

# Russia Field Report

## February 2016

One of the prayer requests at the top of my list for the past several months is that God would call people to join our team in Russia. With a solid vision and clear positions to recruit to, the Russia field is ready to receive a wave of people with a desire to serve God in Siberia.

To briefly review the vision that I presented in my last board report, 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.

With this vision in mind, I decided to try to rework our summer *EnGage!* program to reflect this vision on a micro-level. The team will spend the first part of the trip involved in relational outreach, building trust and sharing the gospel with unbelievers in cooperation with local churches. But they will also have a focus of building relationships with believers from various churches in the city and then inviting them to join the team for a short trip to an unreached area. Our prayer is that 3-4 believers will join the *EnGage!* team, exposing them and their churches to cross-cultural ministry within their own country. And I am happy to give praise to God that we already have three young people who have been accepted for *EnGage!* Russia.

### **Personnel Updates**

Shawna Hess – During our field conference in Oregon last summer, Shawna suggested that we consider focusing our team's future ministry in unreached areas among the Buryat people. This is something we are praying about and will discuss further when we visit her in Ulan-Ude this Spring.

Lucas and Jamie Orner – Returning to Russia after the summer in the U.S., we began focusing on our relationship with the local church and continuing our involvement in a weekly English club. A highlight was that a young man whom I have been friends with for the past few years, accepted Christ. A month later one of his atheist friends also repented and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Now for the exciting process of discipleship! On a personal note, Jamie is pregnant with our fourth child, due August 2016.

Ted and Kate Mole – This summer Dale, Darris, Ted, and I met to discuss the Mole's future plans. As they currently don't have any immediate plans to return to Russia on a full-time basis, it was proposed that they be considered a part of the Alaska field. Ted and Kate still plan on taking 1-2 trips to Yakutia each year, but since they will be spending 90% of their time in Alaska working with Native Alaskans, it would be better for them to fall under the supervision of the Alaska field director.

Frankie Emrick – At the time of writing this report, Frankie was at 20% in his support raising. He is still waiting to hear from his home church, who he expects will be a major contributor.

#### Other News

25-Year Celebration in Yakutsk- Ted Mole and Dave and Kay Henry attended a celebration for the local evangelical churches. InterAct Ministries still has a good reputation in Yakutia

Russian Economy- The Russian economy continues to struggle as the Russian ruble begins to lose value. Please pray that local churches will seize the opportunity to share hope in this time of financial uncertainty.

Disability Trip Postponed- We had plans to receive a couple (Mahlon and Anne Antrim) who are interested in short-term disability ministry and wanted to come on a vision trip. When I found out that Jamie was pregnant, I was in prayer about asking them to postpone the trip, so I could focus more on *EnGage*. However, before I could write them, I received an email that they would no longer be able to come this year because of a sick family member. God's provision, clear as day!

#### **Prayer and Praise**

- Pray that God would call more workers to Siberia.
- Praise the Lord that the Orners are expecting a fourth child, and pray for the health of Jamie and baby.
- Pray for Frankie Emrick's support raising, that God will quickly provide for his needs.
- Praise the Lord for the depth of relationships that Shawna has in Ulan-Ude. Pray for more good days than bad days in her battle with lupus.

Joyfully Serving Christ!  
Lucas Orner  
Russia Field Team Leader