Scripture rather than our wise words.

One Tuvan brother fell off the wagon in May. The shame of the sins he committed in his drunkenness overwhelmed him to the point where he wanted nothing to do with his church or studying the Word. So, Frankie and I made ourselves available to him. We loved, we listened, we encouraged, we shared what God was doing in our lives through His Word. One evening he found himself in our apartment for the Bible study that our *EnGagers!* were leading. His questions took us way off the beaten path, but everyone there engaged in the discussion. The next day he messaged me to say what a refreshing time it had been and that he had decided to go back to his church family.

Why tell such a specific story in a section of my report that should give broad perspective? Simply to reiterate the centrality of Scripture in every aspect of our ministry. In different contexts, it may be presented in different forms but without the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, we cannot hope for true heart-level change in a believer’s life. And the goal of discipleship is that change.

As we continue working to fulfill InterAct’s vision in Russian context, the authority and sufficiency of God’s Word remains a constant core value.

## **People**

Shawna Hess – In June Shawna returned to Ulan-Ude after a five-month SpA in the U.S. She continues discipling women through the local church and contacts made through midwifery.

Lucas and Jamie Orner – We still sense a clear calling to remain in Krasnoyarsk and pursue discipling local believers toward cross-cultural ministry among unreached people groups.

Ted and Kate Mole – Ted continues his ministry in Alaska and is awaiting an update from the local believers about the next steps in the rehab center.

Frankie Emrick – Frankie’s arrival to Krasnoyarsk has been a great boost for our team. His passion and heart to see a movement among the indigenous people of Siberia is exciting. He is currently serving as a volunteer on our team. His goal is to find a language school to invite him to work as an English teacher in the future and be a partial tentmaker with InterAct.

Summer Teams – Jennifer Kosin (10-weeks) and Bruce Reed (4 weeks) joined us this summer. They participated in and pursued relational discipleship and joined us on trips to Tuva and Buryatia.

Summary:

<u>Missionary</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Ministry</u>
Shawna Hess	Full-time, on field	Ulan-Ude, Republic of Buryatia	Discipleship (focus on Buryat people), Midwifery
Lucas and Jamie Orner	Full-time, on field	Krasnoyarsk, Krasnoyarski Krai	Field Director responsibilities, Discipleship (focus on moving Russians toward going to UPG),
Frankie Emrick	1-year student visa until March 2019, on field	Krasnoyarsk, Krasnoyarski Krai	Studying at university and building contacts in Krasnoyarsk and surrounding regions.
Ted and Kate Mole (full time AK field)	On hold	Namtsi, Sakha Republic	Facilitating training and start of rehab center

<u>Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Ministry/Other Notes</u>
John and Gina Turton	Have completed vision trip, strong prospect for long-term ministry	Passion for relational discipleship among young people. Being mentored/in internship with church pastor and couple from missions team.

**Pipeline**

Pipeline changes: Frankie moved to the field. Lisa Curtis married last summer and her husband suffered the tragic loss of both parents. They are going into youth ministry in the U.S. and have been removed from the pipeline.

**Partnerships**

Dr. Marc Canner: After the closure of MBI Spokane, Dr. Canner plans to remain as a professor at the newly formed Great Northern University. We plan to continue the relationships with him and the university because of the Russian language programs.

Pioneer Bible Translators: In our region of Russia PBT has two missionaries working among two people groups, the Evenki and the Buryat. Because of shared vision for the indigenous peoples of Siberia, we have naturally become a form of team in that we encourage one another, and share contacts and information.

Tuva: in June Lucas, Frankie, and our interns, took a trip to Kyzyl to encourage and challenge local believers who were engaged in discipleship ministry. While we were there we also met with Pastor Ayus who is leading the first pure Tuvan church. It is seeing growth from new believers.

### **Prayer and Praise**

- Praise the Lord that Frankie has arrived on the field and with his almost-Native understanding of the Russian language has been able to immediately begin building relationships.
- Pray for Shawna and her trip to Kyrgyzstan, that she would have good health and be effective in recruitment efforts.
- Pray that churches in Russia would grow a passion for unreached, hard-to-reach villages and peoples in Siberia.
- Please pray for the Orner family as they balance Lucas' administrative work, advancing the field vision, everyday ministry surprises, and family.

Joyfully Serving Christ!  
Lucas Orner  
Russia Field Director