

# Russia Field Report

## January 2019

### **Perspective**

As we move into a new year, I am incredibly thankful for a solid team who share a passion for the indigenous people of Siberia. Yes, we are a small team, but God is working in some amazing ways in the ministry that He has placed each of us in.

During our team conference in October, we had a great discussion about reaching the towns and villages in Buryatia. We don't have a clear picture of what that will look like, but we have seen little doors open for Shawna that she has been looking forward to for many years. And with Frankie planning on serving long-term, we are thrilled at the opportunities that God may be opening for him.

### **People**

Shawna Hess – Shawna continues to disciple women in Ulan-Ude. She has noticed a few people shifting perspectives on philosophies of how to reach Buryat villages effectively for the gospel.

Lucas and Jamie Orner – Discipleship remains the main focus of our ministry in Krasnoyarsk, all the while praying that God will use our disciples to eventually go to unreached areas with the Good News.

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. He is considering a trip to Yakutia this year.

Frankie Emrick – Frankie has sensed God's confirmation about long-term ministry in Siberia. His plan is to transition to Ulan-Ude this summer, at which point he will likely be engaged to a local Buryat believer, Ira. He plans to continue as a volunteer for another year and then return to the U.S. to make the transition to full-time ministry.

Summer Team –We have two inquiries from Moody students about *EnGage!* this summer.

## 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

## **Partnerships**

Pioneer Bible Translators: Continue to meet with missionary when he comes to the city from doing language study among Evenki people.

Tuva: We continue to have regular contact with Tuvan believers who come up to the city. I still believe that InterAct has a future role to play in encouraging and training the Native church in that region.

Teamless Missionaries: Over the past six months we have had three missionary couples blindly reach out to us for support and advice. All three serve in western Russia and found us on InterAct's website. Along with practical, administrative questions, they mostly wanted to hear about a family that had been serving in Russia. None are currently interested in relocating to Siberia, but that won't keep us from praying!

## **Prayer and Praise**

- Praise the Lord for the quality of our team and we pray that the quantity will increase in the years to come.
- Pray for wisdom for Frankie as he considers the next steps in ministry and life.
- Pray for discipleship relationship and the daily challenges that they bring.
- Please pray for the Orner family as they balance Lucas' administrative work, advancing the field vision, everyday ministry surprises, and family.

- Pray for Shawna's health that God will give her many more years of ministry in Buryatia.

Joyfully Serving Christ!  
Lucas Orner  
Russia Field Director