

## **Siberia Field Board Report**

submitted to Dale Smith

by Lucas Orner

February 18, 2024

### Encouragements

- The Emricks have returned to the field from Tbilisi and are moving forward with Frankie's application for residency. They still await news on Ira's U.S. green card application, which is delaying a trip to the U.S. for a Special Assignment.
- Travel to Russia remains open. Russia continues to push back and deny entry to politically-involved and/or liberal organizations and groups. However, there has been public support from some federal and provincial governments to encourage immigration of people from western nations who hold conservative values.
- Ministry continues moving forward in Buryatia, Tuva, and Krasnoyarsk. For the most part, InterAct has been playing a background role of support and discipling local leaders.

### Challenges

- Language study is always a challenge and the Costanzos are in the middle of it. Keeping their eyes on their call and, even more so, the Caller has been key to keeping them encouraged.

### Advances

- Carrie Curtis will be making a trip to Siberia March 3–April 5. This will be a huge step forward to have someone in the Mobilization department who can take firsthand experience from the field to recruitment and communication with people inquiring.
- An area that I am planning to advance in the coming year is to assess the current missions' landscape in Siberia. Over the past two years, most organizations have left Russia. I would like to build relationships with some of these to see if there are opportunities to be a place for some interested in returning to partner with us.

### Concerns

- The only slight concern I have is for the young families on the field. In response, I have been intentionally involved in the lives of the Emricks and Costanzos, offering care, guidance, and resources as they deal with marriage and parenting in unique and stressful situations.

### Succession Considerations

- Succession on the Siberia Field is not as pressing an issue as some of the other areas of InterAct, and so most of my efforts have been in prayer and then rejoicing as we see God's hand at work in moving the process forward.