

Siberia Update

Children's Ministry

We're very excited with all that the Lord has done during the month of January! In Russia, Christmas is celebrated on Jan. 7, so this is a wonderful opportunity to share the meaning of the birth of our Savior with many who don't understand the reason for His coming to earth. Some youth from our church



presented the meaning of Christmas to homeless children in five institutions in our city. The simple story was presented with the theme "there was no room for Jesus to be born as a baby." Similarly today, people have no room in their hearts for Jesus to be born again. Afterwards, it was wonderful to hear the orphans loudly repeat a prayer asking Jesus to forgive their sins and come into their hearts.



Katya (left) is one of the youth who loves to minister to the homeless children. She was raised in an orphanage, and now finds joy in sharing the love of Christ with others who are as unfortunate as she was.

Youth Conference

Also, during the January school break there was a regional youth conference held in our church. The Armenian guest speaker shared his experience as a missionary in the Muslim country Tajikistan and encouraged the youth to be willing to die for Christ. The youth here are very zealous for the Lord and live to serve Him. It was an excellent conference! We thank God for Global Advance in helping us host such a conference.



Baptism

Two weeks ago it was such an encouragement to baptize 41 new believers. In addition there were 9 new believers from local church plants. Please pray that God will strengthen these 50 new believers in their commitment to follow Christ.



English Classes

This month, we're thankful to the Lord that Nienna Hempstead from New York arrived to teach English as a second language. Please pray that God will use her to reach many souls through this outreach.



Orphanage Graduates

It's wonderful that 20-30 youth who have graduated from the orphanage continue to come to church different days of the week for various services. On Saturdays they gather at the church for a meal and Bible Study. Recently, one new believer shared at a home group that he has never met such kind youth and never felt such love from people in his entire life. Praise God!



Prayer Requests:

- 1) A new law is being passed in the Duma to regulate all non-government organizations. Please pray that God would give Christian organizations throughout Russia wisdom how to work within this new law. (Our Teen Challenge program is in this category.)
- 2) We thank the Lord for the growth in the church. Please pray that God would help us train more leaders who will take on the responsibility of caring for new believers.
- 3) The population of Russia has decreased from 170 million to 145 million in the past 20 years mainly due to drug overdose, alcohol, and crime. Please pray that we can reach this generation with the Gospel, and that multitudes of souls would come to know the Lord in Russia.



We're very grateful for your continual prayers and financial support for this ministry.

We love you and thank God for you!

Ilya and Janet