

Siberia Field Director Report
January 18, 2022
Submitted to Dale Smith by Lucas Orner

Ministry in Siberia continues. And for that simple fact, I praise the Lord. Over the past several months, it has been discouraging at times to experience progress, only to then see it lose momentum. Seeing the Mobilization Department leap forward under the leadership of Andy, only to have him step back from the role. Having Frankie's residency application finally accepted, only to be refused the permit. Watching the Tuvan church grow, only to fall into a struggle with disunity. This is the ebb and flow of life in a sin-filled world and the reason why we go with the hope of the Good News to the unreached. There is something beyond the temporary comfort found in life's circumstances, and that comfort can only be found through God (2 Cor1:3-4).

Siberia Team:

Our team enjoyed an encouraging Field Conference in October of last year. Our focus this year was our team. We established some new habits that we pray will help us better encourage one another, pray for one another, and move the team and field forward.

Shawna Hess ~ Ulan-Ude ~ discipleship/midwifery: In October 2021, during our conference, Shawna received news that her father was hospitalized with COVID. A week later, she returned to the US in time to spend an evening with him before he passed. Please pray for her as she is now transitioning back to ministry.

Lucas and Jamie Orner ~ Krasnoyarsk ~ discipleship/field leadership: Because of the smaller size of our team, Jamie and I have been able to keep semi-active in ministry with Tuvan people while I fulfill my role as Field Director. I continue in my online MABC program and am in the process of facilitating a How People Change class for several missionaries from the Canadian Field.

Frankie and Ira Emrick ~ Ulan-Ude ~ discipleship/music ministry: The Emricks are expecting their first child in March. Frankie's application for a temporary residency permit was declined. Lord willing, after the birth of their baby, Frankie will be able to apply for a permanent residency permit. Pray for a healthy birth process for mother and child and for favor in the eyes of officials regarding Frankie's documents.

Micah and Georgia Costanzo ~ Richmond, VA ~ Appointees: The Costanzos are raising support and hoping to arrive on the field in the Fall of this year to begin language study in Krasnoyarsk.

World Tensions: I currently find no substantial reason to be anxious about current political events that have been publicized in the news. Several years ago, a similar situation took place, and it had no impact on our work in Siberia. Our team maintains a "no-politics" policy in our life and ministry in Russia in which we agree not to engage in political conversations publicly or privately while we are on the field. It's a small price to pay for the joy of serving Christ on our field.

EnGage! Siberia: We have four participants planning to join us this summer. Please pray for these young people as they begin to raise support and prepare for the trip.