

Russia Inland Mission

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Pioneer Baptist Church Planters in the former Soviet Union

**JULY 2005
NEWS**

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Ministries

*Church Planting
in the 15 countries
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*Missionary
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On the future ministry of Mark and Robyn Rose **Russia Inland Mission: 2005-2007**

I am writing from Vilnius, Lithuania. Tomorrow I will get my visa and by tomorrow night I will be back in Ratomka, Belarus and united again with our church for the first time since we were forced out of the country January 28, 2005. In a week I will write again to give a detailed report on all that has happened in Ratomka since Robyn and I left. But now I want to thank you for all of your prayers through the trials and victories since we first started the Church in Belarus back in 1993. This announcement and letter will be our way of showing you how grateful we are. God's strength and love has been shown to us by your loving examples of loyalty and dedication to THAT VISION: To Plant Churches in the 15 Countries of the former Soviet Union. We are more determined than ever to take big steps of faith so that this vision may become a reality. Here is how God is leading us.

The time since we returned to America has been very helpful to our family. In some ways the world stopped giving us a chance to reflect back on all that has happened. Through these last months my prayers have been seeking an answer to the question: How do we fight the spiritual battles in countries like Belarus, Russia, and Tajikistan? How do we survive the extreme conditions? How do we get enough stability so that we can make disciples of Christ? What part will the Missionary Training School Play in the future? What should we do from now through 2007? And so for the last six months, I have been seeking God's wisdom.

In 2007 we want to conduct another major campaign on the scale of the Volga River Campaign (1999) and the Russia Inland 2001 Campaign. This campaign will be called the 2007 Campaign and it will be directly tied to working in homes of the Virtual Orphans. With the help of those we can recruit to come over and participate we will expand our Virtual Orphanage Ministry adding 1000 new cases. Participants from the US will touch the lives of fatherless children, and widows in what will prove to be a truly spectacular ministry of the Slavic "Highways and Hedges." But how does this help plant Churches in the 15 countries?

The campaign serves as a strategic strike. It will result in thousands of souls being saved. It will also be used to call many into the field of the former Soviet Union as missionaries-only this time our prayer is for Russian, Belorussian, and Tajik missionaries! Everything about the campaign will be done in a way to get Slavic and Asian believers involved in the "work of the Lord." It will come at the end of another effort that begins immediately to allow the ministry composition of Russia Inland Mission to evolve. For the next two years, Robyn and I will work hard to share the burden and vision of our ministry with Churches and believers across America, Belarus, Russia, and even in the Muslim countries of Central Asia! How are we going to do this?

We want to announce the addition of a new missionary to our ministry. **Brother Vanya Yanoosh** has been our friend and co-laborer since 1993. He met Robyn and I at the airport the first day we arrived. He cared for us as we got settled into our new lives and ministry. As a member of the persecuted Church of the former Soviet Union, Vanya was raised under oppression and persecution. He was imprisoned once for his faith and spent 6 long weeks in the middle of a Siberian winter in jail. He was left there until he renounced his faith. His courage and faithfulness won the respect of his Army commanders and he was released. For his faith they re-

A Mission's ministry run by missionaries on the mission field

Accountability, Edification, and Vision for the 21st Century

"Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples...But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved" Acts 15:10-11

warded him by giving him a respectful job guarding valuable resources for the remainder of his military tour. Vanya has faced death several times. By his side, I learned many things about how the "system" of oppression and evil governs the lives of the masses of the former Soviet Union. Now God has led Vanya to become a missionary with us.

