

Russian Report

April – 2008 with Yuri (who I baptized last year) to the hotel for Bible study. The hotel room is \$360 per night however there are some benefits. The hotel registers us in the country so we will be legal saving us \$50 per person and we can have Bible studi

We arrived in Moscow April 4th and Kostya brought his family along es in the hotel room saving \$40 per hour elsewhere. I asked Kostya how he paid \$40 per hour to hold church services in a room they rent and he said, “the contribution covers the cost or Helen and I make up the difference.” I asked him what he does through the day and he said, “I study the Bible to be prepared to give the lesson or go out and visit people.” Kostya has not been supported to do the church work for two years other than the help I supply when I visit there. West Plains, MO. recently contributed \$1500 to the Moscow work. \$1000 was to go to Kostya and \$500 to the renting the room for church services. Kostya said, he was glad to get the money for he was able to pay the room rent till August as that was a new stipulation made by the owners. Saturday Kostya invited a friend named Dema (not a Christian) to the hotel for Bible study. Saturday evening we had another study with all his family, Nadya and her friend Olga (not a Christian) and Boris. It was Kostya’s persistent work with Yuri that led to Yuri’s baptism last year. Sunday morning there was a good gathering at church service with Sergei and Olga bringing their 6 girls to services. We arrived in Tambov the 7th and started our work that evening with a gathering of the church. We had Bethany Gorman with us from Wichita and she helped with the children’s crafts and was able to visit a couple of schools. Bethany stayed with us the entire month and was exposed to many new experiences.

Sister Luda invited her boss Alexander to the services. Alexander had spent two years in America and speaks English. He was a teacher of sociology at the university but was tired of students and their parents wanting to buy their grades so he quit teaching and opened his own cabinet making business. I prayed earnestly for the Lord to give me a Russian man who could help in the work in Tambov and it appears he delivered to me Alexander. Alexander came by our apartment often to visit and attended the church services resulting in his obedience to the gospel. I am very excited about having him in the church there and intend to make another trip to Tambov in Sept. along with my daughter Amy and her family. Amy and Wes have had a desire to go to Tambov for a long time and it appears that time has arrived. They will be taking their two children along so there will be six of us all together. Of course the Russians are so excited about us coming back in the fall rather than having to wait for one whole year. I also need to try to help Alexander as much as possible so that he might not become discouraged.

New faces appeared at nearly every service some of which was a result of our visits to schools and universities. I was asked to speak at one university to the English class on ethics, politics and religion in America. There was about 100 present including teachers and they said, “they want me to come back on my next visit.” These are opportunities to invite these young people to church services for lectures and possibly private Bible studies. I believe all these visits to schools are sowing seeds for the Lord’s kingdom. I held services on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday morning and the rest of the time was for visiting and trying to encourage members and meet new people.

We were invited to come to Michurinsk (about 1 ½ hour bus ride) away from Tambov and visit. Brother Nikoli goes there and teaches for the church that is located in a village.

However we were visiting in the city and a number of friends came to visit us. There was also some talk about starting the church back in the city and also keeping the one in the village. I told them if they were serious about this let me know on my next visit and we could talk about the possibility. Also I communicated with Vitali (preacher) in Penzi (about a 7 hour bus ride from Tambov) to see how that church is doing and received an invitation to come and worship with them on my next visit. It has been a few years since I last preached there.

I believe we left the church with renewed enthusiasm and hope to see some real improvements on my next visit in September. We will be trying to raise some extra money for this next visit and if you can help it will be most appreciated!

I am including a DVD on the church in Tambov, Moscow and the members in Michurinsk. If you desire any additional information on the work feel free to contact me. Since I made a video it will enable me to keep this report brief and I believe the video will answer a number of questions for you.

Thank you for your most beneficial prayers!