

**Siberia Field Report**  
submitted to Dale Smith  
by Lucas Orner  
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The highlight of the past six months has truly been that my family, Shawna, and then the Costanzos have all been able to enter and live in Russia. There remain thousands of towns and villages in Siberia with no church. While our team remains small in number, we have faith that God will use us to advance his kingdom through our time here in Siberia.

**Advances and Encouragement**

- The Costanzo family has arrived on the field. They are focusing on full-time language study, which will likely continue for 18 months. Their passion and drive for unreached people and eagerness to serve in difficult areas is a huge encouragement. I am praying toward them working with the Emricks in Buryatia as a team in an unreached region.
- We are seeing growth in the Tuvan church. As time allows (outside of field leadership and administration), we (the Orner family) hope to continue investing in relationships among Tuvans both in Krasnoyarsk and Tuva.
- I have witnessed God at work in Frankie's life during their time in Tbilisi, Georgia while they await documents.
- Shawna returned from SpA in the spring and dove right back into ministry. Her health has been doing really well and having a solid experienced missionary like her on our team is a huge blessing.
- I have made some basic connections with Svet na Vostoke, a Russian missions organization that has a growing movement of short-term trips throughout Russia. We connected and served a team of youth who went into Tuva to work with Pastor Ayas's church to put on kid's club outreach.

**Challenges**

- There have been some ongoing challenges related to missteps by the Finance Department. Unfortunately, these issues have resulted in a sense of frustration and a dip in morale among our team. Despite efforts over the last 3 years, improvements have been slow to materialize.
- While little has changed in the way that we do ministry in Russia, some aspects of life continue to be more of a challenge than they were 18 months ago. For example:
  - We continue to use creative ways to access money from our US accounts.
  - We expect being questioned for over an hour when leaving Russia.
  - While the US Embassy in Moscow remains open for emergency services, this summer they stopped providing routine services, such as passport renewal.

While some of these have taken up more of our time, our team continues to take hold of the opportunities that God has placed in our lives, and we rejoice that we have not been asked to leave the country.

### **Prayer Requests**

- Pray for favor in the eyes of officials as the Emricks await a US green card for Ira and then the Russian residency permit for Frankie. And also, for the Costanzos as they begin their journey into red tape and bureaucracy of living in another country.
- Pray for encouragement for Costanzos as they tackle learning another language and adjusting and studying the Russian culture.
- Pray for wisdom as more ministry opportunities arise than we have minutes in the day.
- Pray for a peaceful end to the conflict.