Please listen to us carefully. **We are not a mission board.** But we must do all the same tasks that a mission board performs. Because we work in oppressed and dangerous countries, we are safer working through the Churches we plant or under indigenous national Churches. We must make disciples. But this task is made difficult due to the extreme persecution believers face in these countries. As founders of this ministry, Vanya, Robyn, Pastor Sergei, and myself must live on the mission field. Our team must split up at times so that we be in several places at one time. The next two years will be a time of breaking new ground and explaining our work to the Churches that support us as well as to indigenous Slavic and Asian Churches in the 15 countries. **This will be crucial to the 2007 Campaign and the enrollment of men and women into the Missionary Training School.**

Now we need your prayers once more. Ministry in oppressed countries demands that ministry leaders be present at all times. The places we go are not places where tourists travel and this makes them difficult to reach and expensive. For example, the cost of the **2005 Tajik Campaign** is \$3500 per person to cover transportation, visas, lodging and project needs for two weeks. The effect of such costs on American local Churches is alarming as they tend to support mission projects in less expensive areas such as Central and South America, Jamaica, Haiti, or Alaska. **Missions in the former U.S.S.R. is not expensive because it is farther away, it is expensive because of the oppression that grips the people.**

We realize that to follow the vision that God has given us, we must apply ourselves to recruiting more Churches to support us, preaching and teaching Biblical Missions, and preparing for the 2007 Virtual Orphanage Campaign. So, for the next two years, we invite you to join us. Since 1993 we have laid a very strong foundation to grow the ministry. Help us get the Gospel to people who live under oppression and fear-many who have never heard the name of Christ mentioned-and have never been given and opportunity to be saved! There are no missionaries where we are going! **We are ready to break new ground!**

From now through next year we will seek meetings, conferences, and audience with anyone who will listen; hoping that by a demonstration of the Spirit of God many will be moved to dream as we have for many, many years... that one day all the Slavic and Asian people will have opportunity to be saved! We have to raise a lot of prayer and financial support in order to do this.

Again, thank you for your prayers and support for this ministry. Because of your faithfulness, we are encouraged by God through your love and care for this work to take it to the next level! In just a few more years, I believe we will see that Great Awakening that has never taken place in Russia and Central Asia. By God's grace we will all be witnesses to the promise that Jesus made when he said that the gospel will be preached throughout the world, one more time, and then the end will come.

With Love and Thanks,
Mark and Robyn Rose

Jude 3

Late Breaking News! My visa was denied and I was **not** allowed to enter Belarus by an order placed with the border patrol - not the foreign ministry, so it is limited and can be withdrawn. God is in supreme command over all, and in due time His will and wisdom will be revealed. I have a genuine peace that I know is from God. Bro. Mark

Robin's
Nest



I am running from morning till night these days! Life in America is so different than life in Belarus! I have a part time job right now, working with my sister, sometimes it's 10 hours a day!!! We are restoring old houses. I've done a lot of that in Ratomka! **Chuck** is home from college for the summer and is working with us. It's nice to be together for a season. I sure do miss the mild summers in Belarus. Mark and I were trying to remember the last time we were in Georgia in July, It was 6 years ago. I have forgotten how humid it can be! I don't get to spend much time with our grandchildren, but I do see them every chance I get. They have my heart!! I love being "grandmommy".

I often receive letters from the ladies in Ratomka, and I almost cry I miss them so much. God knows what we need when we need it, so for now I am content, and looking forward to the fall trip to Tajikistan. Please be in much prayer for us as we prepare our hearts and bodies for this trip. (and our families, Mom has refused to talk about it with me, and my sister won't let me near her son. (I want to talk him into going with us!) Well, I better get back to work! Thanks for all your prayers.... Robyn



Grandpa Mark fishing with Levi.
Noah and big brother Connor

All gifts to this ministry are tax deductible. Please make check payable to:
(a designation slip and return envelope are enclosed for your convenience)

RUSSIA INLAND MISSION
PO Box 1507, Oakwood, GA 30566

Planting Churches in the former Soviet Union since 1993

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Robyn, Chuck, Valerie, and I want to extend to you our gratitude for the support you have given over the last year. One year ago this month we had to leave Belarus. We write this letter to share some good news and to update you on our plans and progress for the coming year.

