

Russia Field Report

January 2021

Perspective

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in his wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace.” I cannot fathom what it would be like to live in today’s world without Christ as my foundation and focus. Yes, I am thinking through the effects of the pandemic on ministry and wondering how the new U.S. administration will affect relation with Russia, but those things dim in light of the sovereignty and loyal love of our Savior. We look to Jesus as the perfect example of how to thrive in suffering, by continuing to love and serve and think of others despite his own pain and turmoil.

While I cannot control how the pandemic or politics impacts the Siberian field, God has placed it on my heart to seek clarity on where he is leading our team. With Fankie and Ira now an established couple in our team and the possibility of someone in the pipeline, we are planning to meet as a team this summer in hopes of pursuing clarity of the needs in the surrounding regions and people groups, setting strategic goals to work toward as a team, and compiling specific needs to which we can recruit more workers.

People

Shawna Hess: Shawna remains healthy, but we continue to pray for physical protection against COVID with lupus weakening her immune system. She is cautiously still serving pregnant couples and new moms and continuing to disciple women.

Frankie and Ira Emrick: They continue to serve as the leadership of the Paise Worship, a Buryat worship group which continues to grow and produce new material. They also lead worship at their church. Frankie is still pursuing residency after COVID delayed some documents from the US.

Lucas and Jamie Orner: The Orner family is on SpA in the U.S. (Nov ’20 – May ’21). After spending Christmas with family, they will be in Normal, IL for three months. COVID restrictions have closed many opportunities to recruit at colleges, However, God has been provided opportunities by brining connecting them to Micah, who is interested in long-term ministry in Siberia. I continue to work on my MABC degree. The knowledge gained has been immensely practical in my discipleship relationships and personal walk with the Lord!

Pipeline: We currently have one young man, Micah Costanzo, filling out a full-time application

Prayer and Praise

- Despite COVID, ministry opportunities still abound for our team in Siberia. Praise God for strong relationships with those we disciple.
- Please continue to pray for safety and health of our team, especially Shawna.
- Please pray for favor in the eyes of the immigration officials as Frankie works toward obtaining a residency permit.

- Please boldly pray for more workers for Siberia. Praise God that he has already brought Micah to us and pray for more.
- Pray for wisdom for me as I begin to plan for this summer and the time with our team assessing the needs in surrounding regions and our strategic plans as a team.

Joyfully Serving Christ!

Lucas Orner

Russia Field Director