The **Tajikistan Campaign** begins in September. We are taking a group of Americans to this Muslim country in Central Asia, and **I am very excited that Robyn is going with me** to see God work even among the Muslim people. Our teams will do "Quality of Life" improvements in the homes of the children (roof work, floor and foundation repair, sanitation), provide water for drinking and cooking, and we will set up the **Virtual Orphanage Ministry**. We thank **Don Stertz** and the **Baptist Couriers for Christ** for the gracious donation that allowed us to ship a **40' Container** of Bibles, John-Roman Scripture portions, clothes, food, medicine, tools for our teams, and toys for the children. Please pray for the container to pass through customs without delay and for the safety of the group. The Apostle Paul never hesitated because of danger and neither will we. We ask your prayers for our family and for the others who are sacrificing so much to go. The trip is very expensive, and **Robyn and I must raise \$3,500 each** to pay for our part. This is hard coming out of the persecution in Belarus and the financial challenge this presented to us. Still, God has been so wonderful and has provided through your giving and prayers. So, **please pray with us for this need.**

Missions giving always drops off 20-30% June-August. We ask you to consider the plans we have outlined and ask God what you can do now to help us. The Lord directs us by His provision and if He does not provide, we accept this as His will and will wait until He enables us.

We are joined this year by "**Global Work Force**", a new ministry formed for the purpose of supporting ministries like ours. **Brother Conrad Westbrook** is the founder of this ministry. Conrad resigned from the Pastorate to start this ministry of helps with his wife Gina. **Missionary Chet Furrow** has experience with these types of campaigns in Russia and Belarus and will lend his wisdom and abilities to lead the evangelism team in Dushanbe. Pastor Jerry Hill is sending **Brother Gregg Zuccola** with a team of five to form the core of the evangelistic team while Conrad heads up the construction and Virtual Orphanage formation.

After seeking God's will in prayer, and the consul of our Pastoral Board, Robyn and I believe God wants us to grow the ministry to the next level. So, **we will add two important key people** to our ministry: **Brother Vanya Yanush** (a native of Belarus who started a Church among the Russian speaking immigrants in Rochester, NY) will be our **Missionary Finance Specialist** to handle all of the responsibilities associated with receiving, disbursing, and documenting funds for the ministry and missionaries under our care; and **Brother Bill Perry** of New Jersey (who retires next year from a power company), will become the **Missionary Field Representative** we need to get our name out and represent us at conferences and meetings to make Pastors and Churches aware of our ministry, and recruit candidates for the **Missionary Training School**. One of the operational principles of Russia Inland Mission is that it remains a mission's ministry run by missionaries, actively involved in Church planting, discipling junior missionaries, and pioneering the Gospel in the closed and difficult regions of the former Soviet Union. I plan **over the next two years** to speak in many places about our ministry while training the two men that God has sent to us.

This has been a difficult but important year for our family. Through these trials, because of your prayers, God has molded our character, channeled our efforts, and focused our vision. Please know how much we love and appreciate you as our co-laborers. **Pray about being a part of the next big campaign in the summer of 2007.** We will take the Gospel farther and deeper than ever before into Russia, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe. Details of that campaign will be coming soon. Pray for God's leading for our lives in all these matters.

We wish you all the very best from Christ our Lord and Savior.

Mark and Robyn Rose

Jude 3 "... Ye should earnestly contend for the truth..."

THERE'S A NEW KID IN TOWN! Please pray that God will allow **Stephanie Sexton** to complete her deputation (she is at 80%) so she can get to Belarus for the start of Language School. Stephanie was with us in Belarus for Campaign 2001 and the Lord set her heart to return one day as a Missionary. We all love Stephanie and eagerly await her arrival to serve with the Church and Virtual Orphan Ministry there. Stephanie will also serve as our field office manager.



NOTE: Please help **Emly Rose** update the mailing list. Email her at **emm_mall@juno.com** to let her know you get the letter and wish to continue, or that you want to be removed from this mailing. We desire to be good stewards of the Lord's funds, and good friends to all who support this ministry financially and in prayer.

For Information or Literature
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Notes from the Missionaries



The Christian family:

Helen, the boys and I are fine. All of us in Ratomka are very optimistic about the situation here, and for good reason, but we are not out of the woods yet. We are very close to getting the building re-inspected and re-opened, but we still must do

some work around the lake so fire trucks can easily access the water; put lightning rods on the building, and install metal fire doors on the furnace and electrical rooms. The news on Mark's house sounds quite positive as well. Just pray that all the paper work can be settled in the time that Bro. Yanush is here. There are a few hurdles but things look good for putting that question to rest. John has decided that God wants him to stay here another year before returning to the states for college. Please pray for me as I prepare for the start of the Missionary Training School. We will have 3 new students, Rick & Marie Whiteside, and Stephanie Sexton who, Lord willing, arrives in late August.

In Christ, Jeff Christian

The Robacker family:

Danny is reading pretty well and learned to ride his bike. Christy is talking and repeats all the words she hears. She misses Joe, and still picks up the phone and talks to Joe! Annie just turned 1 and is real close to walking. She's a real cutie!

Kent has been working a lot on the church building and I attend summer language school 4 hours a week. Marie Whiteside's class meets on different days so she watches the kids for me. I have been making home visits and enjoy using my nursing skills to help the poor people, especially the Virtual Orphan kids. Well, I need to close and get supper. Thanks for your faithful prayers.

Love... Janet (for Kent & the little Robackers)

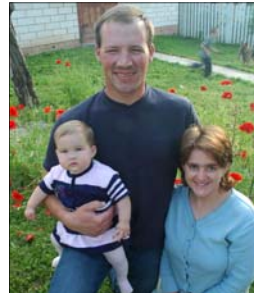


The Whitesides:

We had a great welcoming service, and were warmly received by the church folk. Every morning we meet with Pastor Sergei, the other missionaries and the staff. The day's activities are laid out after we have a Bible reading and prayer - even the unsaved staff read along - God's Word cannot return void! Several things have changed since we were here last November - especially meeting under the big tent! Many restrictions on public meetings, and continual scrutiny have weighed heavy on the hearts of the mission families here. They certainly are not quitters, and are earnestly seeking the Lord's face for direction in their labors.

We started the introductory language class to prepare us for studies this fall. Please pray for: our settling in here, that we are the servants we ought to be, and that we bring praise to our Father. Please pray also for the sale of our house back in Georgia - God has assured us of its sale, and "right now" would be great! But we trust Him.

Thank you for your prayers. . . Rick and Marie



The Navis family

Hello!!! This past month God has really tried our faith in Him to supply our needs. We had to put our car in the shop, get Anna a new passport, and take her to the doctor because she would not try to crawl or walk, and when her hip was touched she screamed as if it hurt. An X-ray did not show anything wrong, but the doctor examined her hip, asked Angela a lot of questions, then told us that she definitely need physical therapy. We ask your prayers that we get the problem taken care of and the right kind of help for Anna who is now 1 year old.

Every Saturday we do try to go out on church or Virtual Orphan visits, and July 15 Angela started a Bible study for the Belarusian ladies of the church. Angela is starting in the book of Matthew and asks that God will give her wisdom to know what to say to the ladies. Thank you for your help and prayers. We love and pray for you, *John & Angela*

The Nebel family:

Our family is doing well and looking forward to the start of Language School. We really enjoyed having Lynnora Wease here for the summer and will miss her.

Our mission project is the Virtual Orphanage and we are working with Pastor Sergei, Maxim and the Church to keep it going. There's so much need here. Please consider helping this ministry as the Lord directs. We appreciate your prayers, *Dave & Anita*



Joseph McCarthy:

Thank you for your prayers and support while I was in Belarus the past 10 months. I am trying to get my life back on track here in the USA, but it is not as easy as I had thought, and I am having a lot of trouble getting my heart and mind off the people and the work in Ratomka. Now I understand why Mom is so restless between trips and returns every chance she gets! Pray for me as I seek the Lord's will for the rest of my life. It is hard to determine what to do here with my heart still so deeply there. I praise God for allowing me the privilege of serving Him in Belarus. *In Christ, Joseph*

Please earnestly pray for Pastor Sergei and the Church in Belarus. They must grow and expand their influence to reach the unsaved multitudes in spite of a government hostile to the Gospel of Christ. Any Churches out there interested in uniting with them as a "Sister Church"? How awesome would that be!!!